

The University of  
Texas at San  
Antonio

POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

# ' Runner Beat

Protecting Your Future... Today

A Campus Safety Newsletter from the University Police Department



Volume VI, Issue IX

September 2009

## Inside this issue:

Officers, Guard Save Life During Summer	2
Paintball & Airsoft Are Popular Sports; But Trouble Police	2
Safety Highlights	3
Detective Time	3
Schedule of Events	4
Lost and Found	4
Be Smart...Be Safe: Emergency Blue Phones	4
Chief's Corner	5



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web at:  
[www.utsa.edu/utsapd](http://www.utsa.edu/utsapd)

Acting Chief of Police:  
*Dan Pena*  
Patrol Div. Commander:  
*Capt. Douglas Sonogo*  
Support Services Div.  
Commander:  
*Capt. Dan Kiley*  
Administrative Support:  
*Lt. Stephanie Padula*  
Patrol Division:  
*Lt. Paul English*

Newsletter Edited By:  
*Cpl. Geoffrey Merritt*

The University of Texas  
at San Antonio Police  
Department  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, Texas  
78249  
210.458.4242  
210.458.7602 fax

## The Dangers of Binge Drinking and Drug Abuse on Campus

About half of U.S. college students binge drink or abuse drugs, and the number who abuse prescription medication such as painkillers is up sharply, a report released on Thursday found.

The study, issued by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University in New York, provides a detailed look at substance abuse among America's college students based on surveys, interviews and other research.

"I think we have, by almost any standard, a serious public health problem on the college campuses. And it's deteriorating," Joseph Califano, who heads the center. The report found that 49 percent of full-time college students ages 18 to 22 binge drink (consuming five or more drinks at a time), or abuse prescription drugs such as painkillers or illegal drugs like cocaine and marijuana. That translates to 3.8 million

students. In 2005, 23 percent of them met the medical criteria for substance abuse or dependence, it said.

But the proportion who binge drink frequently, defined as three or more times over two weeks, rose by 16 percent from 1993 to 2005. Drinking 10 or more times per month rose 25 percent, and drinking three or more times per month rose 26 percent.

The substance abuse has contributed to alcohol-related deaths and injuries, and sexual assaults against female students, the report said. The report was based on results of a nationally representative telephone survey of 2,000 students along with other data.

From 1993 to 2005, the proportion of students who abuse prescription painkillers such as Percocet, Vicodin and OxyContin rose more than 300 percent to 3.1 percent (about 240,000 students), the report said. Abuse of prescription stimu-



Binge drinking and drug use on campus is dangerous. (Photo from [www.gaultlet.ucalgary.ca](http://www.gaultlet.ucalgary.ca))

lants like Ritalin and Adderall doubled to 2.9 percent (225,000 students).

During the same period, daily marijuana use more than doubled to 4 percent (310,000 students). Overall use of other illegal drugs such as cocaine and heroin rose by half to 8.2 percent (636,000 students).

"Basically the proportion of college students who drink and binge drink has stayed constant. But what's troubling is the tremendous increase in the intensity of their drinking and drug use and the excessiveness of it," Califano said.

Reference: Mar 15, 2007 By Will Dunham - WASHINGTON (Reuters)

## Suspicious Activity: Would You Know It If You Saw It?

Reporting suspicious activity or crimes is doing your part to keep UTSA safe. Suspicious activity may be difficult to distinguish because of differing backgrounds and beliefs. However, there are a few general behaviors that could indicate criminal activity and are good reasons to call the police so we can determine what is happening.

Use the following guide for reporting suspicious activity:

### Suspicious vehicles

- Slow moving vehicles, vehicles without lights, and/or the course followed appears aimless or repetitive.

- Persons attempting forcibly to enter a locked vehicle.

### Suspicious situations involving property

- Property being removed from vehicles or buildings that does not

appear legitimate.

- Someone offers to sell you something for significantly less than the market value.

### Other suspicious situations

- Someone waiting in front of a house, apartment or resident area when the residents are known to be absent.

- Unusual noises such as gunshots, screaming, abnormally barking dogs, or any noise that is suggestive of foul play.

- Continuous traffic that comes and goes to the same location, usually staying for very short periods of time.

