President's Message

New ASCLD Website Launches!

ASCLD is very excited to announce the launch of a completely redesigned ascld.org. Over the last several years, ASCLD has worked hard to modernize our website and continue to provide the most up-to-date information for our members and interested parties. Our previous website made significant progress toward that goal. The launch of the newest ascld.org is one more step.

We hope you will find the new website easy to navigate and find all the information you need including news and updates on the organization, former and current policy statements, the weekly Crime Lab Minute, and future symposium dates/locations. The ASCLD website will continue to post job vacancies and current training opportunities, as well. Head on over to www.ascld.org and check it out!

Please note that the secure Membership area is still in the final stages of redesign and is expected to go live very soon.

A special thanks to President Elect Jeremy Tripplett for his efforts on creating the new website and to Director Sabrina Cilesson for her efforts on publishing the Crime Lab Minute each week!

Kindest regards,
ASCLD Board

NIST Seeks to Fill Three Vacancies on Forensic Science Standards Organization

The Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) has announced the intention to fill three vacancies in the organization. There is one vacancy on each of the following committees: the Forensic Science Standards Board, the Legal Resource...
Committee, and the Biology Scientific Area Committee. Please see the information at the following link for additional information, including how to apply.

http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac-vacancies.cfm

Click here to learn more about the Manhattan District Attorneys Funding to Test Backlogged Rape Kits. Completed applications are due by June 1, 2015.

- View the full RFP here
- Complete a profile and submit your application through our grant application here.

Click here here to learn more about the IACP Forensic Committee’s 2015 Vollmer Awards.

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is the largest, multi-discipline accreditation body in the U.S., having accredited over 3,500 labs to various ISO standards over its 35-year history. A2LA is a non-profit, membership organization and its accreditations to ISO standards are recognized and accepted world-wide. The A2LA Forensic Accreditation Program offers accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 for forensic testing laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 for crime scene units. In addition, A2LA offers a diverse training program. Don’t miss A2LA’s workshop, “ISO/IEC 17025: Non-conformances and Strategies to Prevent Recurrence” which will be presented by Program Manager, Karin Athanas, at the ASCLD Symposium in April.

Advanced Topics for Human Identification & Data Interpretation

December 1-5, 2015 | Philadelphia, PA
This 4 day course will offer world-class training for experienced forensic biology practitioners, technicians, and technical leaders involved in testing and testimony for forensic serological and human identification related testing. Each day will focus on issues of current interest in the field and conclude with an open dialogue panel discussion. Topics include: Current issues with variability in the interpretation of complex mixtures; strategies for the implementation of Rapid DNA technology and sexual assault backlog reduction; alternate novel approaches to biological fluid identification; evaluation of statistical models and probabilistic modeling for mixed sample sources; improved methods for recovery of low template DNA; and legal implications of new strategies and developments in the field. Distinguished faculty include: John Butler, PhD, Niels Morling, MD, DMSc, Michael Coble, PhD, Mechthild Prinz, PhD, Jack Ballantyne, PhD, JoAnne Bright, PhD, and other forensic biology professionals.

Learn more: www.ForensicScienceEducation.org/FBioCourse

DAVID GOOTNICK ASSOCIATES

Top-Rated Technical Leadership Short Courses Presented Live at Crime Lab Facilities.

Bring these nationally acclaimed 2-day courses to your lab and help to quickly transform your crime lab managers, forensic supervisors, and technical professionals into outstanding technical leaders and teams:

- Effective Leadership of Scientists, Engineers & the Technical Team
- Assertiveness Training for Technical Professionals
- Building A Winning Scientific & Technical Team
- Improving Communication Effectiveness
- Performance Management Excellence
- Conflict Management Techniques
- Presentation Skills Workshop

Learn more by visiting our website www.davidgootnick.com.

Contact us to discuss your needs and how these technical leadership short courses can help your people to quickly develop the critical leadership and people skills that drive technical success.

News Around the Globe

Dover DNA lab to help ID Pearl Harbor remains
Washington Times
“And the success rate in getting the DNA from the remains is extremely high. ... information for about 88 percent of those unaccounted for, according to Tim McMahon, the Armed Forces DNA lab’s deputy director for forensic services.

FBI alerts crime labs across US that its DNA data has errors
Omaha World-Herald
“The public puts so much faith in DNA
testing that it makes it especially ... in their population frequency database that is commonly used in forensic DNA ...
Crime lab analysts in the United States generally develop a DNA profile by ...
FBI says working to fix errors in DNA-matching data - Reuters
DNA Data Errors Detected In The FBI National Database - The Inquisitr
FBI DNA Error: FBI Notifies Crime Labs Of DNA Match Errors Since 1999 - Headlines & Global News

Bill Authorizing Pre-Conviction DNA Collection Clears the House of Representatives
Hartford Courant
A bill approved by the House of Representatives Friday would require those charged with serious felonies to provide DNA samples prior to their ...

