April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual violence is a serious public health issue that affects all communities. As many as 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted in college (Krebs, Lindquist, Warner, Fisher, & Martin, 2007), and while in college, one in 16 men have been victims of an attempted or completed assault (Krebs et al., 2007). Research shows male college students are less likely than female college students to report an assault (Banyard et al., 2007).

The impact of sexual assault can be wide-ranging and can have long-term impacts. Survivors experience an increased risk for post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and depression (Kilpatrick, Resnick, Ruggiero, Conoscenti, & McCauley, 2007). As a result, a survivor might have difficulty academically and often will drop out of school (Arria et al., 2013; Eisenberg, Golbertein, & Hunt, 2009). Conversely, people who sexually abuse are unlikely to be reported or held accountable, and might rape again (Lisak & Miller, 2002).

There are many pieces that must come together in order to create a comprehensive approach to ending sexual violence. Awareness, risk reduction, response, and prevention are all pieces of that puzzle.

**Awareness** increases understanding of what sexual violence is and its prevalence. Awareness activities also can inform students and staff on which resources are available for support.

**Risk-reduction** approaches may help individuals identify warning signs and learn safety tips.

**Response** occurs following an assault and works to lessen the impact of trauma on survivors and those who are close to them.

**Prevention** goes beyond raising awareness and reducing risk and engages campus communities in creating long-term solutions to social issues. Effective prevention strategies are address the root causes and social norms that allow sexual violence to exist. All forms of oppression are connected. Oppression creates an environment where inequality thrives and violence is seen as normal and acceptable. To prevent sexual violence, it is necessary to change the culture.

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Remember that sex without consent is sexual assault. When establishing consent, be aware of the following:

**Ask for consent.** Don’t assume a partner is OK with what you want to do. Always ask them. Be direct. If you are unsure that you have their consent, ask again.

**Communicate.** Don’t be afraid to talk about sex and communicate your boundaries, wants, and needs. Encourage your partner to do the same.

**Make it fun.** Consent does not have to be something that interrupts sex; it can be a part of sex. Checking in with your partner throughout sexual experiences can be a great way to build intimacy and understand your partner’s needs. It can help partners create a healthy and satisfying sex life.

**Drugs and/or alcohol increase risk.** Intoxication impairs decision-making and can make it impossible to gain someone’s legal consent. Mixing drugs and/or alcohol with sex also can lead to risky behavior, such as unprotected sex.

Ref: www.nsvrc.org
Each year, the second full week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. It was first conceived by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County (Calif.) Sheriff's Office in 1981 and was observed only at that agency for three years. Members of the Virginia and North Carolina chapters of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) became involved in the mid-1980s. By the early 1990s, the national APCO organization convinced Congress of the need for a formal proclamation. Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced what became H.J. Res. 284 to create "National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week." According to Congressional procedure, it was introduced twice more in 1993 and 1994, and then became permanent, without the need for yearly introduction.

The official name of the week when originally introduced in Congress in 1991 was "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week." In the intervening years, it has become known by several other names, including "National Public-Safety Telecommunications Week" and "International Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week." The Congressional resolution also stated there were more than "500,000 telecommunications specialists," although other estimates put the number of dispatchers at just over 200,000. The Congressional figure may include support personnel and perhaps even those in the commercial sector of public safety communications.

The UTSA Police Department is currently seeking qualified persons for the following positions:
- Lateral Police Officer
- Public Safety Officer
- Telecommunicator

For more information, go to http://www.utsajobs.com

Daniel "Danny" Torres joined the UTSAPD in June 06, 2005 after completing his training at the UT System Police Academy. He worked in the Patrol Division, where he spent several years on 1st Shift and 2nd Shift. Danny was promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2013. He considered a different role with the UTSA Police Department and we congratulate him on his promotion to the position of Security Systems Supervisor. He will be working under the leadership of Jessenia Skelton, Director of Security Services.

Danny brings 20 years of experience working as Electronics Technician in the U.S. Navy, where he retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He brings a wealth of experience in leadership, technical knowledge, and troubleshooting skills necessary to keep all the security systems running efficiently. He will oversee the maintenance and installation of all UTSA security systems as well as the daily operations of the Access Services Team. We are very happy and fortunate to have Danny as part of our team, and we sincerely welcome him.
When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Spring is upon us, and with the changing of the seasons comes the threat of severe weather and flooding. Take time on a sunny day to be prepared for those occasional stormy days. So, what does severe weather mean, you may wonder? Severe weather includes thunderstorms, downbursts/damaging winds, lightning, tornadoes, hail storms, waterspouts, tropical cyclones (hurricanes), and dust storms.

With the increased risk of severe weather in our area during the spring time, it’s important to recognize what our number one threat is - flooding. A flood or flash flood WATCH means a flood is possible in your area. A flood or flash flood WARNING means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area. A severe thunderstorm WATCH means conditions are favorable for thunderstorms – WARNING indicates severe thunderstorms are occurring and/or capable of producing large hail or high winds causing significant damage.

