



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

**FEBRUARY 2010**

**UGA Employee Charged With Extortion**

Updated: Tuesday, 02 Feb 2010, 10:15 PM EST  
Published : Tuesday, 02 Feb 2010, 10:15 PM EST

Reported by Julia Harding | Edited by Jim Greene

A University of Georgia employee who tracks students downloading music off the Internet is accused of extorting money from them.

Dorin Lucian Dehelean, 37, an employee of the Enterprise Information Technology Services division, was arrested Monday and charged with one count of felony theft by extortion.

Campus police said one of their officers went undercover posing as the student to catch Dehelean after a female student was contacted by the employee about an alleged copyright infringement violation on her part.

During their conversation, the student declined Dehelean's offer to make the situation go away in exchange for money. Dehelean made additional offers, which were also declined, according to investigators.

The student reported the situation to an official in her academic area, who contacted the campus police department. Authorities said an undercover investigation in which an officer posed as a student led to the arrest.

Police said Dehelean's job is to track students downloading content illegally, including music, then turn students' name over to be investigated. Instead, they said he tried to extort the student, who was accused of "alleged copyright infringement" because of the school's agreement with the music industry.

UGA police believe there may be other victims, and ask them to contact the department at (706) 542-5813.

<http://www.myfoxtlanta.com/dpp/news/uga-employee-charged-with-extortion>

---

**UGA employee accused of extortion**

By Alexis Stevens

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

11:10 p.m. Tuesday, February 2, 2010

A UGA employee is accused of trying to bilk money from students in exchange for covering up alleged computer violations, according to university police.

Dorin Lucian Dehelean, 37, was arrested Monday evening and charged with theft by extortion, according to police.

In January, a female student reported that Dehelean had accused her of violating copyright laws while using a university computer. The student said Dehelean asked for money in order to clear her name, according to campus police.

Dehelean was employed in IT security support, according to police. He reportedly was in charge of monitoring illegal music downloads on university computers. Dehelean's position paid nearly \$50,000, according to state records.

Any other students or faculty members who may have been approached by Dehelean are asked to contact UGA police.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/uga-employee-accused-of-289635.html>

### **Analyst at UGA arrested**

By **JOE JOHNSON** - [joe.johnson@onlineathens.com](mailto:joe.johnson@onlineathens.com)

Published **Wednesday, February 03, 2010**

Dorin Lucian Dehelean's job at the University of Georgia was to identify students, faculty and employees who used the school's computer network to illegally download music and other copyrighted material.

UGA police arrested the 37-year-old security analyst Monday on a felony extortion charge for trying to shake down a student who downloaded music in return for not turning her in to the UGA Office of Judicial Programs, according to university police.

UGA immediately fired him, police said.

Dehelean, who worked for UGA's Enterprise Information Technology Services, called the student Jan. 25 to let her know that she'd been caught downloading copyrighted material - a violation of university policy - and "offered to make the situation go away in exchange for money," UGA police Chief Jimmy Williamson said.

"All he was doing was (offering) to keep the information from going to Judicial Programs," Williamson said, which could have leveled sanctions on the student ranging from a reprimand and suspension of computer privileges to probation.

The student told Dehelean she didn't have the money and she told an official in her academic area, who in turn notified police.

A plainclothes UGA officer impersonating the student met with Dehelean on Monday night, and police arrested him on one count of theft by extortion, a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison, after the officer gave Dehelean an undisclosed amount of money, Williamson said.

UGA police believe Dehelean has tried to blackmail other students, and one may have paid him off, Williamson said.

"We are running down some leads that may lead us to other victims," he said. "We have information that makes us believe (Dehelean) might have had another transaction."

Every week, the Recording Industry Association of America sends UGA the IP addresses of computers on the university's network where someone illegally downloaded music, movies and other copyrighted material, according to Williamson.

In 2007, the RIAA began notifying students at UGA and universities across the country that they intended to sue them for illegal downloading. Many students settled out of court, usually paying a few thousand dollars to avoid a lawsuit, the RIAA said.

But in December 2008, the association stopped suing individual downloaders to focus more on businesses that promote pirated music and other copyrighted material, according to Liz Kennedy, an RIAA spokeswoman.

The RIAA continues to send notices to UGA and other Internet service providers, however, to let them know that their network is being used to break the law.

Some universities, like UGA, adopted policies against pirating music, and others have installed filtering software to stop abuses, Kennedy said.

"In light of new opportunities for deterrence of copyright infringement, the record companies discontinued their end-user litigation," she said.

UGA police asked anyone who Dehelean tried to extort or did business with him to call (706) 542-5813.

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Wednesday, February 03, 2010

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/020310/uga\\_558085836.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/020310/uga_558085836.shtml)

## **UGA employee charged with felony theft by extortion**

February 2, 2010 by Staff reports  
Filed under Crime & Courts, News

A University employee was arrested and charged with felony theft by extortion Monday, accused of trying to make a situation go away for a University student in exchange for money.

Dorin Lucian Dehelean, an employee in the Enterprise Information Technology Services department, was booked into the Athens-Clarke County jail Monday night. According to University Police, on Jan. 25 a female student was contacted by Dehelan in reference to an alleged copyright infringement violation on her part.

During the conversation, police said, Dehelean offered to make the situation go away in exchange for money. The student declined the offer. Dehelean presented the student with more offers to make the situation go away, which were also declined.

The student contacted a UGA official to report the situation and the official contacted UGA Police. An investigation culminated in a plain clothes operation in which Dehelean, 37, was arrested.

UGA Police have reason to believe others may have fallen victim under similar circumstances. The department is asking any others if they have been contacted with similar offers or have been involved in actual transactions involving Dehelean or others. UGA Police want to reassure people they have done nothing wrong and would ask they report the situation as soon as possible.

The department can be reached at (706) 542-5813.

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/02/uga-employee-charged-with-felony-theft-by-extortion/>

## University employee charged with felony

February 2, 2010 by JACOB DEMMITT

A University employee with access to sensitive student information was arrested and charged with one count of felony theft by extortion Monday evening, and police said they expect their investigation to lead them to more student victims.

Dorin Dehelean, an Internet technology security analyst associate for Enterprise Information Technology Services, was arrested after Laura Elizabeth Adams, a 25-year-old University student, told police he had attempted to extort her on Jan. 25, according to University Police.

Because of his position, Dehelean was given student names attached to IP addresses, which music industry officials said were committing copyright infringement.

Although this information is typically used by student judiciary, police said Dehelean attempted to use it to extort Adams.

“He told the student that information that would cause her to be held accountable would disappear for a sum of money,” University Police Chief Jimmy Williamson said. “The conversation went back and forth and was concluded with the victim stating the fact that she couldn’t come up with that sum of money.”

Adams told The Red & Black Dehelean originally asked for \$800.

She reported the incident to a University official, who in turn called the police.

An investigation was launched which ended with a female officer, posing as Adams, completing a transaction with Dehelean on Feb. 1.

Dehelean has been charged with one count of theft by extortion, however, police believe Adams may not have been Dehelean’s only victim.

“Information we have makes us believe he’s had contact with other victims,” Williamson said. “We are running down leads that may lead to other individuals.”

Police have not ruled out the involvement of other University employees.

“We don’t want to limit possibilities,” Williamson said. “If an employee sees another problem in EITS, we want them to come forward.”

Dehelean did not have access to personal information such as dates of birth or social security numbers.

“This person was in charge of monitoring improper uses of the Internet,” said Tom Jackson, vice president of public affairs. “By the nature of his job, he would have that information. But most employees are good and won’t break the law. If he had a history of this kind of thing, we wouldn’t have hired him.”

However, since no background check was conducted at the time of his hire, EITS had no way of knowing whether or not Dehelean had any sort of criminal record.

“He was hired on Dec. 3, 2007,” Jackson said. “The Board of Regents started requiring background checks on all employees on Jan. 1, 2008. We can argue all day about if that was too late or too early, but that is when it started. I don’t know that a background check would reveal someone’s propensity to go out and commit extortion.”

University Police are encouraging any student who has been contacted or has completed a transaction with Dehelean to come forward.

“You will not get in trouble,” Williamson said, “and you have done nothing wrong.”

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/02/university-employee-charged-with-felony/>

### **Tornado alert to be tested, no UGA Alert will be sent**

February 2, 2010 by TIFFANY STEVENS  
Filed under News

The University is participating in the statewide severe weather drill, scheduled to take place this morning between 9 and 10. The annual drill is meant as a way for Georgians to examine their emergency plans, as well as practice any evacuation routes.

“[The state has] been doing this for many, many years. It’s coordinated through the Governor’s Office and the National Weather Service,” said Steven Harris, director of the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness. “Primarily it’s aimed at K-12 schools, hospitals, businesses, colleges [and] anywhere a large group of people congregate. And it’s basically to get people to think about what they would do in the case of severe weather.”

Participation in the drill is not required, but it is recommended that students and residents review emergency plans and become familiar with any existing plans in areas they frequent.

“We ask that people pause and ask themselves what they would do, or ask their instructor what they would do or where they would go in case of a severe weather drill,” Harris said.

He said previous tornado warnings in the Athens-Clarke County area would alter the usual proceedings of the statewide drill on the University campus. UGA Alert, the emergency system used for informing students and faculty of potentially harmful situations, is usually tested during the statewide drill. This year, however, UGA Alert will only be used on the Griffin and Gwinnett campuses.

“Since we had the actual tornado warning about a week and a half ago, we feel that we got enough data from that, so we won’t use UGA Alert for this drill,” Harris said.

Though UGA Alert will not be used, tornado sirens will still alert citizens of the drill.

“Tornado sirens in Clarke County will go off,” he said. “People may hear the tornado sirens outside, and that’s normally just meant to alert people that they’re outside during the tornado.”

Harris said those who participate are encouraged to visit the Office of Security’s Web site with any commentary.

“We have a survey on our Web site that will go up after the drill, so we would love to hear from faculty, staff and students,” Harris said. “We’d love to hear feedback about if they even knew there was a drill, what did they think and how can we improve.”

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/02/tornado-alert-to-be-tested-no-uga-alert-will-be-sent/>

## **Thefts from student vehicles continue**

**Published on February 2, 2010 by Caitlyn Newmeyer**

Police are investigating several cases of theft from student vehicles.



A stereo is missing from a vehicle after the dashboard was pried open by a thief. Photo courtesy of KSU police.

Sixteen cases of theft from vehicles parked on campus have occurred in the past three months, with residential parking areas hit hardest.

Most cases happened during the night in areas such as the North Parking Deck. These areas hold large numbers of vehicles and are easily accessed by foot or vehicle.

In more than half the cases, car doors were left unlocked and valuable items were in plain view. Other cases involved smashed windows or doors that were pried open.

“In over 50 percent of the entering auto cases reported, GPS units and iPod/MP3 players in plain view were stolen,” said Jennifer Elliot, lead investigator for KSU police. “In dash stereos and visible after market speakers, amplifiers and subwoofers are also popular items to steal.”

Other items stolen include parts and accessories of vehicles, such as license plates. No arrests have been made in connection to the thefts, although the investigation is ongoing.

“There has not been any pattern identified with regard to make, model, year or color; they are all just random cars” Elliot said. “The pattern lies with the access inside the vehicle and the visible valuables in the vehicle.”

Elliot encourages students, faculty and staff not to leave valuable items in plain sight and make sure car doors are locked when parked.

Elliot also suggests keeping serial numbers and information of valuable items like GPS systems and iPods on file.

Resident Assistant Laura Cox recalled her experience when her car was broken into while parked on campus.

“I was parked in the KSU Place visitor spots because that was the only spot left that day,” she said “They broke through my driver’s side window and stole my GPS and my iPod docking station.

“When I first noticed it, I thought my window had just broken. I didn’t believe anyone would just break in. Then I came to my senses and called the police. It was while I was on the phone with the police that I noticed the missing items.”

Cox said despite the event, she still feels safe parking on campus. She does not leave valuable items in her car and encourages her friends to do the same.

Security cameras have been installed in both the North and Central Parking Decks. However, poor quality video and lack of surveillance footage sometimes hinders police from identifying suspects.

Once a case has been reported, KSU police collect information about the vehicle and items stolen and attempt to pinpoint a time frame in which the theft may have occurred. Officers document any damage to the vehicle and determine whether quality fingerprints can be lifted from the scene.

<http://ksusentinel.com/featured/thefts-from-student-vehicles-continue/>

## **Lack of parking spots at Turner Field causes controversy**

By Dominique DuBois

**Published:** Wednesday, February 3, 2010

**Updated:** Wednesday, February 3, 2010

The 150 parking spots at Turner Field fill up quickly, and students left without a place to park are starting to get annoyed at the lack of action taken by the school to expand student parking options.

Georgia State students have been having trouble finding parking at Turner Field, and as a result absences and tardiness are on the rise.

Since October 2007, the Parking and Transportation department has leased 1,500 parking spaces, in agreement with the City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority (AFCRA), at Turner Field.

Mike Sproston, Director of Parking and Transportation, said, "Since the University only pays for the number of parking spaces provided in the agreement, GSU students are only authorized to park in the designated areas within the Turner Field Blue Lot."

When Sproston was asked why a section of the parking lot is blocked, he said it was solely because of paperwork.

"The parking spaces that are barricaded are not part of the 1500 parking spaces in the agreement. All vehicles are subject to towing by the tow service for the AFCRA, at the owner's expense, if they are parked outside of the 1500 parking spaces. In efforts to help our students avoid the inconvenience and expense of having their vehicles towed, Parking and Transportation puts the barricades up to let students know that they are not authorized to park beyond the designated areas."

Some students arrive up to an hour before class and cannot find spaces. Many give up the search and end up parking behind the barricade.

"As with most parking facilities, the 1500 parking spaces designated for students at Turner Field are available on a first come first served basis," Sproston said. "Other parking is available on campus for our students in a variety of locations such as the Lofts Deck, the M Deck, and the K and N Decks, at designated rates. In addition, a number of off campus parking facilities are within close walking distance to campus."

There have been several accidents witnessed in the parking lot. Curtis, a shuttle driver at Turner Field, said he's been there for a few.

"I have seen a few fender benders. Everyone is trying to get through the lanes and it's so narrow."

Sproston had a different take on the situation.

"The University Police provide patrol officer services at Turner Field and Parking and Transportation provides parking enforcement services, both designed to help keep parking safe and well organized," he said in response.

What will Mr. Sproston and his staff do to rectify these problems for students?

"Although none of us can prevent all accidents from occurring, working closely with University Police and our Parking Enforcement staff, Parking and Transportation is committed to efforts to help keep parking safe and well organized at Turner Field. We have also added a new member to our staff, Manager of Parking and Transportation Operations, Raymond Mensah, who will, among other responsibilities, be working to monitor the parking volumes at Turner Field as well

as the ridership on Panther Express shuttles, to help identify ways to continue to improve our services.”

<http://www.gsusignal.com/news/lack-of-parking-spots-at-turner-field-causes-controversy-1.2161110>

### **ASU student thrown out of dorm**

*Posted: Feb 03, 2010 6:44 PM EST*

*Updated: Feb 03, 2010 6:44 PM EST*

By Jim Wallace –

ALBANY, GA (WALB) –An Albany State University student is being kicked out of her dorm because a gun was found in her purse on campus.

The 20-year old cheerleader and honor student says she did nothing wrong.

Lauren Andrews has been ordered to move out by Saturday. She can continue as a student at A-S-U.

On October 26th Andrews left her purse in the lobby of her dorm.

When it was turned in, a 9-millimeter pistol was found inside. She says her boyfriend slipped it into her purse off campus without her knowledge and forgot it.

Andrews went through hearings and appeals with students and faculty and was expelled from the dorm.

Lauren Andrews said " I have no where to go. I have no financial situation. I've already paid for housing for this semester, and at this point I think it's unfair."

Albany State University President Dr. Everette Freeman said "We have a zero tolerance policy about weapons. Concealed, unconcealed. Known or unknown. If a weapon is on campus it violates student policy."

If A-S-U Police had been called when the gun was turned over to the dorm housing manager, Andrews would have been arrested.

That manager received a written reprimand.

Andrews says she is leaving school and doesn't know if she'll return.

The University offered to refund some housing money.

*©2010 WALB News. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.*



<http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=11929274>

Thursday, February 4, 2010

### **GTPD sponsors campus severe weather week**

By **Rebecca Tattersfield**, Contributing Writer

The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD), in collaboration with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS), participated this week in the Severe Weather Awareness Week. From Feb. 1 through Feb. 6, the GTPD's Office of Emergency Preparedness offered demonstrations and classes aimed to prepare students and faculty for the potential and possibility of severe weather in the Atlanta area.

This year's Severe Weather Awareness Week follows a number of extreme weather incidents to have hit the city within the last two years. These include the tornado that hit in March 2008 and the flooding that occurred in Georgia and metropolitan area last fall. Topics covered over the week were family preparedness, thunderstorm safety, tornado safety, lightening safety and flooding.

The first goal of the Office of Emergency Preparedness was to inform the campus community of precautionary procedures that will be taken by the Institute in the case of severe weather.

The second and more heavily stressed goal was to teach proper response and preparation initiative to students, faculty and staff.

