



**Georgia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
Public Relations Committee  
Media Report**

**JULY 2008**

**Two football players charged with battery**

By Marc Weiszer | marc.weiszer@onlineathens.com | Story updated at 10:55 a.m. on Tuesday, July 1, 2008

Georgia offensive linemen Trinton Sturdivant and Justin Anderson were arrested Monday night on charges of simple battery after a female alleged she was touched without her consent at a campus dorm.

The female alleged that individuals unknown to her approached her in a breezeway of East Campus Village Building 1512 early Friday morning, according to an incident report from the University of Georgia police department. Sturdivant and Anderson are listed as residents of Building 1512, while the victim is listed as a Bogart resident and a campus visitor.

The victim met with a university police officer at 2:17 a.m. last Friday in Rooker Hall, 32 minutes after the alleged incident.

In separate affidavits, it is alleged that Sturdivant and Anderson each "did intentionally make physical contact of an insulting nature with (the alleged victim), who he does not know, when he approached her and touched her stomach."

Warrants were issued for Sturdivant and Anderson at 3 p.m. on Monday and they were booked on Monday night.

Sturdivant, 19, a starting tackle from Wadesboro, N.C., was booked at 9:56 p.m. and released at 10:46 p.m. on a \$1,500 bond. Anderson, 20, a guard from Ocilla, Ga., was booked at 9:49 p.m. and released at 11:07 p.m., also on a \$1,500 bond, according to the Clarke County Jail booking report.

The misdemeanor arrests could leave Georgia thin on the offensive line at least for its season opener against Georgia Southern on Aug. 30 if they bring suspensions from Coach Mark Richt. The coach is out of town this week, but is aware of the incident involving Sturdivant and Anderson, according to Georgia spokesman Claude Felton. No disciplinary action is expected this week.

Starting offensive guard Clint Boling is already facing the possibility of a suspension of at least one game for a DUI arrest in Alpharetta in May.

Defensive end Jeremy Lomax also faces a possible suspension after he was arrested on a concealed weapons charge last month.

Six Georgia players are now known to have been arrested this offseason.

Published on *OnlineAthens.com* on 070108

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/070108/football\\_arrests.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/070108/football_arrests.shtml)

[ajc.com](#) > [Metro](#)

## **2 UGA players charged with battery; another is a suspect**

By [CHIP TOWERS](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Published on: 07/01/08

Athens — Two University of Georgia football players have been arrested since Saturday night, according to police and news reports. A third player is a suspect in another case.

Offensive linemen Justin Anderson and Trinton Sturdivant were arrested Monday night and charged with simple battery, according to the Athens-Clarke County jail's Web site. Each was released on \$1,500 bond.

The Athens Banner-Herald and ESPN.com both reported that Anderson and Sturdivant are accused of touching the stomach of a woman without her consent, according to a campus police incident report.

Another Georgia player, defensive lineman Michael Lemon, is a suspect in a battery incident that occurred on Saturday night. Lemon allegedly punched another UGA student at an apartment complex barbecue, according to a report in the school newspaper, *The Red and Black*.

Five UGA football players have now been arrested since the end of last season.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution will provide more details as they become available.

Find this article at:

[http://www.ajc.com/news/content/metro/stories/2008/07/01/uga\\_georgia\\_players\\_arrested.html?COXnetJSessionIDbuild101\\_prod=rkkkLqyGgNJTGB9fPH1V1LndZjpsHQprGmZsVsQ2GnhlyLLwG1JJ!-1499726597&UrAuth=%2560N%5ENUOcNUUbTTUWUXUaUZTZU%2560UWU%5EUWUZU%5CU%5BUcTYWYWZV&urcm=y](http://www.ajc.com/news/content/metro/stories/2008/07/01/uga_georgia_players_arrested.html?COXnetJSessionIDbuild101_prod=rkkkLqyGgNJTGB9fPH1V1LndZjpsHQprGmZsVsQ2GnhlyLLwG1JJ!-1499726597&UrAuth=%2560N%5ENUOcNUUbTTUWUXUaUZTZU%2560UWU%5EUWUZU%5CU%5BUcTYWYWZV&urcm=y)

**CBS46.com**

### **Two UGA Linemen Charged With Battery**

POSTED: 1:00 pm EDT July 1, 2008

UPDATED: 1:31 pm EDT July 1, 2008

**ATLANTA** -- Georgia offensive linemen Trinton Sturdivant and Justin Anderson were arrested Monday night on charges of simple battery after a female alleged she was touched without her consent at a campus dorm.

The female alleged that individuals unknown to her approached her in a breezeway of East Campus Village Building 1512 early Friday morning, according to an incident report from the University of Georgia police department.

Sturdivant and Anderson are listed as residents of Building 1512, while the victim is listed as a Bogart resident and a campus visitor.

The alleged victim met with a university police officer at 2:17 a.m. last Friday in Rooker Hall, 32 minutes after the incident.

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The coach is out of town this week, but is aware of the incident involving Sturdivant and Anderson, according to Georgia spokesman Claude Felton. No disciplinary action is expected this week.

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<http://www.cbs46.com/sports/16760024/detail.html>

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## **Two more Georgia players arrested on battery charge**

**By: Staff reports**

**Posted: 7/1/08**

Two more Georgia football players find themselves in trouble with the law.

Georgia offensive linemen Trinton Sturdivant and Justin Anderson were arrested and charged with misdemeanor simple battery Monday night according to the Athens Clarke County Jail booking report.

The charges were a result of a female alleging individuals unknown to her in the breezeway of East Campus Village "touched her person without her consent" on June 27 according to the University Police incident report.

Two affidavits filed with the Athens Clarke County Court stated the two "did intentionally make physical contact of an insulting nature with (the alleged victim), who he does not know, when he approached her and touched her stomach."

Sturdivant, 19, was booked at 9:56 p.m. and released at 10:56 p.m. Anderson, 20, was booked at 9:49 p.m. and released at 11:07 p.m. Both were released on a \$1,500 bond.

This marks the fifth and sixth arrest of a Georgia football player since the start of the offseason. Michael Lemon, a defensive end, is a suspect in a battery incident that sent a man to the hospital during the weekend.

Football head coach Mark Richt is out of town and unavailable to comment.

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[ajc.com](#) > [Metro](#) > [Atlanta](#)

### **Tech player charged with rape**

By [MIKE KNOBLER](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Published on: 06/30/08

Georgia Tech football player Jerrard Tarrant admitted to police he performed oral sex on the woman he is accused of raping, a police report says, but he said the oral sex was consensual and they never had intercourse.

Tarrant and the alleged victim had met at a party the night of April 24 and went to his on-campus dorm room, where the incident occurred sometime after 1:30 a.m. Dominique Reese, one of Tarrant's teammates, told police the woman victim was happy when she left the party but was upset when she returned.

"[Reese] stated that it was obvious that something was wrong with the victim, but he did not know what," Tech police officer Marcus Walton wrote in his report.

Two of the woman's friends told police she was so upset when she returned to the party that she soon left again and hid behind a staircase. When they found her, they told police, she started crying and said, "He raped me."

At first, though, she didn't want to go to the police. She told one of her friends she didn't want to press charges because she was afraid if she did Tarrant would get kicked off the Tech football team, the friend said in a statement to police. Instead, the woman asked her friends to take her

back to Oglethorpe University, where she and they were students. When she got there she changed her mind about pressing charges and called DeKalb County police, who brought her back to the Tech campus at about 4:30 a.m.

Tarrant, 19, of Carrollton, was arrested Friday on charges of rape and sodomy. He was released Saturday on \$40,000 bond. Tech football coach Paul Johnson suspended Tarrant from the team pending the outcome of the legal proceedings. Tarrant, a redshirt freshman, emerged from spring practice as one of two top contenders for a starting cornerback job this fall.

A doctor who examined the alleged victim at Grady Hospital on April 25 found internal vaginal bruising. Two Georgia Bureau of Investigation reports showed no evidence of semen or male DNA in the rape kit or the woman's panties.

Tarrant and the woman both told police she told him to stop performing oral sex on her. He stated that he stopped. She stated that he didn't.

The woman made two statements to police, the first on the morning of the incident and the second, more detailed statement almost a month later, on May 20, after she returned from her home in Tennessee. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution does not identify victims of sexual assault.

She said she had her guard down that night.

"I drank alcohol at the party so it wasn't hard for him to get me to go to his room," she wrote in her first statement.

