

## 'CSI' techniques taught in new course

**Natalie Davis**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR  
ndavis107@wssu.edu

DNA, fingerprinting, crime scene analysis and reconstruction.

It is not CSI or NCIS, familiar television shows that use these tools to unveil the nature of crimes, it is an introductory forensic science class.

Twenty one students are learning how to do the work of the professionals.

The class is cross-listed and team-taught by professors in the Life Sciences, Chemistry and Justice Studies departments. This is the first time Winston-Salem State has offered a forensic science class.

Denise Nation, assistant professor of Justice Studies and program coordinator, said that students will be required to view several television shows, including NCIS and CSI, to interpret the steps of the

investigations.

"The students will soon be able to identify what police did right and wrong," Nation said.

The scientific method will play a major role in this course. Nation said that students will evaluate the scientific methods that are used to analyze physical evidence based on their current research.

Morris Clarke, associate professor of Life Sciences, said that he is surprised and excited by the level of interest from the students so far.

"I challenged the students to critique a 'Dateline' program," Clarke said.

"They did a great job in crime scene analysis, physical evidence gathering, and psychological profiling."

Nickolay Hristov, adjunct of Life Sciences, said that the course requires students to

participate in the Center for Design Innovation [a multi-campus research center for the UNC system] website.

"My contribution to the class is the application of advanced digital techniques in forensics such as image analysis; 3-D surveying and reconstruction with multi-camera arrays; high-speed videograph; long range laser scanning; and 3-D modeling for simulation," Hristov said.

Each professor said that they have their own expectations of the students and the course.

"As a hard scientist, I hope the students deepen their scientific literacy and that they become advocates for the application of scientific methods in not only forensics, but also environmental justice, health disparities, and lifestyle choices," Clarke said.

"I believe that students in this course will ultimately

come to the conclusion that science and inquiry have a major role in everyday life."

Nation said that she wants students to understand the primary concerns of a forensic scientist, to determine the exact nature of a crime. The course syllabus provides an explanation of how to properly handle a crime scene, to survey and collect evidence that is relevant to the case.

Guilford College and Forsyth Technical Community College are the only colleges in the Triad that have a forensic science track.

Nation said that the long-term goal is a forensic science track in the justice studies major.

"Students will be more attractive for careers with these skills," Nation said.

"It will make the major more attractive and students more marketable in the job field."

## Contest

continued from Page 1

"I am satisfied with the production."

The video showed band members' dedication to the Red Sea of Sound. The video also included interviews from Dr. Michael Magruder, director of bands and professor of music.

The students won an all-expense paid trip to Atlanta, a Flip camera, a laptop with editing software. Miles picture was posted on the Honda Battle of the Bands website.

"I felt as though some prayers had been answered when she handed me the laptop," Miles said.

"I really needed a new one, and I'm definitely enjoying it so much."

Miles and DeGraffenreidt said that they are receiving recognition from all over the University.

"We are very proud of both Leslie and Antonio," said Brenda Allen, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

They are very talented students. We expect great things from these students in the future," "It is certainly great recognition for Leslie and helps continue to build awareness of the quality of our students and our programs," Chancellor Donald Reaves said.

"It was especially nice since the Red Sea of Sound was performing this year."

While in Atlanta, Miles and DeGraffenreidt helped document this year's Honda Battle of the Bands.

"I felt so blessed to have won the competition," Miles said.

"I wish that everyone could have gotten the opportunity to be a part of that event in the way that I was."

DeGraffenreidt said that he is very grateful.

"Leslie is a great partner."

## Students take tropical trip for spring break

**Victoria Staples**  
STAFF REPORTER  
vstaples107@wssu.edu

While most students head home for spring break, some students from the Honors program and the Intercultural Communication course will be enjoying sunny skies and the tropical weather of Jamaica.

Florida A&M University faculty and students will join 19 Winston-Salem State students for a spring break study abroad program. Over half of the WSSU students participating are from the Honors Program.

"Last year we went with FAMU to explore options of how short-term cultural study abroad works and Ms. Patterson and I liked it and decided to open it up to our students," Sonya Melton said.

Melton is an assistant director of the Honors Program.

"I think it is a valuable learn-

ing experience and opportunity to study and travel abroad while in college," Andrea Patterson said.

"We realize that every student cannot afford nor have the time, due to work or family commitments to spend an entire semester abroad. In addition, some students may be unsure about the study abroad experience."

Patterson is an English & Foreign Languages instructor and creator of the Intercultural Communication course.

Melton and Patterson will be the WSSU instructors participating in the spring break program.

According to the Jamaica study abroad brochure, the students will be traveling to various parishes of Jamaica and touring different sites, such as the U.S. Embassy and the University of West Indies.

They will also be experiencing nightlife in Ocho Rios and participating in a cultural immersion experience. In addition, they will complete a service learning project at an elementary school in Ocho Rios.

"We will be taking donated school supplies to the school children and visiting their school," Patterson said.

Patterson said that the study abroad program is referred to as a high impact learning practice in the area of diversity and global learning.

"Hopefully, this will encourage students to travel abroad to different countries and to stay longer," Melton said.

Melton said that following the return from the study abroad program, the students may do a presentation for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Forum.

In the Intercultural

Communication course, the students explore working abroad, navigating the study abroad process and understanding relationships between languages and cultures.

The study abroad program is a component of the course and is not required. It costs approximately \$1,250 to participate. Students raised the majority of the funding for the program.

"Ms. Melton and I hope the Spring Break Jamaica Program will make studying abroad a little more affordable, more realistic," Patterson said.

Melton said that she is trying to do another short-term trip during the fall semester.

## The Yard by Brandon Coley

