Theft Prevention Tips & Reminders

While statistics show that UC Santa Barbara is a relatively safe environment compared with larger, urban college campuses, it is not problem-free. By being aware of this issue and taking a few extra steps, your student can help prevent theft and ensure that his or her property is safe. Here are some reminders to share with your son or daughter:

Residential Thefts
• Your student should always lock the doors and windows and take the key when leaving his or her room or apartment.
• Additionally, your student can secure windows by placing a stick in the tracks or bolts in the frames.

Valuable Items
Unfortunately, thieves frequent areas where students often leave valuable items unattended. These include the Library and the Recreation Center.
• While looking for a book, using the restroom, or taking a break, your student should not leave valuable items such as computers unattended.
• Consider buying a computer cable lock for your student, or installing an anti-theft program on a laptop.
• Photograph and record the serial numbers of valuable items. Permanently mark valuables with your student’s driver’s license number. Engravers are available from the police station and from the front desk in some residence halls. This will increase the chance of your student recovering valuable items if they are stolen.

Bike Theft
Several hundred bikes are stolen at UCSB each year, but theft can be prevented:
• Students should lock the frame and both wheels securely to a bike rack.
• When leaving for a holiday break, students can bring the bike inside their room or apartment.
• Register the bike—it’s required and it increases the chance of recovery.

UC Santa Barbara's Religious Life

Students have many options for religious and spiritual exploration on and off campus while attending UC Santa Barbara.

On-Campus Resources
Twenty-four religious and spiritual student groups are registered with the Office of Student Life. These include, but are not limited to Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist groups. Some examples of student groups are Chabad at UCSB, Souled Out Campus Ministry, Real Life, and the Latter Day Saint Student Organization. A complete list of student organizations can be found on the campus clubs and organizations Web site at www.sa.ucsb.edu/orgs.

Off-Campus Resources
Over a dozen religiously-affiliated organizations in the surrounding community serve students at UC Santa Barbara through worship services, counseling, social services, and religious studies. The Gaucho Parents Web site (www.sa.ucsb.edu/parents/StudentActivities/ReligiousLife.aspx) features a list of local churches and religious organizations.

The University Religious Center (URC)
The URC is a non-profit consortium of nine religious organizations in the area that are committed to campus ministry and promoting interfaith understanding at UC Santa Barbara and in the surrounding community. The URC is located at 777 Camino Pescadero in Isla Vista. Students are always welcome to visit the center and participate in interfaith programs, volunteer opportunities, retreats, and social activities during the year. The URC also sponsors Interfaith Students, a registered student group at UC Santa Barbara. Interfaith Students is open to students of all faiths and sponsors interfaith activities on and off campus. Students may contact the URC at (805) 968-1555 or info@urcsb.sbcoxmail.com. More information is available at www.urcsb.org.
Greek Affairs

Greek life is an essential part of UC Santa Barbara’s student culture with eight percent of students belonging to Greek organizations. Thirty-five fraternities and sororities, representing a wide-range of interests, including multi-cultural, historically-Black, and religiously-affiliated chapters, are recognized at UC Santa Barbara. Membership in a Greek organization offers students a learning experience outside of the classroom. Students often choose to participate in Greek life for the many social, educational, leadership, and community involvement opportunities. Some fraternities and sororities also provide housing. Greek organizations recruit new members at the beginning of fall and spring quarters. The 2009 Greek Recruitment brochure is available at www.sa.ucsb.edu/OSL/GreekLife/pdf/webbrochure09.pdf.

The Office of Greek Affairs advises and oversees UC Santa Barbara’s recognized fraternities and sororities in many aspects of Greek life including recruiting, managing chapters, monitoring conduct, promoting safety, and developing programming to promote leadership, scholarship, friendship, citizenship, and service for all members of Greek organizations. Greek Affairs is located in room 1104 of the Student Resource Building. Contact Director of Greek Affairs Carola Alden at carola.alden@sa.ucsb.edu or (805) 893-3966 for more information.

The Office of Greek Affairs hopes to expand their programs to serve even more students. If you wish to support their mission or any other service provided by Student Affairs, please contact Laurie Hoyle in Student Affairs Grants and Development at (805) 893-5037 or laurie.hoyle@sa.ucsb.edu.

2010-11 Housing Decisions

Students often begin thinking about housing for the upcoming year around this time. This can be stressful for students who have not been through the housing search and decision process at UCSB.

