Dr. Henry Lee to Visit VCU on April 25, 2005

VCU Forensic Science and Criminal Justice students and faculty are in for a great treat on Monday, April 25, 2005. Dr. Henry C. Lee, one of the world's foremost forensic scientists, will be visiting VCU! Planned events include a morning lecture for students and a free evening public lecture at the Siegel Center, including a book signing.

Dr. Lee has worked with law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and in many countries such as England, Columbia, Bosnia, and China where he has helped to solve more than 6,000 cases over the last 40 years. The author of hundreds of articles and co-author of more than 25 textbooks, Lee earned his B.S. in Forensic Science from John Jay College in 1972 and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at NYU in 1975. The recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Lee has also been the recipient of the Distinguished Criminalist Award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS); the J. Donero Award from the International Association of Identification, and was elected a distinguished Fellow of the AAFS in 1992.

Be sure to note this date on your calendar!

Curriculum Changes Advance through the Undergraduate Process

As many of you already know, Forensic Science faculty have been meeting and discussing the undergraduate curriculum all year. Curricula are living documents in education and are never stationary. As our program and the field of Forensic Science mature, we will also see the curriculum evolve – this is a good and healthy process!

The adjustments and changes the faculty have recommended will mainly affect those students newly admitted and those already here who change their major to Forensic Science, beginning fall 2005. The way that these changes may affect you will occur as we phase in new requirements and courses into the schedule.

FRSC 101 and 201, Forensic Science I and II will no longer be offered. Some of the material covered in these courses will be incorporated into the new upper-level survey course, FRSC 350. Students who have not completed FRSC 101 and/or 201 will be waived from that two credit requirement.

FRSC 350, Forensic Laboratory Principles and Practices, has been revised and will now be called Survey of Forensic Science.

Students must have a scientific foundation in chemistry and biology to take this new survey.

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What is this Ram Pam “Thing”?

VCU Ram Pals are Forensic Science upperclassmen who serve as mentors in the fall semester to small groups of VCU freshmen, enrolled in VCU1101, Introduction to the University. Mentors attend weekly VCU1101 classes and spend 20 minutes during that class meeting with a small group of freshmen. Here is what a few freshmen had to say about the Ram Pal program:

The whole Ram Pal thing was great. My mentor is a great person and I hope the best for her. She was easy to talk to. The Ram Pal thing helped me to talk about situations I was going through. I got input from not only Lindsey, but also other members of my group.

I loved the small group sessions because my mentor gave us further information about the school and gave us some “streetwise” tips about college life.

Perhaps my favorite aspect of VCU101 was the Ram Pals. Their insight and advice on classes, study methods, professors, etc., helped a lot.

If you are looking for a way to strengthen your mentoring and teaching skills . . . If you are looking for a way to be of service to the university and your fellow Forensic Science students . . . If you are looking for a resume builder . . . If you are looking for an upper-level credit . . . Then consider becoming a Ram Pal! The application deadline is Friday, April 1, 2005. E-mail fos@vcu.edu for an application right away!

2005 Black History in the Making Award Recipient, Kechi Anyadike

The Forensic Science Program congratulates Kechi Anyadike, BS ’05 on receiving the 2005 Forensic Science Black History in the Making Award.

A recipient of the Provost’s Scholarship for the past three years, Kechi also is a member of the Golden Key Honor Society. In 2003, she received a smoking cessation grant for the Cancer Awareness Team. During her time at VCU, she has worked as a resident assistant and a summer housing and conference assistant, served as a student ambassador, assisted in the coordination of the annual Intercultural Festival fashion show, and served as a hospital volunteer. Currently Kechi is completing a student internship in New York City for a non-profit organization called Urban Agenda. There she works 32 hours per week and takes university classes in Labor Studies. Kechi has been admitted to every law school she has applied to and will be attending the University of Michigan or Georgetown University School of Law this fall. Congratulations Kechi!
Curriculum Changes (continued from page 1)

Course. Students who have already completed FRSC 350 and laboratory, FRSC 350L are not affected by this change. Students who have completed FRSC 350 and have not completed the laboratory, FRSZ 350L are advised to register for FRSZ 350L this fall 2005. Students who have not taken FRSC 350 will substitute the requirement with the revised FRSC 350.

