

# Tips on Safe Off-Campus Living

- If you have a sliding glass door, place a wooden or metal rod in the track so it cannot be opened from the outside.
- Ask who has master keys to your apartment. If there is little understanding on this matter, be wary of renting the unit. Ask if you can, use your own lock.
- Whenever you go out, leave a light on or a radio playing to give the illusion that you are home.
- Even if you are going out just for a few moments, lock your door and take the keys with you.
- If someone comes to the door asking to use the telephone, make the call yourself, **DO NOT LET THEM IN.**
- Drive through the apartment community during the evening hours to see how well lit the parking lots and community is as a whole.
- The walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and storage areas should be well lit 24 hours a day.
- Get to know your neighbors. If there are social events for tenants, such as monthly dinners or outdoor barbecues, attend them.
- If you come home and believe that someone has unlawfully entered your apartment, do **NOT** go inside. Find a safe place and call for assistance.
- Only use laundry facilities during high traffic hours.
- Keep your key safe! Do not leave a key under a doormat or flower pot. Burglars know these hiding places!
- Keep doors locked at all times, even when you are home.
- Leave outside lights on at night and close your curtains. You don't want people to be watching you at any time.
- Be cautious when returning to your apartment alone. **IF** possible don't let anyone see that you are entering your apartment alone.
- Don't overcrowd balconies and decks in housing communities. Make sure you know the maximum people allowed on these and do not go over that amount.
- If you live on the first floor, make sure that the windows are locked before you sleep or if the apartment is unoccupied.
- Make sure your door has a deadbolt lock and a peephole.