General Announcements

President’s Message

NCFS (National Commission on Forensic Science) meeting

On Monday and Tuesday of the previous week, we sent ASCLD President-elect Brady Mills and Training and Education Committee Chair Jeremy Triplett to attend the first NCFS meeting. Here’s Brady’s report:

“On February 3rd and 4th, Jeremy Triplett and I attended the 1st meeting of the newly created National Commission on Forensic Science and provided public comment on behalf of ASCLD. It was apparent to both of us that the 30 Commissioners all have very impressive experiences and backgrounds, but may not yet fully understand the operations of a forensic laboratory, the progress in forensic science since the 2009 NAS report, and the details of how current accreditation and certification programs function. Because of the diversity of their backgrounds, this group will need to spend a great deal of time educating one another about the current issues and practices in forensic science in order for the Commission to be successful. I would like to personally thank our ASCLD members and the other crime lab directors on the Commission for their efforts in educating their fellow Commissioners.

Nelson Santos, Dean Gialamas, Jeff Salyards, Linda Jackson, and Cecilia Crouse have a lot of work ahead of them in order for this group to focus on the issues facing forensic science. During the 1st Commission meeting, they fielded many questions from the other Commissioners. Nelson, Dean, Jeff, Linda, and Cecilia - please accept our sincere thanks to each of you for all

Call for Posters!!

The deadline for submitting abstracts for posters and workshops has passed, but there is still time to submit one for a poster. The theme for this year’s meeting is “The Efficiency of Quality”. If you’ve got an idea for a poster, please download the form below and return by March 1, 2014.

2014 ASCLD Symposium Abstract Form

Speaking of the meeting

The planning committee still has room for volunteers. Your degree of participation can be very flexible with opportunities ranging from working a shift at the registration table to running the meeting’s plenary session. How much time you commit is up to you! If you’re interested, please contact President Elect Mills at brady.mills@dps.texas.gov.

Symposium Details…

In the next few days, we will be releasing the registration information for the Scottsdale meeting. Suffice to say, we’re excited about having the membership come together again and are looking forward to an amazing conference. If you have any questions, please contact Brady Mills at brady.mills@dps.texas.gov.

We will be electing new members to the Board of Directors at the business meeting to be held at the Symposium. If you or
of the work you did during the first meeting of the National Commission on Forensic Science.”

Brady Mills
ASCLD President – elect

Jeremy Triplett
ASCLD Training and Education Chairman

Webinar #5 – “Efficiency Improvements” – Wow!

Last Wednesday, ASCLD Director Adam Becnel gave a fantastic webinar on “Efficiency Improvements”. The chat box was alive with comments and questions and it was really a lot of fun. The good news is that if you weren’t at last Wednesday’s presentation you don’t have to miss out because it will be made available in the archives next week. For the next webinar, I would encourage all members to participate.

A special thanks to John Collins for his steady hand at the moderator wheel and Beth Kroupa, Erica Fornaro and Cameron Johnson for their invaluable behind the scenes work.

Please join us for Webinar #6 in the ASCLD Webinar Series titled, “How to Increase Your Staff Without Increasing Your Budget” on February 26, 2014 at 1:00 pm again featuring ASCLD Director Adam Becnel from the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab.

ASCLD’s Leadership Academy Launches!

Last Thursday, ASCLD launched the ASCLD Leadership Academy which is the result of more than 2 years of planning and efforts of the Training and Education committee and many volunteer ASCLD members. We are excited to report that the 1st Leadership Academy has 76 registrants from 17 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico! It has truly been an overwhelmingly positive response and clearly fills a need for enhanced access to managerial training for our forensic laboratories.

