

FBI criminal profiler to give lecture

BY AMANDA GOESER
Staff Reporter

Kirksville is not a common stop for former FBI Criminal Profilers, but it will be this Saturday.

The Truman Pre-Law club is hosting former FBI Criminal Profiler Peter Smerick, who will facilitate an afternoon workshop and an evening lecture open to all students.

Smerick will host the first session, "Criminal Profiling Techniques for Prosecutors and Criminal Defense Attorneys" from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the SUB Georgian Room. Part of the session will include practical exercises, one of which will include statements from rape victims. Students will determine which statements are truthful. Smerick said a problem that defense attorneys and prosecutors constantly face is whether or not the case subject is telling the truth.

The second session, "Inside the Mind of Criminal Profilers" is 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the SUB Georgian Room. Smerick said he will present cases and allowing attendees to brainstorm among themselves to see if they can think like a criminal profiler.

"I am going to be ... bringing [students] into my world as a criminal profiler, and [show] how we try to determine deception when somebody is either speaking to us or has written something down, either a confession or a statement," Smerick said.

Smerick joined the FBI as a Special Agent in 1970 and eventually became a criminal profiler and violent crime analyst in 1988.

"Criminal profilers, basically, are very, very good analysts, and we can look at a crime scene from a behavioral perspective, while most detectives look at it strictly from a forensic science perspective," he said. "What we do is analyze crime scenes through the photographs submitted. It is an art form, not a science. It's something that takes years and years of training to look at a scene and be able to recognize and interpret correctly, what behavioral clues the offender is leaving behind, unintentionally."

Since retiring from the FBI 14 years ago, Smerick is now the President and CEO of the Academy Group, the largest privately owned forensic behavioral science firm in the world. Smerick and the eight other partners of the Academy Group are all FBI-trained criminal profilers.

As President of the Truman Pre-Law Club, senior Emily Zerfel was instrumental in bringing Smerick to Truman after seeing him present once before.

"[Students] can expect a very good presentation," she said. "Mr. Smerick is a very energetic person. I have met with him before and talked with him over the phone many times and he's really excited about working with college students again."

The Pre-Law Club is inviting students, faculty and community members to the sessions. The club has hosted several local legal professionals at their club meetings. Truman General Counsel Warren Wells was among those invited.

"It looks to me like a terrific opportunity for anybody who is thinking about a career in the legal field," he said. "The FBI is a really interesting organization for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is that they actually hire a lot of lawyers to be agents. So that is a career path for people who go to law school and are interested in law enforcement."

Chilly cycling



Sophomores Alex Halama and Lee Jones are cycling for the Journey of Hope which is currently being coordinated by Pi Kappa Phi. Volunteers cycle for 24 hours or until they bike an equivalent of the distance across the U.S., helping to raise awareness for Push America.

Brian O'Shaughnessy/
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Paino teaches sports history

BY CAITLIN DEAN
Assistant News Editor

Students may expect Truman's higher-ups to remain distant from the classroom, but that will change next semester for 25 history students.

This spring, provost Troy Paino will teach HIST 367, The History of American Sports.

Paino taught the class during his time at Winona State University but said he is revising it before next semester. The class will take a historical look at the development of modern sports in American life and why they play such a big role in society. Paino said sports also will be examined for the role they played in issues like race relations and politics.

"It's clear to everyone that sports plays a pretty important role, and in academia you could say, 'Well, it's just trivial stuff — it's not really important intellectual stuff,'" Paino said. "Why would you devote a class to sports history? To me it's part of a larger trend, taking the study of popular culture very seriously."

In addition to having a background in social and cultural history, Paino had a heavy interest in sports growing up. He played everything from baseball and foot-

ball to track, eventually ending up as a collegiate tennis player, he said.

Paino said he's already gotten a few e-mails from students interested in taking the class. He said students who are not self-proclaimed sports fans still can benefit from the class, perhaps even more than students interested in athletics.

"In some ways, coming in with a blank slate, not having strong opinions one way or another about sports, I think, will help you be more of an objective, honest appraiser of the role of sports in American life," he said.

Paino said he's taking on academic responsibilities not only because he's interested in the subject but also so that he can better understand the faculty experience.

"I think it's also important for me, if I'm going to be the chief academic officer here, to send a message to the faculty that I too am an academic so I understand what their work is and that I understand it enough that I'm still doing it," he said.

Steven Reschly, chair of the history department, said Paino first approached him about teaching a course last spring, before he came to campus. Reschly said Paino wanted to teach so he would come into contact with students and maintain his

scholarly life.

Reschly said the class is not listed yet as a catalogue course. He said the course currently is assigned one of three course numbers given to trial or new courses before they go through governance procedures. He said that if Paino teaches this course more than twice, it could be added to the catalogue.

The history department is excited to have more options for students, he said. After only two days of registration, 21 of the course's 25 seats were filled, he said.

"I think the topic is very popular, of course," Reschly said. "And I think people are very intrigued by the idea of an administrator teaching a class."

Reschly said Paino has mentioned several courses he may be interested in teaching, including legal history and one about the 1960s.

"I think Troy does want to keep his academic life alive and not get completely absorbed in administration, where he forgets that he's also a teacher and a scholar," Reschly said.

He said learning about the sorts of students at Truman and how the faculty functions by keeping a foot in the classroom will make Paino a better administrator.

Reschly said this was not a requirement for the provost position

— administrators typically do not teach. He is intrigued that Paino is teaching a course and it will be a fun semester, he said.

"It's very valuable to have a person in that position of provost who can provide leadership in administration — that's obvious — but who can also lead in scholarship and in teaching," Reschly said. "Bringing those three into a clearer relationship with one another ... is very good for the institution. I think it's very good for students."

History major sophomore Ira King said he wants to take Paino's class but isn't sure he'll get in. As of Tuesday night, King said the class was nearly filled, and he will not register until next Tuesday. King said he discovered the class on his own.

"I was looking at TruView, like the open course list, and I saw [the class] was on there," he said. "And then I found out that he was the provost."

King said he has heard other students talking about the class, which fills one of the two American history courses required for a history major.

"It sounds like a really interesting class, and I looked at [Paino's] background, and I think he'd be an interesting professor to have," King said.

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