February 18, 2013

General Announcements

Dear ASCLD Members:

I am attaching a link to the press release on the creation of a National Commission on Forensic Science. This week President-Elect Jay Henry and I are in Washington DC attending the AAFS meeting. We have meetings scheduled with Senator Leahy and House Judiciary, as well as other senior members of the Senate who are interested in helping the forensic community.

Senator Leahy commented in a recent Washington Post article “I will continue working to ensure that comprehensive legislation is considered and ultimately signed into law.”

ASCLD looks forward to our continued work with Senator Leahy and others to realize our long term efforts are put into law. Until specifics unfold, ASCLD is unable to comment at this time about the establishment of the forensic commission.

http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2013/February/13-dag-203.html

Jill Spriggs
ASCLD President

ASCLD Symposium

The Preliminary Agenda for the 2013 Symposium is now available on the ASCLD website.

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Earn a Master’s Degree or Graduate Certificate in Forensic Science Online. The Forensic DNA and Serology concentration is provided by the College of Pharmacy. It is structured to provide a strong foundation in serology, blood spatter interpretation, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics and the theory of DNA analysis. UF also offers Master’s degrees in: Forensic Toxicology, Drug Chemistry, Forensic Science, and a Professional Science Master’s (PSM) in Forensic Science, which includes business courses. In addition, it offers graduate certificate programs in Environmental Forensics, Forensic Death Investigation, Forensic Toxicology, Drug Chemistry and Forensic DNA & Serology. UF is the fourth largest academic institution in the United States and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of American Universities.

Univ of Florida Online Masters Forensic Science Program

NMS Labs is the nation's leading independent provider of professional laboratory testing services, specializing in clinical toxicology, forensic science, and other vitally important areas of esoteric testing and expert services. We employ more than 200 highly trained professionals who work closely with leading healthcare providers, medical researchers, and various members of the criminal and civil justice
Regular members are still welcome to run as a candidate for the ASCLD Board. Election of 5 new Board members will be conducted at the symposium. There are three 4 year terms, one 3 year term, and one 2 year term positions that will be filled. If you are interested please contact me at george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov.

George Herrin
ASCLD Communication, Nominations Committee Chair

News Around the Globe

DNA becomes subject and medium in UCI exhibit
OCRegister
Though Vanouse is trained as a painter, for more than a decade he’s been interested in unusual subject matter – DNA – and his art is made not with a paintbrush but with scientific tools. The building blocks of life aren't just the subject matter, they ...

Unique 4D microscope captures motion of DNA structures in space and time
Phys.Org
In biological nanostructures, like DNA networks, it has been difficult to measure this stiffness, which is essential to their properties and functions. But scientists at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) have recently developed ...

'Activating' RNA takes DNA on a loop through time and space
Phys.Org
Long segments of RNA—encoded in our DNA but not translated into protein—are key to physically manipulating DNA in order to activate certain genes, say researchers at The Wistar Institute. These non-coding RNA-activators (ncRNA-a) have a crucial role ...

DNA evidence in untested rape kits may hold system to provide integrated testing and consultative services.

NMS Labs is an ISO accredited independent provider of clinical and forensic toxicology, endocrinology and criminalistics laboratory services for the health care and forensic sciences communities. Since 1970, we have built a reputation as a provider of innovative, first-to-market and hard-to-find testing that has evolved to a broad menu of over 2,500 laboratory tests.

http://www.nmslabs.com/

The Forensic Science Administration (FSA) specialization within Loyola University New Orleans’ online Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration addresses the current need for forensic professionals to develop advanced management skills necessary for success as a leader in crime laboratories and crime scene investigation departments. Speak with an Admissions Representative today to learn more about advancing your career online at Loyola University New Orleans today.

Loyola University New Orleans, Master of Science Criminal Justice Administration
the key to solving years-old ...
Plain Dealer
Rape kits that have been in storage for years are being tested by a state crime lab, and may offer DNA evidence which could help solve hundreds of sexual assault cases.

DNA expansion law faces hurdle
Appleton Post Crescent
“The largest impact would be on the crime lab,” he said. “Staffing levels may need to be increased to handle the increase in DNA submissions. As it stands right now, cases are prioritized and there can be lengthy waits on DNA cases that are not of the ...

US to commit scientists and new commission to fix forensic science
Washington Post
The academy was responding to a drumbeat of crime lab scandals and hundreds of DNA exonerations over the past two decades. The new 30-member commission will be co-chaired by Justice Department and NIST officials. It will include forensic scientists, ...

Tianyuan Man scientists unlock secrets of ancient DNA
South China Morning Post
What they found was important: Tianyuan Man’s DNA came from people who were ancestors not only of many present-day Asians but also Native Americans. It also suggested that people in China at the time were already different from Europeans. The results ...

Researchers create new ultra-sensitive tool for chemical, DNA and protein analysis
News-Medical.net
Utilizing optical characteristics first demonstrated by the ancient Romans, researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have created a novel, ultra-sensitive tool for chemical, DNA, and protein analysis. "With this device, the ...