But once she got to Tarrant's room and he began touching her, she told him to stop because she had a boyfriend. He said that's when the oral sex ended. She said he soon started again and continued despite her continued pleas to stop.

Neither Tarrant's lawyer, Charles Lea, nor Fulton County assistant district attorney Phyllis Clerk returned phone calls to their offices Tuesday afternoon.

Find this article at:

[http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/06/30/georgia\\_tech\\_tarrant\\_rape.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/06/30/georgia_tech_tarrant_rape.html)

## **Shorter installs campus warning system**

07/02/08

From staff reports

Shorter College has installed an early warning system alert to inform the entire campus in a crisis situation.

The Student Alert Mass Notification System offers siren alerts as well as pre-recorded and live-voice announcement capabilities.

The siren can be used during severe weather. Other emergency announcements would be made through a pole-mounted speaker system located near the heart of the college's Rome campus.

The custom-built emergency warning system is battery operated so that it will remain operational during a power outage. The system is a product of Whelan Engineering Co. Inc., and is designed specifically for college and university use.

"The Whelan emergency warning system is an important piece of our efforts to offer a safe campus environment," said Shorter College President Harold E. Newman. "Having the ability to sound a siren when a tornado warning is issued or to make a campus-wide announcement greatly enhances our ability to help keep students, faculty and staff safe."

The emergency warning system represents a \$40,000 investment by the college.

This new emergency warning system will work hand-in-hand with the existing Shorter2U text message and e-mail notification system to keep the campus community informed in the event of an emergency, according to Dawn Tolbert, the college's director of institutional relations, who chaired the crisis plan review committee.

The Shorter2U system was launched in November 2007 and allows the college to send urgent news to students, faculty and staff who register for the service, Tolbert said.



McCord Communications crews install an emergency warning system at Shorter.

<http://news.mywebpal.com/partners/680/public/news912302.html>

## **Student laptops remain popular objects of theft**

*UTSAV YADAV For The Red & Black*

Issue date: 7/3/08 Section: [News](#)

Students may not think the faltering U.S. economy affects them - at least until their personal belongings go missing.

With the rising prices of gas, laptops and food, thieves see students' items as potential targets.

"It is now the worst time to be a victim of theft," said University Police Lt. Lisa Boone "Chances are if your property is stolen, it will not be recovered."

In the last three months, there have been 59 theft-related incidents on the campus, with 36 cases of those reported during the month of April. Though summer is not a heavy time for thefts, the fall semester is the worst time since more people are on campus.

Laptops are stolen the most on campus, but anything left unattended is at risk.

"In a college environment, students tend to be not aware," Boone said. "Folks don't make a conscious decision."

She added students sometimes don't realize the University is an open campus through which anyone can pass.

Often people in the Student Learning Center get up and take a break, leaving their belongings unattended. The rule of thumb is people should not leave their personal items unattended, even if that means taking laptops on bathroom breaks, Boone said.

But students should also make their items distinct and keep records of serial numbers in case something does happen, police suggest.

"Security is never convenient," Boone said.

<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/03/News/Student.Laptops.Remain.Popular.Objects.Of.Theft-3387653.shtml>

## **Dorm keg party lands students in trouble**

*ALEX BUSKO*

**Issue date:** 7/3/08 **Section:** [News](#)

Nine University students were arrested Saturday night on a spectrum of alcohol-related charges.

University Police responded to a complaint from East Campus Village and found the students in the lobby of building 1512 trying to haul two kegs, a game table and several backpacks of beer and liquor into the elevators at 10:50 p.m.

Katherine Zornig, Timothy Yeomans, Lauren Scharfenberg, Pablo Arcieri-Vazquez, Lucas Martinez, Amanda Stevenson, Miguel Rivera and Stephanie Fernandez were charged with underage possession of alcohol.

Jeffrey Teves, who is over the age of 21, stated that all of the alcohol in the area and all items not claimed by any of the other individuals on scene belonged to him and further stated he needed to get his deposit back on the two kegs that he had purchased for Fernandez's (his girlfriend) birthday party," the arrest report said. Teves was charged with eight counts of furnishing alcohol to minors.

Fernandez was charged with representing fraudulent identification "for displaying her sister's Georgia driver's license ... and represented it as her own," wrote Officer Clark Sparrow.

Rivera was then charged with obstruction for making "derogatory comments concerning the officers on scene" and saying "he was an Armed Forces recruit that would soon be killing people in the desert for

[his] country and should not be subject to such treatment."

Additionally, Georgia's junior point guard Billy Humphrey was booted from the men's basketball team by head coach Dennis Felton on Friday after he was arrested in Gwinnett County and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

Humphrey's second violation of the alcohol policy means he "will be suspended from UGA per minimum sanctions," according to a document from the University's Office of Judicial Programs. This means he will be suspended for the year.

Also, charges were dropped against University employee Brett Rudolph, who was charged with felony theft by conversion after being stopped by police for driving under the influence of alcohol in a University van in February.

Rudolph plead no content to reckless driving and defective equipment for driving with flat tires.

<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/03/News/Dorm-Keg.Party.Lands.Students.In.Trouble.wpolice.Report-3387658.shtml>

## **Georgia DE Lemon arrested, faces felony aggravated battery charge (w/warrant)**

### **Three players arrested as offseason legal woes mount for football team**

By: TAMARA BEST

Posted: 7/3/08

Three Georgia football players found themselves in trouble with the law after two were arrested for simple battery and another was arrested and faces felony charges in another battery incident, according to University and Athens-Clarke County police reports.

Michael Lemon, a sophomore defensive end from Lizella, was arrested and charged with a felony in an alcohol-related battery incident that occurred last Saturday night and sent a University student to the hospital with a severe eye injury, according to an ACC Police report.

Lemon punched student DeMarius Jackson "about five times before someone pulled him off," the report states. Warrants charging him with both misdemeanor battery and felony aggravated battery were issued Wednesday. Lemon was booked into the ACC jail Thursday morning at 10:24 a.m. No bond was set for the aggravated battery charge, but the misdemeanor battery charge had bond set at \$2,500. He was released at 11:02 a.m.

A charge of aggravated battery is defined as malicious bodily harm resulting in loss of the use of a body part or serious disfigurement. If found guilty of the charge, Lemon could face up to 20 years in prison.

Because of the felony charge, Lemon is expected to be suspended indefinitely from the football team until the case is resolved.

Jackson was taken to St. Mary's Hospital and treated for a blowout fracture to the eye and was released early Sunday. According to [allaboutvision.com](http://allaboutvision.com), a blowout fracture occurs when the eye suffers significant blunt force trauma.

The incident happened during a barbecue in the pool area at The Exchange apartment complex, according to the report.

The report states Jackson was grilling food when Lemon approached him. Lemon allegedly inquired why Jackson was "talking to his girl."

Jackson told Lemon "he didn't know what he was talking about," but Lemon continued to question him, the report says.

Witnesses who spoke to The Red & Black said they saw Lemon turn as if walking away, but then turned back and headed toward Jackson.

"Mr. Lemon then punched Mr. Jackson several times, which knocked Mr. Jackson down," the report says. Witnesses told The Red & Black the echo from the punch could be heard from the other side of the pool.

Lemon, who is 6-foot-4, 274 pounds, "punched Mr. Jackson five times before someone pulled Mr. Lemon off. Several of the witnesses advised that several of Mr. Lemon's friends 'huddled' around Mr. Lemon as he was punching Mr. Jackson," the report states.

The report says Lemon and his friends left the area while Jackson called 911 from a friend's apartment.

"Mr. Jackson's left eye was noticeably swollen, and he also had a bump on his forehead from where Mr. Lemon hit him," the report said. Jackson told police his vision was blurry in his left eye. "It appeared as though Mr. Jackson also had a concussion from the altercation."

Lemon was in the news last year following the murder of his mother. Phaba Lemon, 39, was found dead in February 2007 after her mobile home was set on fire. Her boyfriend was charged with murder and arson. Last year the Athletic Association obtained NCAA approval to set up "The Lemon Support Fund," to help Lemon and his brother after their mother's death. Almost \$70,000 was raised from almost 350 different donors.

Fellow teammates Georgia offensive linemen Trinton Sturdivant and Justin Anderson were arrested and charged with misdemeanor simple battery Monday night, according to the ACC Jail booking report.