Your student may come home for Thanksgiving break wanting to talk about housing for next year on campus or in UCSB’s surrounding communities of Isla Vista, Goleta, or Santa Barbara. Reassure your student that there is plenty of time to make a decision about housing. The December issue of the Gaucho Parents Gazette will feature information about the numerous housing options at UCSB and the application process for each of these options.

If your student is hoping to move to Isla Vista, encourage him or her to wait until January 2010 to sign a lease so your student can attend a housing workshop presented by the Community Housing Office. Workshops will be offered in the residence halls on campus: Santa Catalina (Jan. 6), San Miguel (Jan. 7), Manzanita/San Rafael in Loma Pelona Center (Jan. 12), and Anacapa (Jan. 14).

Campus Connection has moved on-line

Future issues of Campus Connection, a parent newsletter published by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, will no longer be mailed home to parents and family members of UCSB students. Budget reductions have required the bi-annual newsletter to move on-line to www.sa.ucsb.edu/parentnewsletter. Past and future issues will be posted to this Web site. Additionally, we are excited to be able to provide a Spanish translation of the Campus Connection at the same address. This monthly parent newsletter, The Gaucho Parents Gazette will continue to be sent to subscribing parents by email.

Support Your Student During Final Exams

Just a reminder that final exams for fall quarter are fast approaching. Remember there are many ways you can support your student during this busy and often stressful time.

• Provide your unconditional love, encouragement and understanding. This is invaluable!
• Write an e-mail or letter wishing your student good luck with exams. Tell your student how proud you are of him or her. Let your student know you are looking forward to the holiday break.
• Remind your son or daughter to take care of his or her health. Suggest eight or more hours of sleep, exercising, eating right, and drinking plenty of water.
• Encourage your student to take a break from studying to grab a bite to eat with friends, take a walk on the beach, or workout at the gym.
• Send a care package. Regardless of what items you send, you will brighten your student’s day. Some suggestions are granola bars, homemade cookies, a CD of relaxing music, or a gift card to a local coffee shop.
• Over the holiday break, talk with your son or daughter about what was successful and unsuccessful during fall quarter. Help your student determine what he or she would do differently and what can be learned from the experience.

The Gaucho Parents Gazette is published by the University of California, Santa Barbara, Division of Student Affairs, Orientation Programs and Parent Services.

Contributing Editors: Whitney White, Kim Parent, Debbie Fleming, Laurie Hoyle
**Helping Your Student Understand College Finances**

Preparing your student to manage the many financial issues and situations related to attending college can be a daunting task. Here are some tips to guide you in helping your son or daughter make sound financial decisions while at UCSB.

- **Encourage your student to meet with a financial aid counselor to learn more about grants, scholarships, and work-study programs that may be available to him or her.** Students seeking financial aid for fall 2010 should apply by March 2, 2010. Visit the Financial Aid Web site (www.finaid.ucsb.edu) for more information.

- **Be clear with your student about the level of resources you can or cannot commit toward college expenses.**

- **Encourage your student to carefully monitor activity on his or her BARC (billing) account to prevent penalties such as late fees and course registration blocks.** If your student wishes, he or she may give you access to financial statements on-line at www.barc.ucsb.edu.

- **Fraternities, sororities, student groups, study abroad, summer internships, and off-campus housing are some of the activities that may bring about additional costs.** Talk with your student about what he or she may wish to participate in and how these activities will be funded.

- **Ask your student how much spending money he or she believes is needed each month.** If you are planning to provide support, discuss a reasonable amount. Discuss other ways your student can obtain spending money. Help your student create a budget and discuss ways to adhere to the plan.

- **Students may be interested in applying for a credit card in their own name.** Talk with your student about how to choose a credit card and understanding interest rates, annual fees, and credit card debt.

- **Discuss the cost of attending college with your son or daughter.** Even if you are covering some or all college-related expenses, it is important for students to understand the value of the education they are receiving. Encourage him or her to make the most of all that UCSB has to offer!

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**Parents and Family Members of First Year Students**

*What are you most thankful for this year?*

*What are you most looking forward to during the upcoming holiday break?*

*What makes you most proud of your student this year?*

Share your comments and reflections with us! You might be featured in an upcoming issue of the *Gauchos Parents Gazette*. Please let us know if you prefer to be featured anonymously. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us!

questions? comments? email gauchoparents@sa.ucsb.edu