Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the public are invited to join us for interesting lectures from four leaders within the forensic science field. All lectures will be held on Mondays from 12:20 p.m.—1:10 p.m. in 111 Wartik Lab

**Sept. 12**
James DeFrancesco

**Sept. 19**
Dawn McQuiston

**Oct. 10**
Robert Ramotowski

**Oct. 24**
Melissa Smrz

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**“Investigating Clandestine Drug Laboratories”**

James DeFrancesco is a senior forensic chemist with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s National Laboratory in Chicago. His diverse background in chemistry ranges from work in private industry for Merck and Effenbush Pharmaceuticals to teaching at DePaul and Northwestern Universities. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from Elmhurst College in 1983 and his Ph.D. in 1982 from Michigan State University. His dissertation research involved measuring intracellular energy transfer. He is an expert in the application of psychological science to issues relevant to the legal system, specifically involving the study of expert evidence, meta-legal factors in courtroom decision-making, and the reliability of eyewitness testimony. His research investigating how footprints respond to forensic evidence in the courtroom is currently supported by a grant from the National Institute of Justice. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in statistics and behavior in withholding and law and regularly guest lectures at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

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**“Forensic Science in the Courtroom”**

Dawn McQuiston is an associate professor of psychology in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division at Arizona State University. Her research centers on the application of psychological science to issues relevant to the legal system, specifically involving the study of expert evidence, meta-legal factors in courtroom decision-making, and the reliability of eyewitness testimony. Her research investigating how footprints respond to forensic evidence in the courtroom is currently supported by a grant from the National Institute of Justice. McQuiston teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in statistics and psychology and law, and regularly guest lectures at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

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**“The Evolution of Latent Print Development Techniques”**

Robert Ramotowski is currently employed as a chief research scientist with the United States Secret Service Forensic Services Division laboratory. He has been employed in this capacity since 2009 and worked as a research chemist since 1994. His job duties include coordinating all of the research activities within the laboratory, particularly in the areas of latent print visualization, questioned document analysis, instrumental analysis, and ink and paper chemistry. He is a member of both the FBI editorial board and the laboratory analysis subcommittee. He has published more than 20 peer-reviewed articles on latent print and document analysis and has given lectures and workshops in more than a dozen countries.

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**“FBI Scientist’s View on the Development of Forensic Science”**

Melissa Anne Smrz received her B.S. in Zoology in 1980, and a Medical Technology Certificate in 1981 from the University of Iowa. She received her M.S. in Criminalistics from the University of Illinois in 1985, and for three years worked as a forensic scientist, specializing in forensic serology and microscopic hair analysis with the former Virginia Bureau of Forensic Sciences. In 1988, Smrz joined the FBI, becoming a senior agent, and was assigned to the Indianapolis bureau where she investigated white collar crime violations. In 1992, she was assigned to the DNA Analysis Unit II of the FBI Laboratory where she was a forensic serologist and nuclear DNA examiner. For the next eight years, she examined evidence for the presence of human biological substances and DNA in forensic cases. In 2000, Smrz was selected as chief of the DNA Analysis Unit II of the FBI Laboratory, which conducts forensic mitochondrial DNA examinations on hairs, bones, teeth, and blood or saliva reference samples. In 2004, she was selected as chief of the Forensic Analysis Section of the FBI Laboratory, where she supervised personnel from the Cryptanalysis and Racketeering Records, Firearms and Toolmarks, Latent Fingerprints, and Questioned Documents Units. In 2009, Smrz was selected as deputy assistant director of the Forensic Analysis Branch in the FBI Laboratory and in charge of all forensic casework, quality assurance, evidence control, and training. She later became the sole-deputy assistant director of the FBI Laboratory, overseeing all forensic casework, traditional crime scene and means of mass destruction case response, forensic intelligence, research, and administrative/financial activities.

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For more information, contact the Forensic Science program at 814-863-6758 or email km1142@psu.edu