

July 14, 2014



## American Society of Crime Lab Directors Crime Lab Minute

### General Announcements

#### President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

We will be having a Board of Director's meeting this Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM CST. We have a lot of items to discuss and also some great committee work to report. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our activities.

Forensic Science Week is coming up fast. Take a moment and check out the updated website for this year. This truly is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the great work that you do for the public.

[www.forensicscienceweek.org](http://www.forensicscienceweek.org)

Have a good week,

Brady Mills  
ASCLD President

### Advocacy Corner

Forensic Science Week is soon!

We are less than a month away from the 2nd annual Forensic Science Week (August 10-16). ASCLD is glad to again be co-sponsoring this week with our partners at MCC, IACP, ASCIA, MCSA, and all the organizations of the CFSO. We encourage you to take the opportunity to recognize your hardworking staff, do public outreach and media events to raise awareness of forensic science in your community, and create an opportunity to interface with your federal legislative delegation while they are in recess and back in your districts. Please see the attached "Planning Guide" for ideas on how you can participate in Forensic Science Week.

### Vendor Sponsors



The Center for Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis (CAFDA) is pleased to announce the [Genome ID Forum 2014 - Emerging Forensic Genomic Applications](#); a conference to take place on September 9 and 10 at the Hilton Greenville, North Carolina. Genome ID Forum brings together thought leaders from forensic science, research, academia, law and technology development for an open on-going dialogue regarding emerging science, technology applications and adoption by the forensic community. Roundtable Discussions led by each day's speakers and other invited guests will provide a meaningful exchange of ideas and include **Dr. Jack Ballantyne**, Professor of Chemistry, University of Central Florida. To foster open discussions, space is limited. [Click Here to Register for Genome ID Forum 2014.](#)



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Lastly, a redesigned website has also been launched. Please visit [www.forensicscienceweek.org](http://www.forensicscienceweek.org) and check it out. If you have any news articles or lab videos that we could share on the website please email them to me at [jeremy.triplett@ky.gov](mailto:jeremy.triplett@ky.gov).

<http://www.ascl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/2014-National-Forensic-Science-Week-Planning-Guide.pdf>

### **DNA Mixture Interpretation Study**

The ASCLD Forensic Research Committee supports the NIJ-funded DNA Mixture Interpretation Study coordinated by the Defense Forensics and Biometrics Agency and all interested laboratories are encouraged to participate. The purpose of this study is determine the variation that occurs in interpretation of DNA mixtures in 2-, 3-, and 4-person mixtures. Variations in allele calls will be evaluated intra- and inter-laboratory and allele calls will be evaluated both pre- and post-technical review. Participants will analyze five DNA mixture datasets that vary in the number of contributors and contributor ratios. Interpretations will be made using the laboratory's Standard Operating Procedures but with the thresholds provided based on the validation of the instrumentation used to generate the data set. Participants will receive the data in the form of .fsa files. The study will use quantifiable metrics to evaluate the participant's ability to identify the number of contributors, estimate the ratio of mixture components, evaluate the accuracy of the allele calls in each mixture, and examine the variations in the final statistics generated for the reported interpretations. The study is designed to take no more than 4 hours. Currently, eleven labs are participating.

To sign up, please email Roman Aranda at [roman.aranda3.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:roman.aranda3.ctr@mail.mil). Please use "DNA Mixture Interpretation Study" in the subject line. Registration closes July 21, 2014 and all results must be returned by August 22, 2014.

## ***News Around the Globe***

[Vermont court: No DNA collection until conviction](#)  
SFGate

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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.

[Bode Technology](#) provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode's solutions include [BodeDirect™ Outsourcing](#) and [Same-Day DNA Service™](#), and the [Bode Buccal DNA Collector™](#), a direct collection system, reduces processing time, saving money for crime laboratories.

Bode's newest offerings include: [BodeLIMS™ – The First True Forensic DNA LIMS](#). BodeLIMS is a web-based LIMS that tracks samples from receipt through reporting. The software documents and captures the entire DNA analysis process and is completely configurable, thus adaptable to changing technologies.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — The Vermont Supreme Court ruled Friday that the state can't collect DNA from suspects in criminal cases unless they have ...

### [New law used to find criminals raises concerns about rights](#)

KLAS-TV

We're going to increase that by another 20,000 samples a year into the lab," forensic lab manager Kellie Gauthier said. Supporters of the law, like ...

### [Scott Relents on Drug Tests for Some State Workers](#)

The Ledger

TALLAHASSEE | Gov. Rick Scott has capitulated in his crusade to require all state workers to submit to suspicionless drug tests, giving up on about ...

### [New technology makes it easier to find criminals](#)

KHON2

Inside the New York Police Department's closely-guarded forensic crime lab, better development techniques in the fingerprinting field show detectives ...

### [Forensic Scientist and Special Agent Receive Commendations](#)

KXNet.com

With the combined efforts of crime lab scientist Charlene Keller and Special Agent Steve Gilpin, the drug was identified as a rarehallucinogen and ...

