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Office of Security & Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

September 2008

## Featured Article

### **Steve Harris named director of UGA’s Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness**

(referenced from Public Affairs News Bureau announcement)

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Athens, Ga. – After a national search, Steve Harris has been named director of the University of Georgia’s Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness.

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

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

Harris joined the security preparedness office in January 2006. Previously he worked seven years in

the Georgia Emergency Management Agency’s Homeland Security office as manager of the State School Safety Unit. He also served as an assistant security administrator with the Clarke County School District.

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

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

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

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

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

## September Preparedness Month Special Event on Campus:

### Responding to Emergencies on Campus: UGA and You



*September 11, 2008  
8:30 am – 11:30 am  
UGA Chapel*

**The event is free and open to the public –  
no registration required.**

On September 11, 2008, the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness (OSEP) and the Center for International Trade and Security are hosting a forum on responding to emergencies at the University of Georgia (UGA). The focus of the forum will be to discuss emergency preparedness at UGA. This event coincides with September as National Preparedness Month.

Specifically, speakers will address what progress has been made since the Emergency Preparedness and Communications Committee report was issued last year, challenges at UGA, what needs to be improved, trends on college campuses, how individuals can be involved, what to expect from the police in an emergency and what role culture plays in emergency preparedness. The speakers have a tremendous wealth of experience and come from a variety of backgrounds including law enforcement, security studies, public health and pharmacy, higher education and public affairs, and emergency management. A complete list of the speakers and their biography is listed on OSEP's website [www.osep.uga.edu](http://www.osep.uga.edu).

Please contact the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness with any questions at 706-542-5845 or e-mail at [osep@uga.edu](mailto:osep@uga.edu).



**Remember September 11, 2001**

### September is National Preparedness Month

“National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month 2008 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. Throughout September, Homeland Security will work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation.” (Referenced from the Web site [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).)

The UGA Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness is a National Preparedness Month 2008 Coalition Member. During September, OSEP will focus attention on steps students, faculty and staff can take to better prepare for emergencies. For the past four years, OSEP has participated in National Preparedness Month as a coalition member.

***President George W. Bush and Georgia Governor, Sonny Perdue, proclaim September as National Preparedness Month.***

***Read proclamations at [www.osep.uga.edu](http://www.osep.uga.edu).***



**COMMENTS / FEEDBACK**

**We'd like to hear from you...  
Please email us at [osep@uga.edu](mailto:osep@uga.edu)  
or call us at 706-542-5845.**



### **Kudos to Pete!**

Pete Golden, emergency operations coordinator in the UGA Office of Security & Emergency Preparedness, recently obtained the Georgia Certified Emergency Manager status from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

Golden coordinates and manages the University of Georgia's National Incident Management System compliance activities including training of appropriate UGA personnel, compliance activities and recordkeeping. He develops, coordinates and delivers various emergency preparedness and security awareness training sessions to faculty, staff and students. Additionally, he assists in the development, testing, review, revision and distribution of the university's overall emergency operations plan, pandemic influenza plan, pet shelter plan and other emergency plans.

Golden joined UGA in December of 2007 after serving as a school safety coordinator with the Georgia Office of Homeland Security – Georgia Emergency Management Agency for five years and serving as a law enforcement officer in Georgia for more than 18 years.

“Due to its size and scope, the University of Georgia rivals many of Georgia's cities and counties with its need for effective emergency planning and preparedness,” said Steve Harris, director of the UGA Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness. “During planning and

real emergencies, Pete will interact with emergency responders both locally and from the entire state.”

“The Georgia Certified Emergency Manager program that Pete completed involves nearly 200 hours of extensive online, classroom and field instruction. The knowledge gained from the program will be invaluable to our office and the university during a crisis,” said Harris.



A full test of the UGAAlert emergency notification system is scheduled for fall 2008. This will be the only scheduled test of the system this semester. Periodic tests of the UGAAlert emergency notification system are necessary to evaluate our ability to issue timely emergency messages when immediate action is required. Please make sure your information is accurate prior to the test by going to <http://ugaalert.uga.edu> and logging in using your MyID and password. Also, please program **706-542-0111** into your phone as UGAAlert so you will immediately recognize all incoming calls from UGAAlert.

Past tests of UGAAlert have been successful. We hope to continue improving the system and would appreciate feedback on the test. A survey will be placed on the website of [www.osep.uga.edu](http://www.osep.uga.edu) to facilitate the collection of user opinions.

The test will be timed to avoid disrupting classroom activity, but minor disruptions may occur.

Any questions about UGAAlert or the upcoming test can be directed to the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness at 706-542-5845 or email: [osep@uga.edu](mailto:osep@uga.edu).

