



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

**JANUARY 2009**

**Police searching for two armed robbers**

**By HOLLI DEAL BRAGG**

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912-489-9414

Posted: Jan. 5, 2009 8:30 p.m.

Updated: Jan. 5, 2009 8:52 p.m.

Statesboro Police are investigating an armed robbery that may have been intended to be a simple burglary.

Statesboro Police Chief Stan York said officers responded to Willow Bend Apartments Friday night around 8:40 p.m. regarding a call about an armed robbery and aggravated assault.

An 18-year-old male victim told Officer Justin Weinmann he was in his apartment on his roommate's computer when two men came in, one with a black hand gun, according to police reports.

Statesboro Police Det. Keith Holloway, who investigated the incident, said he believes the robbery may have been intended to be just a burglary, but the offenders likely did not know anyone was home, and "were surprised" when they saw the victim.

York said the offenders demanded money and struck the victim in the head before fleeing. Police reports stated one offender struck the victim in the head with the gun, and listed \$30 cash, a Play Station 3, Play Station 2, and cell phone taken.

Both offenders were black men wearing ski masks, York said.

Statesboro Police and Georgia Southern University Police have been investigating numerous reports of break-ins, automobile break-ins and other robberies around campus over the holidays.

Anyone with information regarding the armed robbery is asked to contact Holloway at 912- 764-1542. All calls will remain confidential, York said.

<http://www.statesboroherald.com/news/article/16717/>

**Ex-UGA employee charged with thefts**

**Nearly \$4,300 allegedly embezzled**

**By Joe Johnson | [joe.johnson@onlineathens.com](mailto:joe.johnson@onlineathens.com) | Story updated at 9:40 pm on 1/7/2009**

University of Georgia police have taken out warrants charging a former Terry College of Business employee with stealing thousands of dollars during a two-year period.

Cynthia Y. Huff allegedly stole the money with a purchasing card that UGA had issued for her use as secretary for the business school's management information systems department, UGA police said.

Huff, of 183 Vaughn Road, used her "p-card" to embezzle \$4,284.27 between December 2006 and November 2008, UGA officials said. She had not been arrested as of Wednesday afternoon.

The university hired Huff in May 2003 and fired her Dec. 11, about a week after police began investigating the alleged thefts, university spokesman Tom Jackson said.

UGA police took out warrants Tuesday charging Huff with two felony counts of theft by conversion and 13 counts of violating state purchasing regulations, three of them felonies.

Huff allegedly found a "creative way" to use her p-card to get cash while making it seem she was making legitimate purchases for the business school, UGA police Chief Jimmy Williamson said.

Williamson would not disclose how the scheme worked because he said doing so might teach others how to misuse p-cards.

P-cards are similar to credit cards and are issued to UGA employees at the discretion of department heads, Williamson said. Each p-card has a spending cap, and as secretary, Huff probably had a relatively low level of purchasing authority, he said.

The alleged thefts were noticed during a routine check of the business school's accounts, according to Williamson. "The auditors saw a frequency or number of transactions that caused them concern, and that's when the police were called into it," he said.

Each count of felony theft by conversion is punishable by a maximum of 10 years in prison.

The thefts of less than \$500 were misdemeanors, which typically carry a \$1,000 fine and up to a year in prison. But because Huff was a public employee who allegedly "abused her fiduciary responsibilities," Williamson said, she could be fined up to \$5,000 on each count if convicted.

**Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Thursday, January 08, 2009**

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/010809/uga\\_374977249.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/010809/uga_374977249.shtml)

Published: Friday, January 09, 2009

### **CSU fitness workers practice emergencies**

By Curt Yeomans

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Capt. Elton Poss, of the Morrow Fire Department, warned 20 employees of Clayton State University's Student Activities Center Thursday to always be prepared for a medical emergency.

Moments earlier, the employees of the center performed a series of emergency drills, with assistance from the Morrow Fire Department and the Clayton State Department of Public Safety. The goal of the drills was to work out any kinks, and prepare for four emergency scenarios.

"It's not a matter of if it will happen," Poss told employees, "it's a matter of when it will happen."

It has been a few years since someone had heart problems, while working out at a Clayton State-owned fitness facility, but other medical emergencies, such as knee and ankle injuries, often happen during intramural sporting events, according to Cindy Lauer, the university's director of recreation and wellness.

The frequency of sports-related injuries led the Recreation and Wellness Department to conduct annual emergency drills for its employees. Lauer said the American College of Sports Medicine recommends such drills.

