Message from the Program Director

Dear Students, Graduates and Friends of the Forensic Science Program,

As we come to the end of the 2010/11 academic year, and with commencement just around the corner, we’re delighted to report that the state of the Forensic Science Program here in Happy Valley has never been better.

This May, five of our students will receive their Master’s degree and another 22 will receive their Bachelor’s degree in Forensic Science. Along with three students from December, we have 29 new graduates this academic year. This number is the highest in our program’s history, and pushes us to almost 100 total graduates since 2006.

This is an exciting time in the continuing development of our program, as our alumni are excelling in their new jobs and graduate school programs across the country, and are establishing a strong network that will greatly benefit their fellow graduates. Recent graduates have taken jobs with the FBI Laboratory, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, DSA:SI Labs, the Bode Technology Group, and the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office. As always, make sure to take full advantage of that network, as well as the connections our faculty have developed over the years. And be sure to join us on Facebook and follow the job opportunities we post through Twitter. Connectivity!!

Our three new faculty members (Frank Dorman, Cedric Neumann and Jenifer Smith) have navigated successfully through their first year on the job, and are already having a positive impact on the program and our students. Along with our other faculty and staff (Reena Roy, Ralph Ristenbatt, Dan Sykes, Cheri McConnell, Kathy Leon and Missy Thomas) we conducted a series of strategic planning meetings this year. One area of particular focus is online education. We have two existing courses (FRNSC 100 and 200) that are offered through the World Campus, and are taught by Kelly Butzler from Penn College and our own Bob Shaler. These two courses were delivered to more than 300 students this past year. Our goal is to expand the number of courses (starting with the development of Forensic Statistics), that can be bundled to earn a certificate, a minor, or even a Master’s degree. Keep an eye on the World Campus over the next two years to see what new and exciting courses emerge in Forensic Science.

As always, and when your travel plans allow, we encourage our alumni and friends to visit us so we can keep you connected to our program. For those who haven’t had a chance yet, we can tour you through our facilities, talk with you more about the program and our students, and even arrange for you to meet with a few of our current students. So, be sure to contact us during your next visit.

Warm Regards from the Faculty and Staff of the Forensic Science Program
- Mitch Holland
Congratulations 2011 Graduates

We are proud to announce our Spring graduating class:

Graduate Students
Seth Michalski  
Jennifer Nabozny  
Katherine O’Hanlon  
Beth Slaybaugh  
Jessica Westland

Undergraduate Students
Rachel Carter  
Haley Cline  
Andriana DeArmas  
Brittany Depasquale  
Andrea Dobbins  
Kristen Fudge  
Chelsea Gingery  
Kaleigh Huddy  
Andrew Leibowitz  
Najla Lindsay  
Donna Money  
William Nunez  
Jonathon Owazany  
Ashley Rachael  
Alison Reigh  
Anthony Roncase  
Victoria Silber  
Kimberly Slota  
Karla Valenzuela  
Lauren Williams  
Stephen Yip  
Bryce Ziegler

Be sure to stay in touch after graduation!
Beth Slaybaugh is the recipient of our Graduate Academic Excellence Award. Beth will graduate with a M.P.S. in Forensic Science with a concentration in Forensic Chemistry. Beth’s plans after graduation are to secure a laboratory position in either a forensic chemistry or environmental laboratory.

Britany Depasquale is the recipient of our Undergraduate Academic Excellence Award. Britanny will graduate with a B.S. in Forensic Science with a concentration in Forensic Biology. Britanny has also been selected to represent our program as Student Marshal for the graduation ceremony. She will be the first student recognized within our major, and will serve as banner carrier in the procession. Britanny’s plans after graduation are initially to take an EMT course, volunteer at a NY hospital, and then apply to medical school at Hofstra or Stony Brook.

Graduate Student Future Aspirations

Seth Michalski—Seth will be pursuing a forensic chemistry lab position on the east coast.
Jenn Nabozny—Initially Jenn will be moving to CT to finish up a biology minor at the U of CT, as well as continuing her support of the FRNSC 100 online course. She will then be pursuing a DNA lab position in CT, hopefully landing a job at the CT State Crime Lab (where she had an internship).
Katie O’Hanlon—Katie will be moving back to VA and teaching dance until she lands a DNA Analyst position in a forensic lab.
Jess Westland—Jess will be working full-time for Dr. Dorman as a research technician/assistant lab manager. She eventually hopes to work for a chemistry company (U.S. or abroad), or with a state/government laboratory, such as the CDC or DEA.

Undergraduate Student Future Aspirations

Due to the unusually large graduating class, the limited space here does not allow listing each student’s future plans. However, watch for Alumni News in future volumes of this newsletter….and stay current by following us on Facebook.

Mark your Calendar for the FRNSC Bar Tour 2011:
Follow the Evidence….
The Alcohol Poisoning of Homer Simpson
May 12th
The Forensic Science Club recently held elections, and the following are the new 2011/12 officers:

- President: Randee Sedaka
- V.President: Alison Matuszewski
- Secretary: Breanne Decker
- Treasurer: Kerry McGinley
- THON Chair: Sam Grabler

Consider joining the club in the Fall!

Dan Sykes is the program adviser for both of the Forensic Chemistry Options (undergraduate and masters) within the Forensic Science Program. The Forensic /Analytical Chemistry Research Group is an active group engaged in a variety of instructional, research and professional/outreach activities. Both the undergraduate and graduate-level forensic chemistry options are science-intensive curricula. The goal is to prepare the student for a career in an analytical chemistry laboratory: forensic/drug, toxicology, pharmaceutical, environmental, etc. According to Dr. Sykes, the approach is quite simple: extensive hands-on experience with the equipment, tools and resources of a modern analytical laboratory. The student will learn how to optimize, maintain and troubleshoot instrumentation; develop and validate protocols; understand the advantages and limitations of existing protocols; and learn the chemistry underlying the methods and instrumentation.

Forensic Chemistry Research Group

Forensic/Analytical Chemistry Research

Dan Sykes
Forensic Chemistry Research Group

FRNSC Club News

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Program Notes & Future Events:

- Plan to attend the annual MAAFS meeting, May 23-27, Virginia Beach, VA
- Register for the Forensic Entomology Workshop, “Bugs Don’t Lie,” May 25-27, UP
- Plan to attend our Appreciation Picnic, open to all FRNSC graduates and employers. June 2, Lake Accotink Park, Springfield, VA. Contact the Program Office for more information.
- Grad Orientation, June 15-19th
- Fall classes start August 22nd
- Enjoy your summer!