Late season cold fronts, mixing with lots of gulf moisture, can spark intense thunderstorms across San Antonio, so always be prepared to act quickly.

The best defense for severe weather is awareness and preparedness. When a thunderstorm is approaching, keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, lightning, or increasing wind. When thunder roars, go indoors! If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately and wait out the storm.

Severe thunderstorms can produce flash flooding in the San Antonio metro. Did you know moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet? Twelve inches can sweep a car off the road. It’s best to turn around, don’t drown. Standing flood water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines. Crossing or disregarding a barricade in San Antonio is a Class B misdemeanor that includes a fine of up to $2,000 and up to 180 days in jail.

Moving a barricade posted at a low water crossing also is a Class B misdemeanor that may result in a fine of up to $1,000 and up to two years in jail. You can be arrested for either offense. Additionally, the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) charges a fee of $400 for each person rescued from a designated low water crossing.

Remember that the best decision you can make during severe weather and/or a flood is to shelter-in-place and ride out the storm. For more information on flooding in our area, please visit the www.floodsmart.gov or the National Weather Service at www.weather.gov/austin. During a storm, listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information, and monitor the UTSA Campus Alerts webpage at www.alerts.utsa.edu.

Detective Time by Sgt. Allan Crocker (Supervisor, Criminal Investigations)

Let me pick up from last month’s article. Congratulations to Lieutenant Calucci as he has promoted to oversee several sections within the University of Texas-San Antonio Police Department (UTSA PD). I have been selected to fill the vacancy as the Criminal Investigation Section Supervisor. So, let me introduce myself. I am Sergeant Allan Crocker Jr. and I have been with UTSA PD for a little over eight years. I was one of the first few officers that were hired when UTSA PD started selecting laterals from outside agencies. I was a police officer with the City of Castroville for a little over 10 years. I brought a lot of experience to the police department and now I’ll be using that experience and what I have learned here at UTSA PD to lead the Criminal Investigations Section into the future.

This is the time of year where thefts increase on the campus. One of those thefts is what we call a crime of opportunity. A crime of opportunity can be best explained by using the John Peace Library. As we approach finals at the end of this month, many students will be in the library studying. Some students will be there for hours and they will spread their books, computers and phone around the study area and then it happens………time to use the rest room. Instead of picking up the items, the student will ask a person in the area to watch their things as they run to the rest room. When the student returns, their computer and phone are missing. The person the student asked to watch the items, reports they did not see anyone in the area and have no idea who took the items. The crime of opportunity was the items were left unattended, the suspect sees an opening and takes it.

The detectives and I will do our best in attempting to locate your missing items. We understand mistakes happen and with a little luck we might find that computer before your final paper is due. We do need a little help from each of you. The most important information you can provide us is the make, model, and serial number of the item taken. I would ask each of you to write that information down on all your important items (Computers/Tablets/Phones and Bikes, just to name a few) on a piece of paper and keep it at home, in a safe place, as you never know when it might be needed.

Thank you for your time and good luck to all as finals approach.
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 210.458.6247 (Monday to Friday; 8am to 5pm). 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. **NOTE—Departments, please promptly turn in any lost and found items you may have so we can return them to their owners in a timely fashion.

Crime Report for the Month of March 2015

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred as of last month. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

- Thefts = 9
- Burglary of Vehicle = 0
- Assaults = 6
- Theft of Motor Vehicle = 0
- Alcohol Arrests = 2
- Drug Arrests = 3
- DWI/DUI Arrests = 8
- Other Crimes = 17
This year’s event is being organized and co-hosted by the Inter Fraternity Council, along with several contributors throughout the UTSA campus. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our crime prevention officer, Maranda Tupper, for being the catalyst in creating such a great event as it has grown in a short time to a much larger scale with lots of activities and participation. This is a great opportunity to increase awareness of sexual assault and how we can take actions to prevent sexual assaults and encourage to report sexual assaults. Just like this event is hosted by a team it also takes a team effort to ensure we do all we can to prevent sexual assaults. We take our roles very seriously when it comes to preventing and investigating sexual assaults on campus. We also work closely with Student Affairs, the Counseling Center, Student Health Services Women’s Resource Center, Equal Opportunity Services, and the Rape Crisis Center as partners to comprehensively provide victim services. Our crime prevention unit also offers sexual assault and alcohol awareness classes to discuss ways to prevent sexual assault as well as offering self-defense classes. We also offer services such as our Safety Escort Program, which allows you to call the police department to have someone escort you to your vehicle or around campus especially at night times. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Our blue emergency phones are also available all around campus that can be used in the event of an emergency or if someone feels in danger while on campus. These phones are connected directly to our dispatcher who can immediately send a police officer to your location. Please feel free to contact our crime prevention office if you would like a presentation on any of the above topics or any other safety issue. We look forward to seeing you at this year’s event! Be safe.