This year, the employees, most of whom are fitness assistants, participated in the drills. The scenarios they tackled involved responding to a cardiac arrest, a possible heart attack during a workout, a spinal injury on a basketball court, and hypoglycemia.

"It's good practice to do this now, so they'll know what to do when they face these situations for real," said Lauer. "If mistakes are going to happen, I want them to happen during the drill, rather than a real emergency."

The emergency drills this year were more extensive than those in the past, because of the space available to conduct them. Previously, the drills took place in a small portion of the university's Athletics and Fitness Center. This year, they were held in the Student Activity Center's two-story workout area, roughly four times larger than the old facility.

The change made more elaborate drills possible, said Lauer.

"It's extremely important that they [employees] are brought to the realization level where they can recognize a medical emergency," said Poss. "Anytime you receive training, it helps you get through real-life emergencies."

During the cardiac arrest drill, fire medic Jim Hudgell told the student employees they have the ability to "change history" by knowing what to do if a medical emergency arises. He explained that the death of a person can have a ripple effect which touches the lives of the relatives and others.

"This is very serious business," Hudgell said. "This is life and death."

Several employees of the SAC said the training they received was helpful.

"I learned how to assess a situation, like if someone is having a heart attack, and how to keep them calm until help arrives," said Jason Clark, a sophomore from Decatur. "I don't want to overwhelm them while I'm trying to figure out what is wrong with them."

Katherine Peppers, a health and fitness management intern at the SAC, said she, too, learned the importance of keeping a level head during a medical crisis. "The biggest thing I learned was I need to be able to comfort them, and assure them I know what I'm doing," said Peppers. "Now, I can recall this information when I'm faced with a real-life medical emergency."



**Photo by Curt Yeomans/// Lt. Pat Kelly (left), of the Morrow Fire Department, checks on Clayton State University sophomore, Ronreaco Lee (center), during an emergency drill at the school's Student Activity Center. Fitness assistants, Jason Clark (second from left) and Deion Collins look on.**

<http://www.news-daily.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=2&ArticleID=26214>

## Unknown suspect posts offensive segregation signs

Written by Shea Michelle Allen, Staff Writer Tuesday, 13 January 2009

Two signs which read “whites only” and “blacks only” were discovered posted above water fountains on the third floor of the Student Center on Dec. 9, 2008. The handwritten signs were removed by Building Services staff and reported immediately to KSU police.

According to Kathy Alday, director of Student Life, the signs were discovered around 11 a.m. Officer Mary Foreman of the KSU police department was dispatched to investigate and report the incident. The KSU Public Crime Log lists the offense as damage to property: graffiti.

Alday contacted the Public Safety department to determine if the third floor security cameras were able to capture the individual who posted the signs. Unfortunately, the cameras were not at the appropriate angle to see into that corner of the building. An email notification was also sent to student representatives of RSO’s with spaces on the third floor and all Student Center staff members.

Dr. Jerome Ratchford, vice president of Student Success and Enrollment Services responded to the incident by saying, “The manner of secretively placing demeaning signs on water fountains is a cowardly way of expressing displeasure or discomfort. This incident dramatizes the importance of an active role on the part of the KSU family in demanding and demonstrating civility on our campus.”

Alday asserted her disappointment and shock towards the incident by saying, “The signs bring to mind a painful and oppressive time in our nation’s history. The person who posted these signs either doesn’t know and understand the serious nature of this history, or knows and is subjectively and [secretively] expressing contempt for it.”

According to KSU police there are currently no leads or suspects in this case. Any individual with information regarding this crime is urged to contact the KSU police tipster line at 770-423-6305. Informants may choose to remain anonymous.

[http://www.ksusentinel.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1938&Itemid=1](http://www.ksusentinel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1938&Itemid=1)

## Man Walking With Gun Forces Lockdown At Clayton University

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 – updated: 5:39 pm EST January 14, 2009

**MORROW, Ga.** -- Clayton State University was put on lockdown Wednesday after students reported seeing a man walking with a handgun on campus.

The incident happened at about 4:50 p.m. outside the James M. Baker University Center.

A campus representative said students contacted the Clayton State Public Safety Office.

Public Safety officials determined that the tip was credible enough to engage the campus emergency warning siren system and initiate a campus lockdown.

At the same time, the Morrow Police Department was notified, as was the Office of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Authorities searched the campus and reviewed campus security cameras, which showed an individual, described by the students, walking off campus to the west.

The lockdown was later lifted.