If a crime has occurred on campus, call The UTSA Police Department at 210.458.4911 and report all the details of the incident:

- Describe the suspect: appearance, clothing, height, weight, race, sex

and other noticeable features.

- Indicate where the incident took place & what you saw happen.

When you are off-campus, call the local police immediately whenever you see or hear something. The UTSA Police Department will respond to all reports of suspicious activity on the tri-campus areas (1604, DTC and ITC) and will cooperate/assist the San Antonio Police Department for suspicious activity that occurs in the immediate vicinity of UTSA. References: Trinity University Campus Beat Sept. 2000 edition and the Seattle PD web site.



Report suspicious activity. (Photo Google images)



**UTSA Police Department**  
Protecting Your  
Future...Today

# WELCOME

All New Employees!

Welcome to UTSA  
Police Department!

**Jerry Chessher** is  
currently a cadet  
attending the UT  
System Police  
Academy

**Kurt Kinsman** is a  
guard and is going  
through training

Welcome to  
UTSA-PD!

## Officers, Guard Save Life During Summer

**Officers Smith, Odom, Criswell and Guard Pearson save a life.**

As was reported in the August edition of the Runner Beat, on June 29, 2009, Officers Darwin Odom, Jacob Criswell, Shawn Smith and Guard Henry Pearson were dispatched to the University Oaks Apartments for a report of an unconscious victim. It was determined the victim was not breathing or had a pulse and Officers Odom and Smith began CPR. They also used the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Officer Criswell handled the radio traffic to continuously advise

dispatch of the person's status. Additionally, Guard Pearson assisted at the location to ensure that vehicle traffic was kept away from the scene of the emergency. EMS arrived shortly and took the patient to a local hospital.

A departing EMS Paramedic remarked that "you guys did an awesome job with CPR." The emergency room doctor said the officers quick response with the AED definitely saved his life. The victim eventually gained consciousness and was discharged from the hospital after a short

stay and was doing well at last report.

All UTSA police officers and guards receive annual training in CPR, First Aid and the use of the AED through the American Red Cross. It was obvious that this training was put to good use that day. Officers Smith, Odom, Criswell and Guard Pearson have been submitted for consideration for a University of Texas System Police Lifesaving award. Thanks to Officers Smith, Odom, Criswell and Guard Pearson for saving his life.

### Mrs. Bertha Brady Announces Her Retirement

In our April edition of the Runner Beat, we featured that Bertha Brady (Administrative Service Officer) was recognized for her 30 years of service to the UTSA Police Department. In those 30 years, Ms. Brady had the opportunity to work with five police chiefs and countless officers, guards and students. Ms. Brady had several civilian jobs within the department and including budget reconciliation for the Administrative Support Section.

Ms. Brady recently announced her plans to retire from the UTSA Police Department. A special luncheon was held for her in late August. Ms. Brady's retirement was effective on August 31, 2009. The UTSA Police Department wants to thank Ms. Brady for her 30 years of dedicated service and we wish her well in her retirement.



**Employee Kudos: On 7/28/09 while patrolling Downtown Campus parking lots, Officer Mike Crist observed an individual pulling on the door handles of parked vehicles. He detained and identified the individual, ran him for wants and warrants, issued him a trespass warning. Officer Crist most likely deterred this individual from breaking into a car to steal items. Way to go!**

**Crime Prevention Tip:** Don't leave items in plain view for thieves to see!

## Paintball & Airsoft Are Popular Sports; But Trouble Police



**Airsoft is fun, but can be trouble for the police.**

The craze for Airsoft guns has caught on within the past few years throughout the world. The guns are strikingly similar to real handguns and rifles but shoot plastic pellets or paintballs instead of real bullets.

Popularity, though, often seems to go hand-in-hand with notoriety when it comes to Airsoft guns, which are strikingly realistic in terms of appearance and even weight. There is little to differentiate them from a real gun.

There have been several campus

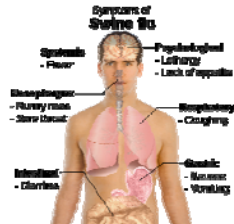
incidents where students were struck with Airsoft pellets by a passing car or from a window in the residential areas. The university police are concerned about mistaking the replica guns for real ones. When a police officer sees a gun, and if it looks real, can he/she take the chance with their own life or somebody else's life? The answer is no.