The charges were a result of a female saying individuals unknown to her "touched her person without her consent" in the breezeway of East Campus Village on June 27, according to the University police report.

Two affidavits filed with the ACC Court stated the two "did intentionally make physical contact of an

insulting nature with [the alleged victim], who he does not know, when he approached her and touched her stomach."

Sturdivant, 19, was booked at 9:56 p.m. and released at 10:56 p.m. Anderson, 20, was booked at 9:49 p.m. and released at 11:07 p.m. Both were released on a \$1,500 bond.

Football head coach Mark Richt is out of town and unavailable to comment.

Their arrests bring the total to six for the team since the start of the offseason.

In early June, defensive end Jeremy Lomax was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon and speeding. In May, offensive lineman Clint Boling was arrested and charged with DUI.

Fullback Fred Munzenmaier will miss the first game of the season and defensive back Donavon Baldwin will miss the first two due to arrests earlier in the year. Munzenmaier was arrested in January and charged with underage consumption of alcohol and pedestrian walking on the road. Baldwin was also arrested in January and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and improper driving.

<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/03/Sports/Georgia.De.Lemon.Arrested.Faces.Felony.Aggravated.Battery.Charge.warrant-3387692.shtml>

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## **K-9 unit honored at memorial service**

Written by Jessica Edens, Editor in Chief

Tuesday, 08 July 2008

Within the KSU community, there are plenty of hardworking students, faculty and staff, but one slightly unorthodox employee was honored this summer, for his decade of time serving and protecting campus.

The KSU police department held a memorial service June 3, honoring the life of K-9 Benni and his work at KSU from 1998 until 2007.

The K-9 unit, comprised of K-9 Benni and K-9 Handler Sergeant James A. Zebley, made the first university in the southeastern United States to have a K-9 Unit. Since they were established, other universities followed suit, and every campus in Georgia now has its own K-9 unit.

K-9 Benni aided in uncovering, "tens of thousands of dollars of drugs" over the years, according to KSU police Officer D.M. Ferree. He was also involved in several car chases on campus, and helped maintain security for nearly a decade.

Like all K-9 units, K-9 Benni was extensively trained, as Ferree illustrated with an anecdote during the memorial service. Unloading his patrol car one evening, he was accompanied by several other officers, Sergeant Zebley and K-9 Benni, when one of the officers started to bang on Ferree's plastic file cabinet.

"What I did not know at the time was that K-9 Benni thought this was a game, and [anything

you banged] on became his,” he said. “I went to reach down and stop [him] from attacking my file cabinet and Sergeant Zebley had to pull me back, so that K-9 Benni would not hurt me.”

“There’s no better job,” said Sergeant Zebley of his time as part of the K-9 Unit. Now a Corporal at Johns Creek police department, Zebley was influential in creating the K-9 Unit within the campus police department. “I spent more time with him than my own family,” he said. “It’s a 24/7 relationship.”

In May 2007, K-9 Benni retired due to his health. In his age, and due to his life-long work, his hip was causing him too much pain. He retired to Zebley’s home, where he could play with Zebley’s toddler son Alex and rest. In Jan. of this year, he became ill; doctors believed it to be a brain tumor, but were not certain. K-9 Benni then underwent surgery in April, to stop internal bleeding in his nose, and did not survive.

At the memorial service, KSU Police Chief Ted Cochran presented a plaque honoring Zebley for his role in K-9 Benni’s life and in securing the start of a K-9 unit on campus. Cochran was the one who initially approved the new K-9 unit, and worked closely with Zebley throughout the entire process.

K-9 Benni’s life spanned 77 “dog years,” or about ten years and one month. “He was someone I could always count on,” Zebley said, noting that he was happy that the dog was being “honored for all his hard work.”

“K-9 Benni was the hardest working unpaid employee Kennesaw State University ever had, and ever will have,” said Ferree.

[http://www.ksusentinel.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1531&Itemid=1](http://www.ksusentinel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1531&Itemid=1)

## **WSBTV.com**

### **Georgia State Student Kidnapped, Sexually Assaulted**

Victim Found In SE Atlanta

POSTED: 6:12 am EDT July 9, 2008

UPDATED: 6:23 pm EDT July 9, 2008

**ATLANTA** -- Police said two men kidnaped a 28-year-old Georgia State University student in the parking garage of an Auburn Avenue apartment complex and sexually assaulted her.

The kidnapping happened in the 200 block of Auburn Avenue in downtown Atlanta and the kidnapers later dropped the woman off on Delmar Avenue in southeast Atlanta.

She knocked on a stranger's door pleading for help, according to authorities.

“Yeah, she was knocking, she was beating and it got my attention and I came to the door,” said Mecca Holland.

Holland said what she found at her door at 3 a.m. Wednesday shocked her. She said she found a hysterical Ethiopian woman in tears begging to get inside.

Holland said the woman repeatedly screamed for her to call police, which she did. The student told Holland she had been kidnapped.

“She just said they took her car and they raped her and she said they were going to kill her,” said Holland.

Atlanta police said around 10:30 p.m. Tuesday two men kidnapped the student from a garage at the Bethel Towers Apartments.

“It was her vehicle that they forced her into,” said Officer Schwartz with the Atlanta Police Department.

Police said the two men picked up a third person and that’s when the Georgia State student was sexually assaulted. She was then dropped off in a southeast Atlanta neighborhood.

The victim’s SUV was later found near some railroad tracks in southwest Atlanta.

After five hours of being held against her will and violated, Holland allowed the frightened victim to stay in her garage until police arrived.

“When I saw her I was like, ‘Seriously, is this happening?’ Then I just called police. I just wanted to help because she seemed very scared,” said Holland.

Even though the incident did not happen on the Georgia State University campus, school officials said they are providing counseling services to the victim.

Tenants at the apartment complex said the victim had moved there five months ago and was trying to make a better life for herself.

Police are still looking for the three men.



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## **Georgia State student kidnapped, assaulted**

Associated Press | July 10, 2008

ATLANTA - Atlanta Police are investigating the kidnapping and sexual assault of a Georgia State University student.

Authorities have been looking for three males in connection with Tuesday night's abduction. The victim, a 28-year-old woman, told authorities she was taken from an apartment complex parking garage on Auburn Avenue at about 10:30 p.m.

Police said the woman was held against her will for about five hours and was released in southeast Atlanta.

Georgia State officials said they will provide counseling to the woman.

<http://savannahnow.com/node/531167>

### **Police say passenger threw bottle at cop**

| | Story updated at 10:18 PM on Wednesday, July 9, 2008

A Bogart man threw a soda bottle from the back seat of a car Tuesday night, nearly hitting a University of Georgia police officer who was patrolling South Hull Street on bicycle, UGA police said.

The man and the driver, an Athens resident, were arrested after officers stopped the car on Pulaski Street, according to police.

Carey Daniel Hardaway, 19, threw a bottle of Sprite at the officer for no apparent reason, just missing the officer's head, police said. Hardaway, of 170 Yorkshire Road, Bogart, was charged with simple assault, police said.

The driver, 19-year-old Vincent Green of 395 Bob Holman Road, was charged with being party to a crime, obstruction of a law enforcement officer, possession of marijuana and reckless driving, police said.

Published in the *Athens Banner-Herald* on 071008

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/071008/cops\\_2008071000491.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/071008/cops_2008071000491.shtml)

### **Man jailed over gun in UGA hotel**

#### **Visiting for conference**

By Joe Johnson | [joe.johnson@onlineathens.com](mailto:joe.johnson@onlineathens.com) | Story updated at 11:37 PM on Thursday, July 17, 2008

An Albany man who came to town for a conference was arrested on a felony charge and jailed for more than 18 hours because he had a gun in his hotel room.

Eric Dewayne Baylis, 45, said he didn't know that the hotel was owned by the University of Georgia, which put him in violation of a state law forbidding weapons within school safety zones.

Baylis, a maintenance worker with the Albany Housing Authority, was attending a four-day conference for the Georgia Housing Authority and Redevelopment Authority, held at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center & Hotel on South Lumpkin Street.

His employers made the lodging arrangements and he had no idea the hotel is owned by UGA.

"I actually didn't know (it) was campus property," Baylis said Thursday, soon after posting a \$2,000 bond to get out of jail.

"I carry my gun with me when I'm on the road traveling, and I took it out of my suitcase and just left it on the bed," Baylis said. "When the maid went through the room cleaning it and saw it, she told the manager, who called campus security."