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/18481890/detail.html#->

Published: Thursday, January 15, 2009

## **Clayton State locked down during gun scare**

By Curt Yeomans

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Life at Clayton State University was temporarily interrupted Wednesday when three students and a faculty member reported seeing a man with a gun on the university's Morrow campus.

The university was put on lockdown about 4:30 p.m. after the school's public safety office was contacted about the man, who witnesses said appeared to be carrying a silver handgun, said university Police Chief Bobby Hamil.

Students told police the man was walking away from the James M. Baker University Center, heading toward Clayton State Boulevard. Hamil said officials were concerned the man may have been heading toward Laker Hall, the dorms for first-year students.

Hamil lifted the lockdown after about an hour, when authorities determined the man was no longer on campus. Police were still searching for him and reviewing security tapes Wednesday night.

"We don't know if he was an angry ex-boyfriend or a student upset about a grade or if he was going after someone at Laker Hall and he just changed his mind, but for whatever reason, he left the campus," said Hamil.

The university's public safety office first received a call from a faculty member about the man. Shortly thereafter, two female students came to the office to notify police. One of the students told police the man "appeared angry," said Hamil. Another student reported the man about 30 minutes later, after the lockdown had begun, the chief added.

"All of our [university police] officers were on campus for a staff meeting, and they immediately headed toward the university center and fanned out from there," Hamil said. "We were mainly concerned about the dorm because he was headed in that area."

After university police interviewed the students, and determined a lockdown was necessary, officials contacted university spokesman John Shiffert and began the process of securing the campus. "I sent out an e-mail to staff, to faculty and to students telling them 'Go to your office, lock your doors and don't come out until you receive the all clear,'" said Shiffert.

University officials then used the campus' emergency loudspeakers to further spread the message about the lockdown.

The lockdown prompted university officials to contact the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents office, as well as the Lake City and Morrow police departments, to alert them to the situation. Lake City and Morrow police assisted university officers in a search of the campus.

The chief said he was pleased with the way police responded to the reports about the man. He said the university community complying with the instructions given out over the loudspeakers helped officers secure the campus.

"We controlled the campus fairly quickly," Hamil said. "It helps our investigation when you don't have people running around while you're trying to find an unidentified individual."

<http://www.news-daily.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=2&ArticleID=26260&TM=28102.87>

## **Gun scare leads to lockdown at Clayton State U**

By [MEGAN MATTEUCCI](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Clayton State University was on lockdown for about 40 minutes Wednesday afternoon after two students spotted a man they believed was carrying a gun.

Around 4:50 p.m., the students told campus safety officers they saw a man carrying what they believed was a silver handgun outside the Morrow school's James M. Baker University Center, university spokesman John Shiffert said.

Campus officers immediately sounded sirens and placed the campus on lockdown. Students and staff were ordered to stay in their classrooms, dorm rooms and offices with the doors locked, Shiffert said. Anyone walking on campus was rushed to the nearest building.

The lockdown was lifted at 5:30 p.m.

Campus officers said they saw the man on the university's security cameras. Officers did not see a gun on the security video, but felt the lockdown was needed, Shiffert said.

The man was last seen walking west off campus. Campus officers and Morrow Police searched the campus and surrounding area, but were unable to locate the man, said Bobby Hamil, the university's director of public safety.

Campus officers were interviewing the two witnesses Wednesday evening to obtain a more detailed description of the man, Hamil said. Hamil said he has no reason to believe the man was a student or staff member. About 6,000 students attend Clayton State.

[http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/clayton/stories/2009/01/14/clayton\\_state\\_lockdown.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/clayton/stories/2009/01/14/clayton_state_lockdown.html)

## **Two College Campuses Placed On Lockdown**

### ***Man Seen With Gun On Campus***

POSTED: 6:21 pm EST January 14, 2009

**ATLANTA** -- Two college campuses were briefly placed on lockdown Wednesday afternoon.

A call was placed with the Gwinnett County 911 reporting an armed person on the Gwinnett Tech campus.

Campus Police quickly responded to the call and began searching the campus.

Police locked the campus down for a short time and, after a thorough search, found no suspects or any armed persons.

The campus was reopened and has resumed normal operations.

Clayton State University was also under lock down Wednesday.

Students saw a male carrying a handgun near a school building and reported the person to campus police.

The police then sounded the campus warning system and locked the school down.

The police reviewed surveillance tapes and saw on video the suspect walking westbound off the campus.

Police thoroughly searched the campus and did not find the suspect.

Lock down was lifted a short time later.

