Dear colleagues,

Impressing on forensic staff the critical nature of quality assurance is a never-ending task. We seek to put systems in place that provide structure and protect quality, generating a familiar routine. Yet, familiarity can cause complacency.

This challenge harkened me to an incident some time ago where a refrigerator failed in our lab. As a result, some reagents and casework items were compromised. In completing our corrective action, we looked back at the temperature logs. The logs had been dutifully completed, however showed fluctuating elevated temperatures several months in advance of the eventual failure. When questioned regarding the information conveyed by the elevated readings, it was clear that the individual competing the task had lost sight of the purpose for the daily or weekly routine.

A task as simple as taking temperature readings on a refrigerator can be looked at two ways. The first, an employee is putting in time conducting menial tasks necessitated by a regulatory system. The second, by ensuring proper operation of the refrigerator, the employee is safeguarding the integrity of critical reagents and casework material. Our casework is the most precious item entrusted to us at the crime laboratory. Every task we undertake, however basic and routine it may seem, places upon us that same mantle of responsibility.

Unintentional quality fails such our refrigerator incident, are opportunities to improve. They should be blame free teachable moments to get better, as improvement is a continuous process.

Ray Wickenheiser
ASCLD President
ANNOUNCING THE ASCLD MEMBER FORUM!

The Member Resources committee is excited to announce the creation of the ASCLD Member Forum on the ASCLD website. The ASCLD Member Forum is a place for ASCLD members to interact with colleagues to ask questions, share ideas, and engage in professional discourse about management in forensic science. It is our hope that the ASCLD membership will use the forum as a place where everyone can benefit from the exchange of ideas.

As a member of ASCLD, you already have access to the Forum. Simply visit the ASCLD website and look under the “Member” tab. You can also directly access the Forum by going to: www.ascld.org/forums/. Because this is a member benefit, you will need to sign into the website before you can view or post on the Forum. Please use this as a place to ask and answer questions, to share ideas, and engage with colleagues as we all pursue excellence in forensic science management!

ASCLD is excited to announce the addition of new awards to be debuted at the symposium this year. There are so many wonderful initiatives ASCLD and its members are involved in that we are pleased to be able to recognize more of them.

Awards include:

- ASCLD Member of the Year – ASCLD member who has made significant contributions to the organization in the past year. (Nomination form will be distributed in advance of the symposium.)
- FORESIGHT – Most innovative success story epitomizing the tenets of FORESIGHT.
- Symposium Presentations by a member – The best presentation as voted by the audience.
- Symposium Attendee with longest membership.
- Best Capstone presentation from the Leadership Academy – voted upon by Leadership Academy participants and instructors.
- FTCoE / NU / ASCLD Webinar of the Year – Attendance and audience feedback will be key indicators for selection of this award.
- Briggs White - Exceptional competence and achievement in any area of public administration, leadership shown in the direction or development of programs, creativity and resourcefulness, adherence to the basic principles of enlightened public service, integrity and dedication to duty. (https://www.ascld.org/nominations/)

In addition to the existing and new awards, ASCLD will be recognizing members in other new areas. Please be sure to join us for this year’s Awards Banquet in Atlanta!
The ASCLD Leadership Academy is a training program offered by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors for managerial personnel in forensic science laboratories. It is designed to deliver training of the highest quality at a cost that recognizes the current strained budgets of labs across the US. The Academy is open to ASCLD members and non-members alike.

The mission of the ASCLD Leadership Academy is to train managers to become LEADERS. Continuing into its 4th year, the ASCLD Leadership Academy will again offer a 100-credit course designed specifically for newly appointed supervisors and supervisors who have had little opportunity for previous formal management training and education in early 2018. The Academy is a blended training model, combining weekly lecture-style webinars with a "Management Lab" at the annual ASCLD symposium where students will participate in hands-on, practical exercises to develop their skills.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the 5th annual ASCLD Leadership Academy to be held in Spring 2018. Twelve weekly, online webinars will be offered from February to April and will cover a wide range of essential leadership topics for forensic science supervisors and managers. The Academy will then finish with two intensive days of on-site, hands-on instruction at the ASCLD symposium in Atlanta, Georgia.

The 2018 Academy will again focus on providing quality instruction to new supervisors in the forensic science field and supervisors who have previously had limited opportunity for structured forensic management education and training. Between affordable registration costs and high quality instructors, ASCLD is confident that laboratories will see a valuable return on investment in a time when training budgets are lean across the US.