There have been a few incidents on campus where UPD officers have found students in possession of realistic looking Airsoft

weapons. Fortunately, no serious consequences have resulted. According to the UTSA Student Code of Conduct, the "possession...(of) imitation firearms...on University premises... is strictly prohibited."

Airsoft and paintball "extreme" sports are fun and thrilling. However, keep Airsoft and paintball guns at home and only play in designated paintball playing ranges with appropriate safety equipment.

Reference: mercurynews.com, insidebayarea.com & post-gazette.com



Be informed about H1N1 flu symptoms. (Photo from Google Images)

## “Safety Highlights” by Donovan Agans (Director BCEM)

### You and the Flu

Late last spring we were all introduced to the H1N1 flu virus for the first time. At first it was termed “Swine Flu” then “North American Flu” before finally settling on the moniker H1N1 Flu. As the season progresses we begin to see more stories in the media concerning this threat, its potential severity and impact. It is important for our community to understand protective actions we as individuals can take, signs and symptoms of this virus and actions to take if infected.

#### First – What You Can Do to Stay Healthy?

- Stay informed. Reading this article is an excellent first step but don't stop there. Go to informational websites such as [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or [textasflu.org](http://textasflu.org).
- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.

- Take everyday actions to stay healthy.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Get Vaccinated. We encourage getting the Seasonal Flu vaccination and the H1N1 vaccination when it becomes available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

#### Second – What are the H1N1 Signs & Symptoms?

- Fever above 100 degrees
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Nausea and vomiting

#### Third – What should I do if I get sick?

If you become ill with influenza-like symptoms the CDC recommends staying home and avoiding contact

with other people. They also recommend staying home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. Stay away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick. Staying at home means that you should not leave your home except to seek medical care. This means avoiding normal activities including work, school, travel, shopping or social events.

If you have severe illness or you are at high risk for flu complications, contact your health care provider. Your health care provider will determine whether flu testing or treatment is needed.

By understanding this evolving situation and remaining up to date we are better able to distinguish fact from fiction. Through practicing protective actions, recognition of signs and symptoms of this virus and actions to take if infected we can react as a community to keep ourselves safe and lessen the impact of H1N1.

### Crime Prevention Tip

Don't lend you keys or access control cards to anyone and report any lost or stolen keys/cards immediately to UTSA PD.



Make plans to attend the Rowdy Wing Fling on Wednesday Sep. 2, 2009 starting at 6:30 pm at the Road Runner Cafe. This UTSA tradition is a free event with a concert, tasty wings, games and more. More info at [www.utsa.edu/sa/barr/wingfling/](http://www.utsa.edu/sa/barr/wingfling/)

**WATCH OUT FOR:** There have been a few police reports of money stolen out of open purses and backpacks...while the victim-student is in class! Always secure your valuables, especially cash and wallets during your class session. Don't become the next victim of this type of theft!

## “Detective Time” by Sgt. Thomas Calucci (Supervisor, Criminal Investigations)

I would like to start by welcoming back all of our returning students and faculty members. I'd also like to welcome any newcomers to our community. If you are not familiar with my section of this newsletter, this is my opportunity to educate you on how the UTSAPD Criminal Investigations Section works and how we do what we do. I also offer tips on how to not become a crime victim.

So let me start off with the most basic tip I can offer: if you don't want your stuff to be stolen, don't leave it unsecured. You can do this several ways. For example, don't leave your laptops, iPods, book bags, or any other valuables in your car. Also, when you're at the library or shootin' some hoops at the Rec Center, don't leave your books or wallets lying around where someone can pick them up. Remember to lock

your apartment or room door, and ask your roommates to do the same thing.

We at the police department are committed to ensuring both your personal safety and the safety of your property. If you don't know yet, our Crime Prevention officers offer free engraving to all of our students. Please take the time to help us keep your property safe and in your hands.



## Schedule of Events For September

**Wednesday Sep. 2, 2009**

**Rowdy Wing Fling**

6:30 pm at Road Runner Cafe  
a UTSA Tradition, is a free event with a concert, tasty wings, games and more.