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/metronews/18482436/detail.html#->

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1/15/2009 12:01:00 AM

## **Police: Gwinnett Tech gun call likely a hoax**

### **From staff reports**

LAWRENCEVILLE - Police determined an emergency call Wednesday afternoon alleging there was a person with a firearm in the Gwinnett Technical College library was likely a hoax, according to a news release.

Gwinnett County 911 operators received the call about 4:40 p.m., and Gwinnett Tech campus police immediately secured the area and took steps to safeguard students, according to the news release.

Gwinnett County police soon arrived and completed a thorough search, but no such individual or firearm was found.

All campus activities and classes resumed by 5:30 p.m.

<http://gwinnettdailyreport.com/main.asp?SectionID=6&SubSectionID=6&ArticleID=55087&TM=27554.83>

## **UGA worker appeals false-arrest verdict**

### **2004 theft allegation**

By Lee Shearer | [lee.shearer@onlineathens.com](mailto:lee.shearer@onlineathens.com) | Story updated at 10:09 pm on 1/14/2009

Lawyers for a University of Georgia worker hit with a \$1.3 million verdict in a civil suit will ask for court permission to appeal the decision.

A jury in U.S. District Court said UGA administrator Karen Shetterley should have to pay the money to Terrie Buckner, a former university employee arrested by UGA police for theft in 2004.

Buckner's lawyers argued in court that Shetterley misled police before they arrested Buckner on charges of stealing state-owned equipment. Shetterley was Buckner's boss in a UGA training program for child care instructors at the time.

Buckner had stored equipment in her home for safekeeping after the training program had to vacate offices in a UGA building, but Shetterley was not told.

UGA police took out warrants charging Buckner with felony theft by taking in September 2004, according to court records and UGA documents.

Although the charges later were dropped, the arrest ended Buckner's career and sent her into depression, her lawyer argued.

Lee Parks also argued in court that Buckner should get more than \$300,000 in attorney fees and legal costs.

UGA lawyers planned to file a request for appeal Wednesday to meet a court deadline, said university spokesman Tom Jackson.

UGA still could settle the lawsuit with Buckner's lawyers rather than appeal the jury's decision, however.

"This does not mean anything other than they're going to meet the deadline for request for appeal to preserve their options," Jackson said.

The judge in the case, Clay Land, already has denied Shetterley's requests for a new trial or a ruling that would overturn the jury verdict.

**Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Thursday, January 15, 2009**

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/011509/uga\\_377427461.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/011509/uga_377427461.shtml)

## **Emergency alert system causes confusion, still deemed useful for Univ.**

***MERCEDES PARHAM***

**Issue date:** 1/20/09 **Section:** [News](#)

The University's alert system mistakenly sent an emergency message to the student database at approximately 6:10 a.m. Friday. Within an hour the system sent another message asking subscribers to disregard the previous message.

"It was an honest mistake," said University Police Chief Jimmy Williamson during a phone interview Friday. "They just moved a little too quickly."

Williamson sent an e-mail to the alert system database Friday morning to explain the reasons behind the erroneous messages. The message was intended for a small response team, he said. The e-mails were meant for Hazardous Assessment Response Team, a subgroup of emergency responders in the University's Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness.

"A call came in for a possible smoke fire," Williamson said. "The fire department saw what they thought were hazardous chemicals that were not identifiably marked."

The team was activated to determine the nature of the unmarked chemicals. After examination, the situation was determined a non-emergency.

"The HART team assesses the situation and advises the fire department," he said. "It actually turned out to be a ruptured steam pipe."

During an urgent response, employees hit the wrong button and sent the message to the subscribers, he said.

Despite Friday's confusion, Williamson said the system is useful.

"It's a pretty in-depth process. We're fortunate enough not to make many mistakes," he said.

<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2009/01/20/News/Emergency.Alert.System.Causes.Confusion.Still.Deemed.Useful.For.Univ-3589191.shtml>

## **River Place Shooting Startles Quiet Community**

**By: Danielle Davidson**

*Posted: 1/14/09*

By Danielle Davidson

News Editor

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On Nov. 22, 2008, Carrollton police officers and University of West Georgia Campus Police responded to a call reporting gunfire at River Place Apartments. One man was shot, and officers arrested one man on charges of reckless conduct and aggravated assault.

The gunfire supposedly originated from Building 200, where there was a large party consisting of roughly 250 people. Two groups of people started arguing, insults were thrown, and guns appeared as the two groups began to shoot at each other. One group was on a balcony while the other was in the parking lot. Shots were fired into the apartment and crowd, hitting multiple cars as well.

