Recovery project fosters love
Page 2

American Sign Language hosts bakery sale
Page 3

Men's soccer dominate the field
Page 6

SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG | OCTOBER 22, 2025 | VOL. 65 — ISSUE 7

Annual Clery Report released for 2025

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

The 2025 annual Jeanne Clery Report provides an overview of campus safety at the university, including all reported crimes from 2022-2024 as well as key statistics, safety programs and prevention efforts.

The report released on Sept. 30, highlighting notable trends, including a rise in incidents of domestic violence, liquor violations and burglary in 2024.

"We can't always explain the increases," Sgt. Cynthia Torres said. "It's actually not that high compared to years past. Of course, one is too high as far as we're concerned."

Incidents of domestic violence rose from zero to four cases. This spike could reflect more students speaking out due to on-campus resources and education on Title IX.

"I've always said when the numbers are high, that's not a bad thing because we know that these things are occurring," Torres said. "When there's education, they reach out to us more."

Liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action also climbed from 65 to 74, indicating a continued upward trend, while liquor law arrests remained at a stagnant zero for the past three years.

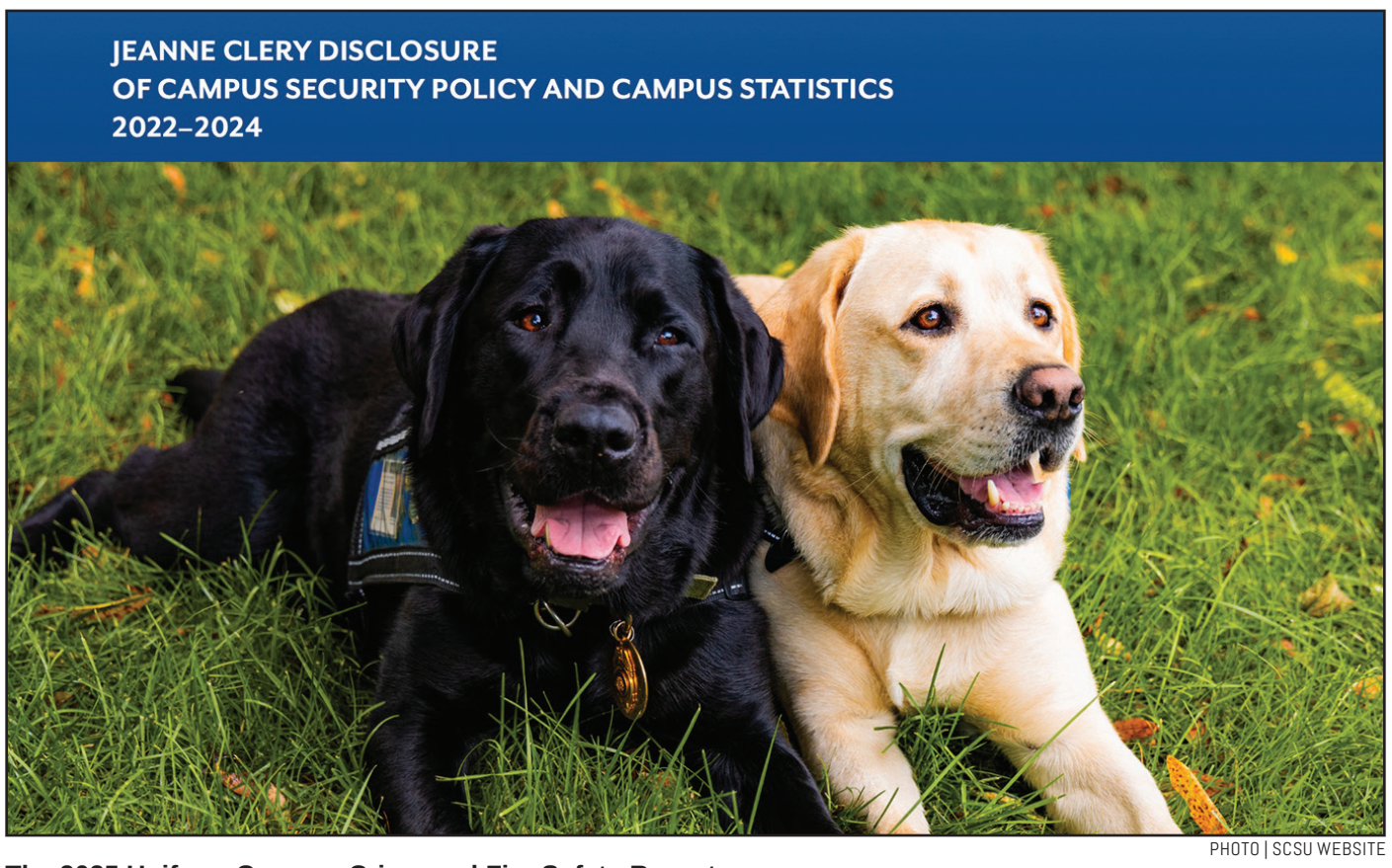

PHOTO | SCSU WEBSITE

The 2025 Uniform Campus Crime and Fire Safety Report cover page.