2018 Academy Calendar

**LEADERSHIP** – Ben Swanholm
- February 22 – Leadership
- March 1 – Leadership
- March 8 – Transition from Peer to Supervisor & Conflict Management
- March 15 – Cultural Change & Self-Leadership

**COMMUNICATION** – Col. Tim Scanlan
- March 22 – Communication Styles
- March 29 – Personality & Conflict Management
- April 5 – Team Building
- April 12 – Communication as a Leadership Tool for Laboratory Issues

**LABORATORY OPERATIONS** – Jody Wolf & Jeremy Triplett
- April 19 – Strategic Management
- April 26 – Process & Performance Management
- May 3 – Quality Management & HR/Legal Management
- May 10 – Customer/Stakeholder Management

**CAPSTONE**
- May 20-21, 2018: In-person workshop at the 2018 ASCLD Symposium, Atlanta, Georgia

For additional information or to register for the academy, please go to [http://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/ascld-leadership-academy/](http://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/ascld-leadership-academy/)
Dear Forensic Science Professionals,


The topic of "bias" and its implications for forensic practice has been hotly debated and researched in forensic and academic circles over the last decade. The 2009 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the state of forensic science in the USA and the 2016 President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report on forensic science recommend that forensic practitioners address issues relating to bias in forensic science and provide evidence to the fact finder that they have done so.

This workshop uses an engaging and innovative mixture of lectures, case examples, and practical activities to educate participants on the theoretical concepts and practical implications of bias within forensic science. Participants will receive instruction on the various types of bias, how to identify its presence, how to mitigate its influence, methods on how to sequentially unmask data, procedures used to identify task-relevant information, concepts for the appropriate management of case-specific contextual information and how to appropriately document critical decision pathways.

This workshop is primarily aimed at forensic science practitioners both scene or laboratory based, especially those involved in the early identification, collection and interpretation of evidence. It is however designed to benefit anyone who produces, uses or relies upon forensic science for decision making purposes within the justice system, including judges, district attorneys, defense lawyers, and detectives.

The workshop is $395 per person.

For registration, please visit: [http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/18/2.htm](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/18/2.htm)
45th Annual ASCLD Symposium

Advancing Forensic Science requires leadership, which includes taking initiative, motivating employees, and applying resources creatively to the complex problems presented by today's forensic casework and issues. Leaders lead by example and encouragement, building on success and learning from their past experiences and that of others.

Please join us in Atlanta, Georgia, May 20-24th for the 2018 ASCLD Symposium where you will learn about exciting initiatives to advance forensic science. New and experienced managers and directors will be presented with innovative tools to sharpen their leadership skills. Presentations from experts and leaders, both inside and outside the forensic science community, will cover various aspects of leadership. Our goal is to invigorate you with techniques and information to increase your leadership capacity in both life and occupation.

Hotel Information

Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, within walking distance to renowned Atlanta attractions including the Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola and College Football Hall of Fame, the Atlanta Marriott Marquis is unparalleled in its splendor and convenience.
The indoor MARTA access provides fast rail access to the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, while the downtown location offers first-class opportunities for experiencing Atlanta.
During your stay, enjoy the iconic cocktail lounge Pulse, dine at the unique restaurants including Sear and High Velocity, and pamper yourself in the state-of-the-art full service spa.

265 Peachtree Center Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 521-0000

Hotel Rate
- The room rate for this event is $135.00 plus taxes and fees
- The contracted rate will be available until 5 PM EST, Friday, April 27, 2018

Reservation Process
Online:
- Click here to book your hotel reservation
Phone:
- Please contact the reservations desk at (404) 521-0000
- Make sure that you reference that you are attending the ASCLD Symposium

Make your Reservation - https://aws.passkey.com/event/49236454/owner/321/home
https://www.ascldsystosum.com/education

Before the show, get caught up on the latest news: http://www.evidencemagazine.com/
Volunteer Opportunity

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), provider of accreditation to forensic organizations and other testing and testing related providers, is seeking forensic science practitioners to serve on a voluntary basis on the A2LA Forensic Examination Advisory Committee (FEAC) and A2LA Accreditation Council (AC). Participation is primarily through electronic communication (e.g. teleconferences, emails, online portal) and benefits of membership include: networking opportunities with other practitioners and technical experts from other fields, increased knowledge of the accreditation process, ability to provide technical input in areas of accreditation and quality assurance, and an invitation to attend the A2LA Technical Forum and Annual Meeting. Additionally, Accreditation Council (AC) members become honorary members A2LA, the association, and gain access to unique presentations and trainings such as ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and similar. For additional information, please see the https://www.a2la.org/genweb/tac.cfm page to learn about A2LA's Technical Advisory Committees or https://www.a2la.org/AC/Join-Accreditation-Council.cfm for information on the A2LA Accreditation Council.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES (Hiring now)

Due to a recent upgrade with the newsletter software, visit http://www.ascld.org/jobs2 to link and view details about job announcements listed below.

