



The Forensic Science Flyer

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2010

GREETINGS FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Greetings Forensic Science Enthusiasts! Tremendous changes have occurred in the UND Forensic Science Program since our last issue in 2005 (!). My, how time flies. This issue is dedicated to all those who have been active behind the scenes to strengthen and encourage growth of this program. All of you donors, instructors and faculty of our collaborating departments, and student workers, please pat yourselves on the back and congratulate yourselves for a job well done.

FORENSIC SCIENCE WELCOME NEW STAFF

Dr. Igor Ovchinnikov is an Associate Professor of Forensic Science and Human Genetics. He joined the Department of Biology and the Forensic Science Program at UND in August 2009. After graduating from Moscow State University, Ovchinnikov earned his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the Institute of Genetics and Selection of Microorganisms in Moscow in 1993. Ovchinnikov has taught and done research in



Russia, Scotland, and the United States. He came to UND from the University of Connecticut where he was an Associate Professor in Residence. Ovchinnikov's expertise is in the fields of human, primate, and Neanderthal genetics. He began an international project on Neanderthal genetics that resulted in the second discovery of DNA from Neanderthal bones, with the findings being published in *Nature* and *Nature Encyclopedia of the Human Genome*. He was also among the first to use DNA analysis in criminalistics. Here at UND, Ovchinnikov will be contributing to the forensic biology components of the Forensic Science curriculum. He will be the instructor of Introduction to the Forensic Sciences, as well as Human Medical and Population Genetics.

NEW EVIDENCE

Since our last newsletter, program director Dr. Phoebe R. Stubblefield and collaborator Dean Martha Potvin, of the College of Arts and Sciences, were awarded a National Science Foundation Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Development grant titled "Using a Crime Lab Model to Enhance Undergraduate Science Education" for over \$148,000.

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Many of the components of the Teaching Lab shown in this newsletter were developed from those funds, and through the support of Arts and Sciences to renovate the lab space on the third floor of Ireland Hall. Another product of the grant was the development of Anthropology 120 Introduction to the Forensic Sciences. This course provides a survey of forensic science topics and training in scientific thinking using a combination of lecture, small group activities/discussions, and laboratory exercises, for non-forensic science majors. Offered for the first time in 2008 by Dr. Stubblefield, the course is now offered by Dr. Ovchinnikov.



FORENSIC SCIENCE CLUB

Since 2003, students have had the opportunity to join the Forensic Science Club. The goal of the Club is to bring together those interested in Forensic Science, as well as educate others about the discipline. To reach these goals, the Club hosts many activities around campus and in the community. The club's main event is the Haunted Lab which is put on each fall around Halloween. Club members volunteer at local school events, teaching kids various basics of Forensic Science. The club has many ideas that will hopefully be implemented soon.

SPOTLIGHT: FORENSIC SCIENCE ADVISOR RICHARD WISE

Dr. Richard Wise graduated from John Carroll University in Ohio with a B.A. in History; he then went on to receive a J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Wise practiced law for many years, holding positions such as an attorney-law clerk to a state appeals court judge, an assistant county prosecutor, and an associate in a law firm. While working in the legal department of the American Psychological Association, Wise earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. He then did a postdoctoral fellowship in Forensic Psychology at the University of South California's Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Sciences. Wise has been at UND for four and a half years; he is currently an associate professor teaching Introduction to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Individual Research, Tutoring in Psychology, and Advanced Individual Research. Wise's concentration lies in forensic and clinical psychology. His current research is a study on how knowledgeable judges are about eyewitness testimony and the power of the judge to reduce eyewitness errors using this knowledge.