"The best thing to do to protect yourself is to have a plan of action before a threatening tornado or other weather event develops," said Andy Altizer, the director of Emergency Preparedness.

Not only did the events instruct those on campus, but the week also included testing of the of the Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System (GTENS) and Siren Warning System (SWS). These tests have not only been able to check systems but also highlight different resources for students stuck in a storm.

"Know what to do and where to go if there is a tornado warning," Altizer said. "Don't depend on us to have enough time to alert you to sudden weather changes. If there is a chance of severe weather, pay attention and be prepared to take action."

Some advice given to all students on campus during a severe weather warning is to stay inside. The organizers of the week stress for students to be able to recognize severe weather as it progresses. This spring will bring showers and thunderstorms which under the right conditions can become tornadoes. Lightning is also considered a heavy threat on a green space campus.

Altizer recommends keeping in mind the 30/30 safety rule: go inside if you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder after seeing lightning, and stay inside for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

Emergency Preparedness also recommends signing up for the following: Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System (GTENS); Georgia Tech Police Department tweets; and Skywarn.

They also recommend that students, faculty and staff have an emergency kit readily available.

Being prepared for possible outages and limited transport is all part of the non-complacency that Emergency Preparedness stresses most heavily.

A version of this article appeared in the print edition in Volume 95, Issue 22, Page 4  
Copyright 2009 Emily Chambers and the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications.

<http://nique.net/news/100518>

## **Authorities Searching for Missing AASU Student**

By Gabe Travers | Executive Producer

Published: February 3, 2010

Updated: February 4, 2010

SAVANNAH, Ga. – Family members and authorities are asking for the public’s help in finding Bryce Tarter, a 19-year-old student. Tarter was last seen around 5 a.m. on Sunday morning leaving Armstrong Atlantaic State University.

Tarter was driving a 2000 Nissan Frontier crew cab with a Maine license plate 944 7QD. The truck had a black grill guard and tinted windows. An Atlanta Braves “A” was on the black of the driver’s window. The back of the passenger window has an Atlanta Falcons symbol on it.

The AASU Police Department is working closely with all the regional law enforcement agencies, including Chatham, Bryan and Effingham counties and they are in contact with Tarter’s family in an effort to pinpoint his whereabouts.

AASU PD has entered Tarter into both the regional and national law enforcement databases. If any law enforcement agency in the country comes in contact with him or his vehicle, AASU Police would be immediately notified.

Authorities say they have checked regional hospitals and are continuing to interview close friends, hoping to find out more about his plans after leaving campus early Sunday morning.

If you have any information, contact AASU PD at 912-344-3333.



SAVANNAH, Ga. -- Poster at AASU asking for help finding Bryce Tarter

SAVANNAH, Ga. -- Bryce Tarter, 2009 photo

SAVANNAH, Ga. -- Bryce Tarter, 19

[http://www2.wsav.com/sav/news/local/article/authorities\\_searching\\_for\\_missing\\_aasu\\_student/93603/](http://www2.wsav.com/sav/news/local/article/authorities_searching_for_missing_aasu_student/93603/)

### **GSU assisting in search for missing AASU Student**

Written by Nathan Hartsell

Thursday, 04 February 2010 18:08

Georgia Southern University Police are assisting in the search for an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who has been reported missing.

Bryce Tarter, 19, was last seen Sunday morning (Jan. 31) on the AASU campus in Savannah. He had been in Statesboro the night before, according to his family.

Tarter was driving a white 2000 Nissan Frontier truck with Maine license plate 9447 QD. An Atlanta Braves "A" logo is on the back driver's window and an Atlanta Falcons logo is on the back passenger's window.

His family has created a website, <http://www.bringbrycehome.com>, and a Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=304542202320&ref=ts>.

Anyone who has any information is asked to contact Georgia Southern University Police at 912-478-5234.

[http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1588:gsu-assisting-in-search-for-missing-aasu-student](http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1588:gsu-assisting-in-search-for-missing-aasu-student)

## Police still searching for missing AASU student (UPDATED!)

Written by Nathan Hartsell

Thursday, 04 February 2010 18:08



**\*Standard issue Maine plate**

**Photograph of Bryce's truck**

Georgia Southern University Police are assisting in the search for an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who has been reported missing.

Bryce Tarter, 19, was last seen Sunday morning (Jan. 31) on the AASU campus in Savannah.

According to his family, he had been in Statesboro at a party the night before.

Several people from the party remember seeing Bryce and fully cooperated with police, but all of those leads have been exhausted.

After arriving back at AASU around 5 am, Tarter drove off in his white 2000 Nissan Frontier truck with Maine license plate 9447 QD.

An Atlanta Braves "A" logo is on the back driver's window and an Atlanta Falcons logo is on the back passenger's window.

According to the website established by his family, <http://www.bringbrycehome.com>, they believe he was heading home to Guyton and has not been seen or heard from since.

In a recent phone interview special to GADaily.com, Bryce's father Blake mentioned that there were no security cameras in the AASU parking lot where Bryce is said to have left from, although security cameras from Abercorn Street are being reviewed.

Blake went on to say, "When we find the truck, we will find Bryce."

Search teams canvassed Savannah last Saturday in conjunction with air searches.

A Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=304542202320&ref=ts>, has also been created to try and help locate Tarter.

Anyone who has any information or know the whereabouts of Bryce's truck is urged to contact Georgia Southern University Police at 912-478-5234.

**\*There are several variations to the Maine license plate, but the one pictured above is similar to that of the one on Bryce's truck.**

[http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1588:gsu-assisting-in-search-for-missing-aasu-student](http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1588:gsu-assisting-in-search-for-missing-aasu-student)

---

## **Sword attack at Ga. Tech**

By [Larry Hartstein](#) and Ty Tagami

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

2:41 p.m. Thursday, February 4, 2010

A man believed to be a former grad student stabbed a post-doctorate fellow with a sword at Georgia Tech this afternoon, a school spokesman said.

The attack happened at the Weber SST Building roughly one hour ago. The student was taken to Grady Hospital.

A police officer was slightly hurt while arresting the attacker, the school spokesman said.

Melissa Hayes, a psychology student in an adjacent building, saw a scuffle as police led the suspect out of the building. "He made quite a scene being carried out," she said.

Graduate student George Chidi, formerly a reporter with the AJC, said the Weber Building remained on lockdown.

--Staff writers Christian Boone and Ty Tagami contributed to this report

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/sword-attack-at-ga-291288.html>

## **Police Arrest Man At Georgia Tech After Sword Attack**

MICHAEL KING

ATLANTA -- Georgia Tech police arrested a former graduate student Thursday afternoon, after the student allegedly attacked a graduate fellow with a sword.

Tech police said their officer was slightly injured in the incident. The graduate fellow was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital in downtown Atlanta for treatment.

[http://www.11alive.com/news/news\\_story.aspx?storyid=140478&catid=40](http://www.11alive.com/news/news_story.aspx?storyid=140478&catid=40)

## **Tech Student Attacked, Slashed With Samurai Sword**

Posted: 2:33 pm EST February 4, 2010 Updated: 2:43 pm EST February 4, 2010

**ATLANTA** -- An attacker used a samurai sword to slash a Georgia Tech student on campus Thursday afternoon.

The attack happened inside the Weber Space Science and Technology Building at the northwest Atlanta campus.

There's no word yet on the condition of the victim.

Police said they have one suspect in custody.

Check back on [wsbtv.com](http://wsbtv.com) for more on this developing story.

*Copyright 2010 by [WSBTV.com](http://wsbtv.com). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*



<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/22465319/detail.html>

---

## **Sword attack at Ga. Tech**

By Larry Hartstein

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

3:26 p.m. Thursday, February 4, 2010

A man believed to be a former grad student stabbed a post-doctoral fellow with a sword at Georgia Tech this afternoon, a school spokesman said.

The attack happened at the Weber Building shortly before 1:20 p.m. The victim was taken to Grady Hospital.

A police officer was slightly hurt while arresting the attacker, the school spokesman said.

Melissa Hayes, a psychology student, saw a scuffle as police led the suspect out of the space, science and technology building. "He made quite a scene being carried out," she said.

Student Jonathan Conley was heading toward the Weber Building when he saw the victim being taken to an ambulance.

"His shirt was off and his hands were covered in blood," Conley said.

Kurt Nelson, a freshman industrial engineering student from Orlando, was in class when he heard about the attack.

"They were testing the campus alert system at 11:30 this morning," he said. "But when it happened most of us found out from Facebook and Twitter."

The building remained closed while police investigated.

--Staff writers Mashaun D. Simon, Christian Boone and Ty Tagami contributed to this report.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/sword-attack-at-ga-291288.html>

## Samurai Sword Attacker Charged

Posted: 2:33 pm EST February 4, 2010 Updated: 6:11 am EST February 5, 2010

**ATLANTA** -- An attacker with a samurai sword injured two people on the Georgia Tech campus Thursday afternoon.

The sword-wielding man slashed one person inside the Weber Space Science and Technology Building at the northwest Atlanta campus, according to police.

The attacker, Kshitij Shrotri, also injured a Georgia Tech campus police officer trying to subdue the man. Officers were able to arrest the suspect.



Police believe the attacker is a former Ph. D. candidate at Georgia Tech.

Shrotri is being held in the Fulton County Jail on an aggravated assault charge

The victim slashed with the sword is working on a postdoctoral fellowship at Georgia Tech, according to police. School officials said the victim's name will be released after relatives are notified.

Paramedics took both victims to Grady Memorial Hospital.

The Georgia Tech campus police officer has been identified as Robert J. Turner, 29, of Griffin and was listed in stable condition.

The slashing victim was in the operating room at 3:30 p.m.

University officials said Shrotri received his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech in 2008.

*Copyright 2010 by WSBTV.com. The Associated Press contributed to this report. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/22465319/detail.html>

## Tech Faculty Member Attacked With Sword

Updated: Thursday, 04 Feb 2010, 10:49 PM EST  
Published : Thursday, 04 Feb 2010, 1:59 PM EST

Reported by Morse Diggs

Authorities said a former Georgia Tech graduate student has been charged with stabbing a university researcher with a sword.

Georgia Tech spokesman Matt Nagel said the victim was taken to Grady Hospital in stable condition after the Thursday afternoon attack inside a building on campus.

The victim's name was not released pending notification of family.

Police said Kshitij Shrotri is being held in the Fulton County Jail on an aggravated assault charge.

Nagel said Georgia Tech police officer Robert J. Turner of Griffin was injured slightly during the scuffle. He is in stable condition.

University officials said Shrotri received his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech in 2008.

Copyright AP Modified, Copyright 2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

<http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/Faculty-Member-Attacked-at-Georgia-Tech-020410>

## **Police Arrest Man At Georgia Tech After Sword Attack**

Updated 2/4/2010 10:21:23 PM

MICHAEL KING

KENDRA MACKEY

ATLANTA (AP) -- Authorities say a man believed to be a former Georgia Tech graduate student stabbed a university researcher with a sword.

Georgia Tech spokesman Matt Nagel says the victim was taken to Grady Hospital after the Thursday afternoon attack inside a building on campus. The victim's name and condition were not released pending notification of family.

The suspect, 33-year old Kshitij Shrotri, has been taken into custody and charged with aggravated assault.

Nagel said a Georgia Tech police officer was injured slightly during the scuffle. His name also was not released.

Nagel said the campus' emergency notification system was not used during the incident because the suspect was apprehended immediately.

[http://www.11alive.com/news/news\\_story.aspx?storyid=140478&catid=40](http://www.11alive.com/news/news_story.aspx?storyid=140478&catid=40)

## **Ga. Tech Attack Suspect To Appear In Court**

### **Victim Identified As Samer Tawfik**

POSTED: 2:49 pm EST February 4, 2010

UPDATED: 6:50 am EST February 5, 2010

**ATLANTA --** A person who is believed to be a former Georgia Tech graduate student attacked a student with a sword on the Tech campus Thursday afternoon, according to the university.

The attack happened at the Weber Space, Science and Technology building on Ferst Drive.

Police said Kshitij Shrotri is being held in the Fulton County Jail on an aggravated assault charge.

Shrotri will have his first appearance before a judge at 11 a.m. Friday morning.

The victim, who was identified as Samer Tawfik, was taken to Grady Hospital. Tawfik is a postdoctoral fellow at the university, officials said.

Georgia Tech Spokesperson Matt Nagel said Georgia Tech police officer Robert J. Turner of Griffin was injured slightly during the scuffle. He is in stable condition.

Georgia Tech officials said Shrotri received his PhD in aerospace engineering in 2008 and worked for the University of Delaware's Center for Composite Materials.

University of Delaware officials said Shrotri went on paid leave in November.

Tawfik underwent surgery Thursday evening. His condition is unknown.

*Copyright 2010 by cbsatlanta.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/22465444/detail.html>

Thursday, February 4, 2010

### **UPDATE: AE PhD charged after two-victim attack**

By **Vijai Narayanan**, Assistant News Editor



Police escort apprehended suspect Kshitij Shrotri after the violent attack Thursday, Feb. 4. (Eric Mansfield/ Student Publications)

Kshitij Shrotri, a Tech AE PhD, 2008, has been charged with aggravated assault after he allegedly stabbed Samer Tawfik, a post-doctoral fellow on Thursday, Feb. 4 at approximately 1:15 p.m. at the Weber Space Science and Technology building. The victim was taken to Grady Hospital for treatment of his injuries.

Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) arrived on the scene shortly after the incident. In addition, Robert J. Turner, a GTPD officer sustained injuries to his hand while apprehending the suspect.

According to GTPD, the suspect is a former graduate student and used a sword to attack the victim. The motive for the attack is unclear, but witnesses on the scene stated that the attacker had been seen asking for funding for a postdoctoral fellowship for several days. The victim was taken out of the building on a stretcher. As of 5:20 p.m. on Thursday, the victim was in the operating room. "They sat there [the ambulance] for five minutes or so, but one of the officers had his... it looked like his hand was cut," said Michael Sims, a fourth year ME student.

Although there was no emergency notification made after the attack, Tech issued an official statement on its main website at 2:40 p.m. stating the following, "The victim was reportedly injured and was taken to Grady Hospital. During the arrest, a police officer was slightly injured by the attacker. There is no further threat to campus. The building is closed while the incident is under investigation."

Dr. Shrotri's doctoral thesis, found at <http://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/24763> mentions that "When he is not working on his research, Mr. Shrotri enjoys training in martial arts and hiking."

Many students who were attending classes in the Weber Building remained in class during the incident and during the following class time. Students in those class say that they were not notified to evacuate.

"He [the victim] was on a stretcher and he looked conscious... he didn't look pale or anything. He was holding his arm to his stomach so it was unclear whether he was stabbed in the torso or the arm or both," said Eriks Osvalds, an AE grad student when asked about the victim.

"First thing I saw was cops coming up and then two minutes later we saw them coming out with the katana sword covered in blood and then 10-15 minutes later we saw them bringing out the guy and he was bloodied all over his hand and chest... we knew it was serious," said an anonymous witness.

Police arrived on the scene soon after the attack.

"An older lady or a teacher came out trying to flag down the police saying that there was a crazy student... officers pulled him out of the class and then the professor was carted away to the ambulance," Sims said.

"The police got here really fast. Only one person was hurt other than a cop. So they were here right away," said Osvalds.

A version of this article appeared in the print edition in Volume 95, Issue 22, Page 1  
Copyright 2009 Emily Chambers and the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications.

---

<http://nique.net/news/100510>

---

## **Accused Tech sword attacker due in court**

By Mashaun D. Simon

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

7:45 a.m. Friday, February 5, 2010

The man accused of stabbing a research fellow with a samurai sword at Georgia Tech Thursday afternoon will go before a judge this morning.

Kshitij Shrotri, who received his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from Tech in 2008, is scheduled to have a first-appearance hearing at 11 a.m. at the Fulton County Jail, where he is being held on an aggravated assault charge. Additional charges may be filed.

The victim, identified as Samir Tawfik, was underwent surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital. His condition was not available early Friday morning.

Since he completed his Ph.D., Shrotri "has not been affiliated with the Institute," spokesman Matt Nagel said.

Shortly before 1:20 p.m., Shrotri stabbed the post-doctoral fellow with the sword at the Weber Space Science and Technology Building, authorities said.

Shrotri was quickly subdued by police officers, one of whom was hurt in a struggle. The injured Tech officer, Robert J. Turner, 29, of Griffin, is expected to return to work soon.

Psychology student Melissa Hayes saw a scuffle when police led the suspect out of the building at 281 Ferst Drive.

"He made quite a scene being carried out," she said.

Student Jonathan Conley was heading toward the Weber building when he saw the victim being taken to an ambulance.

"His shirt was off and his hands were covered in blood," Conley said.

Kurt Nelson, a freshman industrial engineering student from Orlando, was in class when he heard about the attack.

"They were testing the campus alert system at 11:30 this morning," he said. "But when it happened, most of us found out from Facebook and Twitter."

In a statement, Tech said the "rapid resolution of the incident preempted use of our emergency notification system, which is reserved for situations requiring members of the campus community to take immediate action."

Officials have not released a possible motive for the attack.

The personal description in his doctoral dissertation pointed to Shrotri's pursuits outside his engineering career.