- Forensic Analyst – Biology, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: April 6, 2018
- DNA Supervisor-Principle Executive Manager E, Oregon State Police, Portland, OR, Expires: February 19, 2018
- Forensic Examiner DNA 3 01377, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- Forensic Examiner DNA 1 01376, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Forensic Examiner Latent Print 1 01375</td>
<td>ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA</td>
<td>April 26, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Examiner Latent Print 3 01374</td>
<td>ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA</td>
<td>April 26, 2018</td>
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<td>Forensic Chemist 2 01373</td>
<td>ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA</td>
<td>April 26, 2018</td>
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<td>Forensic Examiner Fire Arms &amp; Toolmarks 01379</td>
<td>ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA</td>
<td>April 26, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory Manager/Theater Liaison 01365</td>
<td>ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA</td>
<td>April 26, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experienced Crime Scene Investigator</td>
<td>Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX</td>
<td>March 31, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality Specialist</td>
<td>Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX</td>
<td>March 31, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Technical Lead – Forensic Biology</td>
<td>Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX</td>
<td>March 31, 2018</td>
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<td>Latent Print Examiner</td>
<td>InCadence Strategic Solutions, Forest Park, GA</td>
<td>May 31, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory Operations Analyst</td>
<td>Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC</td>
<td>February 3, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Scientist II – Toxicology</td>
<td>Metro Nashville Place Department Crime Laboratory, Nashville, TN</td>
<td>February 4, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Scientist IV</td>
<td>City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>February 2, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Scientist – Digital &amp; Multimedia Evidence</td>
<td>Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA</td>
<td>February 15, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biometric Records Manager (A F I S – Automated Fingerprint Identification System)</td>
<td>Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Largo, Florida</td>
<td>March 1, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Position in the MS Program in Biomedical Forensic Sciences</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA</td>
<td>April 10, 2018</td>
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<td>Forensic Scientist (Biology)</td>
<td>Center for Forensic Sciences, Syracuse</td>
<td>February 2, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Chemist I</td>
<td>NMS Labs, Fayetteville, NC</td>
<td>April 1, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Chemist</td>
<td>Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur</td>
<td>February 28, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Biologist – Crime Lab Scientist</td>
<td>Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, GA &amp; Moultrie, AZ</td>
<td>February 28, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant/Associate Full Professor in Forensic Science</td>
<td>Arizona State University, Glendale, Arizona</td>
<td>January 31, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant/Associate Professor</td>
<td>University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut</td>
<td>February 8, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Biometric Records Manager</td>
<td>Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Largo, Florida</td>
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<td>Assistant/Associate Professor</td>
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<td>Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics</td>
<td>Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY</td>
<td>February 2, 2018</td>
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<td>Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics</td>
<td>Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY</td>
<td>February 2, 2018</td>
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<td>Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics</td>
<td>Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY</td>
<td>February 2, 2018</td>
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<td>Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics</td>
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<td>Forensic Scientist II-Trace Evidence</td>
<td>Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY</td>
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<td>Forensic Scientist III-Trace Evidence</td>
<td>Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY</td>
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<td>Forensic Scientist IV-Trace Evidence</td>
<td>Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY</td>
<td>February 2, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Scientist Trainee-Chemistry/Controlled Substances</td>
<td>Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of</td>
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The Need for Safety Officers and a Health and Safety Committee

The elements of a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) have been the subject over the last few weeks. Previous topics have been 1) the need for SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), 2) Criteria for Implementing Control Measures, 3) requirement to ensure that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and identify the specific measures the employer will take to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment, and 4) Required Information to be provided to lab personnel working with hazardous substances. This week’s topics are 5) The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer’s designee before being implemented, and 6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.

5) The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer’s designee before being implemented. Prior to any new work being conducted in a lab that uses a hazardous chemical, prior approval must be acknowledged. Prior approval would normally come from the Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) or Safety Officer in your lab. Many procedures use chemicals that require special considerations. Additionally, some labs may not have the proper storage or work area for its use. Also, the chemical must be added to the chemical inventory, all personnel who will work with or come in contact to the chemical must read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

Having a plan where an employee has read the SDS and understands the hazards by signing a review sheet or some other acknowledgement is a good way to improve compliance. Additionally, ordering and purchasing hazardous chemicals should go through one person or a team so that proper storage locations, policies, and procedures can be appropriate for chemicals ordered.