National DNA Testing Effort On Old Rape Kits Sees Success In Indicting Sexual Predators
International Business Times
A researcher, seen through a window, prepares DNA in a laboratory at the Bioaster Technology Research Institute, October 31, 2014. Reuters/ Robert ...

LSD: Speaking to volunteer users of the drug as trials get underway to see if it cures depression ...
The Independent
But before it became the drug of choice for the 1960s counterculture, lysergic acid diethylamide had a previous existence – as an experimental ...

Nevada officials promise to test 6300 stored rape kits
Albany Times Union
Kimberly Murga, director of the Las Vegas police forensic lab, faces the
most daunting — and expensive — task in the backlog-clearing process.

New focus on rape kit tests could put thousands behind bars
The Seattle Times
... analyst India Henry examines cotton swabs from a sexual assault evidence kit in the biology lab at the Houston Forensic Science Center in Houston.

Kentucky overhauling broken system of testing rape kits
Beaumont Enterprise
There is no standardized policy for getting them from hospitals to law enforcement to the Kentucky State Police crime lab. No one knows how many are ...

Utah police testing rape kit backlog
Standard-Examiner
A sexual assault evidence kit is logged in the biology lab at the Houston ... Jay Henry, the director of Utah's state crime lab, said in addition to about ...

WSPD Open Crime Lab to Tackle Backlog
WFMY News 2
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- Winston-Salem's Police chief say it's not unusual to wait a year or longer to get blood tests or drug chemistry results back ...

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
forensic labs earn international accreditation
Greeley Tribune
Greeley crime lab among CBI forensic labs to earn international accreditation. Article · Comments (0). Smaller·Larger. Welcome back! If you already ...

Maryland's DNA Database Records

June 15, 2015)

DIGITAL/COMPUTER FORENSIC EXAMINER: Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX (Expires: May 31, 2015)

DIVISION DIRECTOR, FORENSIC SCIENCE: Kern County, Bakersfield, California (Expires: June 9, 2015)

ANALYTICAL STATISTICIAN: Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, TX (Expires: June 12, 2015)

DEPUTY FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST: State of New Mexico, Department of Health, Scientific Laboratory Division, Albuquerque, NM (Expires: July 8, 2015)

TEMPORARY PART-TIME LECTURER IN JUSTICE SYSTEMS: Truman State University – Justice Systems Department, Kirksville, MO (Expires: June 30, 2015)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Gannon University, Erie, PA (Expires: June 22, 2015)

FORENSIC SCIENTIST 3-FIREARM AND TOOLMARK IDENTIFICATION UNIT: Metro Nashville Police Department- Crime Laboratory, Madison, TN (Expires: June 18, 2015)

Bode Cellmark Forensics provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode's newest offerings include:

Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction
Southern Maryland News Net
Maryland’s DNA database, housed at the State Police Forensic Sciences Division laboratory, has now recorded 4,000 positive comparisons, or “hits,”...

Tarrant County shows off state-of the-art forensics lab
WFAA
New technology in a Fort Worth crime lab could crack old cases and present evidence never thought to be possible in new cases. Philip Townsend got ...

An "Elite" Forensic Unit Falls From Grace
Huffington Post
Of all the recent revelations regarding problems in the FBI's "microscopic hair comparison" unit, one of the more striking is that that unit was ...

New $20M National Center for Forensic Science Launched
Lab Manager Magazine
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has awarded a five-year, up to $20 million grant to establish a Forensic Science Center of ...

DC Adviser Resigns Claiming MASSIVE Foul Play In DNA Lab Management Firing
Daily Caller
A member of the Scientific Advisory Board for D.C.’s Department of Forensic Science sent in his resignation letter Wednesday claiming that political ...

Experts say forensic mistakes led to wrongful convictions
WFSB
Richard Blumenthal along with a world renowned forensic scientist are calling

Program streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

Bode Buccal 2™ is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

Independent Validation Services are customized to meet your laboratory’s needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:
Bode's 2015 DNA Technical Conferences, providing DNA training on the latest techniques and technologies to the forensic scientific community.

Forensic Training

Itiel Dror’s “Cognitive Factors in Forensic Decision Making” 2-day workshop June 30 & July 1 at the Houston Forensic Science Center. Click here for additional information.