St. Paul crime lab errors rampant, reviews find
Pioneer Press
A consultant’s review of 100 cases involving

Calibrate, Inc. founded the pipette calibration industry in 1983 and remains North America's leader in the business. No one knows pipettes better. ISO 17025 Accredited since 2004 (by the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation, or A2LA, a signatory to the ILAC MRA), our focus is on quality.

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Employment Opportunities

drugs tests by the St. Paul police crime lab found errors in most of them, giving momentum to public defenders gearing up to challenge potentially thousands of drug convictions. Errors ranged "from minor ...

Denver DA blasts plan to replace cops with civilians at crime lab
Denver Post
Denver Police Chief Robert White's plan to replace sworn officers with civilian technicians in the city's crime lab by year's end is "reckless" and could jeopardize criminal cases when they go to trial, Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey said ...

Kentucky bill would require DNA sampling in felony arrests
The Courier-Journal
Currently, those convicted of felonies in Kentucky must submit a DNA sample. Constitutional questions about collecting DNA from those arrested is set to come before the U.S. Supreme Court later this month. Laws allowing the collection of arrestee's DNA ...

Ky. House panel passes bill to allow DNA collection at time of arrest
Lexington Herald Leader
Before his conviction, he was arrested 21 times over 15 years without having his DNA collected. Another man, David Jones, was wrongly convicted in two of those rape and murder cases and served 11 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, Sepich ...

Increase staff at police crime lab
Austin American-Statesman
Tired of sending forensic samples to private labs and to the state lab run by the Texas Department of Public Safety, the city opened its own police crime lab in 2004. Testing blood, DNA, fingerprint, ballistic and narcotic samples in-house was meant to ...

Monroe County Crime Lab sees huge improvements
News 10NBC
Jennifer Hill, Monroe County Crime Lab

Section Supervisor, Firearms & Toolmarks, Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: March 25, 2013
Forensic Scientist II, III, IV & Supervisor, City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: May 6, 2013
Crime Scene Section Supervisor, City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: May 6, 2013
FSIII Latent Print Technical Lead, Tri County Regional Forensic Laboratory, Andover, MN, Expires: February 25, 2013
Criminalist – Toxicologist, Houston Police Department Crime Laboratory, Houston, Texas, Expires: May 3, 2013
DNA Analyst/Forensic Science Officer – 2813, A-T Solutions, Deployed, overseas, Expires: May 5, 2013
Criminalist III – Biology, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Crime Lab, Charlotte, NC, Expires: March 1, 2013
Forensic Toxicology Analyst, St. Tammany Parish Coroner’s Office, Toxicology Department, Lacombe, LA, Expires: February 22, 2013
Forensic DNA Analyst, York County Sheriff's Office, York, SC (Charlotte Metro Area), Expires: April 1, 2013
Sr. Investigator, Video Examiner, Target, Minneapolis, MN, Expires: April 30, 2013
Forensic Scientist – Latent Prints, Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: March 1, 2013
Forensic DNA Analyst, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office DNA Laboratory, Harvey, LA, Expires: April 25, 2013
Toxicology Supervisor, Metro Nashville Police Department Crime Laboratory, Nashville, TN, Expires: February 18, 2013
Executive Director, Houston Forensic Science LGC, Inc., Houston, TX, Expires: April 19, 2013
Deputy Director of Identification Services, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Meriden, CT, Expires: February 22, 2013
Forensic Biologist said, “We basically evaluated our entire process, we cut out part of the process that wasn't necessary and we tried to streamline parts of the process we need to keep.” Forensic biologist ...

**DNA expansion law faces hurdle**

Green Bay Press Gazette

Scott Walker and Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced a budget proposal to expand DNA collection to those who are arrested on a felony charge. Currently, DNA is taken only from convicted felons and those convicted of a handful of misdemeanors.

**Training**

No-cost, NIJ Medicolegal Death Investigation online training program. The information available online at: [http://www.nfstc.org/apply-now-for-online-medicolegal-death-investigation-course/](http://www.nfstc.org/apply-now-for-online-medicolegal-death-investigation-course/)

**Essentials of Forensic Science for Legal Professionals**

West Virginia University. Currently accepting registration until March 4, 2013 for the 2013 Spring Essentials of Forensic Science for Legal Professionals program which is an onsite, NIJ sponsored event intended for prosecuting attorneys who work with a government agency.

**Conferences**


May 5-9, 2013 ASCLD Symposium in Durham, NC. Jay Henry – Symposium Chair, jhenry@utah.gov


September 2-6, 2013 – 25th World Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics in Melbourne, Australia. For more information see: http://isfg2013.org/

September 23-26, 2013 2nd Annual Advanced DNA Technical Workshop – Bode Mid-Atlantic, Charlottesville, VA. See Bode Mid-Atlantic Conference for more details.

