



GCRC

Strengthening Relationships
Between Government
And Higher Education

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Emergency Preparedness for Government and Colleges

The Government College Relations Council Winter Conference included a very informative presentation from keynote speaker, Leslie Sharfman, who is a Program Analyst at the Office of National Security Coordination Federal Emergency Management Agency Department of Homeland Security in Washington, DC. The presentation focused on emergency planning for government agencies and colleges and universities. Ms. Sharfman ac-

quired a wealth of knowledge in the area of emergency planning by working intimately with the Continuity of Operations (COOP) program, which ensures that government agencies will continue to function in the event of a national emergency. She also works with more than 75 federal executive departments and agencies, including the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts

and the Executive Office of the President.

During her presentation Ms. Sharfman addressed the importance of government agencies and colleges and universities establishing and maintaining functional COOP plans. She encouraged everyone to identify, examine and prepare plans for their entire network of resources. This included an evaluation of transportation assets, medical expertise, automation and technology ...*(Story continues on Pg. 2)*

CSI? Crossing Jordan? Bones? The True Career of A Forensic Scientist

According to a study by student loan provider Sallie Mae, interest in Forensic Science has increased among college students significantly in the past few years. This rise has been attributed to popular television shows such as "Crossing Jordan", "Bones", or any of the variations of "CSI", as well as bestsellers such as those written by Patricia Cornwell. These shows and books, however, are

based upon entertainment and not necessarily the reality of being a Forensic Scientist. With that in mind, we asked Janice Martino, Forensic Scientist, Biology/DNA, of the Illinois State Police to provide us with some insights as to what life is really like in this field.

For Martino, her typical day involves a variety of different tasks. Included in these duties are biological

and DNA analysis of evidence from crime scenes, testifying in court, and instrument maintenance. She also engages in community involvement in terms of getting out of the office to speak to and recruit future employees. She has, in the past, given presentations to various student groups and classrooms.

"The best part of the job is bringing closure to victims of crime" Martino states. *(Story continues on pg. 2)*

**Save the Date!!
The next GCRC meeting will be October 25, 2007, National Louis University, 122 S. Michigan.
Job Fair included! Watch our website for more details!!**

Emergency Preparedness...continued from pg. 1

infrastructures, intellectual capital and human capital as they are all critically important before, during and after a disaster.

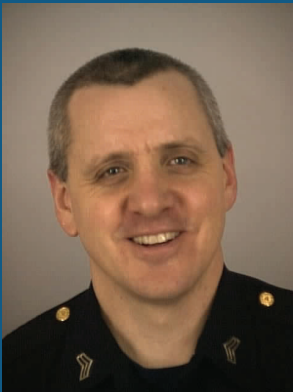
Ms. Sharfman pointed out that government executive staffs and college administrators must be concerned not only with how to provide for the safety of staff, stu-

dents and employees in an emergency, but also how resources can be most effectively applied where they are needed in a disaster response. In light of some of our most recent tragedies affecting college campuses and in government installations, this topic was timely and very well received.

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Meet Our Members: Mike Koval



The next in our series of "Meet Our Members" focuses on someone who has quite a commute to make our meetings. Please meet Mike Koval, Sergeant, Madison Police Department. Mike has been a member of GCRC for the past 5 years.

Mike's assignment at the Madison Police Department is to the Personnel and Training team. Specifically, he recruits, tests and trains individuals who aspire to be police officers. He's been in his position for the past 7 years.

According to Mike, the

Madison Police Department is "...Keen on recruiting individuals who have tremendous relational skills – and the criminal justice majors certainly do not have a 'lock on this position!'" He expresses frustration at the mistaken belief that students – and...

(Story continues on pg. 3)

Forensic Science...continued from Pg. 1

She also notes that Forensic Science is a field that is constantly changing, which can make for a fascinating and fast-paced workplace. "Technology is moving so fast. It's becoming more sensitive and faster. We're actually moving towards robotics." Martino likes to provide students with information

as to what skills and background they need to obtain a job as a Forensic Scientist. Specifically, students need a forensic science or a natural science degree (with coursework in BioChemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology, if interested in Biology and DNA). Once hired, individuals will be provided with formal training that can last

at least one year, depending on their particular chosen career track within Forensic Science.

She also advises students to talk to currently practicing scientists. She suggests taking a tour at the Illinois State Police Crime Lab Forensic Science Center at Chicago, *(Story continues on pg. 3)*

Forensic Science...continued from pg. 2

the only Illinois State Police Crime Lab in Chicago. During the tour, students would be able to see the more sensitive labs via windows, but would be able to enter some parts of the facility including evidence rooms, Firearms, Chemistry and Fingerprints.

“Our lab is a full-service agency” she continues. “About 95% of our cases come from the Chicago Police Department. Everything is sent to us first.”