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
Women's Leadership Institute
Branson, Missouri
August 2-7, 2015
Click here for additional information.

2015 Impression, Pattern and Trace Evidence Symposium
August 25 - 27, 2015
San Antonio, TX
Click here for additional information.

Ron Smith & Associates – National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy
When expert testimony isn't: Tainted evidence wreaks havoc in courts, lives
Christian Science Monitor
A lab chemist is serving three years for falsifying forensics in Mr. Bridgeman's case and up to 40,000 other defendants. The chemist is already two ...

Not all DNA cases open and shut
Fredericksburg.com
WASHINGTON — The power of DNA evidence to put someone behind bars or to clear a suspect is a staple of television shows like "Law & Order" and ...

Anoka County Sheriff's Office has state's first mobile digital forensics lab
Minneapolis Star Tribune
The lab is a converted ambulance that was donated to Anoka County by ... Allina Health) and Cmdr. Brian Podany stood before the new crime lab.

Accreditation Training

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) ANAB is a member of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board family of brands. ANAB provides accreditation for ISO/IEC 17025 forensic test laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 forensic inspection agencies and a wide variety of training, workshops, and academic programs.

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation Workshop for Forensic Police

The NFEA provides training for apprentice/entry level firearm and toolmark examiners from Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The Academy curriculum is composed of the fundamentals of firearms & toolmark examinations and serves as a basis for the trainee, under supervision, to develop into a qualified firearm and toolmark examiner. The application deadline for the 2015 - 2016 session of the NFEA is August 21, 2015. It is anticipated that the class will start in October 2015 however the training schedule is dependent on the receipt of funding and may be adjusted accordingly.

Additional information and the application form can be found at:
http://www.atf.gov/content/firearms/firearms-enforcement/national-firearms-examiner-academy-course-id-frms-pg-0002

Questions can be directed to either:
Sheila Hopkins
NFEA Program Manager
202-648-6061
Sheila.Hopkins@atf.gov
or
Jodi Marsanopoli
NFEA Laboratory Coordinator
Firearms and Toolmark Examiner
202-648-6116
jodi.marsanopoli@atf.gov

The American Society of Crime Lab Directors, along with RTI, have made the below webinars available.

False-Positive and False-Negative Error Rates in...
Agencies
June 22-23, 2015, Durham, NC
October 29-30, 2015, Alexandria, VA
Cost: ASQ member $600, non-ASQ member $650

ISO/IEC 17025 and Audit Preparation Workshop for Forensic Test Agencies
October 26-28, 2015, Alexandria, VA
Cost: ASQ member $750, non-ASQ member $800

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

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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.

ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Testing Laboratories

ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Breath Alcohol Calibration

ASCLD/LAB-International Internal Auditor Training Course

ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Testing Laboratories

ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Calibration Laboratories

American Association for Laboratory

Cartridge Case Comparisons
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 – Archival Version
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival Version
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival Version
ASCLD Webinar Series: Case Acceptance Policies and Guidelines – Archival Version
ASCLD Webinar Series: Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management – Archival Version
ASCLD Webinar Series: Efficiency Improvements – Archival Version
ASCLD Webinar Series: How to Increase your Staff without Increasing Budget – Archival Version
ASCLD Webinar Series: Managing Customer Expectations and Education – Archival Version
ASCLD Webinar Series: Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction – Archival Version

Forensic Conferences

May 24-29, 2015: The Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) in Dallas, TX.
May 26-29, 2015: 14th Annual DNA Technical Workshop - Bode East in Orlando, FL
July 20-24, 2015: NIST to Host International Symposium on Forensic Science Error Management in Gaithersburg, MD.
August 2-8, 2015: 100th International
Accreditation (A2LA)
A2LA’s Training Program provides a variety of courses designed to help organizations achieve and maintain accreditation to international standards.

Association for Identification (IAI) in Sacramento, CA.
August 8-13, 2015: The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) will be held in Toronto, Canada.
August 31- September 5, 2015: The 26th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG) will be held in Krakow, Poland.
September 20 - 25th, 2015: Midwestern Association Forensic Scientist fall meeting will be held in Mackinac Island, Michigan.
October 6-9, 2015: 14th Annual AFQAM Training Conference will be held in Pensacola Beach, FL
October 12-16, 2015: Southern Association Forensic Scientist (SAFS) Annual 2015 Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
October 18-25, 2015: Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) in Atlanta, GA.
October 19 - 23, 2015: Southwestern Association of Forensic Science (SWAFS) in Oklahoma City, OK.
October 2015: Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists in Spokane, WA
April 3-8, 2016: International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT) in Orlando, FL.