Dear Students

You may be aware of several robberies and an assault on campus over the past two weeks. None of these were armed robberies as has been reported on social media. I am pleased to say that UWG Campus Police found the perpetrators of the crimes on Homecoming Weekend, and they are now in jail. The most recent robbery is being vigorously investigated, but we have not yet found the perpetrator. None of the perpetrators were UWG Students.

Students and their parents have shown concern over these turn of events, and it is right to be concerned. However, we have been monitoring social media, and the misinformation and fear that is being created there is disproportional to the events and what is actually happening around campus.

While no campus is immune from crimes of this nature, they are somewhat rare at UWG. We are extremely proud of our track record for safety and our award-winning police force. University Police has increased foot and ATV patrols, and has focused on areas in the center of campus where students walk from building to building.

UWG is an open campus, with no means to prevent those with bad intentions from coming onto campus. In light of recent events, we are increasing efforts to identify non-student visitors and others without a known purpose for being on campus. It is our top priority to keep students, faculty, staff, and visitors safe and to keep crime out of campus. However, each member of our UWG family has a responsibility to take individual precautions to remain safe.

Most crimes can be deterred, if not entirely prevented, by developing simple tasks and habits. While following the tips below cannot guarantee that you will not be a victim of a crime, your chances of being victimized can be reduced.

1. Lock your car doors anytime you leave the car. It takes only seconds to lock and unlock your car doors, and these seconds can save you from being victimized.
2. Don’t leave obvious valuables in plain view in your car. Sometimes, temptation and availability is all that is needed to cause a would-be thief to attempt and complete a theft.
3. Check the back seat of your car before you get in. You may have an uninvited passenger.
4. Lock your residence hall room, apartment, or house door. This is probably the best simple deterrent available to protect you and your property. A criminal will often take the path of least resistance.
5. Don’t display large sums of cash or expensive jewelry. Again, these actions may provide temptation. Cash and jewelry are often impossible to trace and easy for a thief to dispose of quickly.
6. Know who is at the door before you open it. Do you readily open the door to your resident hall room, apartment, or house without really knowing who is knocking or what they want? Know who is at the door and what they want. If it doesn’t seem right, keep the door shut and communicate through the door.
7. Walk with a friend when out late at night, and walk on designated pathways and well-lit areas. There is safety in numbers.
8. Secure bicycles through the wheel and frame with a high-quality cable or other approved device AND lock.
9. Always pick a designated driver prior to attending festivities.
10. Don’t impair your judgment with alcohol or illegal drugs. Avoid accepting a ride from someone whose judgment is impaired by alcohol or drugs. Avoid taking a private walk with someone whose judgment is impaired by alcohol or drugs.
11. Work with another student when working late at night in campus buildings.
12. Do not leave doors propped open.
13. Engrave valuable possessions with serial numbers or owner-recognized numbers.
14. Always know the location of the nearest telephone and how to report emergencies.
15. Keep emergency numbers near your phone.
16. Report any criminal or suspicious activities or other emergencies that occur on campus to the University Police Department. It’s easy to do—just call 678-839-6000. Report crime and testify against criminals. Every time a crime is reported, there is a chance to catch the criminal. When a crime goes unreported, the criminal wins hands down.
17. In most sexual assaults, the victim and suspect knew each other prior to the assault. Knowing someone does not guarantee a sexual assault will not occur.
18. Limit your use of alcohol and be wary of accepting drinks from others, even people you know.
19. Make sure that you have verbal and sober consent from anyone before engaging in sexual activity.

**Wolf Guardian** is a service that turns your cell phone into a personal panic button. Use of this system is free of charge to all current University of West Georgia students, faculty and staff. Go to your “App Store” and download the RAVE Guardian App. Open the App and insert your UWG e-mail address. Once you do that, you’ll be directed on how to build your profile and activate the system.

**Wolf Alert** is the University’s emergency notification system. This service allows you to be informed in the event of an emergency via your cell phone, text message, landline or e-mail. You may register as many phone numbers and email addresses as you desire. There is no charge for the service and everyone is encouraged to enroll. To register, go to your myUWG portal account and click on the Wolf Alert link in the University Police channel in the middle of the Main page.

The **Wolf Guard** is comprised of student officers whose duties include serving as “extra eyes and ears” for the University Police Department and providing various non-law enforcement services. They are on duty from 7:00 PM to Midnight Monday through Thursday and will assist members of the University Community with jump starts and personal escorts. They also perform security checks of campus facilities throughout the evening hours. Call Police Dispatch at 678-839-6000 to ask for an escort during Wolf Guard hours of operation, or to get a Police escort after hours.

Your safety is our main concern, and these tips, programs and services are meant to help you remain safe on campus. Please contact University Police or the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Scot A. Lingrell, Ph. D.,
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management