6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee. Designating a person, such as a CHO or Safety Officer for day-to-day administration of chemical issues is paramount and crucial for accreditation. A CHO will provide reports at the department Safety Committee meetings on chemical hygiene activities performed. Additionally, a CHO will work with others to develop, review and approve Standard Operating Procedures which detail all aspects of proposed laboratory activities that involve hazardous materials. A Chemical Hygiene Committee, commonly known as a Safety Committee (or Health and Safety) in forensic labs is also a requirement for accreditation. Health and Safety committee members should establish a committee structure and process and develops an action plan for the year that identifies a few priority health and safety issues to work on. The concerns would be addressed at safety committee meetings and the executive management meeting(s).

Jane B. Northup
Quality Assurance Officer
RI State Crime Laboratory
Certified Chemical Hygiene Officer

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450

The National Registry of Certified Chemists
http://nrcc6.org/

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training

OSHA Fact Sheet:

CHP Template:

Examples of CHPs:
University of California, Santa Barbara: http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/labsafety-chp
University of Rhode Island: http://web.uri.edu/ehs/files/ChemicalHygienePlan.pdf

Crime Lab Safety Plans:
In 2018, the Forensic Science Training Institute will be offering a week-long course in Advanced Fabrics Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Training on March 19-23.

The class size is limited to twelve, so please register early to ensure your seat.

For registration and full details on the course requirements, visit the Forensic Science Training Institute website here: http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/16/1.htm

**Recorded Training:**

**Episode 9 Podcast!!**
Just Blood Spatter

In episode nine of Just Science, funded by the National Institute of Justice’s Forensic Technology Center of Excellence [Award 2016-MU-BX-K110], we spoke with Dr. Marc Smith, from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Smith’s NIJ funded research in blood spatter has connected computational fluid dynamics with empirical studies to improve the understanding of blood spatter onto solid, slanted surfaces. His work looks at many variables, including droplet size, speed, surface roughness and wettability. Listen and Subscribe HERE.

Subscribe to the channel at:
- Google Play
- iTunes
- Stitcher
- Soundcloud

**ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series**

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series can be found at the following links:
- The Paradox of Backlog Reduction – How Doing Less Can Be Doing More
- Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction
- Managing Customer Expectations and Education
- How to Increase your Staff without Increasing Budget
- Efficiency Improvements
- Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management
- Case Acceptance Policies and Guidelines

**ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series**

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series can be found at the following links:
- Rapid DNA: The QAS and NDIS
- Rapid DNA: Arizona DPS and Richland County, SC
- Rapid DNA: Booking Stations and CODIS

**ASCLD /RTI DNA Standards and Guidelines Webinar Series**

SWGDAM Interpretational Guidelines

Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes
Quick Links to ANAB

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) is a member of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board family of brands and the new home of ASCLD/LAB. 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.

ONLINE
Cost: $200

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditor Training
February 6-9, 2018
San Diego, CA
Cost: $850

May 8-11, 2018
Cary, NC
Cost: $850

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Assessor Training (Testing)
April 9-13, 2018
Springfield, VA
Cost: $1,195

Practical Applications for Forensic Measurement Confidence
March 13-14, 2018
Alexandria, VA
Cost: $600

Root Cause Analysis for Forensic Service Providers (Web-based)
January 29- February 1, 2018
ONLINE
Cost: $395

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation for Testing Laboratories
April 9-11, 2018
Springfield, VA
Cost: $695

Web-based courses also available.

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies
April 11-12, 2018
San Francisco, CA
Cost: ASQ member $650, non-ASQ member $700

October 15-16, 2018
Cincinnati, OH
Cost: ASQ member $650, non-ASQ member $700

Roadmap to Transition: Forensic AR 3028
Available as an on-site course
Contact training@anab.org or 414-501-5466 for more information

For more information about these workshops, contact training@anab.org or 414-501-5466 for more information. For registration, click the links for each training course above.
Forensic Science in the News

Heiress Plotted 19 Grisly Crimes. Investigation Underway.
Ms. Lee was not a schooled artist. She was a rich, frustrated woman in her 60s when she began them, and almost belligerent in her pursuit of a place in the infant field of forensic science. Lee shared its passion about the deceptions of crime and the need for truth in investigation. Entry to this professional realm was a double-locked door; men, and in particular police, held the keys. The majority of the victims in the Nutshells are women, found in their homes.

Houston’s Forensic Crime Lab Showing Efficiency Despite Its Plagued Past
"In 2014, when the Houston Forensic Science Center took over services from the Houston Police Department, this crime lab had been under so much pressure and had such a poor reputation nationally, because of scandals that had plagued it in the past," said Plushnick-Masti. "It was very hard to attract people."

