



Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section – 2010

I1 Intimate Partner Violence: Tracking the Development of a Killer Through Love Letters

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By attending this presentation, attendees will be provided with a comprehensive review of scientific research on Intimate Partner Violence which will educate them on its importance as a major world health organization concern. Attendees will also be provided with a description of a well-known female athlete in Ohio, who married her high school sweetheart, and was later murdered while sleeping at home. Details of this case, including the arrest and conviction of her husband, will be provided; a forensic analysis of love letters from this murderer to his wife will be given. Audience members will have the rare opportunity to view these letters through visual aids. This in-depth analysis, which follows a teenager into young adulthood, uniquely portrays the development of an abuser; it correlates the stages of development of an intimate-partner-violence relationship through literature review and comparison with the murderer's love letters to his wife. A video interview given by the parents of the victim will be shown, so that audience members better can understand the development of this murderer, identify warning signs of intimate partner violence relationships, and review risk assessment literature, which forensic specialists may utilize in practice to identify perpetrators and prevent victimization of individuals in abusive relationships.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing comprehensive scientific research about Intimate Partner Violence and educating specialists about risk assessment tools and their clinical and forensic use. The forensic community will have the unique opportunity to view portions of hundreds of love letters that clearly outline the development of an abuser and murderer.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major, preventable public health crisis. "Battering" is a term reserved for physical violence experienced in intimate relationships. The battering often begins during the dating relationship and continues into marriage, sometimes leading to murder.

In this presentation, the stages of development of IPV have been correlated with the analytic review of love letters written from a murderer to his wife throughout their courtship. This relationship ended dramatically with the murder of the abuser's pregnant wife. Forensic specialists can play a pivotal role in the prevention of complications from IPV by using objective psychological screening tools and semi-structured interviews to identify IPV in suspected abusive perpetrators.

Violence, Murder, Risk Assessment, Intimate Relationship