**Thursday Sep. 3, 2009**

**Women's Only Self Defense**

7:00 pm at UOA III Clubhouse  
Learn how to defend yourself! Call 877-4006 to reserve a space!

**Thursday Sep. 10, 2009**

**Thirsty Thursdays**

11:00 am at UC Paseo  
Come have a thirst-quenching good time with the BARR Consultants!

**Thursday Sep. 17, 2009**

**Coffee with the Cops**

8:00 pm at outside UC Starbucks  
The UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the UC Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

**Friday Sep. 18, 2009**

**SD 350 Staff Safety & Security**

10:00 am at University Center  
For staff members. Find out how you can be safe on campus. More information at UT Direct.

**Friday Sep. 18, 2009**

**SD 351 UTSA Response to Active Shooter**

1:00 pm at University Center  
For staff members. Find out how you can be safe on campus. More information at UT Direct.

**Friday Sep. 25, 2009**

**SD 350 Staff Safety & Security**

10:00 am at DTC  
For staff members. Find out how you can be safe on campus. More information at UT Direct.

**Friday Sep. 25, 2009**

**SD 351 UTSA Response to Active Shooter**

1:00 pm at DTC  
For staff members. Find out how you can be safe on campus. More information at UT Direct.

## Lost and Found

All found property that is turned in to the University Police Lost & Found section is stored at the University Police Lost & Found for 60 days. After 60 days, the found property is transferred to the Surplus Property Department for public auctions or further disposition.

To report lost property items or to make inquiries regarding lost property call 210.458.4242 (24 hours a day). To claim found property items, individuals must present a valid Texas Driver's license, UTSA photo ID card or a valid photo ID card from another source; military ID or another state photo ID card. Individuals must be able to accurately describe the property that was lost in order to claim property from the lost & found section.

The below listed items are currently being held by UTSAPD. If not claimed in 30 days, they will be disposed of in accordance with policy.



Qty	Item	Description
15	BIKES	VARIOUS BRANDS
4	CELL PHONES	VARIOUS BRANDS
5	BOOKS	VARIOUS TITLES
9	ELECTRONICS	VARIOUS ITEMS
10	JEWELRY	VARIOUS PIECES
2	PURSE	
1	WALLET	
1	DEBIT/BANK CARD/ID CARD	
1	DEBIT CARD	BELONGING TO RYAN RODRIGUEZ
1	FITNESS CARD	BELONGING TO SANTIAGO SIERRA
1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO ZAIDA MAURICO
1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO SARAH ZIMMERMANN
1	ID CARD	BELONGING TO JENEVIEVE MATA
1	TX ID	BELONGING TO AMBER GRACE
1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO KENDALL DURHAM-KERSH
1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO CULLEN SMITH
1	ID CARD	BELONGING TO SALMA PALADINI
1	TX ID CARD	BELONGING TO RAFAEL MIRELES
1	ID CARD	BELONGING TO VERONICA GASKEY
1	TX ID	BELONGING TO SYVIA TOBIAS
1	TX DL	BELONGING TO ANGELA OROSCO
13	SETS OF KEYS	
17	SUNGLASSES/READING GLASSES	VARIOUS BRANDS
1	SILVER TENSION ROD	
1	SAFELITE AUTO PAPERWORK	BELONGING TO MYRA HERNANDEZ
1	WORK GLOVES	
2	HATS	
1	HEB TAG	BELONGING TO KAYLA
3	BACK PACKS/GYM BAG	
1	CHECKBOOK	BELONGING TO YUKIHISA SHIRAKI
5	PLANNERS	
1	NAMETAG	BELONGING TO MARVIN GONZALES
1	LUNCH BAG	
4	OFFICE SUPPLY ITEMS	
3	UMBRELLAS	
1	DISPLAY BOARD	
1	SEVERAL NOTEBOOKS AND PAPERWORK	



UTSA has a number of blue emergency phones

### Acting Chief Pena

says:

*Officer Rigney*

*spotted a previously identified bike theft suspect on UTSA Blvd as he was dragging another stolen bike.*