Daniel Brühl Visited Dark Places for ‘The Alienist’
It only took until the late 1800s to get there. “This whole story is also about interior journeys, so it’s not only some guy is a psychologist hunting a serial killer. It’s also a trip right into the heart of darkness of each one’s characters, and facing your own demons and your own traumas,” Brühl says. “And so spending so much time with a character who thinks like that, inevitably you try and analyze yourself and go back and think about your own demons and dark chapters that you had in your life. All of us are burying secrets, evilness is in all of us. And I guess that’s why we’re so intrigued with these stories about serial killers, because it’s a mystery and yet it’s something so human."

TV forensic shows offer no clues for committing a perfect murder
A new psychological study finds no link between exposure to popular forensic science shows and the ability to conceal a crime.

Medical examiner on Heights bones case: ‘We really do believe that she is Mary Cerruti’
It is unlikely anyone will ever know exactly the person whose bones were found in the wall died. There wasn’t enough evidence left to analyze. But Derrick still hopes to confirm whether the remains are Cerruti’s - and she believes they are.

Prints from severed hand lead to identity
Homicide police investigating a severed right arm found in the sea off Matura beach on Sunday and a severed leg on Monday went to the Forensic Science Centre on Tuesday with a fingerprint expert and were able to identify the victim.

Mock retrial for last man to be hanged in Dundee
William Bury was found guilty of murdering his wife Ellen and was hanged on 24 April, 1889, after initially claiming to be Jack the Ripper. Bury’s conviction rested largely on medical evidence which drew uncertainty from the jury at the time. The evidence will be re-tested in the mock trial by today's forensic science standards.

Israel's eye detection tech to replace lie detection test
The lie detection test that is used to cross-examine the accused in criminal cases will soon become a history. Gujarat Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) is developing a technique to detect the crime through eye-detection method, with the cooperation of Israel-based company. The method of eye detection will be more precise giving actual results of crime detection and that will be applied soon in Gujarat.

Crime lab expedites blood evidence in the Blaze Bernstein death
Crime-lab technicians on Thursday were fast-tracking DNA tests on blood evidence gathered in the homicide case of 19-year-old Blaze Bernstein, a University of Pennsylvania sophomore who disappeared Jan. 2 while in Lake Forest on winter break.

Crime lab to serve Mindanao's DNA test needs
The Regional Crime Laboratory Office (RCLO) said that its new building comes equipped with modern deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) equipment and that they will be using this by the end of this month, to serve the DNA tests requirements for crime scene investigations for the whole Mindanao.

Albuquerque mayor pushes police to clear rape kit backlog
The mayor signed an executive order Wednesday calling upon police and the Albuquerque Sexual Assault Evidence Response Team to present a plan by mid-March that specifies the funding needed to process about 4,000 evidence kits in the city’s crime lab. They have remained untested despite an audit more than a year ago detailing the scope of the problem.

DA close to decision on officer-involved shooting
Glynn County District Attorney Jackie Johnson said Wednesday a decision should be forthcoming on whether action will be taken against David Sepanski, a Glynn County Police Officer who shot and wounded a man Oct. 24 during a struggle following a traffic stop.

Lab technician’s work history is allowed at trial of man accused in ‘85 slaying of DuPage teen
Over the objection of DuPage prosecutors, Judge George Bakalis said he would allow attorneys for Michael R. Jones to ask the technician about a disciplinary incident that occurred years after the technician handled DNA in the case against Jones.

Crime lab backlog delays Godbolt indictment on 8 counts of murder
The understaffing at the state crime lab may be reaching a crisis level. Medical Examiners are fleeing the agency, leaving cases like a multi-fatality shooting in Lincoln County in limbo.

Rise in fentanyl trafficking prompts Oregon State Police to drop field tests
No state trooper in Oregon so far has reported ill effects from handling fentanyl – often found in pill form but sometimes also in a powder. But in isolated cases across the country, officers have unintentionally ingested the drug while on the job, including an Ohio officer who was treated for an overdose after powder landed on his uniform.

Mayor signs executive order to deal with rape kit backlog
The City of Albuquerque has a lot of work to do when dealing with a backlog of rape kits. On Wednesday, Mayor
Tim Keller announced he will issue an executive order, but his plan does come with some challenges.

**How #MeToo may bolster the case for testing all rape kits**

Morse suggested women who previously had been reluctant to pursue a case against an attacker may now be reconsidering and want to have their kits tested. "So I am encouraging this City Council to push even harder," she added.

**Blaze Bernstein's high school classmate charged with murder**

Woodward, who was taken into custody on Friday afternoon, was arrested after crime lab technicians determined that blood found on a sleeping bag in his possession belonged to Bernstein, the Register reported. The murder weapon reportedly has not been found.