"When he is not working on his research," he wrote of himself, "Mr. Shrotri enjoys training in martial arts and hiking."

Since completing his doctorate, Shrotri "has not been affiliated with the Institute," spokesman Matt Nagel said. He is listed as a post-doctoral researcher for the University of Delaware's Center for Composite Materials.

But University of Delaware officials told the AJC late Thursday night that Shrotri went on paid leave in November, and his current status with the university is unclear.

Shrotri was born in Pune, Maharashtra, India, according to his PhD dissertation. Before attending Georgia Tech, he earned a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Maharashtra Institute of Technology, University of Pune and master's degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering from Purdue University.

--Staff writers Larry Hartstein, Christian Boone and Ty Tagami, and Marcus K. Garner contributed to this report.



A post-doctoral fellow at Georgia Tech was attacked with a sword at Georgia Tech Thursday afternoon, a school spokesman said. ERIC MANSFIELD, SPECIAL

The attack happened at the Weber Building shortly before 1:20 p.m. ERIC MANSFIELD, SPECIAL

A police officer was slightly hurt while arresting the suspected attacker, the school spokesman said. ERIC MANSFIELD, SPECIAL

A student told the AJC that the victim's 'hands were covered in blood' after the attack. The victim was taken to Grady Hospital. ERIC MANSFIELD, SPECIAL

The building remained closed while police investigated, according to a statement on the Tech Web site. ERIC MANSFIELD, SPECIAL

The sword that was used in the attack is shown in the back of a Georgia Tech police vehicle. BRANT SANDERLIN, BSANDERLIN@AJC.COM

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/accused-tech-sword-attacker-291288.html>

Posted on Fri, Feb. 05, 2010

## **Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at Mercer suspended for hazing BY JOE KOVAC JR.**

Allegations of sleep deprivation, paddling and orders that its pledges “eat healthy food” has led Mercer University officials to suspend the campus chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Complaints were lodged against the Mercer fraternity in late November, resulting in the suspension early last month.

No arrests were made and Mercer police have forwarded their findings to the Bibb County District Attorney’s Office, which is reviewing the case.

District Attorney Howard Simms said there’s no timetable for when his office will finish reviewing the files.

The fraternity has been banned for three academic years and is barred from meeting or participating in school events.

During his department's investigation, which included allegations of pledges being paddled, university Police Chief Gary Collins said Thursday that the fraternity "would have meetings and keep them (the pledges) up after hours" and restrict what pledges could eat.

"More or less, they could eat healthy food," Collins said. "They were told to eat certain foods. Most of the food would be what your doctor would recommend for a healthy diet. ... They didn't want them eating junk food."

The APA house, situated at the northwestern edge of the campus, was vacant Thursday.

A weeks-old message taped to the front door informed residents that their bedroom-door locks had been changed. The Mercer case is the second APA hazing matter in the midstate to draw law-enforcement scrutiny in recent months. An incident last fall at Fort Valley State University's APA chapter has since resulted in a five-year suspension for the fraternity chapter there.

A 21-year-old man was charged with felony aggravated battery in connection with that incident, which Fort Valley police say happened Nov. 29 and left a 19-year-old pledge hospitalized, suffering from acute renal failure.

A news release on the Mercer matter dated Jan. 8 quotes school President Bill Underwood saying, "We take this matter very seriously" and adding that students know "they will be held accountable for hazing of any nature."

Mercer students reported the hazing concerns a week after sophomore Ronald Quashie, an APA pledge, was found dead in his dorm room in mid-November.

The 19-year-old from the Atlanta area had been treated at a Macon hospital a day or two earlier after complaining of a sore throat, chills and congestion.

Collins said Thursday that hazing "didn't have anything to do" with Quashie's death.

The college's Jan. 8 release mentions Quashie's death, about which Underwood states: "Speculation about a possible connection between the alleged hazing and Mr. Quashie's death is understandable, just as earlier speculation centered around H1N1 as the cause of death.

"To this point, the university has found no evidence to suggest that the alleged hazing had a role in Mr. Quashie's death."

Telegraph staff writer Amy Leigh Womack contributed to this report, which includes information from The Telegraph archives.

<http://www.macon.com/local/story/1011384.html>

## **GCSU holds first official tailgate**

*Tim Graham*

**Issue date:** 2/5/10 **Section:** Campus News

Around 40 students braved the cold, windy winter elements to participate in the first ever GCSU tailgate before this past Friday's home basketball games against Francis Marion University.

The games provided the first test for the newly passed Student Policy on Alcohol and Illegal Use of Controlled Substances, which was unanimously approved Jan. 25 by the University Senate. The policy allows for alcohol consumption by those age 21 and above three hours before and after specified events.

"It's a part of campus ethos, it's a tradition at other schools," said Student Government Association Sen. Billy Grace, who helped to conceive the policy and get it passed. "(Tailgating) makes more of an event

out of the basketball games."

This past Friday's event was somewhat of a soft opening for tailgating, giving Grace and those involved a chance to anticipate any future problems and work out the kinks. By the beginning of the women's game at 5:30 p.m., around 15 students were in the Centennial Center parking lot participating in tailgating. By 7 p.m., more than 40 had arrived despite the winter conditions outside.

The policy states that tailgating will be permitted three hours prior to and following any "major event" as deemed by GCSU. This year those events include the remaining home basketball, baseball and softball games, as well as the homecoming concert.

Alcohol is allowed, but must be contained to pre-designated tailgating areas. There is also a family-friendly zone for alcohol-free tailgating. Containers such as kegs are not allowed, and the use of profanity or alcohol in the Centennial Center is also prohibited. Public Safety, as well as Parking and Transportation Services employees, are on hand to enforce the tailgating policies.

One of the problems that could present itself involves parking for any tailgating event. By the start of Friday's women's game, over half of the commuter parking lot, the only area available for tailgating with alcohol at the Centennial Center, was already occupied by Milledgeville residents and students, leaving little space for tailgaters.

Grace said that for the weekend basketball games, it will be first come, first serve for students who wish to tailgate. For games on Wednesdays, there will be overflow parking at the Irwin Street parking lot, with a shuttle bringing tailgaters back to the Centennial Center.

Another concern is the potential of underage students getting involved with the tailgating activities involving alcohol. According to some, the close proximity of the Centennial Center to some residence halls could lead to underage drinking occurring during the events. However, Larry Christenson, executive director of University Housing, said he doesn't see that as the biggest problem.

"(The problem) doesn't have to do with location," Christenson said. "My biggest concern is that it doesn't fit our campus culture."

"Tailgating in its purest form is a good thing," he said. "It's more traditional in the fall with football, when there's six or seven home games. We're opening it up to a lot more games. I hope it's a healthy thing for our campus, but I worry about the end result."

Grace hopes students will be responsible enough for tailgating to become a new, exciting tradition at GCSU.

"We don't want tailgaters by the residence halls," Grace said. "We're counting on our students to be mature."

<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2010/02/05/CampusNews/Gcsu-Holds.First.Official.Tailgate-3865254.shtml>

## Public Safety looks to install emergency sirens

*Lissa Speer*

**Issue date:** 2/5/10 **Section:** Campus News

Within the next three months, GCSU plans to install two safety alert sirens - one at the intersection of Clark and Hancock streets and another on West Campus.

The two sirens, estimated to cost \$70,000, will operate with the Connect-ED system already in place at GCSU. During any severe weather conditions or local emergencies, the sirens will be activated with the option of a verbal broadcast for specific situations such as the alleged gunman who was reportedly on campus last month.

"These sirens are necessary for our campus because Baldwin County does not have a tornado warning system to alert the public. With that said, we were not only able to provide the university community with this service but to also expand the service to alert during times potential danger, such as an armed assailant," of said Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness and Occupational Safety Justin Gaines.

The omni-directional speakers will allow the broadcast to carry an approximate 5-mile radius, benefiting not only those on campus but also residents in the vicinity of campus.

"The siren system will not take the place of Connect-ED but will layer our emergency notification system to ensure that everyone on campus is alerted to impending danger," Gaines said.

Though the safety and security of the campus is a major concern for students, not everyone is pleased with the impending broadcast system.

"They should try to get the community in on Connect-ED and look for other cheaper ideas before they go and blow \$70,000 on sirens that won't reach everyone," said senior history major Matt Buckley.

Connect-ED currently has approximately 60 percent of the student, faculty and staff population at GCSU registered for e-mail, text messages and voice-message alerts. The broadcast system is designed to be faster than Connect-ED and serve those who are not registered for the program.

<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2010/02/05/CampusNews/Public.Safety.Looks.To.Install.Emergency.Sirens-3865281.shtml>

---

## Man beaten, robbed near North Avenue MARTA station

By Kristi E. Swartz

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

11:56 a.m. Friday, February 5, 2010

Atlanta police are looking for three men who are accused of beating and robbing another man near the North Avenue rail station Thursday.

The man called police around 7:30 a.m., saying three men -- two of whom were carrying metal rods - - walked up to him and began hitting him with their fists. The men then robbed him and ran off, police said.

The man described the assailants to police as three black men, one having a lighter complexion and two having a darker complexion. All three men had dreadlocks.

The incident prompted Georgia Tech police to issue a crime alert because the station is near the Tech campus. Police emphasized that the victim was not connected to Georgia Tech.

MARTA police are aware of the incident, but they are not investigating it, MARTA spokeswoman Cara Hodgson said.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/man-beaten-robbed-near-292093.html>

---

## **Officials: Sword victim recuperating**

By [Mashaun D. Simon](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

2:51 p.m. Saturday, February 6, 2010

The Georgia Tech man stabbed Thursday with a samurai sword is still recuperating at Grady Memorial Hospital.

Georgia Tech officials released his name early Saturday afternoon. He is identified as Samer Tawfik, 39, from Egypt, a post-doctoral research fellow in the School of Aerospace Engineering.

Kshitij Shrotri, 32, who received his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from Tech in 2008, is charged with attacking Tawfik with a sword shortly before 1:20 p.m. Thursday at the Weber Space Science and Technology Building, authorities said.

Shrotri, from India, waived his first-appearance hearing Friday morning and is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing later this month in Fulton County Superior Court. He is charged with aggravated assault.

A possible motive for the attack has not yet been released.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/officials-sword-victim-recuperating-292848.html>

## **Search intensifies for missing AASU student**

**Posted:** February 7, 2010 - 10:25pm

By Michael Atkins

The search continued Sunday for an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who went missing one week earlier.

Bryce Tarter, 19, was last seen leaving campus at daybreak on Jan. 31, and campus police were notified of the disappearance Tuesday, university spokesman Francisco Duque said.

In the days since, Armstrong police Chief Wayne Willcox has worked with Tarter's family and law enforcement agencies in Chatham, Effingham and Bryan counties, Duque said.

A pair of helicopters performed an aerial survey Saturday; relatives meanwhile organized a ground search.

Searchers' efforts had remained fruitless as of late Sunday.

"We have distributed posters throughout campus and communicated with students about Bryce," Duque said. "I know there is a great deal of concern for the family and for Bryce."

Tarter was described as a white man who stands 6 feet tall and weighs between 140 and 155 pounds. He has short, sandy brown hair and blue eyes.

He lived off campus.

His vehicle was described as a white 2000 Nissan Frontier with Maine plates.

Anyone with information regarding Tarter's whereabouts was asked to call Armstrong police at 912-344-3333.

<http://savannahnow.com/latest-news/2010-02-07/search-intensifies-missing-aasu-student>

## **GSU Police join search for missing Savannah student**

By HOLLI DEAL BRAGG

[hbragg@statesboroherald.com](mailto:hbragg@statesboroherald.com)

912-489-9414

An Armstrong Atlantic State University student missing for more than a week could be in the Statesboro area, and Georgia Southern University Police are aiding in the search.

GSU Police Capt. Mike Russell said 19-year-old Bryce Daniel Tarter was visiting someone in the Bulloch County area the night before he went missing, although that person did not live on campus.

Tarter was last seen around 5 a.m. last Sunday on the AASU campus in Savannah, according to information provided by GSU spokesman Paul Floeckher.

Tarter stands six feet tall and weighs 155 pounds. He has light brown hair and blue eyes, and was driving a white 2000 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab truck with a short bed, Maine plates, with a black grill guard and tinted windows. On the back driver's side window, there is an Atlanta Braves logo and on the passenger back window there is an Atlanta Falcon symbol, according to information found on a Web site Tarter's family created.

The truck's Maine license plate is 9447 QD.

Anyone with information is asked to call GSU Police at 912-478-5234, or Lt. Gorman at 912-344-3333, or Michaela at 401-207-5431.

More information can be found at Internet web site <http://www.bringbrycehome.com>, and on the Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=304542202320&ref=ts>.

While Statesboro Police and Bulloch County Sheriff's deputies were not asked to take part in the search, Bulloch Sheriff's Chief Investigator Capt. Todd Hutchens and Statesboro Police Capt. Scott Brunson each said their departments are aware of the search and will be keeping an eye out for any sign of Tarter.

<http://www.statesboroherald.com/section/1/article/20836/>

#### **Authorities search for missing Ga. student**

*Posted: Feb 08, 2010 8:37 AM EST Monday, February 8, 2010 8:37 AM EST*

*Updated: Feb 08, 2010 8:38 AM EST*

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) - Authorities are searching for an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who went missing a week ago.

Bryce Tarter, 19, was last seen leaving campus on Jan. 31 and university spokesman Francisco Duque said campus police were notified he was missing days later.

Armstrong Police Chief Wayne Willcox said he is working with officers across southeast Georgia to locate Tarter. Campus officials also distributed posters with his picture throughout the region.

Tarter is a white man who is about six feet tall and weighs between 140 and 155 pounds.

His vehicle was described as a white 2000 Nissan Frontier with Maine plates.

*Copyright 2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

<http://www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=11949954>

## **GBI joins search for Armstrong student**

**Posted:** February 8, 2010 - 6:44pm

By Michael Atkins

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has joined local efforts to find an Armstrong Atlantic State University student missing more than a week.

Bryce Tarter, 19, was last seen at the Savannah campus early on Jan. 31; searchers have since scoured Chatham and Effingham counties by air and ground.

Armstrong police Chief Wayne Willcox said Monday that the search's scope had broadened to the point that necessitated state authorities' involvement.

"The GBI is a much larger agency with agents based throughout the state," Willcox said. "It's much easier and more efficient for them to be involved at this point."

Tarter, who lived in Effingham, had been in Statesboro during the hours that preceded his disappearance, Willcox said.

Tarter and friends "returned to campus and had been here a short period of time before Mr. Tarter got in his vehicle and drove off campus," the chief said.

Tarter, who drives a white 2000 Nissan Frontier with Maine plates, was described as a white male with brown hair. He stands 6 feet tall and weighs between 140 and 155 pounds.

University police were notified of the missing student early Tuesday morning. Police began monitoring the student's financial and e-mail accounts, but "there has been no activity," Willcox said.

On Saturday, relatives organized a ground search as helicopters — one provided by Savannah-Chatham police and another that was arranged privately — conducted aerial surveys.

Capt. Larry Branson, who oversees special operations for metro police, said the aviation unit combed specific areas outlined by Armstrong police.

"We gave it our best shot," Branson said. "We were unable to locate anything."

Effingham County authorities have also assisted in the search.

Armstrong police met with the GBI on Monday, and Willcox said searchers remained optimistic.

He said, "We have found nothing that leads us to believe we shouldn't be hopeful."

<http://savannahnow.com/latest-news/2010-02-08/gbi-joins-search-armstrong-student>

## **How to keep safe on campus**

By Noël Hahn

**Published:** Monday, February 8, 2010

**Updated:** Monday, February 8, 2010

Last week, Georgia Tech was shaken up by a samurai sword wielding man who attacked two people. The PhD graduate, Kshitij Shrotri, attacked a researcher inside the Weber Space Science and Technology Building at the northwest Atlanta campus, according to police.

Shrotri also slashed a police officer who tried to subdue him. He was arrested and taken to Fulton County Jail. The two men were taken to Grady Hospital.

With this happening so close to home, here is a reminder of how to keep safe on campus.

The campus police can be found at (404) 413-2100. The police department is located at 15 Edgewood Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303.

- Emergency Call Boxes are located throughout the campus. They are marked by the flashing blue lights.

- Police escorts are available from 7:00 -11:00 p.m. Mon. through Fri. for whenever you feel unsafe to walk by yourself. The number to call to get an escort is 404-41 3-2100.

- There are also programs available such as “Fight to Flight” to help keep you safe.

- A service truck is also available upon request. This truck assists stranded motorists and jump car batteries. The number to call is 1-2100 or use an Emergency Call Box.

- Campus Crime Alerts are sent out through the student e-mail if anything serious such as, robbery or assault, happens on the campus.

<http://www.gsusignal.com/news/how-to-keep-safe-on-campus-1.2143818>

## **Insult leads to arrest of three: Fraternity taunt enrages**

February 8, 2010 by JACOB DEMMITT

From the A-O-Perfects to the Down Town Daddies, members of the greek community aren't strangers to nicknames. Although these puns are generally harmless, one such nickname landed two University students in jail early Saturday morning.