The only victim was in the parking lot and shot in the leg and the elbow, resulting in non-lethal wounds. Whether he was involved in the altercation or simply a bystander remains unknown.

Police found multiple bullet casings of at least 3-4 different types of guns.

By the time the police had arrived, many in the involved groups had dispersed and officers could not locate them. However, they were able to apprehend one man with a weapon who admitted to firing into the crowd towards the apartment complex. He is currently charged with reckless conduct and aggravated assault.

"I don't think it's gang related, people just don't want to be involved or have their name in it, not come forth with any information, which is unfortunate when we have somebody who is shot," said Carrollton Police Captain Jami Sailors.

"I don't know if they were students at West Georgia, or if they were from this area, some of the subjects were down from the Atlanta area, I'm sure there were several college students there, but there were a lot that were not," stated Sailors. "From the information we have so far, I don't feel like we're dealing with UWG."

Police were not surprised by the shooting; several years ago, three people were shot in an exchange of gunfire at The Mansion on Maple Street.

DAnielle

<http://media.www.thewestgeorgian.com/media/storage/paper523/news/2009/01/14/News/River.Plac.e.Shooting.Startles.Quiet.Community-3585873.shtml>

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*Friday, Jan. 23, 2009*

## **Racial slur posted on Mercer University bulletin board**

By Ashley Tusan Joyner - [ajoyner@macon.com](mailto:ajoyner@macon.com)

Mercer University police are investigating an incident in the School of Engineering where someone rearranged letters on a bulletin board Wednesday to post a racial slur about blacks, according to school officials.

Larry Brumley, a university spokesman, said the bulletin board is maintained by the Mercer chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. Letters used to spell "engineering" were moved to spell the epithet.

The incident was discovered Wednesday evening, Brumley said. Authorities believe the defacing also occurred Wednesday evening. Brumley would not confirm who reported the incident or if surveillance equipment is in place in the building where it occurred.

A statement issued to students, faculty and staff Thursday evening said campus police are investigating an “individual.” No other details on the police investigation were released.

“This type of hateful behavior has no place in any community, and surely not at a faith-based university that strives to be a community of respect. During this week when we have come together joyously to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as our progress as a nation in electing our first African-American president, this shameful and ignorant incident reminds us that the old hatreds have not yet passed,” Mercer President William Underwood said in the statement.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call Mercer Police Chief Gary Collins at (478) 301-2970 or e-mail him at [collins\\_g@mercer.edu](mailto:collins_g@mercer.edu).

<http://www.macon.com/198/story/596771.html>

### **More random road checks in Bulloch for next 3 months**

**By HOLLI DEAL BRAGG**

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912-489-9414

Posted: Jan. 21, 2009 7:56 p.m.

Updated: Jan. 21, 2009 7:36 p.m.

Local law enforcement will be stopping a lot more drivers over the next few months as “Operation Rolling Thunder” lowers the boom on unsafe drivers.

An “unacceptable number of traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities in Bulloch County,” as well as an increase of “high-risk and unsafe drivers in this high-crash corridor” prompted the Georgia Office of Highway Safety to bring the operation to the Bulloch County area, said Jim Shuler, GOHS Director of Public Affairs.

This means over the next 90 days, local law enforcement agencies will be working together to conduct safety checks throughout the county. The effort combines the Georgia State Patrol Post 45, Bulloch County Sheriff’s Office, Statesboro Police Department, Georgia Southern University Police and other agencies.

“You may see anywhere from 25 to 75 units of this task force,” said Statesboro Police Chief Stan York. “Safety is our number one priority out there on the roadway.”

A bevy of patrol cars from several agencies gathered Wednesday afternoon on Interstate 16 at the U.S. 301 South junction, kicking off the 90-day operation with a rolling motorcade, Shuler said. “The three-minute motorcade will kick-off ... a three-month crack-down on drunk drivers, illegal speeders and unbelted motorists in Statesboro and surrounding Bulloch County.”

This isn’t the first “Operation Rolling Thunder.” Law enforcement representatives from previous 90-day crackdowns were present at the news event Wednesday, sharing details of success in Barrow and Oconee counties and to “‘Pass the Thunderbolt’ to the new Bulloch County Thunder Task Force,” he said.

“We’ll be all over Bulloch County,” York said. The check point locations and times will not be announced, and will focus on areas where there have been high percentages of DUI, speeding, reckless and other high-risk drivers, he said.