**Their north Arlington meth-lab exploded, police say — with an infant inside**

Arlington police officers arrested two women at the Plantation Place Apartments in the 700 block of East Randol Mill Road after finding what Police Chief Will Johnson said on Twitter was "a drug lab" inside the unit where the walls shook after an explosion that blew out at least one window.

**Website to help victims track sexual assault kits’ progress**

Utah officials says a new federal grant will allow the state to offer more resources to victims waiting as their sexual assault kits are going through the testing process.

**New crime lab office inaugurated**

THE multi-million new Regional Crime Laboratory Office (RCLO-Davao Region) building at Candelaria St., Ecoland, Davao City was inaugurated Monday afternoon with President Rodrigo Duterte in attendance.

**Detroit man awarded $1M for wrongful murder conviction**

A judge on Wednesday awarded $1 million to a Detroit man who spent 25 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of murder based on faulty ballistics evidence.

**State Crime Lab strapped for manpower as Mississippi faces rising homicide crime**

Despite the $30 million, state-of-the-art facility in Pearl it moved into a little more than two years ago, the Crime Lab now has the lowest number of trained forensic scientists it's had since 2004-2005, Howell said. Since 2012 alone, staff numbers have dropped from 101 to 83, and some of those are not forensic scientists.

**Texas Man, Convicted of Sex Crime, Gets Reversal of Fortune—From His Phone**

"If a pedophile had owned that phone it would have been wiped on a regular basis by performing a factory reset," Adams told Forensic Magazine. "Greg's phone was just the opposite of that. He was creating what would one day be the digital evidence that lit the fire under his exoneration."

**2 medical examiners offer opposing views at murder trial**

Two medical examiners offered opposing views Tuesday during the murder trial of Brent Houdeshell, an Arlington man accused of killing 2-year-old Breydon Ferrell in March 2016.

**Lawyer: Charges Possible in Connection with Vegas Shooting**

Charges could be filed in connection with the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, even though the gunman responsible for killing 58 people is dead, a lawyer for Las Vegas police told a judge Tuesday.

**Supreme Court to consider whether a lawyer can admit a client's guilt against his wishes**

English told McCoy he, "intended to concede to the jury" that McCoy was the killer. English admits, in sworn documents, that "Robert told me not to make that concession but I told him that I was going to do so. I explained that I felt I had an ethical duty to save his life, regardless of what he wanted to do."

**Parents Arrested After Children Found Chained in House**

The girl, who was so small officers initially believed she was only 10, called 911 and was met by police who interviewed her and then went to the family home in Perris, about 70 miles southeast of Los Angeles. They found several children shackled to their beds with chains and padlocks in dark, foul-smelling surroundings, according to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

**Danish Man Charged with Killing Reporter on His Submarine**

Madsen has offered a shifting variety of explanations for Wall’s death. Initially, he told authorities he had dropped Wall off on an island several hours after their voyage began. Then he claimed that Wall died accidentally inside the submarine while he was on deck during the excursion and he had "buried" her at sea. However, he later admitted throwing her body parts into the sea.

**Records: FBI Knew Las Vegas Gunman Had Big Gun Stashes**

FBI agents knew the gunman behind the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history left behind big caches of guns, ammunition and explosives when they sought warrants to search his properties and online accounts, according to court documents released Friday.

**Man confesses to 1993 murder in emotional TV interview before turning himself in to police**

"Every minute of every day has been a nightmare," Hawkins told the station. "Frank never got to have a life, but we were teenagers and now I'm 44 and still haven't even had a life and now most likely won't anyway."

**Google Searches Led to Alleged Serial Rapist’s IP Address. DNA Did the Rest**

Google search history—particularly a record of who was searching for the address where the rapist struck—was the crucial lead that ultimately led to an arrest and pending charges against John E. Kurtz, according to the arrest affidavit acquired by Forensic Magazine.

Catherine L. Navetta
Greetings from the American Board of Criminalistics,

In our quest for ISO 17024 Accreditation, we are convening a group of Subject Matter Experts (SME) for an occupational analysis of the field of forensic science. We are looking for experts who perform “cradle to grave” analysis as well as those who have other roles in a forensic laboratory, including specialists performing various types of forensic casework. If you are chosen, you will meet with a trained facilitator who will take you through the two-day Occupational Analysis process. This process will identify all of the duties that forensic scientists have in common, regardless of discipline, and then separate those duties into their relevant tasks.
You may be asking yourselves why we are doing this if we already have existing exams. The ABC is constantly striving to improve our exams and part of that is making sure that they are testing the jobs that people are actually performing. We will select participants based on the following (in no particular order): geographic area, experience, gender, and availability. These distinctions are recommended so that the entire community is properly represented.

