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University Office of Security Preparedness Bulletin

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Featured Article

Campus Security: Designing Against Terrorism

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The tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001 became a catalyst for rethinking security strategies for nearly every profession in the United States. Campus design is no exception.

Designing security measures for campus spaces can be achieved by incorporating a combination of physical design protections and by controlling vehicular access. The most common sense approach is to design physical barriers that limit vehicular access to campus spaces and academic buildings. This approach seems simple, but becomes difficult to implement when issues of aesthetics and civic responsibility are considered. Freedom and openness are fundamentals of our country that are symbolized in our open spaces and accessibility to public architecture. To design large physical barriers that visually detract and isolate these places is a mistake we must avoid.

Our design solutions must be conceived with greater sensitivity and imagination. For example, a public bench that suggests “pedestrians are welcome here” can be designed to survive the force of an on-coming vehicle. This solution maintains an open public face, but still provides physical protection. Other solutions such as incorporating low retaining walls that offer public sitting opportunities, raised planters, ornamental fences,

lighting, bollards, street trees, or welcoming sets of stairs are similar physical barriers that have a more public appearance than an imposing fence or wall.

A second approach is to acknowledge that academic buildings on college campuses are not always required to have “direct” vehicular access. Many of the buildings on North Campus illustrate this point and are safer because of this fact. Arguably, the outdoor spaces on North Campus are some of the best at UGA, so this is a win/win solution for people and protection. As the University grows, campus planners should site new buildings in spatial configurations that are more isolated from heavy vehicular access. The recent conversion of D.W. Brooks Drive to a pedestrian only zone is a good example of how to retrofit interior roads and protect campus infrastructure. Thus, striking a balance between physical design protections while maintaining an open pedestrian “face” becomes the significant design challenge towards enhancing security and deterring possible terrorist attack on college campuses.

Campus View



Photo by David Spooner

The recent conversion of D.W. Brooks Drive to a pedestrian only zone is a good example of how to retrofit interior roads and protect campus infrastructure.

What are these landscape deterrents?

A.



B.



(see answers below)

How Terrorist Operate

To understand how to deter terrorism, it is necessary to understand its basic principals. Terrorist attempt to influence governmental decisions on a basis of fear. Free and open access as a way of life provides opportunity for terrorist to exact death and destruction on the general public. College campuses have long been associated with openness and accessibility, thus providing a climate for the potential threat of terrorism. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 on New York and Washington DC, the name of Osama bin Laden and his terrorist organization Al Queda have become common words in the headlines. However, Al Queda is only the most prominent of several dangerous groups, some of which are directly connected with bin Laden. Terrorism has been in existence for many years, but September 11th changed how terrorism impacted our everyday life.

The scope and impact of terrorism to a college campus, such as the University of Georgia, reaches far beyond the research and campus population. Taking time to explore the vast amount of information that is available on terrorist organizations -- their ideology, history, and agenda, will broaden the understanding of terrorism and allow terrorism to be kept in perspective.



Upcoming Issue: "Featured Article" by Stan Gatewood, UGA's Chief Information Security Officer

(continued)

The University Office of Security Preparedness' (UOSP) website provides links to various state and federal websites that specifically deal with various aspects of terrorism.

A link is provided to the USA Patriot Act and the Georgia Office of Homeland Security for information at the state level. Colleges and universities must constantly be aware of ever changing threats and precautions to be taken to lessen the fear of a terrorist attack.

Bulletins are available bimonthly. The issues assist in disseminating current security preparedness information from this office and other University units. Sign up to receive issues of *Readiness Rules* by e-mail. Click on "bulletin by e-mail" located on the [home / contact us](#) bar on the UOSP web site.

Preventing Terrorist Attacks: What can I do?

Preventing terrorist attacks is not relegated only to the University Office of Security Preparedness. Every individual on campus can assist in some regard by providing information on security breaches. Perhaps you are engaged in research or studies related to terrorism. The UOSP is interested in any knowledge you may have that will aid in protecting the campus from acts of terrorism.

Please join the UOSP in a partnership to protect the University of Georgia from the unfortunate acts of terrorism that may be aimed at the campus in the future.

To get more information:

Visit the website: <http://www.uosp.uga.edu>
or call the UOSP office at (706) 542-5845.

UGA History:
OLD COLLEGE –
Completed in 1806,
Old College became the
University's first
permanent structure.



Answers: A. Bollards in front of UGA Snelling Dining Hall.

B. Berm in front of the UGA Marine Science Building.