The ASCLD Leadership Academy will consist of online web-based training for the next 12 weeks and a 2-day capstone class at the ASCLD Symposium in Scottsdale, AZ. We cannot be more pleased with the initial success of this program and look forward to updating you on its progress at the symposium in May.

someone you know is a regular member and is interested in becoming a candidate for the ASCLD Board, please contact Sabrina.Cillessen@DFS.Virginia.gov

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REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN: Bode’s 2014 DNA Technical Conferences, providing DNA training on the latest techniques and technologies to the forensic scientific community.
This Week’s Forensic Metric: 165

The median number of cases completed for each full-time equivalent (FTE) employee in the investigative area of Serology/Biology for one full year. This metric gives an indication of the level of productivity within the average laboratory by investigative area. This information is derived from those laboratories who participated in the 2011-2012 FORESIGHT program.

News Around the Globe

County Police Downplay Troubles at Crime Lab
KTVI
Follow-up article regarding the new St. Louis Crime Lab facilities.

Drug penalties would ease under plan to change Mo. criminal laws
KMBC Kansas City
Buried within a 1,100-page bill that would overhaul Missouri’s criminal laws is a substantive change in how the state would handle drug offenders.

Drug-overdose deaths surging in R.I.
The Providence Journal
Laurie Ogilvie, left, supervisor of Forensic Toxicology; Chief Medical Examiner Christina Stanley, center; and Ewa King, assistant director of the R.I. ...

Inside South Africa’s Rhino DNA testing laboratory
Telegraph.co.uk
The University of Pretoria’s Veterinary Genetics Laboratory processes forensic samples taken from virtually every wildlife crime scene in the country.

Bill to build new Pueblo CBI lab clears House Finance Committee
Colorado Springs Gazette
Pueblo’s sub-standard forensic lab run by the Bureau of Investigation would get a new $11 million facility under a bill proposed Thursday ...
Joseph Graves: Florida crime lab chemist arrested on charges of selling stolen drug evidence
WPTV
A former chemist in a Florida crime lab was arrested Tuesday on charges of selling stolen drug evidence that had been switched with ...

Plans for Western crime lab progressing
BlueRidgeNow.com
Legislators, judicial officials and forensic analysts have called it the “perfect storm.” State crime labs lament they are so overworked, understaffed and ...

First “John Doe” DNA cold case rapist is identified
Norwalk Reflector
DNA collected following that conviction then matched DNA collected from the ... Forensic scientists with the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal ...

SPECIAL REPORT: New, Legal Drug Hits Miami Valley
WRGT TV Fox 45
"It's a relatively new substance and it's kind of unknown for us," said Brooke Ehlers with the Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab. The lab has only gotten ...

Conservatives 'streamlining' police forensics to improve on backlog
Globalnews.ca
OTTAWA – The Conservatives say they are streamlining police forensic laboratory services to improve backlogs in the system – but wouldn’t explain ...

Knox Co. forensic center to be included in 2015 budget proposal
WATE-TV
Bill Haslam is including $4.25 million for a new Knox County Regional Forensic Center in the state's Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposal.

Training
ASCLD Webinars:
Links to these webinars can also be found on the ASCLD Training Opportunities webpage.

Employment Opportunities

DNA Technical Leader, Colorado Springs Police Department, Colorado Springs, CO, Expires: March 2, 2014
Forensic Scientist – Firearms and Toolmarks, Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: May 5, 2014
Senior Forensic Chemist, State of Vermont Forensic lab, Waterbury, VT, Expires: February 17, 2014
Latent Print Examiner Supervisor, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orlando, Florida, Expires: May 2, 2014
DNA Criminalist II, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA, Expires: March 31, 2014
Latent Print Examiner II, Oakland Police Dept – Criminalistics Division, Oakland, California, Expires: February 28, 2014
DNA Supervisor, Austin Texas Police Department, Austin, Texas, Expires: February 28, 2014
Supervisor Forensic Services, New York State Police Crime Lab System, Port Crane, NY, Expires: February 12, 2014
Forensic Scientist – Firearms, New York State Police Crime Lab System, Albany, NY, Expires:
The West Virginia University Forensic Science Initiative invites you to utilize their FREE webinar series on a variety of topics in forensic science! Experts in the field will present on a wide range of forensic science topics from the reliability of eye witness identification to fire scene investigation. Sign up now for the Texas Forensic Science Commission: Justice Through Science presentation. Follow the link for a list of upcoming webinars.