University students William Corey Wilkinson and Blake Roger Tillis were arrested and charged with fighting in public, underage possession of alcohol and possession of fake IDs near the journalism building at 3:08 a.m. on Feb. 6. Michael Joseph Stanhope, a visitor from another university, was also arrested and charged with underage possession of alcohol.

The fight leading to the arrests began when Wilkinson called Tillis and his friends, who he believed were members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, "Pi Kappa Assholes," according to the University Police report.

However, this insult may have been misdirected.

"Mr. Tillis is not a member of our chapter and has never been a member of our chapter," said Colin Fogarty, the president of Pi Kappa Alpha.

When asked if he identified himself to Wilkinson as a member of the fraternity, Tillis said, "I might have. I'm not sure."

Whether or not the insult was relevant, it eventually led to an altercation.

"I was walking home and a couple of us started fooling around with them," Wilkinson said. "Then Mr. Tillis took it the wrong way and got in my face. We didn't really fight, it was more of a wrestling match. No punches were thrown at all."

According to the report, police approached the scene after hearing "loud yelling and what sounded like a fight." When the officer arrived, Tillis and Wilkinson were fighting on the ground while Stanhope stood over them. They were told to stop, however both failed to comply with the officer's command. When Wilkinson attempted to gouge Tillis's eyes, the officer used pepper spray to break them up.

"I never heard them say stop," Wilkinson said. "All I know is I looked up and got maced right in the face. I was done from there. I just laid on the ground."

However, police tell another story.

According to the report, after receiving his first dose of pepper spray, Wilkinson continued taunting Tillis and was subsequently sprayed again. When he still continued to fight, the arresting officer attempted to physically pull him back. Wilkinson then grabbed the officer's legs and began to fight him.

"I would never fight a police officer," Wilkinson said. "It was three on one so I was expecting to get jumped by more people. Then I felt someone on my back, and I didn't know who it was."

When asked about the discrepancies in the two stories, Wilkinson said, "It's their word against mine. We'll find out in court."

Police eventually gained control of the situation and attempted to question Stanhope, who had watched the entire altercation. After making eye contact with an officer, Stanhope began to back away and attempted to flee the scene, running toward Baldwin Street. Stanhope was apprehended a short time later.

"I wasn't a part of the fight," Stanhope said. "I just came up later when the police arrived. I started backing up because I just didn't know what to do."

When the offenders were released the next morning, their interactions were much more civil.

“[Tillis] gave me a ride home when I got bailed out,” Wilkinson said, “and I told him I was sorry. He didn’t really recall what had happened. We exchanged numbers. I’m sure we’ll hang out sometime. The whole thing was just a big misunderstanding.”

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/08/insult-leads-to-arrest-of-three-fraternity-taunt-enrages/>

Monday, February 8, 2010, 4:49pm EST

## **Reed announces transition team**

Atlanta Business Chronicle - by [Dave Williams](#) Staff Writer

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed Monday announced his appointments to an 18-member transition team that will help fill the top positions in his newly elected administration.

Along with former City Council President Lisa Borders and Atlanta lawyer Lawrence Ashe, who already had been named, the committee will include a wide range of business, political and community leaders.

The list includes Phil Kent, president of **Turner Broadcasting**; Claire “Yum” Arnold, CEO and co-founder of **Leapfrog Services**; Stephanie Blank, wife of **Atlanta Falcons** owner Arthur Blank; state Sen. Nan Orrock, D-Atlanta; Beth Schapiro, a political strategist and president of **The Schapiro Group**; and Atlanta police union chief Lt. Scott Kreher.

“What we have put together is a group of folks who have not only interest but subject expertise,” Borders said.

Borders said the transition team expects to take 120 days to sift through resumes, conduct interviews and recommend finalists for the positions of police chief, fire chief, chief financial officer, public works commissioner and city attorney.

In each case, the team will be aided by search committees and consulting firms, which will provide their services free of charge.

With so many committees at work, the transition for Reed will take longer than for his predecessor, Shirley Franklin, the new mayor told reporters during a news conference at City Hall. But he said he chose to involve “as broad a net as possible” in seeking input on key appointments.

Reed has talked about being an inclusive mayor during and since last year’s tight, divisive campaign.

“I understand that the city needs to be unified,” he said Monday.

Toward that end, Reed named former City Councilwoman Mary Norwood to the search committee that will recommend a new fire chief for Atlanta. Norwood, who narrowly lost to Reed in a December runoff, was endorsed by the city firefighters’ union.

That committee will be chaired by Cobb County Fire Chief Sam Heaton.

**The police chief search committee will be led by [Georgia State University Police Chief Connie Sampson](#).**

Borders said each search committee will interview eight to 12 candidates in person and recommend three to five finalists to the transition committee. As mayor, Reed will have the final say.

Borders said search committees for the other three positions will be named soon.

Reed said he won't begin the search for a new director for **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** until April. He noted that current Director Ben DeCosta, who recently announced his resignation, won't be stepping down until June.

Reed said he didn't want to begin searching for a new airport director at the same time the city is going to market with \$1.4 billion in bond financing for a new international terminal at the airport.

*All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.*

[http://atlanta.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2010/02/08/daily13.html?ed=2010-02-09&ana=e\\_du\\_pap](http://atlanta.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2010/02/08/daily13.html?ed=2010-02-09&ana=e_du_pap)

---

## Tech swordsman was upset about woman

By [Ty Tagami](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

8:24 p.m. Tuesday, February 9, 2010

The man accused of attacking a Georgia Tech researcher with a sword last week previously scuffled with the victim about a woman.

Five months ago at a dance on campus, Kshitij Shrotri, the alleged attacker, became incensed when he saw a woman he liked dancing alongside Samer Tawfik.

Shrotri yelled in a foreign language and then pushed Tawfik several times, according to a Georgia Tech police report. "He said that he was yelling at his friends for not keeping Tawfik away" from the woman, a Tech officer wrote later, after interviewing Shrotri about the incident.

The woman, whom the AJC is not identifying, considered filing a protection order against Shrotri, but decided that would only aggravate him. Police and the Tech dean's office asked Shrotri to stay away from her, and he agreed, says the police report, obtained by the AJC with the Georgia Open Records Act.

That report last September notes that Shrotri, who earned a Ph.D. from Tech in 2008, had moved to Delaware.

But he returned to the Tech campus Thursday and allegedly attacked Tawfik with what one policeman described as a katana, a single-edged sword like those used by warriors in medieval Japan.

It was a gruesome scene.

Officers who were called to an office at the Weber Space Science and Technology Building that afternoon described seeing books, papers and shelving scattered on the floor. A wounded Tawfik lay on his back with a bloodied arm thrust in the air as if to defend himself, and Shrotri stood over him gripping the sword.

"He ruined my life," one officer heard Shrotri say. By that point, several officers had their handguns trained on Shrotri and were ordering him to drop the sword, according to another report also obtained by the AJC.

"You will have to kill me," Shrotri responded.

A scuffle ensued after one of the officers squirted pepper spray at Shrotri. Officer Robert J. Turner, 29, of Griffin, had his right hand cut as he tackled Shrotri.

Officers wrote in their reports that Tawfik was cut on the hands, wrists and torso. One officer observed a "long open wound" on his left side. Tawfik was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital where surgeons operated on him. He was still there Tuesday in stable condition.

Both Tawfik and Shrotri had a history at Tech's School of Aerospace Engineering. Tawfik, 39, is a post-doctoral research fellow there, and that is where Shrotri, 32, earned his Ph.D.

Shrotri was charged with aggravated assault and battery. He waived a first-appearance hearing Friday and is scheduled for a preliminary hearing later this month in Fulton County Superior Court.

Authorities have provided no motive for the sword attack, and the recent police report does not link it to Shrotri's outburst at the Turkish Student Organization dance last September.

Tawfik's account of that incident has Shrotri yelling at the woman: "I told you not to do this," as the dancers dispersed, heading for their seats. Tawfik told police that Shrotri initially refused to leave the event but finally did after pushing Tawfik. He told police that he believed Shrotri had an "obsession" with the woman, the September police report says. Tawfik told an officer that he didn't want to file charges against Shrotri but that he did want to ensure the incident was noted.

The woman told campus police in September that she'd known Shrotri since 2005 and that he'd been e-mailing her. But, the police report says she "really does not know him on a personal level."

An officer wrote that he told Shrotri to stay away from her under threat of a criminal trespass warning. The case was closed after Shrotri, who told the officer that he had romantic feelings for the woman, agreed to leave her alone.

"He stated that he understood," the officer wrote in the September report.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/tech-swordsman-was-upset-295336.html>

## **Sword Attacker Previously Scuffled With Victim**

Posted: 6:30 am EST February 10, 2010

**ATLANTA --** A 33-year-old Georgia Tech alum who attacked a research fellow with a samurai sword on campus last week previously scuffled with the victim about a woman.

Five months ago at a dance on campus, Kshitij Shrotri, the alleged attacker, became incensed when he saw a woman he liked dancing alongside Samer Tawfik.

According to a Georgia Tech police report, Shrotri yelled in an undetermined foreign language and then pushed Tawfik several times.

Police say the unidentified woman considered filing a protection order against Shrotri, but decided that would only aggravate him.

That report last September notes that Shrotri, who earned a Ph.D. from Tech in 2008, had moved to Delaware.

Tawfik, underwent surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital following the attack.

*Copyright 2010 by **The Associated Press**. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/22518973/detail.html>

---

## **Tech sword victim: 'He was about to slaughter me'**

By [Ty Tagami](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

5:10 p.m. Wednesday, February 10, 2010

As Samir Tawfik lay on an office floor at Georgia Tech, awaiting a death blow from a sword, he asked his assailant one question over and over.

Why?

Last week, Kshitij Shrotri, a man with an advanced degree from the university, allegedly stood with what police described as a katana -- a Japanese samurai sword -- over a severely wounded Tawfik.

"I have to kill you," Tawfik recalls him saying. "Why," Tawfik asked. "I have to kill you," came the response.

Tawfik asked again, but he told the AJC on Wednesday that Shrotri would not explain himself. Instead, Tawfik said, Shrotri stabbed him in the leg and within 2 inches of his heart, severely cut his hand and slashed his neck.

Tawfik, a Tech researcher who attended the same aerospace engineering school at the university as Shrotri, said he knew his attacker only well enough to recognize his face. He said he could not understand why this man was positioning a sword on his neck.

"He was about to slaughter me," Tawfik said. "And, of course, you cannot reason with a killer."

Georgia Tech police responded in time to save Tawfik. Summoned by a report of a robbery at the Weber Space Science and Technology Building, several officers surrounded Shrotri. A police report obtained by the AJC documents what happened next.

The police pointed their guns at Shrotri, as Tawfik lay on the floor, an arm raised to ward off a blow. They ordered Shrotri to drop the bloody sword, but he refused, yelling, "He ruined my life. ... You will have to kill me."

One officer then squirted Shrotri with pepper spray, and another tackled him. That officer, Robert J. Turner of Griffin, got Shrotri in a bear hug, but Shrotri still gripped the sword. Turner, 29, was cut on his right hand before Shrotri was disarmed.

Tawfik was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital, where he underwent surgery. He's been recuperating there and is in stable condition. He was well enough Wednesday to talk with the AJC by telephone.

Both he and Shrotri had a history at Tech's School of Aerospace Engineering. Tawfik, 39, is a post-doctoral research fellow there, and that is where Shrotri, 32, earned his Ph.D. before moving to Delaware last year.

Shrotri left Atlanta soon after an incident in September that brought the two men together briefly. Another police report obtained by the AJC documents that encounter.

They were both at a dance organized by the Turkish Student Organization, according to the report, which was obtained, along with the report of last week's attack, with a request under the Georgia Open Records Act.

According to the September report, Shrotri became incensed when he saw a woman he liked dancing alongside Tawfik. Shrotri yelled in Turkish and then pushed Tawfik several times.

The woman later went to police and considered filing a protective order against Shrotri but decided that would only aggravate him. Instead, police and the Tech dean's office asked him to stay away from her, and he agreed, the report said.

During interviews with the police, Shrotri said he had "romantic feelings" for the woman. "He said that he was yelling at his friends for not keeping Tawfik away" from her, an officer wrote.

Both Shrotri and the woman, whom the AJC is not identifying, told police they had met in 2005, had studied together and had been exchanging e-mail. Based on an interview with the woman, an officer wrote that "Shrotri has never sent an email that made her feel threatened."

Tawfik also was interviewed by police in September. He told an officer that he heard Shrotri yell "I told you not to do this!" at the woman. The officer wrote that Tawfik believed Shrotri had an "obsession" with the woman.

Tawfik didn't file charges, but told police that he did want the incident documented.

On Wednesday, Tawfik told the AJC that he was only a witness at that September dance and that the woman whom Shrotri yelled at was merely a familiar face on campus. He said he could not understand why Shrotri would come after him five months later. He didn't do anything to the man at that dance, he said, adding it was others who subdued Shrotri.

"I was only a witness," he said. "I'm at a party. I'm watching a guy chasing a girl around and yelling at her. That's what happened. ... I witnessed that guy stalking a woman at a party. He's a stalker."

Tawfik said that when he was at that dance in September, he knew nothing about the ongoing e-mail exchanges between Shrotri and the woman. He said he didn't even recall seeing Shrotri at the event until Shrotri began yelling, sending the dancers scrambling to their seats.

"They freaked out because this guy was a nut case," Tawfik said. "He appeared out of nowhere."

Shrotri appeared at Tech again Thursday, this time allegedly armed with a sword.

Shrotri was charged with aggravated assault and battery. He waived a first-appearance hearing Friday and is scheduled for a preliminary hearing later this month in Fulton County Superior Court.

Tawfik said he is focused on his recovery. He said he hopes to regain at least partial use of a hand that was badly cut by the sword.

Despite his injuries, Tawfik said he bears no grudge against Shrotri and is uninterested in the man's fate.

"I don't care about him," he said. "He's gone. He's going to jail. He's going to whatever. I don't care," Tawfik said.

"What I care about is myself ... my trauma."

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/tech-sword-victim-he-296662.html>

## Will NGCSU officials snuff out smoking?



*---Smoke-free future?---Parks Andrews lights up at an unofficial smoking section on the edge of campus. (Staff photo/MATT AIKEN)*

By Matt Aiken

Published: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 10:44 AM EST

Smoking is not allowed on North Georgia College & State University campus.

More or less.

In actuality, a visit to one of two "smoke shacks" on the outskirts of the school grounds reveals the last sanctuaries of the smoker. But this too could be changing.

"Our current policy as it stands right now, we are a smoke-free campus with the exception of designated smoking areas on the periphery of campus," said student body president Martin Erbele while addressing an assemblage at Hoag Auditorium last Thursday. "My understanding is that the word 'periphery' is where we've kind of gotten in trouble. Due to construction, there really isn't an edge to campus."

Since current building plans will bring a new dining hall a few feet from where the West Main Street smoke shack currently sits, the structure will either be relocated or, perhaps, done away with altogether.

While the decision will ultimately be made by the NGCSU Leadership Council and administration, several students in attendance at last week's town hall meeting were happy to chime in on the matter.

"If this is a college, we're not raising children, we're educating adults," said non-smoker Jessica McMichen. " ...Therefore if they want to smoke, let them smoke."

"We're all at least 18," said cadet Robert Kenney. "And it's our choice if we want to smoke. We don't really cause a nuisance."

Donovan Hall resident Megan Davis did not agree with the latter sentiment.

"I have asthma," she said. "When I walk out of my dorm I can tell that people are outside in the smoke shack because I can smell the smoke when I walk out. Smoke is very dangerous for me."

Approximately a dozen of the attendees professed to being smokers. And at times a definite us-versus-them vibe flared up in the room, as some took issue with the danger of second hand smoke while others defended their right to light up.

"The smokers are the minority," said Student Health Service representative Laura Balkcom. "We're talking about the minority population of campus being put out, versus the majority being able to breathe clean air."

"Yes you have the right to smoke," added Davis. "That does not bother me. But your rights stop where mine begin. If your right to smoke intrudes on my right to breathe healthy air, then I don't agree with you."

Kenney went on to argue that there's more to the smoke shack than just a nicotine fix, since it has become an unofficial hangout for many students.

"Most of the friends I've met from going over there," he said. "It's another way of, like, socializing instead of staying in your room."

With the addition of the new parking lot next to the rec-dec, another one of those hangouts has become the curb on the edge of campus near Dork's coffee shop.

Though students are technically off the grounds, some attendees pointed out that their cigarette butts sometimes aren't.

NGCSU Police Chief Mike Stapleton was one of them.

"I'm amazed that there's a thought process that says 'I bring this trash in, I burn it and then it's the university's responsibility to clean it up,'" he said. "I mean, if you're chewing gum do you think the university should take care of your gum wrappers?"

Despite the obvious differences between the smoker and non-smokers, the majority of attendees

seemed to agree that the solution would be to create better-placed smoking areas.

After the town hall wrapped up, Dr. Elizabeth Combier, CEO of the Faculty Senate, thanked the students for their comments and said they would be passed along to the administration. The professor then added that she would not be surprised if NGCSU is one day totally smoke-free.

