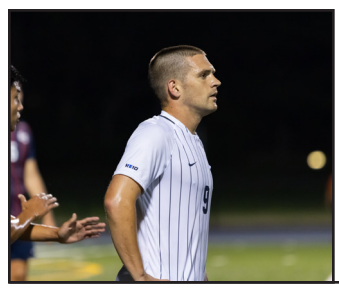


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SOUTHERN NEWS

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2021-2023 campus clery report released

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor



PHOTO | INSIDE SOUTHERN

Group of students with K-9 Brody and Jules on the cover of the newly released campus crime statistics.

The annual Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Statistics for 2024 was released on Oct. 1. Reports showed data from 2021-2023.

The most eye-catching data was found with motor vehicle theft, campus liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action and drug abuse violations referred for disciplinary action, as there was an increase in cases.

On campus liquor and residential facility liquor law violations tripled to 65 in 2023, from 21 in 2021. Similarly, on campus and residential facility drug abuse violations rose by 27, with 35 violations in 2023.

Chief of Police Makiem Miller said that this new increase in numbers are a reflection of the campus returning full-time since the pandemic.

In 2017, on-campus liquor law violations were 221, while drug abuse violations were at 60 in 2018.

"You can see we are going back into full school academic years on campus since COVID," Miller said "Numbers are still lower than pre-COVID, but you can still see the rise."

New marijuana laws that were enacted in 2022 can also influence these statistics.

"Marijuana used to be an illegal drug. Now, it is only considered a violation," Miller said.

According to Miller, marijuana is the most-common drug that is caught in drug abuse cases. Students must abide by certain rules in order to smoke legally, as an ounce and a half is permitted and anything packaged for sale is prohibited.

Drug and liquor abuse arrests were both at 0 in 2023.

Miller said that this is credited to arrests being their last resort.

"Violations are the go-to because we don't want to put it on students' records," Miller said.

Liquor abuse violations occur in most cases with underage drinking in dry dorms or those of the legal drinking age selling it to underage students.

Miller commends the Office of Residence Life for supervising residences in liquor violation cases.

"Residence Life has a nice structure. Their organization is good with supervision," Miller said.

Motor vehicle theft rose to 11 in 2023 from 0 in 2022 and 2021 and weapon law violations rose to 1 in 2023.

Despite these increases, other categories' statistics also show steady rates.

Rape has remained at 2 since 2022 while domestic violence remains at 0 from 2021.

Miller said that rape statistics only show those that come forward.

"This is a positive because due to more services and confidentiality for students, now victims have more confidence to come forward," Miller said.

Stalking is down to 1 and dating violence decreased to 0 in 2023 from 3 in 2022.

Miller said he is proud that stalking has decreased from its previous rates of 11 in 2019.

"Social media is a big thing, and people are posting their location now. I'm glad it's going down," Miller said.

Course registration for Spring 2025

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

As midterm exams approach, so is course registration for the spring semester.

On Nov. 4, course registration will begin. Students will be able to look at the registration checklist linked under the one stop registration tab on the university website.

However, there have been changes made for course registration regarding first-year students in INQ 101.

Registration for first-year students will be open on Nov. 19.

"First-semester students will be assigned to a professional adviser for their first year and will meet with that adviser for their registration appointment," Faculty Director of Academic Advising Meredith Sinclair said. "They also have already received an email inviting them to schedule their advising meeting via Navigate."

At the start of next semester, there will also be more changes implemented. First-year students will now be assigned a faculty adviser in their major.

They will have their professional adviser as an additional member of their advising team until the start of next fall semester.

"INQ instructors will still meet one-on-one with students to discuss other matters not related to course registration," Sinclair said.

Students will now have an assigned CASAS success coach and a peer mentor as part of their first-year success team.

There is also a new degree plan tool located in students' degree evaluation.

"First-year students will already have a degree plan template loaded that they can tweak to make their personal map. Continuing and transfer students can build a degree plan with the help of their adviser," Sinclair said.

She said this is an exciting development because it allows students to take control over their academic map. Students now can make adjustments such as adding terms, adding minors or second majors, adding accelerated pathways, adding internships or study abroad and more easily accessible.

"For all students, once a plan is complete and locked in by their academic adviser, the courses in their next semester will automatically import to the schedule planner, making registration even easier," Sinclair said.

Students are recommended to begin contacting their assigned academic advisers to request an appointment within the next few days. Advisers' names and contact information are available on the top of students' degree evaluations.



PHOTO | JAY'MI VAZQUEZ

Office of Academic Advising in Room 102 in Buley Libary.

Report of altercation at West Campus Garage

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

According to university police reports released on Thursday, Oct. 10, there is an ongoing investigation into an altercation between two male residents that involves one possessing a handgun.

An anonymous silent witness notification to police reported that a loud pop was heard around 11 a.m. near the West Campus Garage, sparking the inquiry that began on Sept. 30.

Chief of Police Makiem Miller said that he commends individuals using the Silent Witness program.

"It's great that a university member came forward with that," Miller said.

Officers also reported that there was a spent bullet casing and a live, unfired round on the ground found on the ground at the scene.

University police reports state that it was discovered that the two resident students involved had previously engaged in a physical altercation two years prior.

It was also found that the prior dispute was the main cause of the confrontation between the two students.

Miller summarized the altercation as: "an isolated incident from two guys that go here that unfolded on campus."

According to university police, no one was hurt, and there is no current threat to the campus community. The person who is deemed to be responsible has been suspended by the university until the investigation is completed.

While Miller cannot provide extra information at this time due to the investigation, he assured that the safety of residents, faculty and staff are not at risk.

"It is nothing related to Southern," Miller said. "No one is in danger of being hurt."



PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

Police Chief Makiem Miller in his office at the police station.