Within the city of Statesboro alone, the number of accidents decreased slightly from 2,087 in 2007 to 2,071 in 2008, but the percentage of alcohol-related accidents almost doubled, he said.

In 2007 there were 26 alcohol-related accidents inside the city limits, but in 2008 the number ballooned to 48 accidents resulting from intoxicated drivers, he said.

"I don't know why," he said, adding that traffic stops overall increased by only nine percent and warnings only increased by eight percent from 2007 to 2008.

Bulloch County Sheriff Lynn Anderson said deputies will participate in the check points as well.

"We'll be fully involved over the next 90 days," he said. "We want to reduce fatalities and enforce traffic laws."

Not only will deputies be helping with check points, they will be increasing patrols in response to complaints about speeding vehicles, reckless drivers and other traffic concerns in the area, he said. "We'll have a pretty good show of force and maybe save some lives."

The high visibility of having large numbers of law enforcement units at a check point emphasizes the task force's seriousness in reducing accidents, injuries and fatalities.

Georgia State Patrol Cpl. Robert Balckom and University Police Chief Ken Brown met with York, Anderson and several others Wednesday before the Operation Rolling Thunder kick-off motorcade to discuss the 90-day efforts. Officers from multiple agencies also set up a command center at GSU's Bishop Building at Paulson Stadium after the motorcade.

<http://www.statesboroherald.com/news/article/16859/>

## **Night rides for safety**

*Ryan Del Campo*

**Issue date:** 1/23/09 **Section:** Campus News

At the end of those long nights studying in the library, walking alone to the dorms or an apartment can be intimidating. Despite Milledgeville's usually safe streets and sidewalks, having a buddy with you will provide some extra reassurance.

Public Safety has reinstated the Student Night Auxiliary Patrol (SNAP) to help maintain students' feelings of safety. Student volunteers in this program will help Public Safety chiefly in providing an extra set of eyes and an escort to students around campus or some surrounding apartments.

The program was last used in 2005, but was discontinued after the Department of Parking and Transportation split from Public Safety. SNAP consists of eight volunteers, each who have committed to serving four to six hours per week. Public Safety searched for highly motivated students who had some interest in law enforcement.

Officer Greg Williams has taken the lead in organizing SNAP, and has filled all eight positions, but is continually accepting applications for new candidates.

"Having this program," Williams said, "will mainly help because the volunteers will not be restricted by the call volume or business of the Police Department. The students will be more accessible."

The students involved with SNAP do not have the authority of a police officer, but have the responsibility to report any crimes they see while on patrol.

SNAP was not created with the intention of being a drunk shuttle. Freshman Evan Karanovich, known to dispatch as "one-three-seven," emphasizes that his responsibility as a SNAP member comes mainly from his civic duty.

Milledgeville and the GCSU community "cannot tolerate drunk drivers," he said, "it is everybody's civic duty to call that guy out if they see him getting into a car to drive blatantly drunk."

The focal importance of SNAP does not come from its late-night weekend duties. SNAP will run Sunday to Thursday every school week. It will run from 8:00PM to midnight Sunday through Tuesday, and 8:00PM to 2:30AM on Wednesday and Thursday. These hours were designed to help those people who simply need an escort.

The volunteers began their training on Thursday, January 15. Evan was very excited to start his training.

"As a student, I want GCSU to have the best and safest campus possible," Karanovich said, "What we are doing is being proactive; we are out to help the common good of all."

This Tuesday was the first day the program ran at night. They escorted 16 people, mainly from the library to the residence halls.

The benefits of the program heavily outweigh its costs. SNAP costs nearly nothing, only a one-time expense for their shirts which will be covered by SGA. The golf carts used are borrowed from Physical Operations, and the radios were already owned by Public Safety. In addition to the benefits for all GCSU students, it will also help the volunteers gain hands-on experience in making a difference to the safety of their peers.

To contact SNAP during these hours, call Public Safety at (478) 445-4054. An officer will send a radio dispatch to the volunteer. Otherwise, students can recognize one to flag down on the street by their distinctive green polo shirts. Also, more information can be found on their Facebook group, "GCSU S.N.A.P."

Officer Williams hopes that SNAP will continue to be helpful to the student body.

"We will continue to run this program as long as the students want it," Williams said.