### [New Forensic Facility to Cut Cost Incurred On Investigations](#)

AllAfrica.com

Crime investigation is expected to get smarter and less costly once a modern forensic laboratory with facilities capable of providing scientific evidence ...

### [WVU establishes Forensic & Investigative Science department](#)

State Journal

West Virginia University has established a Department of Forensic ... in forensic labs as DNA analysts; and the forensic chemistry and toxicology track ...

### [Rhode Island May Use DNA to Track Students; Federal Bill Passes House](#)

The Heartland Institute

A bill to reauthorize federal funding for newborn DNA collection passed the U.S. House of Representatives by voice vote—meaning without a vote ...

### [The science of fighting crime](#)

Smyrna-Clayton Sun Times

[Bode LeanLab™](#) service utilizes Lean Six Sigma principles and delivers custom solutions to forensic labs improving efficiency, increasing throughput, reducing turnaround time and eliminating backlogs.

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**WVU Center for Executive Education** offers unique customized programs for forensic professionals interested in improving their individual and organizational knowledge of

From scouring a child pornographer's computer hard drive to pulling up invisible fingerprints at a homicide scene or working to identify guns used in a ...

[REPORT: Aurora police DNA destruction blunder isn't a systemic problem](#)

Aurora Sentinel

AURORA | Aurora police's accidental destruction of DNA evidence in more than 450 cases was an aberration and not indicative of wider problems in ...

[Clairmont: Forensic lab fails to meet guidelines](#)

Hamilton Spectator

When headquarters — which includes the forensic unit — opened on King William Street in the summer of 1977, DNA technology didn't even exist.

[DeWine & McGinty: How Ohio broke through rape kit backlog](#)

Salt Lake Tribune

Numerous reports from across the country indicate that many thousands of unprocessed "rape kits," which are used to collect and store DNA evidence ...

## *Training*

George Mason University's Office of Continuing Professional Education in Virginia is hosting a 2-day seminar:

Sexually Violent Crime: The Body as Evidence  
Taught by Dr. Henry Lee and Dr. Leah Bush  
November 3-4, 2014

Sexually violent crime continues to challenge investigators and concern the general public. It has been estimated that every two minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. In many cases, sexual assault results in homicide. Dr. Henry Lee and Dr. Leah Bush, two of the country's top forensic scientists, will share their individual and collective expertise to help the participants understand the importance of the body as evidence as it relates to sexually violent crimes.

Please visit our course page at [http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/legal/cold\\_case.php](http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/legal/cold_case.php) for more information on this exciting opportunity to learn from two of the top forensic scientists in the country!

contemporary business practices.

Registration is now open for the 2014 Forensic Management Academy, a unique one-week management program geared specifically to current and aspiring forensic laboratory managers, law enforcement professionals and other forensic service providers. Instructors include forensic practitioners and college professors experienced in the field of forensics. The program will be offered September 14 – 19, 2014 in Morgantown, WV on the WVU campus. Please visit our website at <http://www.be.wvu.edu/execed/fma> for more information and to register.



**Forensic Magazine®** is the leading source of information on all aspects of forensic science technology, trends, equipment, services, and laboratory design. In every issue, Forensic Magazine® provides professionals working in forensic laboratories and crime scene investigation with the news and technical information they need—both in the lab and in the field. Forensic Magazine® covers forensics from evidence collection through processing, analysis, storage, and more. Forensic Magazine® features the latest technology, applications, and information for forensic scientists, crime scene investigators, and forensic specialists. Free subscriptions for the print/digital magazine and daily electronic newsletter are available at [www.forensicmag.com](http://www.forensicmag.com)

## *Employment Opportunities*

[DME Section Supervisor I](#), Texas  
DPS, Austin Texas, Expires: July 21,  
2014

Forensic and Investigative Science Outreach is pleased to provide quality, continuing education courses for forensic professionals. We would like to announce several on-site courses which will be offered for FREE at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Please feel free to visit our [website](#) for additional registration information and to share this information with other interested individuals.

#### Continuing Education Courses – Summer 2014

##### Identification of Natural and Man-made Fibers

This course will introduce students on how to identify natural and man-made fibers. The course will cover background information on fibers, the difference between natural and man-made fibers, polarizing light microscopy, thermal microscopy, and FTIR. Students will then gain hands on experience looking at both natural and man-made fibers under the microscopy and analyzing them using thermal microscopy and FTIR. Students will also be introduced to the notions on evidence interpretation as well as the Bayesian approach.

Dates: July 15-17, 2014

Instructor: Patrick Buzzini, PhD

Location: Oglebay Hall- Downtown Campus

##### Forensic GC/MS Workshop

Attendees will develop the ability to understand, carry out, and interpret mass spectrometric analyses in a crime laboratory setting. Attendees will also learn how to maintain and troubleshoot common problems with instrumentation. This course is geared toward those with solid scientific or technical background.