In terms of positions in the department, most require a Bachelor’s degree. There are however, contractual or temporary work positions that do not require a Bachelor’s degree. Some contractual workers are known as Evidence Technicians and they gain valuable experience in instrument maintenance and learning the chain of command, and evidence handling. Martino does say that the lab has some formal interns, but these mostly come from the

UIC Masters in Forensic Science Program.

If students are interested in applying to become a Forensic Scientist or an Evidence Technician, they should visit <http://www.isp.state.il.us/forensics>. The website outlines the steps necessary to apply for the position.

Those interested in participating in a tour of the Illinois Crime Lab should contact Janice Martino directly at 312-433-8000 or via email at martjan@isp.state.il.us.

Student Success Stories: Natalie Kenny

Natalie Kenny’s path to her current position as the Village of Skokie’s Management Analyst and Public Information Officer demonstrates the benefits of interning. After starting her MPA studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago, Natalie accepted Skokie’s Administrative Intern position. She was promoted after a year into a permanent job, which she hopes will be “a great stepping stone into a future management-level position” in government.

Kenny learned the value of interning from working at her college newspaper, where she picked up all “I didn’t learn in the classroom as a journalism/advertising student. My experience at the newspaper really opened my eyes to the importance of hands-on work experience to compliment schooling.” She continued, “I cannot begin to explain how much I learned during my Skokie internship and how much it has helped me understand the importance of professional organizations

for networking and continuing education to stay abreast of current programs and events.”

Inspired to pursue a public service career after participating in her uncle’s local political campaign, Natalie reports “I’m pleased with my decision to work in the public sector because of the public-service aspect of my job. Everyday I am faced with different situations, comments, suggestions, concerns.

(Story continues on pg. 4)

Do you have a student or an alumni who would like to be featured in our Student Success Stories? If so, please contact Barbara Cosentino at B-Cosentino@neiu.edu

Meet Our Members...continued from pg. 2

their advisors – sometimes assume that you must have a background or a major in criminal justice in order to apply for a position.

“We will never be type cast as a formulaic, cookie-cutter, one-size-only need apply sort of agency. In fact, most people hired by MPD have a liberal arts degree of some sort – Mine was Journalism!”

Mike encourages students to do more than just attend class and earn good grades.

“Employers like me like to see individuals who are volunteering, holding down a job, juggling extra-curricular activities, etc. Life is chaotic and involves multi-tasking, time management, meeting financial obligations... Don’t be afraid to push yourself

out of your comfort zone and experience as much as you can.”

Mike encourages interested students and career center personnel to visit the Madison Police Department website to find out more about the department and the police officer position. Visit <http://www.madisonpolice.com> and click “Recruitment”.

Would you like to be featured next in our ‘Meet Our Members’ column? We’re looking for both recruiters and college members to introduce themselves? If so, please contact Barbara Cosentino at B-Cosentino@neiu.edu or via phone at 773.442.4686



Government College Relations Council

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The mission and purpose of the Government College Relations Council is to foster communication and cooperation between college and government communities through the dissemination of new and relevant information and the formation of mutually beneficial relationships.

Our Goals are:

- Help college students and graduates find career-related jobs with government employers
- Help government employers find educated and skilled employees to meet their hiring needs
- Provide professional development and networking opportunities to promote communication among GCRC members

**Strengthening Relationships Between
Government and Higher Education**

We're On the Web!!
<http://www.gcrcassociation.org>

Student Success Stories...continued from pg. 3

I like being able to answer a question or provide information to the community. I also find it very satisfying to meet people from the community and to listen to their stories about how much they enjoy living in Skokie and their positive experiences with the Village. That really makes me feel like what I am doing or what the Village is doing as a whole is helpful and appreciated."

In her position, Natalie works on a range of projects, including implementing a new adjudication process for parking tickets, laying out all printed

materials and coordinating with the Fine Arts Commission. She has benefited from the mentorship provided by Village Manager, Al Rigoni, whose more than "30 year tenure is very impressive and he really is the definition of a 'professional'." She is also guided by John Lockerby and Ann Tennes: "These two individuals hired me on as an Intern and have helped me hone my skills to get me to where I am today."

Natalie advises "If you are interested in an internship or job in local government, especially in Illinois, the best thing you can do is join a professional

organization. The Illinois Association of Municipal Manager Assistants (IAMMA) is a source that accepts resumes from graduate students interested in internships and then routes them to municipalities in need of interns. They practically do all the work for you, all you need to do is develop a strong resume and send it to them!"

She also suggests being concise when describing your experience and having others read your resume to catch typos. Additionally, "Keep a log of the projects you work on during your internship. A log helped me review everything I had worked on during my tenure at Skokie and show how far I've come as an intern."