FRSZ 350L, Laboratory in Forensic Principles and Practice will not be offered after fall 2005. Only students who have already completed FRSC 350 but have not completed the laboratory will be allowed to register for FRSZ 350L in the fall 2005 semester. After fall 2005, material in FRSZ 350L has been primarily moved to the new Forensic Microscopy course, FRSC 365. Students who have not yet taken FRSZ 350L, will replace the course with the new FRSC 365, Forensic Microscopy or an approved substitute by a Forensic Science faculty member.

CHEM 401, Applications of Instrumental Techniques in Organic and Forensic Chemistry has been changed to FRSC 401, Forensic Chemistry.

Internship Deadline

The greatest learning experience from the internship was to see how much in the forensic world has not been explored. -- Missy Dragoo on her summer 2004 internship

FRSC 493, Forensic Science Internships are available for Forensic Science seniors who have completed 27 credits in the core program and have a 2.75 cumulative grade-point average. The deadline for a fall 2004 internship application is April 19, 2005. Steps for exploring FRSC 493 are:

1. Visit the Forensic Science Program Office located at 1000 W. Franklin St. to review internship opportunities in the FOS Internship Notebook. Choose your top two locations for the Internship.

2. In addition to choosing your top two locations, review the next steps handout and the FRSC 493 application (also in the notebook).

3. Submit a completed application to Cindy Myron, Forensic Science Program Assistant (1000 W. Franklin St.).

4. After Cindy Myron verifies that your application has been received and approved, she will schedule an appointment for you to meet with Dr. Eggleston. At that meeting, you and Dr. Eggleston will discuss your goals and your top two internship location choices.

   e-mail fos@vcu.edu for a copy of the FRSC 493 application

   Federal Internship Programs:

   The FBI Honors Internship Program at http://www.fbi.gov/employment/honors.htm

   Federal Law Enforcement Training Center’s College Intern Program (FLETC) at http://www.fletc.gov/tmc/college_intern_program.htm

   The Department of the Navy’s Naval Criminal Investigative Service’ Student Internship program at www.ncis.navy.mil
March 21 - Summer advance registration

March 25 - Last day to withdraw with a mark of “W.” Talk with financial aid before withdrawing from a class.

March 28-April 1 - Advising for fall semester

April 1 - Ram Pal application deadline

April 4 - Fall registration begins

April 19 - Deadline to apply for fall and summer internships

May 3 - Classes end

May 4 - Reading Day

May 5-14 Final Exams

May 21 - Commencement and Diploma Ceremony

is for Advance Registration and Advising. Plan to see your Forensic Science advisor the week of March 24-28, 2005 for fall 2005 advising.

Fall registration dates are as follows:
Honors: March 28
Graduate students: April 4
Seniors: April 6
Juniors: April 11
Sophomores: April 18
Freshmen: April 25

VCU Forensic Science

I SPY a Forensic Science Faculty Member

Thanks to Michelle Peace for the idea to adapt this game and thanks to the graduate teaching assistants who took the time to scope out the offices! Take a few minutes and match what items you might find to the appropriate faculty member’s office.

Mason Byrd                         Fishing poles
Tracey Dawson Cruz                NC State plaque
Bill Eggleston                    Child’s artwork
Marilyn Miller                   Star Trek memorabilia
Michelle Peace                 A miniature tractor
Al Poklis                           Penguins
Watercolor of an ear of corn
DNA textbooks
Dumbest Criminals
Plastic Spider

Forensic Science Student Club News

Elections have been held and the Student Club has new officers!

President: Briana Blinn
Vice President: Jane Bownes
Treasurer: Stacy Hebert
Secretary: Loreley Mack

New Executive Board Members are Ali Myers, Lauren McDonald and Alicia Bebout.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the election process. And many thanks to outgoing officers and Executive Board members: Jill Grizzard, Kari Magner, Eric Hlava, Kelly Freeman, and Kristen Lewis.