"We have to look forward," she said. "And the future is really smoke-free and for people to be healthy...We educate the mind and the body."

<http://www.thedahloneganugget.com/articles/2010/02/10/news/03%20smoking.txt>

Students afraid to admit to illegal downloading, police say

### **UGA suspects more extortion victims**

By **JOE JOHNSON** - joe.johnson@onlineathens.com

Published **Thursday, February 11, 2010**

University of Georgia police are convinced a computer security analyst they arrested this month tried to extort money from more students but they are afraid to tell.

That's because anyone caught up in the scheme would have violated UGA's policy against using its computer network to download or share music, movies and other copyrighted material. Former analyst Dorin Lucian Dehelean preyed on students' fears of getting caught and asked for money to cover up the violations, according to police.

"I still really think a lot of young people are apprehensive about coming forward, but I want to stress that they won't be held accountable" for breaking computer policy, UGA police Chief Jimmy Williamson said.

"Can you imagine if you are someone who paid money to get out of this? There is some culpability on their part, but we're looking at the bigger wrong," Williamson said. "This was an adult in a position of authority."

When UGA gets a complaint from a record or movie company that someone illegally downloaded material from the university network, the Office of Legal Affairs makes sure the notice is legitimate and not a scam to get personal information about students and employees.

Dehelean, an employee of UGA's Enterprise Information Technology Services, dealt with violation notices and tried a scam of his own, according to police.

He called a student Jan. 25 to tell her she'd been caught downloading copyrighted material and offered to make the infraction "go away" if she paid him, police said.

He meant that in return for cash, he wouldn't report the student to Legal Affairs, according to police.

A plainclothes UGA officer impersonating the student met with Dehelean on Feb. 1. When he accepted money from the officer, police arrested him on a felony extortion charge, according to police.

UGA officials fired Dehelean that same day.

One student recently told police she received an e-mail from Dehelean, but it turned out to be a legitimate work-related correspondence, Williamson said.

Police are so sure that Dehelean either took money from students or tried to extort them, they won't let the Clarke County Jail release his mug shot. They don't want to taint any photo lineups they might conduct in the future, Williamson said.

UGA police asked anyone who Dehelean tried to extort to call (706) 542-5813.

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/021110/uga\\_561273663.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/021110/uga_561273663.shtml)

### **Bomb squad called for suspicious bag**

By **STAFF REPORTS** - Athens Banner-Herald

Published **Thursday, February 11, 2010**

Police closed two busy streets in downtown Athens on Wednesday after someone found a suspicious package near a federal building, and officers called for the University of Georgia's Bomb Disposal Unit to check it out.

The package - a duffel bag that in the end held only a homeless person's camping gear - was stashed in some bushes across the street from the Robert G. Stephens Jr. Federal Building on East Hancock Avenue, Athens-Clarke police said.

Someone who works in a private office at the corner of North Jackson and East Dougherty streets called 911 at 11:22 a.m. to report the bag, and officers blocked off East Dougherty between College Avenue and North Thomas Street, and North Jackson Street between East Hancock and Strong Street.

Bomb technicians used a robot to take the duffel bag from the bushes to the street, where they sprayed it with a water cannon, according to police.

When the bag didn't explode, the bomb technicians opened it and found camping supplies and other harmless items.

Police reopened the roads shortly after 3 p.m.

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/021110/cop\\_561273845.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/021110/cop_561273845.shtml)

---

### **Georgia Tech urges students to be safe, smart**

By [Laura Diamond](#)

*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

6:48 p.m. Thursday, February 11, 2010

Don't walk alone after dark. Be aware of your surroundings. Don't leave laptops, iPods and valuables unattended.

It's common-sense advice, but Georgia Tech police officers said it again to students on Thursday, the college's first Campus Safety Day.

The event was planned before the attack on campus last week' in which a man with a samurai sword stabbed a research fellow. Officials organized the campaign partly in response to several off-campus incidents during the past year in which students were robbed at gunpoint.

In a matter of weeks the weather will warm up and students will be walking around on and off campus. Too many think they're invincible, Chief Teresa Crocker said.

"We just have to keep hammering it over and over again that they need to be careful," Crocker said. "We have to have students change their attitudes and think about whether they really need to be walking at 3 a.m. Is that really the best thing for them to do? They need to remember we are in a city."

Crime rates are down at Tech and across Atlanta, but a perception remains that the area near the campus isn't safe.

Junior Lindsay Morgan feels safe on campus, but said off-campus "feels out of your control."

"Some of the stuff they tell you, you think you'd already do automatically," Morgan said. "I don't know if this will make a huge difference but it's nice to know they care about what happens to us."

Around Tech's student center, campus police handed out Valentine's Day-themed postcards promoting safety. One was covered with hearts and read, "Love is Forever ... but I'll just be there long enough to take your laptop, phone, GPS ..." followed by the number for campus police.

Officials reminded students they don't need to walk around alone because campus shuttle service is available daily from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Tech leaders need to constantly remind students to be safe, said Kathy Boehmer, chair of the public safety committee for the nearby Home Park Community Improvement Association.

"In the past Georgia Tech has pretty much done nothing on how to be safe in a big city," she said. "This is a step in the right direction. It is good that they warn students and give them tips. Whether they heed them or not is a different story."

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/georgia-tech-urges-students-299267.html>

## **AASU student still missing**

Written by Marshall Hooks and Nathan Hartsell

Thursday, 11 February 2010 18:53

Georgia Southern University Police are assisting in the search for an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who has been reported missing.

Bryce Tarter, 19, was last seen Jan. 31 on the Armstrong Atlantic State University campus in Savannah.

His family will be at Wal-Mart today from 12-3 p.m., and anyone who wants to volunteer and pass out flyers around Statesboro is welcome to go. Volunteers are being asked to wear yellow.

According to his family, he had been in Statesboro at a party the night before.

After arriving back at AASU around 5 a.m., Tarter drove off in his white 2000 Nissan Frontier truck with Maine license plate 9447 QD.

An Atlanta Braves "A" logo is on the back driver's window and an Atlanta Falcons logo is on

the back passenger's window.

According to the Web site established by his family, it is believed he was heading home to Guyton and has not been seen or heard from since.

Tarter's father, Blake, said that there were no security cameras in the AASU parking lot where Bryce is said to have left, although security cameras from Abercorn Street are being reviewed.

Blake went on to say, "When we find the truck, we will find Bryce."

A Facebook page has also been created to try and help locate Tarter.

Anyone who has any information is urged to contact Georgia Southern University Police at (912) 478-5234.

[http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1624:aasu-student-still-missing&catid=1:local-news&Itemid=53](http://www.stp.georgiasouthern.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1624:aasu-student-still-missing&catid=1:local-news&Itemid=53)

## Four Injured in Shuttle Collision

By [Tasha Posid](#) Posted: 02/11/2010

Two Cliff shuttles collided on Clairmont campus Tuesday evening, injuring both shuttle drivers and two students who were boarding the shuttle at the time, according to an Emory Police Department (EPD) report.

EPD responded to Clairmont campus' shuttle depot at Starvine Deck at 7:12 p.m., five minutes after the accident occurred.

According to police reports, one Cliff shuttle attempted to go in front of another Cliff shuttle directly ahead of it and struck the driver's side bumper of that vehicle. There were four passengers on the vehicle at that time, two of which were on the shuttle and the other two were on the stairway entering the shuttle.

EPD reports state that the driver of the vehicle responsible for the collision did not mean to drive forward. The driver of the Cliff shuttle reported that the bus accelerated on its own, colliding with the shuttle in front of it accidentally.

Two of the subjects involved in the collision were confirmed Emory students, one 19-year-old male student and one 19-year-old female student. It is unknown at this time if the other two subjects are affiliated with the University.

While all four subjects fell due to the collision, only two of the subjects were transported to Emory University Hospital after complaining of injuries due to the event.

The two Cliff shuttle drivers were also transported to Emory University Hospital by DeKalb County

Emergency Medical Services for further assessment and treatment.

At the time of this report, EPD is not sure of the extent of the injuries of those individuals.

— Contact [Tasha Posid](#).

<http://www.emorywheel.com/detail.php?n=27984>

Thursday, February 11, 2010

## **Officials release sword attack details**

Attacker revealed to be former Tech student, history of conflict

By **Vijai Narayanan**, Assistant News Editor

The victim of the aggravated assault incident that occurred on campus Thursday, Feb. 5 is recuperating from his wounds at Grady Memorial Hospital. Kshitij Shrotri, a recent Tech graduate, allegedly attacked Samer Tawfik, a post-doctoral fellow at the Weber SST building with a katana sword. Tawfik suffered lacerations to both his hands and wrists and a wound to the left side of his torso. Following a long procedure in the operating room that lasted late into Thursday night, Tawfik's condition is currently stable, but he has yet to be released, as of Wednesday Feb. 10

On the day of the incident, Professor Marilyn Smith called GTPD to report the assault, after hearing commotion in the hall and seeing the attack. She and Dr. Oliver Bauchau cleared the halls of students and faculty.

"I ran outside and waved my hands to ensure that they stopped at the correct end of the building. It was not a random flag down of the GT police—they arrived with lights and sirens as appropriate to the call. The GT police arrived very rapidly after I made my call," Smith said.

According to police reports, when officers confronted Shrotri in Tawfik's cubicle and demanded he drop his weapon he said, "You will have to kill me." He added, "He ruined my life." Tawfik lay on the ground behind his desk when officers arrived. After multiple warnings, officers sprayed Shrotri with pepper spray and Officer Robert J. Turner pinned him against a bookshelf, wrapping his arms around him. Shrotri did not let go of the sword and as a result, Turner received a cut on his left hand. The cut required 13 stitches, but Turner returned to service the next day. Officers tended to Tawfik's wounds until Grady EMS arrived on the scene.

Friends and students were shocked at the attack on such a well-liked and respected member of the Tech community.

"I had a hard time believing it. He is, without a doubt, the most kind-hearted professor I've had here at Tech. I just couldn't imagine someone being so mad at him, especially enough to rationalize attacking him," said Alex Cooper, a second year BME.

A motive for the attack is yet to be determined, but GTPD is continuing an ongoing investigation of the incident. This investigation may include a police report filed regarding a prior incident at

the Ferst Center on Sept. 4, 2009 that involved both men. According to the report, Shrotri interrupted a dance performed by the Turkish Student Organization, in which Tawfik and another woman were participating. Shrotri yelled at the woman for dancing near Tawfik, before pushing Tawfik and walking away.

The woman stated that Shrotri had been sending her emails, but she did not know him on a personal level. She considered filing a protective order against Shrotri, but decided not to as to avoid provoking him. Tawfik stated that he did not want to file charges, but wanted the incident noted. Officers told Shrotri not to contact the woman again. Shrotri had moved out of the state to work for the University of Delaware, and was not affiliated with Tech at the time of the first incident.

“I had Mr. Shrotri in my rotorcraft design classes, and he was a hard worker and was a member and co-leader of several student design competitions which won national awards, including AHS and NASA, as well as best poster at the Georgia Tech Research and Innovation Symposium. He worked very hard for me and did a good job on his PhD thesis which involved developing an innovative composite landing gear design,” said Dr. Daniel Schrage, Shrotri’s PhD adviser.

Tech officials were generally pleased with the immediate response to the incident. “It’s important to acknowledge what went right during an event like this. We will conduct a debrief the events and evaluate the response,” said Institute President G.P. “Bud” Peterson. Peterson praised the actions of the campus community in responding to the incident.

“The swift and rational response of students in the vicinity prevented the escalation of the situation... [and] the bravery, presence of mind, and show of restraint by Officer Turner led to the control of the situation,” Peterson said.

Questions were raised following the incident regarding Tech’s decision not to use emergency the Georgia Tech Emergency Notification Systems (GTENS) to alert campus of the events. There was a test of the GTENS alert system the morning of the incident.

“GTENS will be used when the campus community needs to take immediate action, and because there was an immediate arrest there was no real threat or danger to campus... the police department made the decision not to send a GTENS alert,” said Jim Fetig, the associate vice-president of Communications and Marketing.

“The police had him [the suspect] subdued within minutes. GTENS is for a situation when there is a need to communicate with campus during an emergency and people have to take action to avoid a real threat,” Peterson said.

Fetig noted that there will be a review of the use of GTENS under similar situations. He also noted that the Institute used social networking websites like Facebook and Twitter to get word out of the incident. Communications and Marketing updated its Facebook and Twitter accounts within eight minutes of the incident and placed a statement on the main Tech website within 20 minutes. A statement was sent across campus via email around 5:30 p.m.

A version of this article appeared in the print edition in Volume 95, Issue 23, Page 1  
Copyright 2009 Emily Chambers and the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications.

<http://nique.net/news/100544>

## **Texts lead to felony charges for student**

February 11, 2010 by JACOB DEMMITT

University student Norrez Demond Atchison, 19, was arrested and charged with felony threatening a witness after sending multiple threatening text messages to a witness testifying against him in an ongoing misdemeanor theft case, according to University Police.

According to police, Atchison was arrested for the felony Feb. 10 at 5:10 p.m. in front of Memorial Hall.

University student Nachiket Gadre, who reported both the theft and threat, said he is surprised and frustrated by Atchison's actions.

"Last semester, my iPhone went missing," said Gadre, a freshman from Alpharetta. "Every time I called it, it went straight to voice mail. Then one day someone picked up, so I knew it had been stolen. I went to my call logs and saw who he had been calling. We had one contact in common, so I talked to my friend and figured out who it was."

Based on this evidence, Atchison was arrested and charged with a misdemeanor offense of theft by receiving stolen property on Dec. 11.

This was not Atchison's first run-in with University Police, however. He was arrested on an unrelated charge of possession of marijuana and drug related objects on Oct. 29 in the Creswell Hall parking lot.

Before his theft arrest could be resolved, Atchison racked up a new felony charge of influencing witnesses.

"The day before the trial, I got text messages saying, 'You're in big trouble,'" Gadre said.

According to text messages provided to The Red & Black by Gadre, Atchison accused Gadre of creating false evidence and gave him two options — tell authorities the evidence he submitted was fake, or be sued by Atchison.

As the conversation continued, Atchison reportedly sent messages threatening a lawsuit.

"My patience is running thin," read one of Atchison's messages provided by Gadre. "If you haven't responded by the time I get out of the shower, my mind will be made and I will have my lawyer to request a warrant."

The nature of these messages and the fact that Atchison lives only seven floors above Gadre has Gadre worried about his safety.

"I see him around a lot, but he didn't know who I was until yesterday," Gadre told The Red & Black Thursday. "Now I've started locking my door at night."

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/11/texts-lead-to-felony-charges-for-student/>

### **Armstrong Atlantic student still missing**

Bryce Tarter was last seen in Statesboro after a party at GSU on Jan. 30; searchers have no clues

By **HOLLI DEAL BRAGG**

hbragg@statesboroherald.com

912-489-9414

It has been well over two weeks since Armstrong Atlantic State University student Bryce Daniel Tarter was last seen. Search parties have combed the area, fliers have been distributed, and alerts have been posted and forwarded through e-mail and links on the Internet. It appears as if Tarter — and his white 2000 Nissan Frontier — disappeared into thin air.

Tarter, with light brown hair and blue eyes, stands 6 feet tall and weighs around 155 pounds. When last seen, leaving AASU campus in his truck, believed to have been going home to Guyton, he wore a dark brown jacket, white button-down shirt with a blue tie, and an Atlanta Braves cap.

His cell phone, which "died" the Saturday before his disappearance, was a Sprint phone, which cannot be tracked when turned off, according to information from Internet Web site [www.bringbrycehome.com](http://www.bringbrycehome.com). His bank account has shown no activity, either.

According to accounts from friends, Tarter attended a party at Georgia Southern University Jan. 30, then rode back to AASU with friends who live in a dorm there. He got into his truck around 5 a.m. and has not been seen since. Neither has the truck, which is a white Nissan Frontier short bed, 2000 model, with a black grill on front, tinted windows and sports stickers — Atlanta Braves "A" on the rear driver's side and an Atlanta Falcons decal on the rear passenger side. It either has a Maine or Georgia tag — the Maine tag number would be 944 TQD, his family said.

Georgia Southern University Police assisted in the search, but are now referring calls to the AASU Campus Police. A woman answering the phone at the AASU police department referred all calls to a AASU public information officer, who did not immediately return calls to his work and cell phone numbers Monday.

According to information on the search web site and on Tarter's Facebook page, his family thinks he may have taken a route home on U.S. 204 to Old River Road. Searchers in the area have not yet found any clues as to Tarter's whereabouts, however.

Efforts to trace his GPS unit and car alarm have been futile as well.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the AASU Police at (912) 344-3333, or CUE Center for Missing Persons at (910) 232-1687.

<http://www.statesboroherald.com/section/1/article/20983/>

### **No plans for change at UGA after UAH shooting**

Stresses of tenure process scrutinized

By Lee Shearer - [lee.shearer@onlineathens.com](mailto:lee.shearer@onlineathens.com)

Published Tuesday, February 16, 2010

University of Georgia officials are not rushing to enact new safeguards in the wake of a shooting in which an Alabama biology professor gunned down six colleagues.