*The suspect was promptly arrested by Officer Rigney.*

*Thanks for your hard work!*



Acting Chief of Police  
Dan Pena

## Be Smart...Be Safe: Emergency Blue Phones

Whether you are planning an evening jog or have a late night class, there is a blue phone within close proximity to ensure students, staff and faculty feel safe completing everyday activities. There are blue phones placed strategically across the three campuses of UTSA. Blue phones marked "emergency" are designed to dial the UTSA Police Department directly when the red button is pushed. Callers talk directly with the communications operator through the speaker on the pole. Appropriate emergency personnel are then dispatched. Some of the blue phones are equipped with a blue light that flashes when the red button is pushed.

We do weekly inspections of all of our emergency phones. Any non-working phones discovered are

taped off to let you know they are not working and work orders are placed to get those phones repaired as quickly as possible.

#### How Do They Work?

All emergency phones on campus have just one push button that you use. All emergency calls from these go to the UTSA Police Department communications center and are handled as an emergency. All of the emergency phones have a caller identification system. A police officer will be dispatched, even if the caller does not answer the police dispatcher.

#### How Do I Use Them?

1. Press the push button located on the face of the unit.
2. The UTSA police dispatcher will answer and ask what your emergency is

3. Tell the dispatcher what is happening
4. Tell the dispatcher where you are at and what landmarks you see
5. If possible, wait for the police officer to arrive

#### Why Use Them?

The blue phone system may be used to report minor and major emergencies. If something is happening to you or to another person, we want to respond. Even if you are unsure of what is going on, use the emergency phone and let us know!



Press the red button for help.

## Chief's Corner By Acting Chief Dan Pena

It's the beginning of a new semester and we have welcomed many students who are new to the UTSA campus. Although we provide a robust new student orientation program, I occasionally meet a student who is unaware of the services that our police department provides. The UTSA Police Department is a full service police department employing 52 licensed Texas peace officers as well as 40 security guards and 28 support staff. We provide police services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our jurisdiction includes the main campus, downtown campus and the Institute of Texan Cultures.

Our basic services include:

- Emergency response to crimes in progress, medical emergencies, fires and safety hazards.
- 911 Emergency call service and police dispatch center
- Police patrols of campus facilities and residential areas
- Criminal offense investigations
- Assist motorist calls
- Safety escorts
- Crime Prevention presentations
- Security Systems and Access Services
- Emergency notification services

- UTSA Police web site - [www.utsa.edu/utsapd/](http://www.utsa.edu/utsapd/)  
Like other police departments across the nation, we work hard to prevent and combat crime on a daily basis. Unfortunately, we at UTSA are not an island isolated from criminal elements that occasionally attempt to carry out criminal activity on campus. Although we provide a detailed listing of crime statistics in our annual security report, we don't publish the outcome of the crimes we investigate.

You may be surprised to know that for crimes against persons that occurred in 2009, which includes assault, aggravated assault and robbery, of the 6 cases reported, all 6 cases resulted in an arrest or prosecution. Similarly, for crimes against property, which include theft, burglary, and auto theft, vandalism and ID theft, 132 cases resulted in 24 arrests or prosecutions. We also recovered over \$8,100 in stolen property.

Like many universities nationwide, we also deal with alcohol related incidents. This is one area that we actively enforce due to the serious consequences and devastating results that can occur when a per-

son consumes alcohol and drives. All too often, we see the terrible results of drinking and driving when watching our local news reports. Further, experience has taught us that if we intervene in incidents where people are abusing alcohol, we are able to prevent the occurrence of a variety of crimes, like assaults, sexual assaults, vandalism and DWI, that often occur when a person's inhibitions are lowered by alcohol. For 2009 UTSA police issued 255 citations for alcohol violations and made 49 DWI arrests. We continue to collaborate with the Office of Student Affairs to develop alcohol awareness programs that we hope will lower the incidence of alcohol violations and alcohol related crimes.

In our service to you, our community, we hold ourselves accountable for providing professional law enforcement services that are effective, equitable and consistent. We remain committed to our goal of providing the safest university campus so that our students, faculty, staff, residents and visitors can learn, work, and live in an environment free of crime and safety hazards.