You do not need to be a current ABC certificant to participate. The training will be held in conjunction with the AAFS meeting in Seattle. An additional hotel night and per diem costs will be covered by the ABC, however there will be no additional compensation for work absences. So please take a moment to fill out the survey found via this link:


We look forward to working with you.

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OSAC Standards Bulletin
January 2018

BULLETIN SUMMARY

This Bulletin provides an update on forensic science standards that are moving through the development process at standards developing organizations (SDOs), and those that are moving through the Registry Approval Process at the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC).

Please consider providing comments on documents that are open for comment.

OSAC Registry Standards items open for comment: 1 Item
SDO Documents open for comment: 4 Items

Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science
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 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.

Establishment of an Office of Forensic Sciences and a Forensic Science Board Within the Department of Justice
Revision 2/14/17


Formed in 2000, CFSO is an association of six forensic science professional organizations:
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences;
- American Society of Crime Lab Directors;
- International Association for Identification;
- International Association of Forensic Nurses;
- National Association of Medical Examiners; and
- Society of Forensic Toxicologists - American Board of Forensic Toxicology. These professional organizations together represent more than 21,000 forensic science professionals across the United States.
Introduction

This course is designed primarily for practitioners who routinely examine blood stained clothing and other textiles and are required to assess, interpret, and report on bloodstain patterns as part of those examinations. The course is delivered through a combination of “face to face” instruction and self-directed learning. A minimum 80 hours of structured learning activities is required, inclusive of a 40 hour “face to face” residential component. The course will review the underpinning principles of BPA, and apply these principles to the analysis and interpretation of bloodstains on clothing and other textiles.

When examining clothing, the practitioner must be mindful of influences such as the fibre type, texture, treatments, all of which may affect the final appearance of bloodstains. The primary focus of the course is to develop those skills required for the examination of bloodstain patterns found on clothing items, including the use of microscopy to discriminate between spatter and transfer bloodstains.

Grant Assistance for DNA

FORESIGHT 20/20

Greetings from the Project FORESIGHT team. We invite you to join us and submit data for the past fiscal year. FORESIGHT is a business-guided self-evaluation of forensic science laboratories across the globe. The participating laboratories represent local, regional, state/provincial, and national agencies. Faculty from the WVU College of Business and Economics provide assistance, guidance, and analysis. We link financial information to work tasks and functions. Laboratory managers can use these functions to assess resource allocations, efficiencies, and value of services—the mission is to measure, preserve what works, and change what does not.

FORESIGHT is open to any forensic laboratory that completes and submits a LabRAT form. There is no charge for participation.

To participate, simply complete the attached LabRAT workbook and submit to Paul Speaker at email paul.speaker@mail.wvu.edu. Please send any questions to the same email address. For additional information, please visit the program web site http://be.wvu.edu/forensic/foresight.htm. We are targeting a submission date of December 15, 2017.

Since 1995, JusticeTrax has produced a suite of products geared specifically toward the law enforcement and forensic community. Over the years, our applications have gained increasing acceptance among city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Our applications are designed by forensic scientists and are the most comprehensive case management tools available.

With installations ranging from small, single-site laboratories of five users, to extremely large multi-site installations with 500+ users, we are honored to serve some of the most sophisticated crime laboratories in North America, Australia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Of these 175+ laboratories, greater than 95% are accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025 International Standard.

JusticeTrax is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company.

The JusticeFacts newsletters are found at http://JusticeTrax.com/sales/newsletters.


Grant Assistance for DNA

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for...
Impression, Pattern and Trace Evidence Symposium January 22-25, 2018
2800 South Potomac Ave Arlington Virginia 22202 USA
CALL for ABSTRACTS and CALL for WORKSHOPS are now open
Call for ABSTRACTS closes October 13th, 2017<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>
Call for WORKSHOPS closes October 18<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>
Registration for attendees and presenters is FREE!
Attendee Registration will be opening soon.
All selected domestic presenters, except federal employees, will be funded for this event. Funding includes airfare and lodging that is arranged and prepaid by RTI. Other travel related expenses such as meals (at per diem rate), taxi, mileage and parking will be reimbursed following the workshop. Further detail will be provided to those selected with acceptance letters. International travel will not be funded.
For more information and to submit your abstract(s) or workshop proposal(s) please go to<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>.
For questions please contact forensicCOE@rti.org.

West Virginia University Forensic Management Academy
The new year is upon us. Invest in yourself in 2018 by attending one of the upcoming programs hosted by the WVU Center for Executive Education
Forensic Management Academy
September 9 - 14, 2018
Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office
Pittsburgh, PA

ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 11
These research reports have been submitted by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) especially for their relevance to crime laboratory activities. ASCLD has not reviewed nor does it necessarily endorse the findings of this research.