Georgia Center Director Bill Crowe said the hotel will immediately change the form guests receive at check-in, paperwork that lists forbidden items and activities, like smoking.

"We are going to correct that," Crowe said. "I hate that the guy got arrested. We could have given him better information when he checked in."

During a lunch break Wednesday, Baylis got a call from the front desk that the police wanted to speak with him, he said.

Officers didn't lecture him on gun laws or allow him to move the pistol from his room to his car; they arrested Baylis and took him to the Clarke County Jail.

He was booked on a charge of possession of a weapon on school property about 6 p.m. Wednesday and bonded out at 12:30 p.m. Thursday.

Whether the man made an honest mistake or intentionally broke the law is a question to be decided in court, according to UGA Police Lt. Lisa Boone.

"The court can make whatever determination it wishes, but the Georgia Center is university property and in a school safety zone," Boone said.

More than 19,000 people attended conferences at the Georgia Center last year, and most stayed at least one night in the hotel, according to Crowe.

In the past, police didn't arrest guests who mistakenly brought weapons into the UGA-owned hotel, but now officers take no chances because gun violence on school grounds has been on the rise, according to Crowe.

"Historically, the police would walk them with their belongings to their cars, but not anymore, with all of the things that have been happening on campuses," he said.

Baylis said he made an honest mistake and didn't deserve to be arrested. He hopes his case will be dismissed when he returns to Athens for court Aug. 12.

And the way police handled the mistake has soured his feelings toward UGA.

"The campus security overdid it," he said. "Needless to say, I'm a Georgia Tech fan now."

Published in the Athens Banner-Herald on 071808

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/071808/news\\_2008071800326.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/071808/news_2008071800326.shtml)

## **After millions spent fixing flaws, UGA says lab ready**

### **Long-delayed animal disease research facility**

By Lee Shearer | [lee.shearer@onlineathens.com](mailto:lee.shearer@onlineathens.com) | Story updated at 11:38 PM on Thursday, July 17, 2008

A high-security research building 30 years in the making is finally up and running on the University of Georgia campus.

Planning for the Animal Health Research Center - the AHRC, pronounced "ark," for short - began in 1978, and UGA had a grand opening for the building in 1999.

But inspectors soon found widespread serious flaws in the building, which was eventually gutted and rebuilt from the inside - tripling the price tag from \$21 million to \$63 million.

Some researchers have been using the building's small biocontainment labs since 2006, but not until now have researchers had access to the part of the building UGA administrators have touted as its most important feature - large rooms that let UGA scientists conduct research with large animals such as cows and horses under high biosecurity conditions.

UGA has many other high-biosecurity labs on campus, but they simply are not big enough to let scientists work with big animals, said Harry Dickerson, associate dean for research and graduate affairs in the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine

In a typical high-biosecurity lab, potentially dangerous bacteria, viruses or other pathogens are kept in a specially designed cabinet inside a lab room, Dickerson said.

The cabinets are designed to keep any disease agents from escaping - but in the AHRC, on Carlton Street near East Campus Road, entire rooms are designed like those cabinets, with features such as air-handling systems that force air through special purifying filters as it leaves a room.

Even though the building is a decade late and cost three times as much as its initial budget, UGA administrators say the new lab will help scientists attract millions of dollars in research grants to work with serious animal diseases that also could infect humans or cause big economic losses - diseases like West Nile Virus, highly pathogenic avian influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS.

Only one other university in the country has a laboratory with similar large-animal labs, Dickerson said.

The first scientist to use the big AHRC rooms is Danny Mead, whose research aims to find out how a little-understood disease called vesicular stomatitis is transmitted.

UGA administrators picked Mead's research to open the lab's large-animal research area because he has years of experience in high-biosecurity research and because the virus he's using does not pose a great economic risk if it were somehow released into the outside environment.

As Mead studies the ways vesicular stomatitis virus is spread, he also is checking out the laboratory to make sure everything works properly.

Mead, who works in UGA's Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, has conducted research on and off for years at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, a federal laboratory where scientists study animal diseases that could potentially cause big economic losses for U.S. agriculture.

Humans can be infected with the vesicular stomatitis virus, but at the worst will experience flu-like symptoms, Mead said.

Horses, cattle, pigs and many other wild or domestic animals are susceptible to the virus, which is related to rabies.

Other UGA researchers have applied for permission to use the AHRC's big-animal facilities for their own research projects, but Dickerson said he did not know if any other projects would be cleared to use the lab before the end of the year.

Each project must be approved by committees of scientists and administrators on campus and by federal regulators.

"We're taking baby steps to get up to full speed," Dickerson said.

This week, a team from an Emory University unit that trains workers to work in high-biosecurity labs is on the UGA campus, teaching its second batch of 20 UGA workers how to work safely in the AHRC.

In addition to scientists and lab workers, other people who will never work in the building also will be trained, including administrators, police officers and Athens-Clarke firefighters, said Maria Kuhn, director of UGA's Office of Biosafety.

So far, Mead and others combing the new lab have only found a few small things to fix, Dickerson said - leaky faucets, a shower without hot water and adding an extra bar to animal gates so that they would better contain calves as well as full-grown cows, for example.

"I think it's a phenomenal building," Mead said.

Published in the Athens Banner-Herald on 071808

[http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/071808/uganews\\_2008071800528.shtml](http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/071808/uganews_2008071800528.shtml)

## University names new security chief

| | Story updated at 10:50 PM on Thursday, July 17, 2008

Former University of Georgia police officer Steve Harris was named director of the UGA Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness on Thursday.

Harris has served as interim director since October, when former director Opal Haley retired. Prior to that, he held the title of emergency operations manager.

The university created the security preparedness office in 2002 to help identify possible security threats and provide faculty, staff and students with information and education on emergency and security issues.

Harris joined the office in January 2006 after seven years with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

Published in the Athens Banner-Herald on 071808

[http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/071808/uganews\\_2008071800408.shtml](http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/071808/uganews_2008071800408.shtml)

## UGA names new director of emergency preparedness

Posted: 7/17/08

After a national search, Steve Harris has been named director of the University's Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Harris has been the office's interim director since October 2007, when former director Opal Haley retired. Prior to that, he held the title of emergency operations manager.

"I am very pleased to announce that Steve Harris has been appointed director of the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness," said George Stafford, associate vice president for auxiliary and administrative services, a unit in Finance and Administration. "Steve has done an excellent job in the role of interim director over the past several months, and he brings to the task a broad range of experience in this area, along with the relationships he has developed with local, state and federal agencies over the years and those he has developed with our campus constituencies."

Harris joined the security preparedness office in January 2006. Previously he worked seven years in the Georgia Emergency Management Agency's Homeland Security office as manager of the State School Safety Unit. He also served as an assistant security administrator with the Clarke County School District.

During his tenure as interim director, Harris helped guide the University toward campus-wide participation in the mass notification system UGAAlert. He also coordinated a casualty and tactical exercise for more than 300 local and campus emergency responders, and headed the Building Safety and Security Representative Program, which provides for greater threat assessment and information

distribution across campus.

"I look forward to the opportunities and unique challenges that this position entails," Harris said. "Also, I feel very fortunate to work with a group of talented and hard working individuals within the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness."

UGA created the security preparedness office in 2002 to help identify possible security threats and provide faculty, staff and students with information and education on emergency and security issues.

Harris holds a bachelor's degree in history from Georgia Southern University and a master's degree in social science education from UGA. He is certified by GEMA as an emergency manager.

A former UGA police officer, he serves on several advisory councils and technical working groups associated with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Education.

- *UGA News Service*

<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/17/News/Uga-Names.New.Director.Of.Emergency.Preparedness-3392127.shtml>

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## **Arrests of incoming freshmen yield different outcomes**

### **One student dismissed, one stays**

**By: TAMARA BEST**

***Posted: 7/17/08***

Two incoming freshmen, arrested for alcohol-related offenses within a week of each other in June, have different plans for the fall semester.

One will be in Athens, and one will not.

Tyler Porter Biringer, an incoming freshman from Roswell, was arrested and charged with underage possession of alcohol and open container June 7, according to an Athens-Clarke County police report.

On June 12, Hardeep Singh Purewal, 18, an incoming freshman from North Charleston, S.C., was arrested and charged with underage consumption and public urination.

