

EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY AUTHOR
TO KEYNOTE USI PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE



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NEWS RELEASE

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A psychology professor whose research in eyewitness testimony has brought her in contact with some of the nation's most infamous criminal cases, will be the keynote speaker at the eighth annual Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference, slated Saturday, April 8, at the University of Southern Indiana.

Dr. Elizabeth Loftus, professor of psychology at the University of Washington and author of the award-winning Eyewitness Testimony, will deliver a public lecture on "Distortions of the Memory" following morning sessions in which participating psychology students will present their research papers. There will be a reception for Dr. Loftus and the students at 7 p.m. Friday. All events will be held in the University Center.

Dr. Loftus' research the last 15 years has focused on eyewitness testimony and has brought her in contact with such well-known cases as Ted Bundy, recently executed in Florida as the convicted murderer of young women; the California hillside strangler; and Lanell Jeter, the young Black man in Texas who was freed from prison after a "Sixty Minutes" television segment detailed evidence indicating he was wrongly accused in a robbery.

Dr. Loftus received a Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1970 and since has published 14 books and more than 150 scientific articles. Eyewitness Testimony was her fourth book and won the National Media Award for Distinguished Contribution from the American Psychological Foundation. Her work has been funded consistently by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Mental Health. She is a faculty member at National Judicial College and has been president of the Western Psychological Association, the American Psychology-Law Society, and the Experimental Psychology Division, American Psychological Association.

The USI research conference was organized by Dr. Joseph J. Palladino, associate professor of psychology, to encourage research by psychology students. More than 50 papers were presented at the 1988 conference by students from six states. Susie Meyer, a USI psychology graduate, is coordinating the 1989 conference, which is sponsored by the USI Psi Chi Chapter.

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