Forensic Psychology Program Events

Murder Is Her Hobby: Frances Glessner Lee and The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death Exhibit

On January 26, students attended a private tour of the Murder Is Her Hobby: Frances Glessner Lee and The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death exhibit at the Renwick Gallery in DC. The exhibit featured miniature crime scene dioramas that Glessner created and are still used to train homicide investigators in forensic work today.

James Comey Event at Lisner Auditorium

On April 30, former FBI Director, James Comey, spoke with Mike Allen, co-founder of Axios, at Lisner Auditorium about his book A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership. Comey answered questions about his role as FBI Director and the political implications of his actions while in this role. The Forensic Psychology program raffled away three tickets to the event and the lucky winners were Mary McKetta, Elizabeth Jarowey and Lauren Zurawski.

Updates from the Forensic Psychology Student Association

This spring, the student association underwent a name change! Formerly the Student Association for Forensic Psychology (SAFP), it is now the GW Forensic Psychology Student Association. They also elected new executive board members to take the mantle from the outgoing executive board. The outgoing board members are: Justina Hauss, President; Brittanii Blanchard, Treasurer; and Lauren Anderson, Secretary, and the new executive board members are: Kristen Baker, President; Billy Baker, Treasurer; Richika Kartan, Secretary; and Kieran Cook, Webmaster. The student association hosted two events this spring, a resume writing workshop led by student Richika Kartan and a social outing with free tickets to the Spy Museum.

Faculty Notes

Professor Michael Bourke co-edited the recently published Handbook of Behavioral Criminology which is a volume on current findings regarding the causes of violent crime and effective methods of intervention and prevention. Professor Bourke wrote a chapter entitled “Internet Sexual Offending” for the volume as well. Professor Blake McConnell also wrote a chapter for the Handbook of Behavioral Criminology entitled “Criminal Interview and Interrogation in Serious Crime Investigations.”

Additionally, Professor McConnell recently published an article about the Evidence Recognition Sensor that he developed with Dr. Timothy J. Weber. Professor McConnell and Dr. Weber created the Evidence Recognition Sensor as an affordable interrogation tool to assist criminal investigations. The study referenced in the article, which can be read here, was conducted using GW Forensic Psychology graduate students as research subjects!

Class Notes

Current Students

Becca Bergquist will be attending Texas Tech University’s Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology starting in fall 2018.

Molly Ellenberg co-authored an article which was recently published in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma. The article is entitled, “Loss and Grief among Persistently Delinquent Youth: The Contribution of Adversity Indicators and Psychopathy-Spectrum Traits to Broadband Internalizing and Externalizing Psychopathology.”

Denica Hill will be attending Pacific University’s Psy.D. program in Clinical Psychology starting in fall 2018.

Eva Jernegan presented on the Mental Health Nexus in Active Violence Incidents to members of police and fire departments in Northern Virginia as a part of the Arlington County High Threat Response Program on April 9th.

Andolyn Medina is working at the National Center for Victims of Crime as a Victim Assistance Specialist and will be attending the George Washington University’s Psy.D. program in fall 2018.

Sarah Queller will be starting University of Indianapolis’s Psy.D. program in fall 2018.

Sarah Tahmoupour was recently hired as a Junior Intelligence Analyst for a protection agency.

Catherine Taylor will be working as a Background Investigator for CSRA.

Class of 2015

Katerina Papatheodorou will be attending Georgia State University’s Ph.D. program in Community Psychology starting in fall 2018. Katerina’s research focus will be the psychology of terrorism.

Class of 2014

Jeffrey Lawrence will be starting his pre-doctoral internship in the Adult Psychology track at Bellevue Hospital in July 2018. Jeffrey has been a Psy.D student at Yeshiva University’s Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology and anticipates graduating in May 2019.