The Red & Black reported last month that Purewal was dismissed from the University after it learned of his arrest. University Police Lt. Lisa Boone said Biringer's ACC arrest report was sent to the Office of Judicial programs soon after his incident.

"We send all arrests to the judiciary department and there are no exceptions," Boone said.

On July 8, the registrar's office confirmed Biringer was an incoming student but not yet registered for classes. But on Wednesday, the registrar confirmed Biringer was scheduled for 15 hours in the fall.

Kim Ellis, associate dean in the office of student affairs, said admission to the University is conditional until a student signs up for classes.

But Nancy McDuff, associate vice president for admissions and enrollment management, said while she could not speak about specific incidents, decisions in such cases are a "holistic process" and that no two incidents are "identical."

"We look at every incident on an individual basis ... we look at all the facts, there's no set of rules that we go by," she said in a telephone interview with The Red & Black Wednesday afternoon.

The two reports show many similarities. Both reports were filed by ACC Officer Katie Thornton, and both students were charged with possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age.

Biringer was standing outside the SandBar at 220 College Avenue and "appeared extremely intoxicated and could barely stand up." Purewal "staggered greatly from side to side, stumbling," according to his incident report.

Biringer told Thornton that he was 19 and handed over a license confirming he was 19, according to the police report. But records at ACC municipal court confirm Biringer was born in 1990.

According to court records, Biringer was arraigned in traffic court on July 8. Purewal has retained Athens attorney Tom Camp to represent him in his arraignment scheduled for Aug. 13.

Purewal declined to comment about the status of his admission and attendance at the University and efforts to reach Biringer were unsuccessful.

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<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/17/News/Arrests.Of.Incoming.Freshmen.Yield.Different.Outcomes.wpolice.Reports-3391739.shtml>

## **Bourbon Street bar scuffle ends with blood, cops**

### **Priorities 'terrible' in emergency response**

**By: CAROLYN CRIST**

**Posted: 7/17/08**

A night downtown ended in bloody noses for a few and a cut in the abdomen for one early Wednesday.

A fight ensued at Bourbon Street bar on Broad Street when someone accused a male student of bumping into a girl, according to an Athens-Clarke County police report.

"I was smoking a cigarette outside when a fight spilled outside with maybe five people against three who were kicked out of the bar because they tried to fight inside," junior Taylor Lorio said. "They were rolling around, and one was cut on the left side of the chest. You don't really expect that at Bourbon Street."

A University police officer was flagged down, and ACC police were called to the scene minutes later.

"I arrived and the victim, Ben Moss, was sitting on the curb holding his side," wrote ACC Officer K. A. Thornton. "Friends were around him. They said he fell on something, either a bottle or the cafe railing."

Thornton surveyed the bar and saw blood on the floor near the first booth and a bloody broken bottle in the trash. University police detained Steven Underwood because "people were pointing him out."

Underwood and Patrick Willis said they walked into the bar when someone accused Willis of bumping into a girl. He apologized, and a fight ensued inside. Once it was moved outside, Christina Moinipour was knocked to the ground and stepped on, and Willis had a "busted nose," according to the report.

Moss and Underwood were involved in a second fight outside.

"They grappled and fell to the ground, and a bottle was crushed by Ben, causing his injury," Thornton wrote.

No weapons were found near the scene. Moss was transported to Athens Regional Medical Center.

"It took five minutes for cops to get there, which is terrible downtown, and they asked if the guy with the cut was ok when he sat on the corner, scrambling to get stuff to put on the wound," Lorio said. "Paramedics arrived 10 to 12 minutes later, and there were about eight cops on the scene - not paying attention to the victim, just trying to round up people from the fight. Priorities were terrible."

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<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/17/News/Bourbon.Street.Bar.Scuffle.Ends.With.Blood.Cops-3391773.shtml>

## **From computer labs to cops, university prioritizes budget cuts**

### **Up to 400 jobs threatened**

By Lee Shearer | [lee.shearer@onlineathens.com](mailto:lee.shearer@onlineathens.com) | Story updated at 11:45 PM on Tuesday, July 22, 2008

The University of Georgia could slash up to 400 jobs under a proposed 5 percent budget reduction plan, including 102 faculty jobs, 76 graduate assistants and 10 percent of the campus police force.

The plan, which UGA President Michael Adams submitted to University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll Davis, won't go into effect unless and until the state legislature and Gov. Sonny Perdue order cuts.

The cutbacks will hurt even more than similar budget reductions Perdue ordered during the economic downturn of 2002-05, said UGA Provost Arnett Mace.

"It will have a greater impact," Mace said.

"The adverse impact of the pending budget reductions cannot be overstated. Clearly, the university's core missions are at risk," according to Adams' report to Davis.

The legislature never restored budget reductions ordered in 2002 through 2005 and hasn't allocated money to offset the higher costs UGA now pays for health care and energy, Mace said.

"I have a lot of concerns, but my principal concern is what is going to be the impact upon the students who come to the university and the quality of their education," he said.

With fewer professors, UGA class sizes would swell, and students would have fewer choices about when they could take certain courses.

"It will extend the period of time some students need to graduate," Mace said.

Georgia's tax collections dropped in recent months as the state and national economies slid into recession.

Last month, Perdue ordered all state agencies to submit plans to reduce their budgets by 3.5 percent in the 2009 fiscal year, which began July 1, and by 4 percent in fiscal 2010.

Davis ordered UGA and 34 other public colleges and universities to plan to cut 5 percent in both fiscal years.

UGA submitted to state higher education officials a 20-page document that details four prioritized lists of expenses UGA administrators propose to cut.

Two lists show what expenses UGA administrators would eliminate to reduce state funding 3.5 percent in both 2009 and 2010, and two other lists to demonstrate reductions to trim a full 5 percent in those years. Cutting teaching jobs is near the bottom of both years' priority lists.

Administrators propose to slash other budget lines such as staff support, physical plant workers and public service faculty members before reducing teaching jobs.

But even if state officials force UGA to cut just 3.5 percent from the budget, the university would lose 249 jobs this year, including 48 teaching jobs, and 283 in the 2010 fiscal year.

If UGA has to cut deeper to 5 percent, administrators would eliminate 371 job slots in FY 2009, 400 in FY 2010.

Mace said most, if not all, of the payroll savings would come from not filling vacant jobs.

"Our goal is not to have any layoffs," he said.

About 85 percent of UGA's annual operating budget is committed to pay salary and benefits for faculty, staff and graduate assistants, Mace said. About 0.3 percent goes for travel and about 14 percent for supplies, equipment and operating expenses such as energy for heating and cooling, Mace said.

About 36 percent of UGA's budget comes from state tax revenue; the rest comes mainly from student tuition payments and federal and other outside grants for research and service.

The 20-page report does not go into detail about cuts in each of UGA's 16 schools and colleges, but none would entirely escape the budget ax.

UGA libraries could lose about \$600,000 for acquiring new books and journal subscriptions - about 10 percent of the total acquisitions budget.

Journal subscriptions go up in price about 7 percent a year, said UGA librarian William Gray Potter, so UGA must spend more every year just to stay even, he said.

A computer lab in the library also could be shut down, according to the plan.

Like many other UGA units, the library has not come back from state-ordered budget cutbacks in from 2002 to 2005, Potter said.

The library employs 36 fewer workers today than in 2000, he said.

UGA librarians' pay ranked 63rd among the United States' top 113 university libraries in 2000; today, that ranking is 104 of 113, he said.

The UGA Police Department could lose up to seven jobs, 10 percent of the department's workers.

Even though budget cuts may not officially go into effect until the legislature convenes in January, UGA officials already have ordered some of the cutbacks in a university-wide memo two months ago.

The memo directed lower-level administrators to reduce expenses where possible, and decreed that only Mace, Senior Vice President for External Affairs Tom Landrum or Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Tim Burgess could approve new hires.

Students in Georgia public schools also will feel the effects when the state slashes higher education spending, said Denise Mewborn, head of UGA's department of science and math education.

"We certainly won't be able to expand our programs, when the state is asking us to produce more science and math teachers," Mewborn said.

UGA may not be hurt as badly as some other universities outside Georgia, however. Colleges in some other states actually are laying off employees, said Mark Eason, business manager of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.



