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Case File

By: Evan Norris , Staff Writer

Dr. Lee held a conversation with host Peter Mazzetti about his work in the state, his journey from China to the U.S. and some of the high profile cases he's worked on, including the O.J. Simpson and Phil Spector cases.

Lee was born in China but moved to Taiwan at an early age. There he joined the police force and rose to the rank of captain by age 22, the youngest in Taiwanese history. He met his wife, Margaret, then a student, travelled with her in 1964 to her home in Malaysia and then to the United States in 1965 to pursue his studies in forensic science.

He earned his B.S. in forensic science in 1972 from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and attended New York University, where he earned his M.S. in science in 1974 and his Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1975. Lee is currently the Chief Emeritus for Scientific Services for the state of Connecticut and a professor of forensic science at New Haven University.

Lee joked with Mazzetti that his life in forensic science is nothing like the TV show "CSI" or any of its spin-offs. He does not drive a Hummer, he said comically, and he does not dine with beautiful, exotic women. "By second commercial they often solve the case," he said, adding that his team usually takes at least four days to process the entire crime scene.

Lee took some time to share stories about some of the more famous and controversial cases he's worked on. He spoke about evidence collected before the O.J. Simpson trial, the murder-suicide debate in the Phil Spector case and even the ongoing controversy over the JFK assassination.

Lee also spoke about the role of Connecticut in his life. He repeatedly thanked former Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso, who named Lee as chief criminologist for the state in 1979. The career and learning opportunities he found in Connecticut have advanced his expertise in forensic science and given him more chances to educate young students interested in criminology. "Connecticut has played a very important part in my life," said Lee.

Lee, a self-described "workaholic," has edited seven academic journals, authored or co-authored 30 books and over 300 articles. He is also the founder of The Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science.

"Mazzetti and Me" airs on Comcast local public access Channel 19 on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8 p.m. The show is televised in Clinton, Killingworth, Westbrook, Haddam, Durham, Essex, Old Saybrook, Chester and Deep River.



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