Investigators said Amy Bishop, 44, brought a 9mm pistol into a faculty meeting at the University of Alabama-Huntsville's biology department Friday and started shooting, killing three professors and injuring three others.

Police have not named a motive, but her colleagues at the Alabama school have speculated that Bishop may have been upset that she had been denied tenure - the academic status that guarantees a faculty member won't be fired without reason.

Getting tenure is a big deal for any faculty member - and so is losing the chance to get it.

But neither UGA police Chief Jimmy Williamson nor his predecessor, Chuck Horton, could recall a time on the UGA campus when they feared violence could erupt when a faculty member learned he or she would not get tenure.

Sometimes administrators feared violence, though, said Horton, now retired and an Oconee County commissioner.

On a few occasions, administrators asked for police to be near when they met with professors or students about job or discipline issues, Horton said - but there never was a serious threat of violence.

The reason crimes like the Alabama-Huntsville shooting make headlines is because they are unusual, Horton said.

But workplace attacks can happen anywhere, the police chiefs said.

"We've seen these in other work settings. Campuses are just a microcosm of society," Williamson said.

Being denied tenure - in fact, the whole tenure review process - can be one of the hardest experiences in a person's life, say observers inside and outside academia.

"It can be extremely stressful," said Tom Camp, a counselor who has worked with faculty members undergoing tenure review.

Typically, a professor can ask to be considered for tenure in his or her fifth year, and must undergo tenure review within six or seven years. A series of faculty committees and administrators review a professor's publication records, teaching evaluations and recommendations. Tenured colleagues vote up or down on the applications by secret ballot, though decisions sometimes can be reversed on appeal by administrators or appeals committees.

"Oh, yes, it's stressful, because you never really know how people are going to assess your productivity," said Rob Toutkoushian, a UGA professor of higher education.

At UGA, professors get periodic reviews in the years before they face that final tenure decision, so they can have some idea how much progress they're making.

Getting tenure is not a guarantee of a job for life, but it does give a professor some job security, Toutkoushian said. Once tenured, a professor can be fired only for good cause, according to policies at UGA and other universities and colleges that use the tenure process.

Tenure policies are meant to guarantee academic freedom - to make sure professors won't be punished for not going along with the party line or expressing a politically incorrect opinion.

"If they can fire you tomorrow, you don't really have free speech," said Cary Nelson, president of the American Association of University Professors and a professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

When professors get a "no" vote on tenure, they lose more than just free speech and due process.

"Essentially, you have to find another job," Toutkoushian said.

With so much at stake, there's no wonder people feel enormous stress when they face a tenure review or are denied tenure, said Camp, executive director of the Samaritan Counseling Center of Northeast Georgia.

"It is a huge thing. It is the gateway to be able to continue as a professor. And if you don't get tenure, you're out," Camp said.

Sometimes, getting denied tenure is a wake-up call that people should get into another kind of work, he said.

But for many professors, their work is more than a job, Nelson said.

"It's not just what they do. It's what they are," he said.

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald on Tuesday, February 16, 2010

[http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/021610/uga\\_563489324.shtml](http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/021610/uga_563489324.shtml)

## **Four University rapes reported; zero charges pressed**

February 15, 2010 by JACOB DEMMITT

When victims wake up the morning after a sexual assault, the only thing more cloudy than what happened last night is what they should do next.

One such sexual assault victim agreed to talk to The Red & Black under the condition her identity would remain anonymous.

"All I remember is taking two shots out of a trophy," the victim said. "After that I remember starting to kiss a guy, but I don't remember anything after that. I have one flash where I'm pressed up against a guy and there's a guy behind me. But I don't think they were doing anything to me. My clothes were on. The second flash I have, I was by that time, really messed up, so I was on the ground because I couldn't stand up. And this guy had his pants dropped. My friend thinks he tried to get me to give him head, but I was too messed up to even do it."

After her assault, like so many other victims, this student decided not to press charges. She went to a hospital, but was told she could not receive a rape kit without beginning an investigation.

As University Police have experienced this year, often times victims don't wish to pursue charges. Of the four reported rapes this school year, no charges have been pursued against any offenders.

However, University Police Chief Jimmy Williamson said police do everything in their power to help victims, whether they wish to pursue charges or not.

"We do everything we can to support the survivor no matter which way she wants to go," Williamson said. "We make them aware of the emotional feelings they will have and all the services that are available to them. We take everything they tell us walking in the door as completely credible. But if they don't want to pursue criminally, we won't investigate and start talking to people."

One factor explaining the small number of offenders who see punishment is the legal system.

"There is nothing in the court system that is a guarantee with any crime," Williamson said. "I think it is more difficult for the prosecution when they know each other. If you know each other and have been partying, consent is going to be grey. But just because you made a decision that made you vulnerable doesn't give someone the right to take advantage."

Sarah Krieger is the adult services advocate for The Cottage Sexual Assault & Children's Advocacy Center, an organization providing support for victims of sexual violence.

"Most of my clients don't report," Krieger said. "Sometimes they don't tell anyone, much less law enforcement."

Many don't wish to press charges for fear of the public eye.

"You don't want your name out there," the victim who spoke with The Red & Black said. "And if you press charges, your name is going to be out there. Whenever I encounter somebody I know was at the party, and I know a lot of people knew about it the next day, it's kind of shameful. You just hope they don't think you're a slut or something."

Still, some do choose to press charges.

"Some people's emphasis is really on justice," she said. "But above all, the people who do report don't want the perpetrator to do anything to anyone else."

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/15/four-university-rapes-reported-zero-charges-pressed/>



File photo

## Would guns make college safer?

Proposal would allow guns on campus, but many schools are opposed to it. "We don't need firearms," a chancellor says.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/universities-line-up-against-306799.html>

*Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010*

### **Columbus officers get training to handle active shooters**

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

Columbus State University Police Chief Rus Drew does not sugarcoat the words when he sums up training that CSU faculty and staff are receiving to deal with the threat of an active shooter.

"Don't just stand there and be picked off," Drew said Monday.

His words come on the heels of a faculty shooting at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Professor Amy Bishop is facing capital murder charges in the shooting deaths of three faculty members Friday. Three others were wounded, two critically, in a shooting during a staff meeting.

"I always tell people if they find themselves in that situation to do something," Drew said. "Be thinking about what you would do and discussing it with others. The key is not to freeze up and do nothing."

Your best options are to escape, hide or attack the attacker, he said. "One of the things we do is discuss what you should do if that situation plays out," Drew said.

The program was prepared by the University System of Georgia in response to the April 2007 Virginia Tech shooting by a student that left 32 dead and 23 wounded.

Drew said the response will vary from person to person, but you should know your options and have played them out in your head.

"You could go running, screaming down a hall, you could bail out a window, you could as a group take an aggressive action toward the shooter, there are a number of things you could do," he said. "But the point is do something."

Between 30 percent and 40 percent of the CSU faculty and staff have participated in the optional training over the last year, Drew said.

### **A matter of when**

Muscogee County Sheriff's Office Maj. Randy Robertson teaches classes in prevention and reaction to an active shooter.

"My phrase that I use every time is, 'It's not a matter of if, it is a matter of when and where,'" he said.

And to those who think it could not happen here, Robertson points to the March 27, 2008, shooting at Doctors Hospital in which three people were killed by Charles Johnston.

That shooting, which occurred inside and outside the hospital, raised many questions, Robertson said.

"Should hospitals put up metal detectors and make it like airport screenings?" Robertson asked. "If you do that, you would have people backed up 20 deep going to see a sick relative. Do you want to go into schools and hospitals that are surrounded by barbed wire? There are countries where that happens, but this is not one."

So that means people in the workplace, schools and other environments have to be aware of their surroundings. "You are looking for anything out of the ordinary," Robertson said. "There are certain signs — aggressiveness to other employees, someone who was once social becoming isolated, someone dealing with stress such as divorce or losing a job."

### **Being prepared**

The way law enforcement responds is changing, as well. The roughly 800 sworn public safety officers with the Columbus Police Department, Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, Muscogee County Marshal's Office and Columbus State University Police Department are being trained to respond to a shooting in a different manner than in the past.

Previously, officers would respond to an active shooter, secure the scene and wait for a tactical squad.

"Now, we are training each individual officer to respond in three-person teams," Robertson said. "They are being trained to isolate and eliminate the threat."

And they are being trained to work with officers from other agencies.

"When you have an active shooter you may not have four Columbus Police officers or three deputy sheriffs show up on the scene at the same time," said Columbus Director of Homeland Security Sheriff's Office Lt. Brad Hicks.

Being prepared should not be limited to public institutions, said Mark Lupo, business consultant for the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center.

One of Lupo's goals is to connect small businesses with law enforcement so that risk threats can be evaluated and plans put in place.

He used the example of one medical professional who approached the Small Business Development Center.

"The threat that this person perceived as the most acute is violence in the workplace," Lupo said. "It is not a tornado, not a fire — it was potential violence in his workplace and his waiting room."

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/story/1018948.html>

News

*Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010*

## **OPTIONS IN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION**

### **ESCAPE**

- If it is safe to do so, run.
- Drop and leave your personal belongings (books, book bag, purse).
- Exit the immediate area.
- Proceed cautiously as there may be more than one shooter.
- Keep your hands visible and not in your pockets.
- Call 911 or your campus police and provide as much information as you can as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you are located outside a building, seek cover immediately.
- Put something between you and the shooter.
- If you are in a hallway, escape out the nearest exit if it is safe to do so.
- If any doubt exists, find a safe area and barricade the door with any available items.

### **HIDE/BARRICADE**

- Locate the nearest classroom/closet/office with a door.
- Lock or barricade the door with any available items.
- Block or cover windows to the hallway and close blinds.

- Turn off the room lights.
- Silence your cell phone and other electronics in the room.
- Place signs in exterior windows so responders will know where you are located.
- After securing the room, position people out of sight as best as possible.
- Look for possible window exits if you are on or near the ground floor.

#### **FIGHT BACK**

- Fight back only as a last resort and when your life is in imminent danger.
- Organize others and formulate a plan.
- Throw books, chairs, book bags, etc. at the shooter.
- Overpower the shooter and disarm him.

Source: Plan, Prepare, React: Active Shooter Response Options for Students, Staff and Faculty. University System of Georgia

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/story/1018972.html>

### **New surveillance system planned to thwart thieves in North Deck**

**Published on February 16, 2010**

**by Caitlyn Newmeyer**

#### **Current cameras fail to help capture thefts from student vehicles**

A new camera system is planned for the North Parking Deck (NPD) before the end of 2010.

The outdated technology and poor video quality of the existing cameras in the NPD make it difficult for campus police to identify criminals who steal items from vehicles parked in the deck.

Since January 2009, 42 cases of theft from vehicles on campus have been reported, but no arrests have been made.

“The cameras currently in the North Deck are often difficult to get a picture on,” said Beth Tindel, director of Parking Operations. “They jump, which causes discontinuity in a recorded image and students know where they are and will cover them up.”

The cameras in the NPD also have trouble adjusting to changes in light, which causes images to come out a solid white or black.

“The North Parking Deck has the highest rate of break-ins of all the KSU parking decks,” said Robert Lang, assistant vice president for Strategic Security and Safety.

The installation of an updated camera system could alleviate the number of thefts and crimes in the NPD if thieves are easier to identify.

Strategic Security and Safety has researched how to improve cameras systems in the NPD and Central Parking Deck.

J&A Engineering, an outside company, has been hired to assess how many and what type of cameras are needed in the North Deck. All NPD exits and entrances will feature cameras that capture license plates to help police identify vehicles.

Parking and SSS officials say there are 16 cameras in the NPD and about 50 in the CPD. Surveillance includes areas such as elevators, exits, entrances and emergency phones. However, some vehicles still remain out of a camera’s sight.

“Once the NPD camera project is complete, camera surveillance coverage of the entire parking deck will increase threefold and image quality will be greatly enhanced,” said Lang.

Although cameras are not actively monitored, campus police can view the cameras at any time. University Operations will fund the new camera system.

<http://ksusentinel.com/news/new-surveillance-system-planned-to-thwart-thieves-in-north-deck/>

### **Fifth Savannah State football player arrested in connection with fight**

Posted: February 18, 2010 - 8:31pm

By Noell Barnidge

A fifth Savannah State University football player has been arrested in connection with a Feb. 4 fight on campus with two non-football players, SSU spokesperson Loretta Heyward confirmed Thursday night.

Rashard Russell, a sophomore running back from Bainbridge, was arrested Feb. 10 and remains in the Chatham County jail on a charge of aggravated assault.

Four SSU football players were arrested Feb. 4 on charges of battery and aggravated assault, according to Lt. Thomas Tillman, spokesperson for the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office.

Edward Ndem, a sophomore cornerback from College Park, and Juvaro Goodman, a sophomore defensive lineman from Roswell, both are charged with battery and aggravated assault.

Patrick Thomas, a sophomore defensive back from Atlanta, was charged with battery and released on bond. Thomas was rearrested Feb. 7 on an aggravated assault charge.

Jevontae Jefferson, a freshman cornerback from Mableton, is charged with battery. He was released on \$1,500 bond.

According to an incident report from SSU, complainants Carl Gee and Karl Arila on Feb. 4 “walked into the Savannah State University Police Department stating they had been attacked.”

Russell played in five games last season and ran 11 times for 87 yards without a touchdown. In 2008, Russell played in 10 games. He was SSU’s third-leading rusher with 74 carries for 393 yards and three touchdowns.

Russell ran for a career-high 106 yards in SSU’s 26-21 loss to Edward Waters, an NAIA team from Jacksonville, Fla., on Nov. 8, 2008, in Kingsland.

<http://savannahnow.com/latest-news/2010-02-18/fifth-savannah-state-football-player-arrested-connection-fight>

## **Man Arrested for Gun on Campus**

By [Tasha Posid](#) Posted: **02/18/2010**

The Emory Police Department arrested a man on felony charges Wednesday evening for carrying a weapon onto school property, according to an EPD police report.

EPD officers responded to 11 Eagle Row on Feb. 16 at 11:32 p.m. after a caller reported an unidentified male was attempting to break into a vehicle at the location.

EPD officers determined the vehicle belonged to a female resident of the sorority lodges, who further identified the male as someone she knew.

According to the police report, the man, Nathan Wilkerson, told officers at that time that he was on campus to speak with the female student. The female student did not want to speak with him, and another witness to the situation confirmed this. The witness had also previously confronted Wilkerson about his presence on campus. Wilkerson is not affiliated with the University.

Officers interviewed Wilkerson and determined that he may have had a weapon in his vehicle on school property. Officers received permission to search the his vehicle and discovered a .45 caliber Springfield Armory pistol in his possession. At that time, officers also found an 11-inch stainless steel blade knife belonging to Wilkerson.

Officers charged the subject with carrying a weapon onto school property, which is a felony and violation of Georgia law. The subject was transported to DeKalb County Jail and lodged there until his bond had been set.

Because Wilkerson is not affiliated with the University, officers also removed him from the campus at that time. One condition of his bond is that he is not allowed to return onto Emory property in the future.

According to the police report, Wilkerson was cooperative and provided a voluntary statement about the incident to officers. He maintained that he was on campus to talk with his acquaintance and did not intend to use the weapons at any time.

Police reports show that Wilkerson had been forced to leave Emory's campus once before. On Jan. 21 at 2:05 a.m., he had contacted EPD and told them that his girlfriend was a student at Emory and that he was concerned for her safety.

EPD checked with the female student in question and determined that she was no longer Wilkerson's girlfriend and that she had asked him not to contact her further.

Wilkerson is a 24-year-old white male, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighs 212 pounds and is a resident of Covington, Ga.

— Contact [Tasha Posid](#).

<http://www.emorywheel.com/detail.php?n=28034>

### **Sexual searches bar visitor from campus**

February 18, 2010 by JACOB DEMMITT

Most middle school boys learn how to carefully delete any inappropriate Internet history off their computers before mom and dad discover it.

But when mom and dad are replaced by police, and your home computer with one for public use in the Tate Student Center, things become a little more complicated.

According to University Police, Athens resident John Frank Snow was barred from all University property for one year after he was discovered viewing pornography on a third floor computer in the Tate Student Center on Feb. 17 at 7:36 p.m.

When police responded to the scene, they found Snow, who the complainant positively identified as the person he had seen watching pornography.

The complainant then told police Snow had been caught before in a similar act, but left before police arrived.

When questioned, Snow denied the allegations he was improperly using the Internet.

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/18/sexual-searches-bar-visitor-from-campus/>

Published February 18, 2010 08:48 pm -

## **VSU issues notification of computer breach**

VALDOSTA — Valdosta State University continues to investigate unauthorized access to a computer server.

The breached server contained employee and student information.

Joe Newton, director of Information Technology, said that the breach was first detected on Dec. 11, 2009; however, unauthorized access dated back to Nov. 11, 2009.

On Dec. 11, the university posted a news release that communicated the extent of the breach.

“An initial investigation has found no evidence that any personal data was accessed or transferred,” Newton said.

“The breached server was secured and removed from the network. We are continuing the investigation with assistance from University Police and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.”

The university is in the process of contacting all individuals whose information might have been exposed.

Individuals wanting to confirm the status of their information should visit the Information Technology notification Web site at [www.valdosta.edu/notify](http://www.valdosta.edu/notify).