NIJ-FBI Fingerprint Partnership Identifies 200 Missing Persons
In March of this year, a new collaboration began between the National Institute of Justice and the FBI Laboratory. Fingerprints from unidentified missing persons are sent to the FBI where a new technology, known as Next Generation Identification, along with enhanced processing protocols, is improving the odds of identification. Identifications are increasing even with poor quality prints or with those that have been searched in the past.

The National Institute of Justice recently released a report on National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach in response to the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act of 2013, which focuses on the accurate, timely, and effective collection and processing of DNA evidence in sexual assault investigations. A practitioner working group developed 35 recommendations that provide a roadmap for collecting, transferring, preserving, storing and analyzing sexual assault kits. The recommendations apply to medical professionals, members of law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors and laboratories. A coordinated, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to sexual assault investigations helps reassure and support victims of sexual violence, encourages victim engagement and increases the potential for just legal resolutions.

The Fingerprint Sourcebook is Now Available in Spanish
NIJ has released a Spanish-language version of The Fingerprint Sourcebook, which aims to be the definitive resource on the science of fingerprint identification. The Sourcebook was prepared by the International Association for Identification and topics covered include the anatomy and physiology of friction ridge skin; techniques for recording exemplars from both living and deceased subjects; AFIS; latent print development, preservation and documentation; equipment and laboratory quality assurance; perceptual, cognitive and psychological factors in expert identifications; and legal issues.

Forensic Identification Using Individual Chemical Signatures
NIJ-funded researchers developed an approach to translate chemical signatures recovered from personal objects such as phones into a lifestyle sketch of the owner, using mass spectrometry and informatics approaches.

Quantifying Error Rates for the Measurement of Human Skeletal Remains
NIJ-funded researchers revised forensic anthropology procedures to include an “error metric” for the measurement of human skeletal remains. This article summarizes findings from that study.

Designing Methods to Identify Evolving Designer Drugs
This article describes an NIJ-supported research project focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities needed to increase the reliability and selectivity of forensic evidence and analytical
Lean Six Sigma Certification for Forensic Science Professionals
March 20 - September 11, 2018
Via online webinar with one face-to-face class held on September 11, 2018 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Pittsburgh, PA at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport.

For more information on the Forensic Management Academy and Lean Six Sigma programs, please visit business.wvu.edu/execed or email Martina Bison-Huckaby at Martina.Bison-Huckaby@mail.wvu.edu.

National Institute of Justice's latest Graduate Research Fellowships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. NIJ has made 20 new awards in 2017 for STEM fellows, totaling $960,861 for graduate students working towards advancing NIJ’s mission. The GRF-STEM program funds dissertation research across a wide range of topics to criminal justice, including the forensic sciences.

See a full list of awards and descriptions, awardees, and dollar amounts. Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.

Sexual Assault Cases: Exploring the Importance of Non-DNA Forensic Evidence
Investigating and prosecuting sexual assault crimes is much more complicated than simply performing DNA testing.

Evidential Value of Particle Combination Profiles on Common Items of Evidence
This project used the analytical tools and statistical methods developed in previous research funded by NIJ to measure the evidential value of very small particle (VSP) profiles found on four common types of physical evidence: handguns, cell phones, drug packaging, and ski masks.

Canadian Forensic Science Journal
Leadership series instructors and modules available.

**Jody Wolf**
Modules: Generations, Cultural Diversity, Leadership Principles and Concepts

**Dr. Terry Anderson**
Modules: Personal Leadership, Practical Emotional Intelligence, Moral Compass

**Dean Gialamas**
Modules: Leadership and Ethics, Leadership and Power

**Deputy Chief Timothy P. Scanlan**
Modules: Leadership and Change, First-Line And Mid-Level Supervision

**Jeremy Triplett**
Modules: Leadership Theories and DISC Styles, Founding Fathers on Leadership

As we close out 2017, we’re looking back at some of our accomplishments. Through our 22 year history, we have learned it’s our customers and colleagues truly share in our success. Here are just a few of our team’s favorite 2017 accomplishments:

- NFSTC’s first ever U.S. Department of State training for more than 50 DNA and crime scene analysts from Central America
- Hosted annual ROTC internship for 12 Cadets
- Enrolled more than 145 people in our online courses
- Trained 148 military students at our facility
- Published the Crime Scene Investigation Guide in Spanish
- Released a second season of the award-winning series Fauxxrengics

And that’s just a small portion of our work. As we look forward to 2018 and our future with Florida International University, we know we’ll continue to offer the highest quality training and support to our customers.