*University of Georgia police Chief Jimmy Williamson gets out of a patrol car Tuesday at the campus police station off Oconee Street. The department could lose up to seven positions if UGA is forced to make cuts.*

**Tricia Spaulding /Staff**

Published in the *Athens Banner-Herald* on 072308

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/072308/uganews\\_2008072300100.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/072308/uganews_2008072300100.shtml)

## **Security systems to provide better communication in campus crises**

Written by Jessica Edens, Editor in Chief

Tuesday, 22 July 2008

This fall will see the continued growth and installation of an early warning system across campus, which will include the use of cameras, communication through cell phones and e-mail and eventually an intercom system and warning sirens in several locations.

Knowing how to react during a time of crisis is often the difference between a close call and a catastrophe. Determining whether to seek a safe spot or evacuate is often something the average faculty or staff member has never had to do—nor would they likely be able respond properly, with limited knowledge of what is going on elsewhere across campus.

It is Robert Lang's job to oversee the completion of a system to connect the school's security, and prepare it for a crisis situation. That is why he was hired, in May 2007, to oversee the completion of an early warning system which will eventually ensure seamless communication across campus.

Lang is the university's assistant vice president for strategic security and safety, and chief security officer. He has come to KSU with experience and expertise drawn from years as homeland security director at Georgia Tech; he was also an Olympic Village security planner during the 1996 Olympic Games.

To begin, the campus itself must be connected. According to Lang, much of the preliminary infrastructure is already installed. "There are pockets of cameras across the campus," he said.

The cameras have not been actively monitored in the past, they have been watchful so that in the case of an incident, there would be film to reference. Lang's plan is to ditch the reactive plan.

"What we want is to be a little more proactive," he said. His vision is a security system that has quick response, and maintains the goal of preventing, rather than solving, crises.

“Right now, we have closed-circuit TV monitors, about 360 cameras now,” he said. The new central parking deck has 100 by itself. The goal is to include these cameras, and also enlist a batch of other tools that will connect the campus.

Cell phones are utilized in the security plan, through a notification system called ConnectED that sends voice messages and short-message-service (SMS) texts to every student and staff member who is in the database. The system also sends e-mail warnings. The database can currently reach over 35,000 members of the KSU community.

The university will eventually have a system of warning sirens as well, at four key points that will reach the entire campus.

Each building on campus will also have its own “crisis manager,” a program that is unique to our campus, providing training for these individuals in first aid, bomb threat response, terrorism and fire extinguisher use, among other things.

“Most campuses don’t have an integrated plan,” said Lang. “We are striving for that.” What campuses usually have is several systems of security that do not work together as one larger, cohesive plan.

As with any technology, there is always the possibility of glitches and setbacks. The school’s plan, however, is to drill these systems, and fix any issues that crop up.

“My philosophy is not to say that our system is perfect,” said Lang, “but rather to say that we are making progress in our ability to prevent, mitigate, respond and recover from any incident. And the only way to [do] this is to test it regularly and vigorously, and not be upset when things don’t go smoothly, because in real life, it never does.”

Indeed, this outlook is one of the reasons President Dan Papp hired Lang. “Dr. Papp wants to make sure that his vision of a safe and secure environment is realized,” said Lang. Papp mentioned Lang directly in his State of the University address last year, to make clear how serious he is taking the issue of campus safety.

In terms of finding the money to finance such security, Lang made clear that lack of funds will not be an excuse for lack of security.

“We’re moving forward—and aggressively— rather than waiting for money to come in,” he said. He has a grant request on his desk right now that would give the security budget “about \$350,000-worth of equipment and training towards [the university’s] goal.”

KSU officials are trying to find the right approach to get everyone involved in the project of security.

“Rather than just sitting back,” waiting for something to happen, “we want to be out there in the front,” Lang said.

[http://www.ksusentinel.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1551&Itemid=56](http://www.ksusentinel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1551&Itemid=56)

## Three charged in theft of pricey UGA textbooks

### Suspicious store employee alerts police

By Lee Shearer | [lee.shearer@onlineathens.com](mailto:lee.shearer@onlineathens.com) | Story updated at 11:23 PM on Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Two University of Georgia workers and a former UGA student stole more than \$11,000 worth of expensive textbooks from a university storage room, then peddled them at four Athens bookstores, according to UGA police.

Police took out felony arrest warrants Wednesday for former student Lakisha Dion Sanders of Marietta and UGA workers Rachel Beth Ogg of Winterville and Polly Teresa Echols of Lexington.

The three women are charged with felony theft by taking, conspiring to defraud the state and theft by deception, according to UGA police documents.

The women's scheme unraveled when a worker at one of the bookstores became suspicious of the large number of new books the women were bringing to the store to sell, according to police documents.

After Chris Milner, an assistant manager at Off Campus Bookstore on Baxter Street, called UGA police, investigators traced the books back to UGA's Office of Special Academic Programs, said UGA Police Chief Jimmy Williamson.

"We don't like book thieves. We try to cooperate when we can," said Off Campus Bookstore manager Charles Fuller.

Police recovered 83 books from four stores with a retail value of \$11,868, or about \$143 each.

The books' buyback value - what bookstores pay for used copies - was \$3,039, or about \$37 each.

The book titles cover a wide variety of standard academic subjects such as chemistry, biology, literature, statistics, government and physics.

The books are used by a UGA program that trains high school teachers to teach advanced placement courses, said Bill Crowe, head of UGA's Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

Police have told the women to turn themselves in at the Clarke County Jail, Williamson said, though none of the three had as of press time.

The two UGA workers resigned from the university rather than face disciplinary proceedings.

Ogg resigned July 18, and Echols resigned July 23, said UGA spokesman Tom Jackson.

Published in the Athens Banner-Herald on 072408

[http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/072408/news\\_2008072400336.shtml](http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/072408/news_2008072400336.shtml)

## **Police: Ex-professor stole \$3,500 in electronics**

### **UGA crime**

By Lee Shearer | lee.shearer@onlineathens.com | Story updated at 11:00 PM on Wednesday, July 23, 2008

A former University of Georgia professor stole \$3,500 in university-owned electronic equipment when he left Athens for a job at Vanderbilt University, according to University of Georgia police.

Police recovered the items they say the professor stole when they went to the man's new home in Nashville, Tenn., said UGA police chief Jimmy Williamson.

Acie C. Murry, until this month a professor in UGA's Animal and Dairy Science Department, is charged with one count of felony theft by taking, according to UGA police records.

Murry's UGA employment contract expired June 30, when he left UGA to work at Vanderbilt, said UGA spokesman Tom Jackson.

UGA police obtained the warrants after a UGA detective and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agents visited Murry at his new home in Nashville, Tenn., on Tuesday, Williamson said.

When the police officers came calling, Murry turned over the items UGA animal science and dairy department head Robert Stewart had reported stolen June 20, Williamson said.

The stolen items include a \$500 VCR, two portable multimedia projectors valued at \$500 each and a \$2,000 Dell Dimension desktop computer, according to a UGA police report.

Police did not arrest Murry after seizing the items from his house in Nashville, but told the professor he should turn himself in at the Clarke County Jail, Williamson said.

"Hopefully, he'll do the more prudent thing" by turning himself in to face the charges at the Clarke County Jail, Williamson said.

Murry, with degrees from Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University and the University of Missouri-Columbia, did research at UGA on altering the diets of dogs and swine to reduce fecal compounds that smell.

He also conducted research on minimizing antibiotic use in animals' food to reduce antibiotic resistance.

Published in the Athens Banner-Herald on 072408

[http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/072408/news\\_2008072400228.shtml](http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/072408/news_2008072400228.shtml)

Posted on Thu, Jul. 24, 2008

## Budget cuts may hamper CSU growth

BY CHUCK WILLIAMS - [chwilliams@ledger-enquirer.com](mailto:chwilliams@ledger-enquirer.com)

Columbus State University's proposed budget cuts will have a "substantial impact," including layoffs, if they reach the most severe levels, CSU President Timothy Mescon said.

The University System of Georgia instructed all of its 35 institutions to prepare plans to reduce their expenses by as much as 5 percent the next two fiscal years. For Columbus State, that means finding about \$2 million to trim.

Because of a shortfall in state sales tax revenue, Gov. Sonny Perdue mandated all state agencies to cut 3.5 percent. The university system took the pre-emptive step of asking its colleges and universities to prepare for 5 percent cuts.

"The 3.5 percent is going to have a substantial impact on CSU moving forward," said Mescon, who was hired last month and officially starts his new job Aug. 1. "Even at the 3.5 level, it will severely restrict the hiring of any vacant faculty or staff position."