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<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2009/01/23/CampusNews/Night.Rides.For.Safety-3593937.shtml>

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## **UGA police honored for life-saving efforts**

### **'Compassionate' measures cited**

**By Allison Floyd | [allison.floyd@onlineathens.com](mailto:allison.floyd@onlineathens.com) | Story updated at 10:47 pm on 1/28/2009**

When University of Georgia police Cpl. Jeremy Densmore started to chase a suspicious man on campus June 27, he didn't know he'd be working to save the man's life a few minutes later.

Densmore and three colleagues - Sgt. Joe Webber, Cpl. Johnny Seawright and Officer Jason Kelley - were honored Wednesday for their successful efforts to save a man who cut himself on razor wire while scaling a fence to escape police.

"Every day we are in situations to write citations or make arrests, and people think we aren't being compassionate in those situations," said UGA police Chief Jimmy Williamson. "But (the officers) went from dealing with that offender to doing anything they could to save that man's life."

The police force also recognized a former officer, Cynthia Whitehead, who helped save a man who suffered a heart attack on campus in August.

Whitehead was performing CPR on the man when two athletic trainers, Rachel Zgrabik and David Chandler, jumped in to help.

"When citizens come to our aid, it says a lot about you," Williamson told Zgrabik and Chandler.

The civilians joined a half-dozen police officers who took top honors at the annual awards ceremony.

Seawright also was named Employee of the Year, while Cpl. Josh Sparrow took the Top Gun Award for shooting with 100 percent accuracy on the firing range.

Cpl. James Simons was chosen Uniformed Officer of the Year, Robbie Burton is Communications Officer of the Year, Brandon Cain is Plain Clothes Officer of the Year and Mary Stephens is Administrative Employee of the Year.

"Today is always a good day for me, because we get to highlight the positive," Williamson said.

In 2008, UGA police officers worked 428 special events, arrested 777 people and completed 17,143 hours of training - nearly 60 hours per officer or three times the legal requirement.

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[http://onlineathens.com/stories/012909/uga\\_382511792.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/012909/uga_382511792.shtml)

Posted on Fri, Jan. 30, 2009

## **Mercer University heightens security after e-mail threats**

**By Ashley Tusan Joyner**

Mercer University officials heightened security on campus Thursday following an incident where administrators received a threatening e-mail.

“Two administrative offices on Mercer’s Macon campus today received an anonymous e-mail that contained ambiguous threats that the university is currently investigating with the assistance of outside law enforcement,” university spokesman Larry Brumley said in a statement. “We have increased security and ask that students, faculty and staff be vigilant and promptly report the presence of any suspicious persons or circumstances on campus to Mercer Police at (478) 301-2970. We will provide additional information as we can.”

No other details were immediately available by late Thursday. The security alert caused several students who had late afternoon classes to lock themselves in their classrooms following reports of the incident.

Brumley said the university administration did not issue a lockdown, however.

The incident remains under investigation.

<http://www.macon.com/198/story/604394.html>

## **Smoking ban proposal tries to find a compromise**

*Sarah Giarratana*

**Issue date:** 1/30/09 **Section:** Campus News

The issue of smoking on campus continued to smolder as students, faculty and staff met for a discussion forum addressing SGA's proposal to restrict smoking on campus.

SGA wrote a bill in response to the online poll conducted in September, which reported that only 60 percent of students supported a completely smoke-free campus. To compromise between smokers and nonsmokers, the legislature proposed restricting smoking outside of doorways and entrances by 30 feet.

"We passed a resolution specifically limiting smoking," SGA President Ryan Greene said. "After SGA passed the resolution, SGA Senate assigned a committee to further investigate this policy before they pass the resolution."

As students and faculty gathered to discuss the issue, they aggressively asserted their opinions both for and against the legislation.

"I do not believe that this is the right movement," said Andrei Barkovskii, biology professor. "If [smoking] is to be restricted, why not remove all the soda machines? Those are just as unhealthy."

Many students and faculty expressed concern about people smoking in doorways and recognized the

need to clearly define the previously unstructured smoking policy at GCSU.

"We don't want to tell people what they can and can't do," SGA Attorney General Michael George said. "We just want a formalization of these unspoken policies because you never know when someone in the door has a smoke allergy."

Representatives from health services, including Director Alice Loper and Infirmery Specialist Rachel Sullivan, spoke against the legislation, saying that due to the health risks of second-hand smoke, smoking should not be allowed on campus at all, even under SGA's proposed policy.

"According to statistics, 651 students would die of smoke related disease later in life if allowed to smoke," Sullivan said. "I support the notion of a smoke-free campus. We're already smoke free at the Depot and we teach students how to quit, yet allow smoking on campus."