Dates: July 15-17, 2014

Instructor: Patrick Buzzini, PhD

Location: Oglebay Hall- Downtown Campus

##### Characterization and Comparison of Dyed Fibers

This course will introduce students to the forensic examination of dyed fiber evidence. The course will cover background information on dyed fibers, polarizing light microscopy, comparison microscopy, dichorism, Raman spectroscopy, Microspectrophotometry and Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC). Students will then gain hands on experience looking at dyed fibers under the

[Forensic Analyst – Biology-DNA](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2014

[Latent Print Examiner](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2014

[Quality Specialist](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2014

[Forensic Scientist I or II](#), LVMPD, Las Vegas, NV, Expires: September 3, 2014

[Forensic Scientist III](#), Scottsdale Police Department, Scottsdale, AZ, Expires: July 20, 2014

[Forensic Scientist III](#), Scottsdale Police Department, Scottsdale, AZ, Expires: July 20, 2014

[Forensic Scientist-Chemistry](#), Justice, Missoula, MT, Expires: July 25, 2014

[Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology](#), Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: August 31, 2014

[Forensic Scientist – Latent Print Examiner](#), DuPage County Forensic Science Center, Wheaton, IL, Expires: July 25, 2014

[Forensic Scientist](#), Fort Worth Police Department, Fort Worth, Texas, Expires: August 30, 2014

[Firearms Examiner](#), Houston Forensic Science LGC, INC., Houston, TX, Expires: August 12, 2014

[Lead Forensic Scientist \(DNA\)](#), DC Government/Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, Expires: July 31, 2014

microscope and analyzing them using, Raman spectroscopy, Microspectrophotometry, and Thin Layer Chromatography. Students will also be introduced to the notions on evidence interpretation as well as the Bayesian approach.

Dates: July 22-24, 2014

Instructor: Patrick Buzzini, PhD

Location: Oglebay Hall- Downtown Campus

### Introduction to Firearm Examination

This training course will cover the basic duties and necessary knowledge for firearm examiners. Hands-on examination of firearm components along with microscopic comparisons and firearm classification will be discussed and demonstrated. This course will give students a basic understanding of firearm examination techniques and as well as a list of reliable resources to use in a laboratory setting.

Crime scene investigators, evidence technicians and novice firearm examiners who wish to enhance the student's understanding of firearm examinations are encouraged to register for this course.

Dates: July 28-30, 2014

Instructor: Keith Morris, PhD

Location: Oglebay Hall- Downtown Campus

### **ASCLD Webinars:**

Links to these webinars can also be found on the ASCLD [Training Opportunities](#) webpage.

**Webinar #1:** [Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction](#)

**Webinar #2:** [The Backlog Paradox: Doing Less is Doing More](#)

**Webinar #3:** [Managing Customer Expectations and Education](#)

**Webinar #4:** [Case Acceptance, Policies and Guidelines](#)

**Webinar #5:** [Efficiency Improvements](#)

**Webinar #6:** [Increasing Your Staff without Increasing Your Budget](#)

**Webinar #7:** [Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management](#)

[Forensic Scientist \(Crime Scene\)](#), DC Government, Washington, DC, Expires: July 17, 2014

[Forensic Scientist 3](#), Metro Nashville Police Department- Crime Laboratory, Nashville, TN, Expires: July 14, 2014

[Forensic Scientist 2- Drug Unit](#), Metro Nashville Police Department- Crime Laboratory Division, Nashville, TN, Expires: July 14, 2014

## *Conferences*

August 10-16, 2014: International Association for Identification in Minneapolis, MN. See <http://www.theiai.org/conference/2014/index.php> for more information.

August 11-15, 2014: The [2014 Annual General Meeting](#) of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting will be a joint meeting with the [Australasian Society of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc.](#)

August 31 – September 4, 2014: 22<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences in Adelaide, South Australia. See <http://anzfss.org.au/international-symposium/> for more

September 9-10, 2014: Emerging Forensic Genomic Applications – genomID forum In Greenville, NC. See [www.advancedforensicdna.com/corporate/snpforum/](http://www.advancedforensicdna.com/corporate/snpforum/) for more information.

September 23-26, 2014: [Southern Association Forensic Scientist \(SAFS\) Annual 2014 Meeting](#) in Savannah, GA.

[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 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=fd2f9c6-4d9e-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**

October 4-10, 2014: Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists in St. Paul, MN. See <http://www.mafs.net/news-feeds-1/mafs-2014> for more information.

October 13-18, 2014: World Forensic Festival in Seoul, South Korea. See <http://www.wff2014korea.org/info/index.php> for more information.

October 14-17, 2014: Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers in Vancouver, B.C. See <http://afqam.org/wp12/annual-training-conference/> for more information.

October 19-24, 2014: Society of Forensic Toxicologists in Grand Rapids, MI. See <http://www.soft-tox.org> for more information.

October 19-23, 2014: [36th Annual Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists \(SWAFS\)](#) in South Padre Island, TX.

October 20-24, 2014: Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists in Rohnert Park, CA. See <http://www.nwafs.org/meetings.htm> for more information.

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

November 3-6, 2014: [Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientist \(NEAFS\) Annual Meeting](#) in Hershey, PA.

February 16-21, 2015: [AAFS 67th Annual Scientific Meeting](#) in Orlando, FL

### **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.

[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.

[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.