Try your CSI skills at the Basic Crime Scene Investigation for Legal Professionals course at West Virginia University’s forensic crime scene complex. This four day course will offer hands-on training specifically for the legal professional. Learn how to properly identify, collect, and preserve evidence at a crime scene. To better assist each student, class seating will be limited. For more information, click here.

ASCLD-LAB Training Training classes to help forensic laboratory personnel understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competency of Testing and Calibration Laboratories.

Cal State Fullerton Certificates in Crime & Forensics. Contact Veronica Martinez at 1-657-278-3123 or see http://extension.fullerton.edu/professionaldevelopment/Crime-Forensic.

RTI International’s Center for Forensic Sciences Continuing Education is pleased to offer a second premium online course for legal professionals, titled “Managing Quality and Reliability in the Crime Laboratory: A Lawyer’s Perspective”. This low cost training was developed with the support of ASCLD/LAB, the North Carolina District Attorney’s Association and the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators. This course is designed for legal professionals who interface with scientific experts and/or present scientific evidence in courts of law. The course provides information about how accredited crime laboratories control quality, ensure the reliability of results, and work to maintain a high level of

February 12, 2014
Manager III – Laboratory Director, Montgomery County Police Department, Gaithersburg, Maryland, Expires: February 22, 2014

February 13, 2014
Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology, Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: February 13, 2014

March 1, 2014
Assistant Professor in Biology, Alfred State SUNY College of Technology, Alfred, NY, Expires: March 1, 2014

March 4, 2014

March 26, 2014
Firearms Examiner, Dallas County Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, Dallas, TX, Expires: February 26, 2014

Chairperson, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, Expires: February 18, 2014
customer satisfaction and confidence in the reliability of laboratory services. It is recommended, but not required, that users have taken the course; An Introduction to the Crime Laboratory - Understanding its Role and Purpose before attempting this course.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

• Evaluate the work of a scientific expert
• Name the two types of scientific analyses
• Name the international body that governs crime laboratory accreditation
• Recognize authoritative documents and court rulings critical to forensic science
• List five warning signs signaling problems in a crime laboratory

If you know of a legal professional who may be interested in taking this course, please direct them to: https://www.forensiced.org/training/viewcourse.cfm?moduleid=fdf2f9c6-4d9e-4e7c-a6fd-c5301474a49d. In some states, this course has been approved for 1 hour of CLE and MCLE credits (https://www.forensiced.org/training/clestates.cfm?cid=1128152721).

The ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board/FQS offers 2 workshops for accreditation preparation to the forensic community.

ISO/IEC 17025 and Audit Preparation Workshop for Forensic Test Agencies
Attendees of this three-day workshop will obtain a general overview of ISO/IEC 17025 as it relates to forensic test agencies. All of the elements will be reviewed. The standard’s applicability, origin, purpose and marketplace will be discussed. Some of the more important concepts will be reviewed such as document control, internal auditing, proficiency testing, traceability and measurement and method witnessing.

April 21-23, 2014, Tampa, FL
September 22-24, 2014, Alexandria, VA

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation Workshop for Forensic Police Agencies
Attendees of this two-day workshop will obtain a general overview of ISO/IEC 17020 for forensic police agencies. Individual elements of the standard will be reviewed; the standard’s applicability to forensic police agencies, origin, purpose and marketplace will also be discussed. Some of the more important concepts, such as document control, internal auditing, proficiency testing, traceability and measurement, and method witnessing will be reviewed.

April 24-25, 2014, Tampa, FL

for more information.

April 14-17, 2014: 11th Annual DNA Technical Workshop – Bode West in San Diego, CA.


May 19-20, 2014, Milwaukee, WI
September 25-26, 2014, Alexandria, VA

For more information about these workshops, contact FQS at 703-836-0025, ext 208. To register, please click on any of the dates above.


November 3-6, 2014: Annual DNA & Investigators Workshop – Bode Mid-Atlantic in Crystal City, VA