Campus 5-0 encourages students to use bike registration program

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Campus Security is pushing their bike registration program in the new semester with the hope that more students can recover their bicycles, as at least 100 bikes were reported stolen in 2009.

The voluntary registration program allows students and members of the university community to fill out an information sheet containing their bike's serial number, make and model, and their contact information, explained CSS officer Nicole Nielsen.

"A small sticker is placed, usually on the underside of the bike, which has an ID number that corresponds with the number on the information sheet that was completed by the owner," she said.

Nielsen explained that often owners don't have the bike's serial number if it has been stolen, that with the program, if a bike has been removed either on or off campus, the owner can retrieve the information. This information can help the law enforcement agency where the bike was stolen to complete a proper police report. As well, if the bike is recovered, the agency will be able to contact the owner and return it to them.

Nielsen added that most people don't realize how common bike thefts are on campus, and CSS is hoping to educate students about how to keep their bicycles safe. She says a good quality lock is the best method of securing a bike.

"The majority of the bikes that are stolen have been secured with a cable or chain lock. Those locks are cut with bolt cutters in seconds," she said. "Bike thefts most often occur during business hours and in high traffic areas."

This week, students can register their bikes while also getting their ride tuned-up. On September 9 and 10, from 1-4 p.m., in Celebration Plaza, the Environmental Coordination Office of Students (ECOS) will have volunteer mechanics present to tune-up people's bikes for free. This is something ECOS has been doing for the past several years, but this year, CSS will be involved so that students can register their bikes while they are waiting.

Students can also go to the CSS office to have their bikes registered at any time.

NEWS BRIEF

OUT OF THE DUST

September 9, the Faculty of Science celebrated the inaugural lecture in the new Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS). The class, Psychology 101, was the first regularly scheduled class in room 1-430, now the largest lecture hall on campus, seating almost 500 students.

As part of the celebration, all of the students received commemorative travel maps. The class professor Peter Lee told students the story of the space where CCIS now stands.

"When I was a graduate student at the University of Alberta a few years ago there was a photo building and it was torn down and this massive hole in the ground appeared. It was a massive hole, a stupendous site. In some sense, we are now sitting in part of that hole. But it’s neatly and order."

Dean of Science Gregory Taylor also addressed students, telling them that when the building is completed it will be home to 100 academic staff members, 500 graduate students, and close-to-the-Dean laboratories for use by students and staff.

The building will also have a rooftop observatory, and Taylor described it as a place where students will "see science happening all around them."

"It’s a project that we’ve been working on for eight-and-a-half years now, and it’s a thrill to stand before you and see you walk in the doors come a time and join us for a celebration today," Taylor said.

Also in attendance were Deputy Provost Don Marshall and Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrehn. Amrehn also addressed students, and congratulated Taylor on his work on the building, especially in the UI of A's current financial situation.

"Alex Eldridge, Senior News Editor