BRING OUT YOUR DONORS

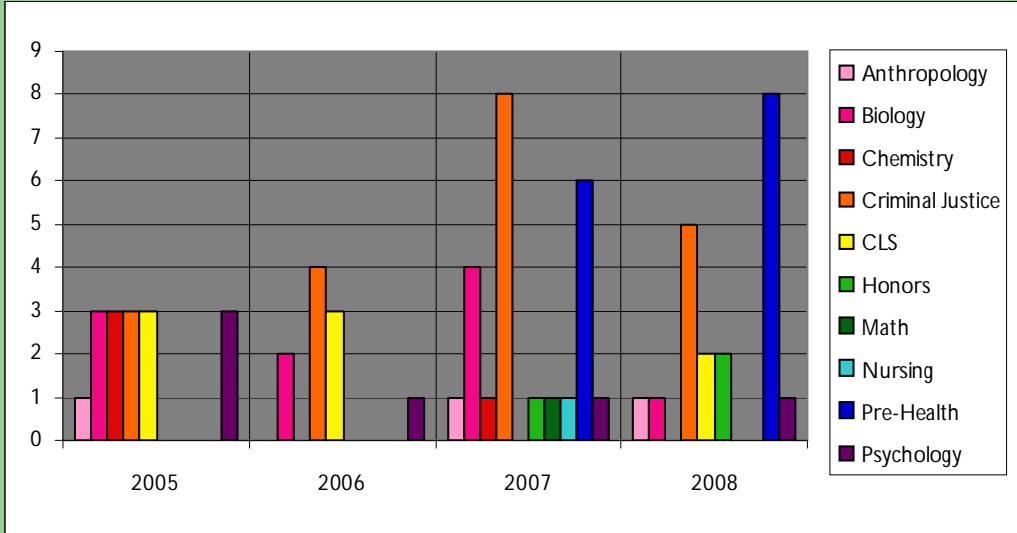
Thanks to the UND Foundation's annual phone drive, the first donor support of the FS program occurred in 2008. In addition to a heartfelt thank you letter, we have honored our donors by placing their names on a plaque mounted in the entry way of the Forensic Science Teaching Laboratory. Thanks again Kathryn McFadden, Mary J. Fisher, and Theo and Judy Haley for your generous support. Our very special thanks go to retired criminalist Aaron Rash of Bismarck, and the Gowan family of Gowan Construction in Oslo, MN. Mr. Rash donated his library, generated over his career as a crime scene investigator and detective, to the FS program. The Gowans, particularly Milt Gowan, provided a generous donation, funds which made it possible to obtain a needed alternate power supply for the lab's Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer. The support and interest of donors causes direct improvements to the program, and is the foundation supporting the FS program as an enduring part of education at in North Dakota.



How can you help? Everyone can help by making a monetary donation, donating old equipment, or body donation. Monetary donations create scholarships for students as well as supporting students attending fairs or conferences; examples of equipment donation include microscopes, 10 gallon fish tanks, and used firearm cartridges. Law enforcement and lab personnel can support the forensic science program by giving a guest lecture for a class or the FS Club, demonstrating skills in a lab or field exercise, inviting students to your institution for a tour, and being open to relevant internships whenever possible. If you are interested in supporting the FS program, please contact Dr. Phoebe Stubblefield. phoebe.stubblefield@und.edu or (701) 777-4870.

STATE OF THE PROGRAM

Now in its tenth year, the Forensic Science program averages about 100 students. From July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, the Program graduated 19 students. Since 2005, an average of 17.5 Forensic Science students have been enrolled in a second major. As you can see in the graph to the right, the majority of these students choose criminal justice or a pre-health program.



CASE IN PROGRESS

Finishing touches are still occurring in the Forensic Science Teaching Lab. Video surveillance consistent with a crime lab environment is in development for Spring 2010. Also in development is a Forensic Science Minor. Although still in the initial planning phases, the concept has been received positively by the programs that would be most affected, Criminal Justice and Anthropology. This minor is intended for select, non-science majors. Perhaps by the next edition of the Flyer this minor will have passed program review.

FS MAJORS ATTEND AAFS CONFERENCE

Despite strong encouragement from the program director beginning in Fall 2003, February 2007 marked the first year that Forensic Science students attended the American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual conference. Since then, students have attended every year - four in 2008, six in 2009, and another five expected for 2010. Peer-to-peer advising has been the strongest encouragement causing students to seek this experience. After attending the conference, student comments focus on how much they appreciated experiencing the breadth of the forensic sciences through the many oral, poster, meal-time or workshop presentations. Participating in the Young Forensic Scientist Forum helped students to recognize their place in the forensic sciences.

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

