In December, all of Building Services had the pleasure of attending a “Crime Prevention 101” seminar given by Officer Alex Gutierrez from the Georgia Tech Police Department. He came to promote President Peterson’s support of the national "See Something, Say Something" campaign. It is a simple and effective program designed to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and violent crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper state and local law enforcement authorities. The program emphasizes the reporting of suspicious behavior and situations (e.g., an unattended backpack in a public place, or someone trying to break into a restricted area) rather than the appearance of a person, thereby ensuring that civil rights and liberties of persons are not diminished by our security efforts, activities and programs.

The campaign started after 9/11 in New York City. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) similar what MARTA is for Atlanta created this campaign to catch terrorists. Around that time instead of catching terrorists they were catching burglars, thieves, robbers and etc. This campaign made the crime rate drop tremendously that other cities and states nationally started to adopt the campaign. It was until July 2010 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) adopted the campaign.

The Georgia Tech Police Department wants the entire Georgia Tech community to help us with this campaign. If you see anything, call GT police at 404-894-2500. Officer Gutierrez suggests that everyone program the Police Department into their cell phone and be aware of where emergency phones are located on campus.

As of the first of the year, Georgia Tech Police has also implemented Jacket Guardian System. A free cell phone service - intended to provide enhanced public safety communication between students, staff and faculty and the Georgia Tech Police Department. Features of Jacket Guardian include direct access to GTPD in emergency situations and greater detail about the location of the caller.

Email: Alex.Gutierrez@Police.GaTech.Edu
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