“We regret the incident and are reviewing and revising our procedures and practices to minimize the risk of a recurrence,” Newton said.

[http://www.valdostadailytimes.com/local/local\\_story\\_049204848.html](http://www.valdostadailytimes.com/local/local_story_049204848.html)

<http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=12007477>

## **Nazi symbol drawn in dorm hallway**

Athens Banner-Herald

Published **Friday, February 19, 2010**

Someone drew swastikas on several dorm room name placards in Morris Hall, and investigators were trying to find out if the same person left the Nazi symbol on a wall in the Mell Hall dormitory, University of Georgia police said.

The person who left the graffiti didn't seem to single out anyone in Morris Hall, but just drew the swastikas as he or she went down a hallway sometime between 7:50 p.m. Monday and 7:50 p.m. Wednesday, according to police.

Someone reported finding the swastika in Mell Hall at 9:26 p.m. Wednesday, police said.

[http://onlineathens.com/stories/021910/cop\\_564807832.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/021910/cop_564807832.shtml)

---

## Woman attacked near Georgia Tech campus

By [Mike Morris](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

7:09 a.m. Friday, February 19, 2010

Georgia Tech police sent out a crime alert overnight warning students and staff about a stabbing that occurred just off campus.

According to the alert, a woman was stabbed outside the Fireside Subs restaurant in the 500 block of 10th Street, just north of the Tech campus in northwest Atlanta.

The suspect was described in the alert as a black male wearing a dark, hooded sweatshirt and a yellow bandana.

Because the crime occurred just off campus, it is being investigated by Atlanta police.

The identity of the victim, whether she was a Tech student, and her condition were not immediately available.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/woman-attacked-near-georgia-313743.html>

## New search planned for Savannah student

**Posted:** February 19, 2010 - 7:29am

By The Associated Press

Police and volunteers in Savannah will resume searching this weekend for an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who went missing nearly three weeks ago.

Bryce Tarter, 19, was last seen Jan. 31 when he left the campus at about 3 a.m. Campus Police Chief Wayne Wilcox says investigators suspect he most likely was headed home to Guyton, a neighboring city 35 miles west of Savannah.

Previous searches for Tarter of Kittery, Maine, have turned up no trace of the student or his truck, a white 2000 Nissan Frontier.

Wilcox said searchers on Saturday will retrace areas investigators have already checked in hopes of turning up new clues. He said police have found no evidence of foul play.

<http://savannahnow.com/latest-news/2010-02-19/new-search-planned-savannah-student>

## Packing heat in the classroom?

### Proposed legislation would allow carrying of guns in most public places

*Ryan Del Campo*

**Issue date:** 2/19/10 **Section:** Campus News

The Georgia General Assembly is currently debating legislation which, if passed, would expand the locations those with concealed weapons permits could carry guns - including the campuses of public universities, such as GCSU.

One bill currently being debated would make it legal to carry firearms on the campuses of public universities and research facilities.

The bill's sponsor, state Sen. Mitch Seabaugh, says it will clarify existing rules regarding where licensed owners can carry their guns. More broadly, the legislation would, for the first time, allow Georgians with gun permits to carry their weapons in most public buildings and churches. It would also lift a ban on firearms in "public gatherings," and instead replace it with a brief list of restricted spots that would include courthouses and jails, as well as prisons.

In addition, a substitute bill also sponsored by Seabaugh includes college classrooms and research facilities as prohibited areas to carry a gun. It would allow universities to determine whether people with permits would be allowed to carry guns into an athletic event.

To be eligible for the expanded rights, a Georgian would first have to have a concealed weapons permit. Georgia law currently states that gun-permit owners must be at least 21 years old with a clean judicial record, deemed mentally fit, and obtain a judge's approval to carry the firearm.

Currently, guns are banned within 1,000 feet of college campuses.

The legislation, which was still pending as of press time Wednesday, has caused considerable debate over the issue of gun rights. GCSU's Student Government Association discussed and voted on its own bill last year which would allow guns specifically on the GCSU campus. The SGA senators at the time did not support the move, wary it could cause an increase in violence on campus.

Current SGA president Zach Mullins does not support the proposed legislation.

"I'm definitely a gun-rights supporter, but when it comes to allowing guns in a classroom it's a different story," Mullins said. "When guns come in the classroom, they don't contribute to a positive learning environment. I joined with over 20 other SGA presidents across the state to talk about this issue this past weekend and helped draft and sign a letter asking the legislature to look at how this would affect college campuses, and possibly provide exemptions for us."

While the SGA presidents may be wary of the implications of bringing weapons to universities and other places that students gather, some GCSU students support the legislation.

"As a college student and firearm owner, I feel that being allowed the ability to defend myself and my peers in times of violence is highly beneficial," said sophomore criminal justice major Nathan Bressler.

"Unfortunately, the only people who adhere to the gun-free zones are the law-abiding citizens and not the criminals. I feel that with the proper concealed-carry permit, there is no reason that a person should not be allowed to carry their firearm, though concealed, on college campuses in the state of Georgia."

Public Safety officials said they don't believe allowing guns would make the GCSU campus any safer. Sgt. Greg Williams said it could make a dangerous situation even more complicated.

"When the police show up and there is a shooter, who do they shoot?" Williams asked. "We're not going to have the time to take a moment to stop and find out who the bad guy is. All we know when we get on scene is that there are two people shooting. Someone may be saving the day, but they are also putting themselves in harm's way to be shot by the bad guy or even the police."

<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2010/02/19/CampusNews/Packing.Heat.In.The.Classroom-3874933.shtml>

---

## **New search planned for Savannah student**

Associated Press

9:36 a.m. Friday, February 19, 2010

Police and volunteers in Savannah will resume searching this weekend for an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who went missing nearly three weeks ago.

Bryce Tarter, 19, was last seen Jan. 31 when he left the campus at about 3 a.m. Campus Police Chief Wayne Wilcox says investigators suspect he most likely was headed home to Guyton, a neighboring city 35 miles west of Savannah.

Previous searches for Tarter of Kittery, Maine, have turned up no trace of the student or his truck, a white 2000 Nissan Frontier.

Wilcox said searchers on Saturday will retrace areas investigators have already checked in hopes of turning up new clues. He said police have found no evidence of foul play.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/new-search-planned-for-314072.html>

## **Closing campus a tough decision: Officials use judgment when making the call**

February 21, 2010 by RAISA HABERSHAM

Deciding whether or not to close down campus is an issue requiring much consideration, one official said. But no specific closing policy exists at the University.

After a professor opened fire on a faculty meeting at the University of Alabama at Huntsville earlier this month, the school closed for an entire week. However, the University of Georgia has never extensively closed down for emergency-related issues.

Tom Jackson, vice president of public affairs, said shutting down the University would be an administrative decision.

“There isn’t a vote, but there is a recommendation to the president by the chief of police and the public affairs vice president and his own staff,” he said.

The University will send out a UGA Alert if a crisis is “beyond institutional control,” he said.

Mark Owczarski, director of news and information for Virginia Tech, said his school operates in a similar way.

“There is no single policy,” he said. “You have to use judgment depending on the circumstances.”

Owczarski said Virginia Tech follows instructions from the university’s president on closing policies.

In 2007, when a Virginia Tech student killed 32 students, faculty and staff, the university notified its students through its VT Alert system. The system notified the campus with an e-mail and outdoor sirens, Owczarski said.

Since then, the university added features such as phone alerts.

The new system allows students to receive messages about campus emergencies on their phones through text or their computer screens, provided they are connected to the Internet.

Although the alert was used, Owczarski said there was no lockdown on campus after the shootings.

“A lot of people following April 16 [2007] used the word ‘lockdown,’ and it portrayed a false sense of status,” he said. “Can you lock down Atlanta, Ga.? Can you lock down a city of 40,000 people? The answer is no. We have eight highways that run through the university, and we have 250 buildings on campus. There is no way we can instantaneously lock down.”



*The University was not shut down when a professor murdered three off campus. File photo by Daniel Shirey.*

The University grapples with a similar situation.

“We always have people saying ‘can you lock down the campus for a crisis?’” Jackson said. “We might close, but a lockdown may not be possible.”

The University cannot conduct a lockdown given the amount of buildings it has, making a “closing” more effective, he said.

“A closing is used if we had an unsafe situation,” Jackson said. “At the University, there is no way to lock doors.”

Last April, when University professor George Zinkhan shot and killed three people off-campus before killing himself, the University decided to continue with most weekend activities.

“The decision was made because we had heavy police presence on campus,” Jackson said.

Because the shooting occurred on a Saturday, the majority of students were not on campus.

In its history, the University has had only a few closings.

“We’ve closed the main library for a bomb threat,” he said. “We’ve had partial closings in some incidents, but never had to shut the University down due to an emergency.”

Jackson named five incidents in which the University closed, including the Sept. 11 attacks.

“We closed at noon on 9/11 because the president deemed all useful teaching and learning complete, and people needed to be with their families and observe the events,” he said.

University Police Chief Jimmy Williamson said there hasn’t been a full closing of the University for emergency-related issues.

“We’ve never closed the University as a whole unless for weather,” Williamson said.

The handling of weather-related closings differs from closings for emergency issues.

Jackson said e-mails are sent before 6:30 a.m. in the event of inclement weather.

The University looks at the conditions of the roads to determine safety. Last March’s decision to open classes the Tuesday after unexpected snowfall resulted from administrators’ beliefs that students could move around campus safely, Jackson said.

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/21/closing-campus-a-tough-decision-officials-use-judgment-when-making-the-call/>

## **Group searches for missing AASU student's truck**

**Posted:** February 20, 2010 - 7:18pm

By Arek Sarkissian II

Blake and Michaella Tarter were talking about their missing son at L. Scott Stell Community Park on Saturday morning when a phone call came in from a search party scouring Little Neck Road.

The call sent Michaella Tarter into tears.

“You weren’t here earlier when they called about a shoe,” she said, sobbing. “As much as I thought we’d faced — finding the worst — this is excruciating, because we don’t know.”

Nineteen-year-old Bryce Daniel Tarter last was seen at around 5 a.m. Jan. 31 in a dorm parking lot at Armstrong Atlantic State University, where he is a freshman.

Searchers on Saturday said their efforts have been focused on Bryce’s white 2000 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab with short bed and Maine tags. The pickup has a black grill guard and tinted windows decorated with Atlanta Braves and Falcons decals.

Other areas officials have searched include Camden County, which is where Bryce may have planned to travel to help a friend.

Read the full story in Sunday's Savannah Morning News.

### **MAKE THE CALL**

Anyone with even a shred of detail into the disappearance of Bryce Tarter should call Armstrong Atlantic State University Police Department at 912-344-3333.

### **JOIN IN THE SEARCH**

Those wishing to conduct their own searches can alert officials at the Community United Effort Center for Missing Persons by visiting their Web site, [ncmissingpersons.org](http://ncmissingpersons.org), and clicking on “Miles for Bryce.”

<http://savannahnow.com/latest-news/2010-02-20/group-searches-missing-aasu-student-s-truck>

## **Man flees security, jumps out window, hit by car**

**[Waters Avenue between Lexington Avenue and Winston Avenue are closed and traffic is being detoured around the area.](#)**

**Posted:** February 21, 2010 - 12:02pm

By Savannah Morning News

An unidentified male was transported to Memorial University Medical Center with serious, but non-life threatening injuries after being struck by a car on Waters Avenue and Winston Drive.

Savannah-Chatham metro police were called for assistance from Memorial University Medical Center security after the man jumped from a window of an adjacent health facility and landed on a car, then ran towards Waters Avenue, said Gena Moore, Savannah-Chatham metro police spokeswoman.

Officers were enroute to the location when they received a second call that the individual had been struck by a car, Moore said.

Savannah-Chatham traffic investigators and forensics responded to the scene and the incident is under investigation. Waters Avenue between Lexington Avenue and Winston Avenue are closed and traffic is being detoured around the area, Moore said.

<http://savannahnow.com/latest-news/2010-02-21/person-flees-security-jumps-out-window-struck-car>

---

## Two robberies reported near Georgia Tech

By [Mike Morris](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

6:27 a.m. Monday, February 22, 2010

Atlanta police Monday were trying to determine if two overnight robberies near Georgia Tech were related.

Georgia Tech police sent out a crime alert warning students and staff of the incidents, which occurred shortly after 11 p.m. Sunday in the Home Park neighborhood just north of campus.

The first robbery happened on Ethel Street, the second about a block away near the corner of Calhoun and Hirsch streets.

According to the alert, the victims in both robberies described their assailants as two black males, one wearing dark clothing and a "do rag," and armed with a handgun.

It was not immediately known whether either victim was a Georgia Tech student.

Last Thursday night, a woman was stabbed outside the Firehouse Subs restaurant on nearby 10th Street, just across the road from campus.

The victim in that attack, who was not a student, is recovering from her wounds. Her attacker was described as a black male wearing a dark, hooded sweatshirt and a yellow bandana.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/two-robberies-reported-near-320786.html>

## Ga. Tech Area Hit by 2 More Robberies

Updated: Monday, 22 Feb 2010, 7:26 AM EST  
Published : Monday, 22 Feb 2010, 7:26 AM EST

ATLANTA (AP) - Two more robberies are reported in the Georgia Tech area, where a number of students were held up last year.

Police say the latest robberies took place Sunday night, and victims provided similar descriptions of their attackers.

In each case, the victims say one of their attackers was armed with a handgun. They also say the robbers drove away in a dark luxury car. Georgia Tech police have sent out a crime alert.

Last week, a woman was stabbed outside a Firehouse Subs restaurant on 10th Street near the campus. The woman is not a Tech student.

Copyright AP Modified, Copyright 2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

<http://www.myfoxtlanta.com/dpp/news/Ga.-Tech-Area-Hit-by-2-More-Robberies-022210>

<http://ap.onlineathens.com/pstories/state/ga/20100222/566138563.shtml>

## Hazmat Crew Called to Fire on GSU Campus

Updated: Monday, 22 Feb 2010, 11:12 PM EST  
Published : Monday, 22 Feb 2010, 10:53 PM EST

Edited By: Leigha Baugham | myfoxtlanta.com

ATLANTA (MyFOX ATLANTA) - Fire crews were on the scene of a hazmat situation at Georgia State University Monday night. Investigators said people were evacuated after a white haze was spotted in the area of the natural science center.

A university spokesperson said there was a small fire on the first floor of the science building, on Decatur Street, near Central Avenue. The spokesperson said a security guard saw the smoke, called the fire department and evacuated the building.

A level 4 biology lab is located inside the building, which required a full hazmat response.

There were no reports of injuries as of Monday night. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Fire crews were on the scene of a hazmat situation at Georgia State University Monday, Feb. 22, 2010. Investigators said people were evacuated after a white haze was spotted in the area of the natural science center.

<http://www.myfoxtlanta.com/dpp/news/hazmat-crew-called-to-fire-on-gsu-campus-022210>

## **Threats lead to felony charge**

February 22, 2010 by JACOB DEMMITT

It's not unusual to see someone flip the bird after being cut off in traffic. But when you stop and take a weapon out of your vehicle — police get involved.

Terrance Zackariah Kwasha, 27, was arrested and charged with felony terroristic threats and felony possession of weapons on school property.

He was also charged with a misdemeanor simple assault after he reportedly threatened a female student with a baseball bat, according to the University Police report.

The incident began when Kwasha was almost involved in a car accident with the female victim, University Police Chief Jimmy Williamson said. The victim blew her horn, which provoked Kwasha to step out of his silver BMW with a baseball bat.

Though Kwasha did say something to the victim, he never struck her or her vehicle. However, the victim felt threatened and decided to contact police.

“She did the right thing,” Williamson said. “She didn’t make contact with the individual. She just followed him and got all the information possible and then called police right away.”

After further investigation Kwasha was placed under arrest and transported to the Athens-Clarke County Jail.

## **Want a hit?**

Thomas Cerulli, 18, was arrested and charged with possession of less than one ounce of marijuana in Russell Hall on Feb. 19 after police responded to a report of a suspicious odor.

After arriving on the scene, officers were able to smell the odor of unburned marijuana coming from his dorm room. They knocked on the door and were greeted by Cerulli. After being told why the police were there, officers asked Cerulli if he had smoked marijuana in his room.

He said he had not, but did admit to being in possession of a small amount of marijuana. Cerulli then turned over a marijuana cigarette and a jar containing a leafy green substance which later tested positive as marijuana.

Cerulli was placed under arrest and transported to the ACC Jail.

## **A new form of camping**

After a long night of drinking, almost anything can be used as a bed. Provided, of course, you're not afraid of bush bugs.

Michael Walter Bluhm, 19, was arrested and charged with possession of a fake ID and underage possession of alcohol on Feb. 20 after police found him lying face down in a hedge bush on the south side of Phi Kappa Hall at 1:52 a.m.

When police found him, they could smell a strong odor of alcohol and were concerned by his unresponsiveness. EMS were called, and after evaluating Bluhm, advised he did not need to be transported to the hospital.

Bluhm was then placed under arrest and transported to jail, where he was questioned about the incident. He eventually told police he had used a fake ID to purchase four beers from a club downtown.