Torres said when it comes to incidents with substances, such as alcohol, university police are medical responders before they are law enforcement.

"We would rather see education around it. So, certainly when that happens, we will do a referral to the dean's office, and that's not a punitive thing," Torres said.

Whether it is drug and alcohol counseling, mental health support or other campus resources, Torres said that these referrals allow students to receive the help they need while learning from the experience.

Torres emphasized that the goal is not punishment but connecting them with support systems and ensuring they feel seen and supported throughout the process.

Additionally, burglary incidents, which had previously reported no cases in 2023 or '22, increased to one in 2025.

Torres said these numbers are the result of an increasing student population.

"We definitely had an increase of students, and there's no really expected explanation for it except for more people living in those confined spaces," Torres said.

With a student population of 10,027, these numbers reflect a pre-COVID-19 number of 10,203 in Fall 2017.

While there were increases in certain categories, the report also noted a decline in drug abuse violations, which dropped from 35 in 2023 to 27 in 2024.

Torres said this decline could be partly due to the fact that drugs now appear in many different forms, making them harder to detect and track consistently.

"Now, there's gummies and there's pills and there's other things, so it's not as obvious," Torres said. "It's just not as face forward as it used to be when somebody was under the influence."

The report also outlines campus security policies and federal laws to help the community stay informed and reflects the university's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for the community.

"It's building public trust through community engagement because once people know that it's not just law enforcement; it's also public safety. Because now we're leading with more of that narrative than 'Oh, we're just going to arrest,'" Torres said.

Torres also reflected on the broader role of university policing, emphasizing its connection to education and student growth.

"If people knew how involved a case was, especially for university policing, I think they would be amazed at how we're a real stakeholder in the educational process at the university," Torres said.

Printed copies of the report can be found at the University Police Department in Granoff Hall, 10 Wintergreen Ave., New Haven and at the information desk in the Adanti Student Center.

Students can also request a mailed copy by contacting the University Police Department at 203-392-5375.

I Stand With Immigrants event promotes inclusion

By Valentina Toro
Contributor

Students and staff gathered in the Engleman Hall Rotunda on Oct. 14 for the I Stand With Immigrants event, raising awareness about undocumented communities at the university.

Hosted by the UndocuAlly Student Alliance, the two-hour event featured trivia games, educational tables and prizes donated by the Makerspace.

"The main goal behind this event was just to bring awareness and show everybody the stories of undocumented people that they're not able to tell," business administration major Jerimiah Parra, a junior and the president of the UndocuAlly Student Alliance, said.

The goal, organizers said, was to create a welcoming space where students could learn about immigration issues and stand in solidarity with those affected.

The event, originally scheduled to take place outdoors, was moved inside due to inclement weather.

Despite the change in venue, students, faculty and staff continued to stop by throughout the afternoon to participate in activities and conversations designed to educate and engage.

Students were invited to answer trivia questions about immigration while other members of the UndocuAlly Student Alliance shared available resources that students can utilize.

The event combined interactive learning with community engagement, creating an atmosphere that was both informative and inclusive.

"Events like this are important for students to just expand their knowledge even if this is not something that directly affects them or their family," Esteban Garcia, associate bursar and the chair of the DREAMers Action Alliance, said.

Garcia emphasized that by hosting these events on campus spark a sense of understanding as they provide spaces for students to educate themselves and engage with social justice issues in their community.

"Looking at the human side of why people migrate to the United States and understanding that immigrants contribute a lot to the U.S.," Garcia said.

Events like this one aim to connect local conversations to broader national realities. According to the Pew Research Center, immigrants make up nearly 15% of the U.S. population, one of the highest shares in modern history.

This data highlights the importance of ongoing conversations about immigration at both national and campus levels.

Garcia said he believed the event helped to bridge understanding between students from different backgrounds, encouraging empathy and postitive dialogue.

Some of the attendees said they came to show support for friends and classmates who are undocumented or come from mixed-status families.

"This event is really nice because I have a lot of friends who are undocumented, and I'm their ally," public health major Abigail Martinez, a sophomore, said. "It's really nice to see them get the same opportunities as everyone else."

Throughout the event, members of the UndocuAlly Student Alliance emphasized that undocumented students face unique challenges on campus and often struggle with visibility.

For this reaosn, psychology major Amisa Casseus, a junior, said that these events are an opportunity to amplify their voices and celebrate their resilience.

"With events like this it feels good to know that people actually care because it is an important issue," Casseus said.

The I Stand With Immigrants campaign is part of the national I Am an Immigrant initiative, a movement that encourages universities, organizations and individuals to celebrate the contributions of immigrants and share their stories to build understanding.

The campaign works to highlight immigrant voices through education, advocacy and community events like this at the university.

PHOTOS | VALENTINA TORO

The UndocuAlly Student Alliance organization's table with tote bags and stickers for students to utilize in Engleman Hall on Oct. 14.

Esteban Garcia, associate bursar and the chair of the DREAMers Action Alliance at the I Stand With Immigrants event.