If the most severe cuts are enacted, it could have a "profound" impact on CSU, Mescon said.

"Our concern is we are going to have to eradicate some programs," he said Tuesday from Kennesaw, Ga., where he is completing his work as dean of the Kennesaw State University Coles College of Business. "There is no other way to close the gap between \$1.4 million and \$2 million without shutting programs down. No university wants to do that."

Mescon has been involved in the budget cutting, attending meetings in Columbus and participating via conference calls when he was unable to be here.

Columbus State's annual budget is \$80.5 million. The state appropriates \$40.4 million, the amount subject to the budget cuts.

The state of Georgia finished the 2008 fiscal year with a \$600 million shortfall, which was covered by its \$1.5 billion reserve fund.

CSU's proposed cuts include:

- \$636,878 in shifting some positions in the campus police department, athletics and student affairs from state funding to local revenue generated from student fees, food service revenue, room and board, and the university bookstore.
- \$211,668 in increased operating efficiencies.
- \$51,882 in returned grants to the state for programs that would not be properly funded or have been phased out.
- \$50,654 in replacing senior faculty positions with junior faculty.

If the cuts reach 5 percent, the proposal includes eliminating faculty positions.

"We can accomplish, to a great extent, what we need to accomplish at the 3.5 percent without substantial layoffs at all," he said. "We will do it without filling existing positions and restructuring the way we pay for things. If challenged by going from 3.5 percent to 5 percent, we can't do it without laying people off."

One of Mescon's objectives at CSU is to grow enrollment, which has held steady the past couple of years at about 7,500 students. Budget cuts, especially if they take out faculty, will make enrollment growth difficult, he said.

"We have got to keep our eye on opportunities to grow enrollment with matriculating freshmen, undergraduate transfers and graduate level," he said. "When you cut staff -- both in support and faculty -- it absolutely exasperates the challenge of growing enrollment. It is a catch-22, and it is very complicated."

Cutting the budget has been a tough way for Mescon to get to know his new faculty and staff.

"I am most proud of the many, many faculty and staff around the table providing input, observations and data to make the most reasonable decisions possible," he said. "Everybody advocates for their own programs, as it should be, but, at the end of the day, there was reasonable consensus on what we needed to do."

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/story/380305.html>

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## **Possible UGA budget cuts vary, will last two years**

### **New budget may impede upon students' success**

**By: GREG WILSON**

***Posted: 7/24/08***

With the economy struggling, Chancellor Erroll Davis has asked the University to prepare plans for a possible 3.5 percent or 5 percent budget cut.

The [plan](#) submitted to the Board of Regents last week outlines how the University would make due with less in the 2009 and 2010 financial years.

Each department and budgetary unit was asked, considering its core missions, where cuts would be made if it had to cut 3.5 percent or 5 percent, Provost Arnett Mace said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

"[The process] was a bottom-up, with budgetary units providing information, then the three senior vice presidents as well as the budget office and the president made the decision relative to the information provided," Mace said. "This is a strong university, and we have a strong faculty. I am confident we will

get through these trying times."

Although the cuts will affect departments and services across the board, Mace is most concerned with "being able to continue to provide the quality of education that we have in the past. This quality is demonstrated by the number of national awards [students] have received over the past few years."

The budget cuts do not spare campus safety and security. With the 3.5 percent cut, the University police will be forced to remove five public safety positions, and with the 5 percent cut, 6.8 positions.

"Protecting the community is a partnership. If we sustain the cut in the maximum or in the lower level, there will be services that we will no longer be able to provide. For example, for every case there is some sort of follow-up by the Criminal Investigation Division. With the cuts, we would have to set parameters for follow-ups," University Police Chief Jimmy Williamson said. "Each shift will be cut by one or two officers. ... It's tough times. We would prefer to not have the cut, but there is not much we can do."

The University would first cut travel funds. Although travel accounts for only one-third of a percent of the budget, the report states the funds are easily sacrificed and less essential. Cutting travel funds 27 percent would save \$478,287.

According to the budget plan, to meet the 3.5 percent budget cuts, \$5.4 million would have to be cut from the resident instruction budget for faculty - or 60 faculty positions - through elimination of vacant faculty lines (tenured positions), delays in filling vacancies and part-time faculty.

"The biggest impact would be academic in nature because the cuts will cause us to have fewer class sections," said Tom Jackson, vice president for public affairs. "If we have to reduce tenure track faculty lines, we will have less-experienced faculty in the classroom, and with less class sections, students will not be able to register for classes at the times they need them. Layoffs are a last resort in this proposal."

The report also notes the cuts may affect the reputation and standing of the University.

"In the long term, we expect the best and brightest students may choose to leave Georgia to attend college elsewhere, given the impact of these reductions on the quality of UGA's educational programs," Jackson said.

The report spans 20 pages and covers many departments and services, and some cuts will affect students directly.

For example, seven advising positions would be cut in the arts and sciences at the 3.5 percent level, while 12 would be cut at the 5 percent level.

Danielle Timmons, a junior from Douglasville majoring in health promotions, said access to her advisor was instrumental while changing majors.

"An increased wait time would be difficult, having less access [to my advisor] wouldn't help and would

impact having knowledge available," Timmons said.

The report acknowledges these cuts will have adverse effect, such as "advising delays [that] can potentially impact students' progress towards graduation."

The proposed budget cuts will affect more than academics, as 50 percent of tours at the University Visitors Center will be cut.

Also, many student worker positions will be partially or completely eliminated in many departments, including the University libraries.

Aaron Dennon, a student worker in a University library, said the main purpose of student workers at the library is to help patrons find and check out books and said cuts would affect service.

Dennon said he was also concerned about the financial aspect.

"It's hard to find student jobs. I would have to find other ways to pay my bills."

Hajime Uchiyama, a student tech consultant at the library, said the loss of his job would impact him greatly, as his job "helps to support ... monthly activities and pay for tuition."

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<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/24/News/Possible.Uga.Budget.Cuts.Vary.Will.Last.Two.Years-3394035.shtml>

## **Warrants sought for two UGA employees on felony theft charges**

**By: Staff reports**

***Posted: 7/24/08***

The University Police Department issued arrest warrants for three people, including two employees, accused of taking 83 books worth \$11,859 from the Biological Services Building and trying to resell them at a local bookstore.

Polly Teresa Echols and Rachel B. Ogg, both administrative associates at the Office of Academics Special Programs, are sought on felony theft by taking and conspiracy to defraud the state charges. Ogg is also accused of two counts of felony theft by deception, while Echols is accused of three counts of felony theft by deception.

The third person sought, Lakisha Dion Sanders, is a former student and faces a felony theft by taking charge, conspiracy to defraud the state, and two counts of felony theft by deception charges.

The books were noticed missing from June 21 to June 23. Chris Milner, from the Off Campus Bookstore on Baxter Street, told police that a "large number of new unused textbooks being sold at the bookstore."

<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/24/News/Warrants.Sought.For.Two.Uga.Employees.On.Felony.Theft.Charges.wreport-3394097.shtml>

## Soccer star not suspended from University despite two alcohol-related arrests

By:

*Posted: 7/24/08*

A star player on the Georgia women's soccer team is facing University probation instead of a year-long suspension despite being charged with underage possession twice since January by University police.

Kelli Marie Corless, a sophomore defender from Acworth, was charged with underage possession and possession of a fake ID on July 19. In January she was charged with underage possession, providing false information and possession of a fake ID.

Under the University alcohol policy, Corless would have been suspended from the University for the fall and spring semesters - and for the entire soccer season - if found in violation a second time.

But Kim Ellis, associate dean of student affairs, said the University chose not to agree with the charges brought by a University police officer in January.

"In our investigation, there was not enough information to conclude [underage possession]," she said.

But the charges of underage possession, possession of a fake ID and giving false information were still brought before Athens-Clarke County Magistrate Court. On March 18, Corless agreed to a pretrial intervention program in state court, according to court records. A month earlier, she was given only a reprimand by the Office of Judicial Programs for giving false information.

She was the SEC Freshman of the Year and the only freshman to receive All-SEC honors, earning SEC All-Freshman Team and Second Team All-SEC awards. She was also named to the Freshman All-American Team by SoccerAmerica, the first Bulldog to garner the title.

Corless and women's soccer head coach Patrick Baker were not available for comment Wednesday.