<http://www.redandblack.com/2010/02/22/threats-lead-to-felony-charge/>

## **Armed robbery at Tyus Hall Monday morning**

By Maggie Hills

**Published:** Tuesday, February 23, 2010

**Updated:** Tuesday, February 23, 2010

At around 8:00 a.m. Mon. morning, two white males robbed a student at gunpoint near Tyus Hall.

The suspects—one “5’8” in height, 210 pounds, light brown beard, wearing a black bandana, black hoodie jacket, and black jeans, the other 6’2” in height, 300 pounds, wearing a black hoodie jacket, black jeans, black boots, black ski mask” according to a news release from Thomas Mackel, chief of police at UWG—used a “chrome-colored, semi-automatic pistol” to demand the student’s money.

The student gave them his money and was not hurt.

The suspects then fled “on foot towards the Food Service Building.”

Mackel requests that, if anyone in the area sighted the suspects “or have any other information which can aid in their apprehension,” they contact Investigator Laura Bennett, UWG police officer, at 678-839-4974.

<http://www.thewestgeorgian.com/armed-robbery-at-tyus-hall-monday-morning-1.1170434>

Thursday, February 25, 2010

## **UHR votes “no” on HB 615**

By **Vijai Narayanan**, Assistant News Editor

The Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) voted on Feb. 23 to pass a resolution opposing current legislation in the Georgia General Assembly to repeal the ban on concealed weapons at college and university campuses. The resolution was passed with a vote of 27-19, following an extensive discussion about the merits and consequences of the resolution.

“I have to say I was actually really proud about [the discussion]... [representatives] did a phenomenal job beyond whatever I was expecting, and even the other students who came out for the open forum held themselves really well and expressed their views and helped to get the

discussion going,” said Austen Edwards, second-year INTA major and the author of the resolution.

“I was pleased with the thoughtful discussion at Tuesday’s UHR meeting. I am proud that many of our representatives have taken this issue very seriously and have gathered as much feedback as possible on it so that they could make an educated and well-founded decision on how to vote,” said Alina Staskevicius, undergraduate student body president.

The resolution was initially considered by UHR on Feb. 16, when representatives voted to postpone the discussion for one week. According to several representatives, this was done in order to gain a better understanding of student opinion. A campus-wide survey was made available to students through JacketPages on Feb. 18.

The survey received 2859 responses, with approximately 52.33 percent of students voting against allowing conceal and carry on campus. The results of an initial survey sent out using an online tool called SurveyMonkey were disregarded upon discovering that it was insecure.

“Since our main priority was to accurately gauge student opinion, we re-created the survey, this time through JacketPages (which requires one to log in to vote). We sent the survey out again to students, asking for those who had voted to re-vote, and pleading those who had not voted yet to do so. We threw out the first set of results without even looking at them,” Staskevicius said.

Members of various campus organizations were present at the UHR meeting in order to present their viewpoints and engage in the debate. According to Teresa Crocker, the chief of police for the GTPD does not support the repeal of the ban on conceal and carry legislation on campus.

“Last year, we actually had a 16 percent reduction of crime on campus. Crimes against persons on this campus are in the single digits. Our main problem is property crime,” Crocker said.

Crocker noted that steps had been taken in order to combat crime off-campus, like increasing police presence and trying to reduce crime in Home Park by hosting clean-up and safety awareness events. She also described how crimes off campus follow a pattern of offenses before dropping off for a period of time. For example, she said that following a spate of incidents during the summer, Home Park recently had over 60 days without any robberies. Crocker concluded that people who live off campus had the right to own firearms but allowing them on campus would have an adverse effect on campus safety. During the open forum portion of the UHR meeting, representatives from an organization called Students for Concealed and Carry on Campus presented their case for allowing concealed weapons on campus.

“Criminals by definition are going to break the law, because they care only about making an easy buck. Laws banning conceal and carry affect only those that follow the law,” said a representative from the organization.

They argued that allowing conceal and carry on campus would not mean that every student on campus would be carrying a gun, and that a student had to take multiple steps in order obtain a Georgia Firearms License (GFL). For example, only students over the age of 21 would be allowed to carry a gun on campus, would have to stand before a probate judge and undergo separate background checks before being allowed to obtain a gun.

The discussion among representatives in UHR focused mainly on asserting the validity of the survey results and whether it would be appropriate for SGA to take a stand since the survey results did not provide a clear majority. At one point, a representative suggested that the wording of the bill be changed to reflect the disagreement on the issue.

Several representatives were dissatisfied about the fact that results were unavailable by major, making it difficult for them to gauge the opinions of their constituency.

Most representatives said that UHR should take a stand on the issue, especially since it would affect the lives of students and campus members. Proponents of the bill argued that regardless of the margin of difference in opinion in the survey, a majority of students did not support the legislation repealing the ban on conceal and carry on campus. Some reasoned that due to the nature of the issue, there was a very vocal minority, and that the percentage of respondents supporting conceal and carry were in the minority of overall student opinion.

“I actually went to Britain on Feb. 18 and I asked a lot of people what they thought and I spoke to people in my classes what I found was that most people actually against it but those who were against it were really proactive,” said Daniel Nussenbaum, third-year ISYE major and junior class president who voted for the resolution.

Representatives against the resolution said that because the results of the survey were so close, it was important to represent the views of those in the minority be represented and not to issue a bill that generalized the opinion of the student body in a broad way. Some saw the existence of a vocal minority as a reason to vote against the resolution.

“I had to use personal judgment in listening to their arguments because realistically in an environment where people are more adamant about what they think, they tend to have more relevant arguments and it made a lot more sense to me... they set me to sight and referred me to arguments and statistics and showed that this worked at other schools for decades,” said Eran Mordel, first-year ISYE major and freshman class representative who voted against the resolution.



(Tim Nowack/Student Publications)

A version of this article appeared in the print edition in Volume 95, Issue 25, Page 1  
Copyright 2009 Emily Chambers and the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications.

<http://nique.net/news/100605>

## **Protest held at Valdosta Tech**

By Johnna Pinholster/The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — A group of area protesters disrupted a morning session of Valdosta Technical College's Gathering of Eagles Thursday.

The small group of approximately 10 individuals interrupted speaker Dean Alford to present a case for renewable energy rather than coal-fire power plants.

Alford is president and chief executive officer of Allied Energy Services and a spokesperson for Power4Georgians. He is also the Technical College System of Georgia's chairman.

Power4Georgians, a consortium of Georgia electric cooperatives, is in the permitting phase of constructing a coal-fired plant in Washington County and has proposed a similar plant in Ben Hill County.

When the protesters entered the conference room in Valdosta Tech's Building 500, Alford asked those in the room to clap if they wanted the group to leave.

Many in the audience did clap as two protesters climbed up on stage beside Alford holding a sign that read, "Dean's Dirty Deal: Polluting Georgia's Job Market."

As another protester, Seth Gunning, began to speak to the audience, Alford suggested those in the room take a five-minute break. The session had only recently reconvened from a short recess.

Several walked out, but others sat and watched the spectacle unfold. A number of the protesters shouted, "Dirty coal isn't fair."

Security personnel approached the group, and Valdosta Tech President Dr. Ray Perren told them to leave the premises or be arrested.

As the group of protesters departed the building, escorted by campus security, a person from the Gathering of Eagles seminar shouted, "Get a job!" Others clapped at their removal.

"Dean Alford's \$4.2 billion investment in Georgia is only expected to produce around 150 permanent jobs for the state," Gunning said. "We are here today to call on Dean and Power4Georgians to invest that money and meet energy demand with renewable energy and energy efficiency and create four to six times more jobs for Georgians."

Investing the money in different areas would create jobs for students graduating from Valdosta Technical College, Gunning said.

Mikayla Beyer, a Valdosta State University student and member of Students Against Violating the Environment, said coal-fired plants also pose health risks to Georgia citizens.

"This plant can contribute to the ill health of Georgians and this institution chose to reward him," she said.

Alford's topic for Gathering of Eagles was how to manage a successful business during times of recession.

Coal-fired plants in Georgia remove jobs from the state since no coal is mined within the state, Gunning said. This, he added, results in millions of dollars leaving the state each year to pay for the cost of importing coal.

If Alford wants to promote a successful economy in Georgia, he should invest in renewable energy sources where students from local colleges and universities can have a hand in its growth and development, said Erin Hurley, S.A.V.E. president and VSU student.

Coal-fired power plants produce electricity by burning coal in a boiler to heat water to produce steam. The steam, at tremendous pressure, flows into a turbine, which spins a generator to produce electricity. The steam is then cooled, condensed back into water and returned to the boiler to start the process over.

On average, the United States consumes more than three million tons of coal every day of the year, according to The Sierra Club.

As of Aug. 25, 2009, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has issued draft permits for surface water and groundwater withdrawal, water discharge and air for the Power4Georgians Plant Washington near Sandersville.

The Power4Georgians Web site claims Plant Washington will be one of the cleanest coal-fired power plants in the country. The 850-megawatt coal-fired power plant will generate enough electricity to meet the annual needs of 500,000 to 700,000 Georgia homes.

The plant will cost approximately \$2.1 billion and take four years to construct.

In the construction phase, the plant will generate 1,600 jobs. Once completed, the plant will have a workforce of about 120 workers, the Web site states.

The plant will use a mixture of pulverized low-sulfur Powder River Basin and Illinois Basin coal and is expected to use between 3.65 and 4.27 million tons per year. Plant Washington will be one of the cleanest coal plants in the nation — one that produces more energy with less coal and emissions using state-of-the-art technology with the life of a power plant being about 50 years, the Web site states.

On its Web site, the group emphasizes that coal-fired plants — most importantly Plant Washington — are the most affordable and reliable option to meet energy demand.

In one section of the Web site the organization sets out to debunk what they deem as opposition to the plant.

On The Sierra Club's Web site it states that coal-fired power plants are one of the largest sources of air pollution in the United States, creating particle pollution or soot that can trigger heart attacks, strokes, worsen asthma, cause irregular heartbeats and lead to premature death. Particle pollution on the ground causes acidification of waters, soil nutrient depletion and destruction of forest and crops.

## Knife clip injures man at Homecoming concert

*Elise Colcord*

**Issue date:** 2/26/10 **Section:** Campus News

MuteMath debuted Feb. 18 at the Homecoming concert with bouts of crowd surfing and pocketknives.

Sgt. Greg Williams and officer Gary Purvis responded to an emergency situation in the Centennial Center at 10:20 p.m. where a student had a pocketknife clip lodged in his head. The victim, Brent Bouthillera, a Starrs Mill High School senior, was at the concert with his friends.

According to Williams, there was never any bleeding coming from the wound.

"He was walking around by the main bathrooms, holding his head, but the wound was not serious and we did not hear any complaints from the victim," Williams said.

Mike Pritchard, a student at Recording Connection in Atlanta, was standing next to his friend when he saw the incoming crowd surfer.

"We were in the pit and all of the sudden some guy got lifted up behind us and I guess there were not enough people to support him and he came crashing into him," Pritchard said.

The way a crowd-surfer falls can determine whether it will be a clean surf, end in disaster or possibly a freak accident.

The victim said that he just happened to be in the right position when the crowd-surfer came down on him.

"My friend and I were just standing towards the back of the pit and next thing I know some guy is falling on me," Bouthiller said. "After I got my balance back I realized there was a pocketknife clip stuck in my head."

Williams and Purvis reported the injury as not serious, but sent the victim to Oconee Regional Medical to have the clip removed properly so no further injury would occur.

"I didn't even have to have stitches, they just pulled it out and sent me on my way with some medication to ease the aching," Bouthiller said.

Georgia law states that blades less than three inches when opened and in the locked position are legal to carry. A pocketknife at the concert or in a public venue is legal as long as the blade falls under the appropriate length.

The incident that occurred did not involve the pocketknife blade, but the clip that hooks to an individual's pants or belt. The officers who responded reported the wound as "not serious."

<http://media.www.gcsunade.com/media/storage/paper299/news/2010/02/26/CampusNews/Knife.Clip.Injures.Man.At.Homecoming.Concert-3880194.shtml>

Published February 27, 2010 09:03 pm

## **Elks honor outstanding law officers for 2010**

By Angie Thompson, Senior Reporter

TIFTON —

Law enforcement officers representing several local agencies were honored by the Tifton Elks at a banquet held Thursday night at the lodge.

Sgt. Adam Story, who works at the Tifton Police Department, took top honors as the local Elks' Public Safety Officer of the Year for 2009-2010. His name will be submitted to the Georgia Elks Association's Public Safety Officer of the Year program.

Tifton police chief Jim Smith said that Story had been interested in law enforcement since he was a teenager and worked undercover. Smith said that Story took over as assistant shift commander and shift commander recently and "the shift has operated as if we had a lieutenant there."

Smith lauded Story for continuing his education toward a bachelor's degree while he's working and announced that Story is on the list to attend training at the FBI's Academy in Quantico, Va.

The Elks also presented Story with a Ruger handgun courtesy of Ralph Miller.

Others honored include Deputy Cedric Montgomery, a transport officer with the Tift County Sheriff's Office; TFC Dana Harnage of the Georgia State Patrol; Officer Daryl Jackson of the Georgia Department of Motor Carriers Compliance Division; Tasha Allen of Tift County E-911; Israel Bryant of the TCSO's Explorer Scouts; **Officer Mickie Tompkins of the ABAC Police Department**; Capt. Ernest Dove of the Tifton Fire Department; Tifton-Tift County Animal Control employees; Jeanie Reckley of Tift Regional Medical Center's security division; David Beranek of Tift County Emergency Medical Service; and Charles E. Shuman of the Omega Police Department.

Capt. Jerry Lipsey, who directs the Tift County jail, said Montgomery put himself in harm's way while returning from a transport in the Waycross area. Lipsey said a wreck occurred behind Montgomery's location and the deputy turned around to return to the scene to help. He found that one of the vehicles involved was on fire with a woman and two children trapped inside. He said Montgomery solicited the help of two bystanders and was able to get the woman and children out of the car and to safety.

Harnage was lauded by GSP Post 13 Commander, SFC Ron Warren as that agency's officer of the year. He said that Harnage's commitment to enforcement resulted in 111 DUI arrests, the highest of any trooper at the post. He said the trooper participated in numerous night road checks

specifically designed to combat impaired driving and his patrol efforts included 1,399 vehicle stops, which combined with the road checks, resulted in 1,790 violator contacts.

Jackson, according to his supervisor, SFC Rickey Gibbs, consistently performs his duties and responsibilities even as the number of employees with the division has dropped during the state's economic downturn. He said that Jackson performed 671 commercial vehicle safety compliance inspections in 2009, of which 146 were deemed a hazard to public safety and were placed out of service. He said Jackson had also performed more than 100 Hazardous Material inspections and issued 350 Uniform Traffic Citations during the year.

Vickie Hickman, deputy director of the Tift County Emergency Management Agency, said Allen has been instrumental in establishing new training standards for both new hires and seasoned personnel. Hickman credited Allen's work and dedication in producing "cutting-edge and effective communication officers to meet the demands of today's public safety field." She said Allen is a steadfast and committed employee.

Sgt. Jeff Scott of the TCSO, who serves as the advisor to members of Explorer Post 137, said Explorer Israel Bryant has served as vice president and serves as current president of the organization. He said Bryant has exceptional organizational skills and provides leadership to other post members. Scott said Bryant "stepped up to the plate" and organized the post's competition in the recent Winter Festival.

**ABAC Police Dept. Chief Brian Golden said Officer Mickie Tompkins "is a supervisor's dream." He said that Tompkins serves as a model for other officers in the department and gives 100 percent to his job. He said Tompkins "is one of the most self-motivated officers to ever work for the ABAC Police Department."**

Capt. Ernest Dove worked at the Tifton Fire Department for 35 years before retiring in December. He continues to work at the TCSO. Mike Coleman said Dove "is the epitome of a public servant" and that he "cares deeply about his community." Coleman said Dove was missed at the firehouse.

Tifton-Tift County Animal Control Director Regenia Wells said that she wanted to honor all of her animal control officers rather than just picking one. She said the success of the department is a result of all of the officers working together. The animal control officers honored were Rebecca Bruner, Brandi Craven and Amy Culpepper.

Jeanie Reckley of TRMC's Security Department was honored because, according to director Reginald Phillips, she is "competent, trustworthy and dedicated." Phillips said that Reckley was promoted from an officer to a sergeant in less than two years of her employment and that she brings a great deal of law enforcement experience to her position.

David Berenek, a Tift County Emergency Medical Services paramedic, was honored with his department's award. EMS Capt. Junior Horton said that Berenek has been responsible for changing the health and quality of life for his patients and that he has received numerous pre-hospital save awards. Berenek was also voted Paramedic of the Year by his peers.

Omega Police Department officer Charles E. Shuman was honored as the winner of the Omega Police Department's Officer of the Year.

BPOE #1114 Exalted Ruler Dan Lockhart also recognized Larry Burkhead and Paul Moyer, Elks members, for organizing the event.

To contact senior reporter Angie Thompson, call 382-4321.

[http://www.tiftongazette.com/local/local\\_story\\_058210507.html](http://www.tiftongazette.com/local/local_story_058210507.html)