Loper continued to add that nonsmoking campuses, like Gainesville State, encourage smokers to quit and prevent many students from starting. Audience members at the forum recognized the benefits of restricting or prohibiting smoking, but questioned the effective enforcement of these policies.

"I don't smoke, I don't appreciate people smoking," said Paul Jahr, assistant vice president of student services. "Yet, I'm uncomfortable trying to legislate what should be a common courtesy."

According to the SGA proposed policy, students would receive a \$100 fine as a consequence for smoking.

"If you're going to have the 30 feet smoking policy enforced, the chances of my officers catching anyone would be slim," said Director of Public Safety David Groseclose. "If you had permissible areas, you might be able to enforce that, but it's really a courtesy issue."

Other participants in the discussion questioned the costs of implementing a new smoking policy. SGA representatives stated that the cost of moving ashtrays and urns further away from the building would cost nearly nothing. Yet discussion participants proposed covered smoking areas, which like sheltered bus stops, could weigh significantly on the school budget.

"I personally like the idea," said Greg Brown, associate director of Auxiliary Services.

With continual audience participation, the forum thoroughly discussed many aspects of policy.

"I learned a lot," said Doug Oetter, assistant professor and chair of the faculty senate committee reviewing the policy. "I enjoyed the range of opinions and look forward to hearing more people."

SGA scheduled another forum to discuss the smoking issue on Feb. 4 at 9 a.m. and encourages all students to come and further discuss this sensitive issue.

<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2009/01/30/CampusNews/Smoking.Ban.Proposal.Tries.To.Find.A.Compromise-3604036.shtml>

## Woodstock's DeCocq joins county SWAT team

By Erika Neldner

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The Cherokee County Special Weapons and Tactical team recently gained a new member. Woodstock officer Mike DeCocq joined the team last month, making the part-time unit manned at 32 members.

*(Mike DeCocq, foreground, a Woodstock police officer, was selected as a new Special Weapons and Tactical team member last month.)*



“I am very glad to be back on a SWAT team again,” DeCocq said. “It was an honor to be the first Woodstock officer to be selected for team.”

DeCocq came to the Woodstock Police Department with SWAT training, as he was a member of the University of Georgia police department's SWAT team.

DeCocq is the third member who recently joined from a different agency than the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. The other members are from Canton and Holly Springs police departments. There also are five tactical paramedics from Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services.

The move is one way the agencies are working together for the better of the community.

“I am very excited about the direction public safety is headed in Cherokee County,” said Sheriff Roger Garrison. “This is another example of how our agencies work together for a common cause, providing the best law enforcement possible for all of our citizens.”

<http://ledgernews.com/weeklynews.html>

*Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009*

## Mercer treating e-mail as ‘legitimate threat’ as investigation continues

By Joe Kovac Jr.

Mercer University officials and local police Friday continued their search for the person who sent a threatening e-mail to the school Thursday afternoon.

Mercer spokesman Larry Brumley said authorities were trying to track down a suspect “or come to at least a conclusion that the threat is not legitimate.”

“But until then,” he said, “we are treating it as a legitimate threat, and that’s really the only responsible way to treat it. ... You can’t just brush it off. You’ve got to investigate it.”

Brumley said officials couldn’t divulge the wording of the “ambiguous threat” the school received Thursday, which later prompted an e-mail alert from administrators warning students

and faculty to “exercise greater vigilance around campus and report any activity that may seem out of the ordinary.”

Brumley said, “The more detail that we give out about what we do or don’t know undermines the investigation.”

He said, “As the (university) president told everyone last night, go about your scheduled activities without interruption. We’ve brought in extra officers just to be extra diligent ... until we get to the bottom of it.”

Friday morning, students at a coffee shop near the campus didn’t seem fazed by the previous day’s e-mailed safety alert.

Chris Cox, a junior from Gainesville, said, “To be honest, I didn’t look at it.”

He said he was in class when administrators text-messaged students just after 5 p.m. Thursday and advised them to check their school e-mail accounts for “an urgent safety-related message.”

“A guy in my class can check his e-mails from his phone and he just told everybody about some ‘anonymous and ambiguous’ threat,” Cox, 21, said. “It wasn’t that big a deal. It seemed like they were on top of it.”



*Woody Marshall/The Telegraph 1/30/09 Chris Cox, a junior at Mercer University, was in Public Choice class when the text message was sent by the school. He has not erased the text message from his phone.*

To contact writer Joe Kovac Jr., call 744-4397.

<http://www.macon.com/198/story/605540.html>