- Staff reports

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<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/07/24/News/Soccer.Star.No.t.Suspended.From.University.Despite.Two.AlcoholRelated.Arrests.wre-3394034.shtml>

**Former UGA Employees, Student Arrested, Charged with Stealing Textbooks** Last Edited: Thursday, 24 Jul 2008, 11:42 PM EDT Created: Thursday, 24 Jul 2008, 10:01 AM EDT

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) -- Two former University of Georgia employees and a former student are charged with a felony for stealing \$11,000 worth of textbooks from university storage rooms.

University police say former employees Rachel Beth Ogg of Winterville and Polly Teresa Echols of Lexington and former student Lakisha Dion Sanders of Marietta were charged with theft by taking,

conspiring to defraud the state and theft by deception.

Police said they sold the books to bookstores, but a worker became concerned at the large number of news books the women brought to sell. The books sold for about \$143 and the buyback was worth about \$37.

*Story contents produced by FOX 5 Atlanta WAGA*

## **Moultrie colleges expect to weather budget cuts**

### **Kevin Hall**

July 30, 2008 10:56 pm

— MOULTRIE — The state has ordered colleges and universities to cut spending by 5 percent, but local institutions say they're trying to minimize the impact on those who use their services. Both Moultrie Technical College and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, a Tifton college that operates ABAC on the Square in Moultrie, said Wednesday they plan to leave vacant positions unfilled and use non-state funds if necessary to offset the state budget cuts.

"We're looking at ways to cut without negatively impacting our employees, our students and the businesses we serve," said Jana Wiggins, director of marketing for Moultrie Tech.

Wiggins said the state Technical College System has not yet given instructions on what cuts to make, but MTC has a contingency plan in place. Under that plan, attrition will reduce the staffing and layoffs will not be necessary. Wiggins said the college may have to depend more on the Moultrie Technical College Foundation, a private fund-raising entity that supports the college.

Wiggins praised forward-looking leadership at the college so it now "has something for a rainy day."

ABAC President David Bridges said his college will have to cut \$900,000 from its fiscal year 2009 budget, which began July 1, but he doesn't foresee that directly affecting ABAC on the Square.

"The entire college will be affected in some ways by the budget reduction," Bridges said, "and ABAC on the Square is certainly a key part of the college. But at this time I don't see a direct impact."

Bridges said the administration is entering the austerity period with a positive attitude.

"Enrollment and revenue projections are strong, and we fared well with respect to state funding over the past two years," he said.

Meanwhile, though, he's keeping a watchful eye on energy costs and other expenditures.

"The college has already taken several important steps to reduce energy consumption," he said.

"Because of the uncertainty of when the economy will improve, we must exercise prudence in expenditures for the coming year."

Among the reductions he mentioned are suspending all ongoing personnel searches, transferring certain personnel and operating expenses to non-state revenues, and delaying all proposed increases in travel and operating budgets until an extensive budget review can take place.

Other colleges and universities across the state, however, are looking at more serious cuts: Fewer police officers, more part-time faculty in the classroom, no computer upgrades or not as many books and magazines in the library.

Campuses are preparing for possible layoffs because their budgets are eaten mostly in personnel costs. That would mean larger classes and fewer course offerings for the ever-increasing number of students enrolled around the state.

“We will not be able to provide the number of courses to meet the student demand,” said Arnett C. Mace Jr., senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Georgia. “We will increase class size. In some cases, we simply will not be able to offer courses. I expect this is going to increase time for a student to graduate.”

UGA would have to eliminate about 100 faculty and staff positions this year and another 120 next year, according to the plan it has submitted to the system office. The campus also would have to lay off seven police officers and cut \$400,000 from its library budget.

Though the state has asked for 3.5 percent reductions, University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll Davis required campuses to trim 5 percent from their spending. For UGA, that amounts to \$20 million in cuts to its nearly \$400 million in state funding.

At Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, the reduction means \$5 million. The campus will meet that goal by delaying building maintenance, shuttering plans for new academic programs and cutting \$1.4 million worth of jobs.

The 17,000-student campus also plans to cut \$50,000 out of its mentor program, which is aimed at improving graduation rates by helping new students adjust to college life.

For Kennesaw State University, the state’s third largest campus with 21,000 students in suburban Atlanta, the possible cuts would mean fewer security officers, academic advisers and staffers in the campus counseling office, President Dan Papp said. The university also would eliminate many vacant faculty positions and cut marketing budgets by \$80,000 to achieve the needed \$4.6 million in cuts, he said.

Kennesaw State already has to wait up to six years to update computer equipment, twice the recommended time for the quickly evolving technology on college campuses. That will only get worse with fewer dollars.

“We are falling behind, and we will fall ever farther behind,” Papp said. “The cuts, if they happen, are going to be painful.”

The state Board of Regents will consider the budget cut proposals at its Aug. 20 meeting. After that, a system plan will be given to the governor’s budget office for review.

State lawmakers will consider the cuts when it convenes in January.

Perdue spokesman Bert Brantley said the cuts are tough but necessary as the state and national economies continue to decline.

“It’s no different than what Georgia families are doing right now,” Brantley said of the budget reductions. “Obviously, people are dealing with high gas prices. It’s taking more out of their budget, so they’re having to cut in other areas.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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[http://www.moultrieobserver.com/local/local\\_story\\_212225736.html](http://www.moultrieobserver.com/local/local_story_212225736.html)

Thursday, July 31, 2008

## **Georgia colleges brace for state budget cuts**

**By Dorie Turner**

The Associated Press

Thursday, July 31, 2008

ATLANTA - Fewer police officers. More part-time faculty in the classroom. No computer upgrades. Not as many books and magazines in the library.

The budget reduction plans proposed by the state's colleges and universities paint a grimmer picture of campus life if they have to slash millions in expenses. Campuses across Georgia are bracing for the likely cuts as part of statewide plan to cope with shortfalls in tax revenue.

The state already has pulled \$600 million out of reserves to balance last fiscal year's books. And now Gov. Sonny Perdue is asking every state department and agency to cut 3.5 percent from the budget for this fiscal year, which began July 1.

Campuses are preparing for possible layoffs because their budgets are eaten mostly in personnel costs. That would mean larger classes and fewer course offerings for the ever-increasing number of students enrolled around the state.

'We will not be able to provide the number of courses to meet the student demand,' said Arnett C. Mace Jr., senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Georgia. 'We will increase class size. In some cases, we simply will not be able to offer courses. I expect this is going to increase time for a student to graduate.'

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### **At a glance**

Here are a few of the cuts Georgia colleges and universities are considering to deal with expected reductions in state funding this year:

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA (Athens):

- Eliminate 100 faculty and staff positions this year and another 120 next year
- Cut seven police officers

GEORGIA TECH (Atlanta):

- Cut building maintenance budget by \$1.5 million
- Slash department budgets by \$8 million

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY (Kennesaw):

- Cut \$85,000 from program that hires students to patrol campus as part of safety initiative
- Reduce equipment purchases across the campus by \$500,000

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (Statesboro):

- Reduce faculty and staff travel budget by \$62,000
- Cut funding for student mentor program by \$50,000

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### **Cuts mean no guards at college**

By Adam Folk | Staff Writer

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Gov. Sonny Perdue's cost cutting means Augusta State University's plan to increase security will be put on hold.

The school had been considering a plan to spend \$30,000 a year to hire part-time security guards. But the governor's budget instructions, in which he asked all of the state's 35 colleges and universities to submit plans to slash their spending by 5 percent in the current fiscal year, means the school will make do without the guards for the foreseeable future.

Kathy Schofe, the director of ASU's public relations department, said they had hoped to hire the guards to take over basic tasks from the school's public safety department, such as opening and closing buildings on campus and escorting students to their cars at night.

"They do a lot of things that security people could do," Ms. Schofe said. "If we had security guards, they could relieve the public safety officers to do other things like patrolling."

They also won't be able to buy an extra car for the public safety department, she said.

The cuts will also apply to the 2009-10 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2009.

"Public Safety operations will continue as they do today until that time," the school's proposal says, "but we forego an opportunity to make better use of our certified police officers."

**Morris News Service reports were used in this article.**

**Reach Adam Folk at (706) 823-3339 or [adam.folk@augustachronicle.com](mailto:adam.folk@augustachronicle.com).**

### **WORKING LATE?**

Faculty and students who want an escort to their cars can reach the ASU Public Safety Department at (706) 737-1401.