UA gave student records to FBI

By Rachel Williamson

Law enforcement agencies were able to access information on thousands of international UA students last fall by using health and safety exceptions and federal grand jury subpoenas to get around student privacy laws.

“There was a mad dash for international student information since last fall,” said Sarah Kim, interim director of the Center for English as a Second Language. “But we are very clear on what we can and can’t release.”

Starting on Sept. 16, directory and file information on international students who attended the UA was released to the FBI. The names and home countries for all international CESL students who attended UA between 1985-1992 and fall 2000 to fall 2001 were also disclosed in the same month, excluding students from China, India, Japan, South Africa and Western Europe.

Since Sept. 11, the UA has been subpoenaed twice by an array of government agencies, including the Immigration and Naturalization Services and FBI.

However, law enforcement agencies sometimes request that details on the subpoenas be withheld because they could conflict with investigations, said Sharon Kha, associate vice president for communications.

Non-directory information on a former UA student from the United Arab Emirates was released to the FBI through a federal grand jury subpoena on Oct. 21.

When the FBI wants student information, a public information request goes through the registrar’s office, Kha said.

“When the information is gathered, the UA attorney’s office reviews information requests and subpoenas to ensure that everything is public information,” Kha said.

Anyone in the world can access directory information found in the University Student/Faculty/Staff directory.

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Two local females nearly abducted

Within 44 minutes of first kidnapping attempt, second female victim also targeted; suspect released, arrested on other charges

By James Kelley

Monday’s failed attempted kidnapping of a UA student was one of two such campus-area incidents, the second occurring about 44 minutes after the first.

At about 9:30 p.m. on Monday, a 23-year-old female student was the victim of an attempted kidnapping at North Euclid Avenue and East Elm Street. Then, about 10:14 p.m., another female was the subject of another failed kidnapping at North Second Avenue and East University Boulevard.

UA police said.

“Abduction attempts are very uncommon,” UAPD Commander Brian Beaton said. “Off the top of our heads, we can’t remember as many as two kidnappings within 44 minutes.”

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As economy slumps, grad school applications skyrocket

Slumped economy and need for higher education big factors

By Stephanie Schwartz

Faced with a weak economy and a competitive job market, students are turning to graduate school as an alternative — creating a 21 percent increase of applicants to UA’s graduate programs.

Enrollment in graduate programs has increased by more than 360 students in the past year, to 7,358, excluding those enrolled in professional degree programs like law.

“Most of this increase has been in the areas of electrical and computer engineering, informatics resources and library science and larger numbers of graduate students who are not seeking degrees,” said Gary Pivo, dean of the Graduate College.

“Overall, we see the entrance to grad schools go up when the economy is going down,” said Gary Pivo, dean of the Graduate College.

Concerns from Sept. 11 have drawn students to the public health and epidemiology programs, Pivo said. New and improved programs, such as the American Indian Studies doctoral program also experienced an increase in applicants.

Other factors, such as an increase in recruitment efforts, have helped draw students into areas such as pharmaceutical sciences, said Belinda Badger, administrativa of graduate pharmacy and practice.

Classroom capacity, lab space, faculty supervision and financial support all limit the number of students accepted to the programs.

But with a higher number of applications between this year and last, graduate admissions employees are being more selective about whom they admit.

Colleges only accept the number of students they feel can be placed into the field when they are done with school, Pivo said.

“The College of Medicine accepts 100 applicants each year, but is discussing the possibility of expanding to 110, said Christopher A. Leadem, senior associate dean for the admissions of student affairs at the College of Medicine.

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Gary Pivo, dean of the graduate college