

# April, 2007 - Monthly Update

FYI, this update is sent each month to all IAI board members, officers, committee chairs, regional representatives, division secretaries, certification board chairs and secretaries, division editors and IAI staff. This update contains information that is of particular interest to these groups. It is sent by e-mail to all those for whom I have an e-mail address and by regular mail to the rest. **If you receive this by regular mail but have an e-mail account**, please let me know and I will add your e-mail address to the distribution list. It is much more efficient and cost effective to send it that way.

Hello again from the IAI office.

## *2007 San Diego Conference*

The program for the 2007 International Educational Conference in San Diego is now posted in the conference section of the IAI's website, [www.theiai.org](http://www.theiai.org)

Please note that **it is not possible** to register for the conference at this time. The program, subject to minor changes, is on the website so attendees can begin to plan for the workshops and lectures they may want to attend and also as information for attendees who may need to get approval from their agencies in order to attend. Again, do not try to register at this time. Registration will open via the website about April 13<sup>th</sup>. The printed booklet will be mailed to all IAI members around April 20<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to congratulate the IAI's Educational Program Planner Jim Gettemy on a most outstanding job of putting together this year's program. It is absolutely phenomenal and attendees will find a broad range of excellent topics both in the workshops and the lecture sessions. Congratulations Jim!!

If you are planning to attend the San Diego Conference, it is not too early to make hotel reservations. We're told there are several other events happening in San Diego at the same time as the Conference so it would be wise to reserve a room early in order to take advantage of the IAI's room block and conference rate.

To reserve a room, please contact:

Town and Country Resort and Convention Center  
500 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA 92108  
Website: [www.towncountry.com](http://www.towncountry.com)  
Room Rate: \$129 Single/Double  
Reservations: (800) 772-8527 (US Only) or (619) 291-7131

Several administrative events will take place during the conference. As has been our custom, on Tuesday morning, July 24, a meeting will be held of all certification board chairs and secretaries. Please mark that on your calendar as this is the only time during the entire year when all certification board officers are able to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest. Pat Davis, Chair of the Certification Quality Assurance Committee and I will co-chair the meeting.

The annual breakfast for division secretaries, presidents and regional representatives will be held on Wednesday, July 25 from 7-9 a.m. This is the once a year opportunity for the division

leadership to visit with each other and exchange ideas with staff and IAI leadership. Again, please mark this event on your calendars.

The IAI's Board of Directors will meet on July 20, 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup>. If anyone has items to be considered by the board, please send them to the Board Chair, Joe Maberry at [joemaberry@hotmail.com](mailto:joemaberry@hotmail.com) or to me at [iaisecty@theiai.org](mailto:iaisecty@theiai.org)

***ATTN: Divisions Please Note***

If you would like a table or space to display your division merchandise during the San Diego Conference, please contact the IAI's Conference Planner, Candy Murray at [conference@theiai.org](mailto:conference@theiai.org) or by phone at (407) 568-7436.

***IAI Member Survey***

All IAI members will receive a survey this spring from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at West Virginia University. This survey, sponsored by a grant from the National Institute of Justice, is the first comprehensive survey of forensic identification professionals and has been endorsed by the IAI board and leadership. The survey results will provide meaningful information on current practices as well as advancing the contribution of forensic services to the criminal justice system and society. This research is part of a larger study by BBER of the forensic community and its economic contributions and business practices.

Many of you are undoubtedly familiar with the publication titled *Census of Publicly Funded Crime Laboratories, 2002*, a document that provides a great deal of information regarding crime laboratories, workload, staffing, backlogs etc. While that information is very useful there is no similar data regarding non-crime laboratory forensic service providers, including those who work in identification or similar units in law enforcement agencies. This survey is the first effort to identify and quantify information about those types of units.

The survey results are very much dependent on the responses by the IAI members. The IAI leadership encourages members to take part in this first large-scale fundamental research of their field by completing and returning the survey as soon as possible. To encourage return of the surveys, BBER will conduct a random drawing from respondents for one of two iPod nano players. If there are questions about the survey, please contact Dr. Kanybek Nur-tegin at 304.293.5837 or [kanybek.nur-tegin@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:kanybek.nur-tegin@mail.wvu.edu). Please also feel free to contact me at the IAI office if you have questions.

It is hoped that enough data will be collected to present at least preliminary survey results at this summer's conference in San Diego, CA.

***Divisions Please Note - Certification Testing***

An issue has arisen that requires clarification with respect to certification testing. The issue is: "Who can proctor certification examinations"?

Longstanding IAI policies require that in all instances where practicable, a test proctor be certified in the discipline for which the test is being administered. There is no requirement that a test proctor be a member of the division certification committee. It is not required and would not be practical. Take a large state such as California or Texas or Florida and it is readily apparent that it is not possible for three people to cover the state.

The process works like this. The division committee chair, to whom the letter of approval is typically addressed, responds back to the certification board and identifies a proctor for the test. It may be a committee member, it may not. Most often it is not. There is nothing that prohibits non-committee members from proctoring a test and was that not the practice, the process would grind to a halt. Keep in mind that only a handful of divisions have committees for some of the smaller programs such as Tenprint or Forensic Photography. Through an agreement with other certification boards, someone certified in the crime scene or latent print discipline often proctors those tests. The only requirement is that the person proctoring the test must be certified. Someone who is not certified cannot proctor the test with one exception. Occasionally a certification board finds itself in a situation where there is no certified person to proctor the test within, lets say, 100 miles of the applicant. In that case a college testing center may be used or, on occasion, a training officer in a law enforcement agency has been used as a proctor.

### ***Divisions Please Note: Requirements for Recertification***

Another problem that occasionally arises – and has again recently – is the matter of continuing employment or activity in the certified discipline. This most often arises when a certified individual has retired and wishes to keep their certification. Please note the following paragraph from the Certification Board Policy Manual:

#### VII. REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

##### A. General Qualifications

An applicant for certification **must be employed in the discipline in which they are applying for certification**, must be of good moral character, high integrity, good repute, and must possess a high ethical and professional standing (See Sections IV & V). All applicants for certification will be required to meet all currently published standards for their individual discipline(s). A complete list of standards, requirements and study materials is available from the certification board secretary or from the IAI web site.

Applicants for certification or recertification **shall require documentation of continued relevant forensic science work experience**, the requirements for which shall be defined by the certification body.

The operative language in the above is bolded. It is a non-negotiable requirement that anyone applying for recertification **must** be actively involved in the discipline for which they are being recertified. This happens occasionally in the crime scene discipline and perhaps others. It is highly unlikely that a retired individual is actively doing crime scene investigation work. There are a few exceptions such as teaching or working for an insurance company – doing arson investigation for example – but those are quite few and far between.

In order to keep intact the integrity of IAI certification programs, all who wish to recertify must meet the above requirements.

### ***Forensic Science/Identification Management Training***

Are you a manager of a crime laboratory or other forensic science unit or division? If so, you might want to consider the training outlined below being offered by West Virginia University (WVU). I received this from Maria Yester at WVU. She is on the faculty of WVU and has extensive experience in management training both in the public and private sectors. Her experience, coupled with the forensic resources at WVU, makes this an exciting opportunity for

both new and experienced managers of forensic services. Best of all, this training is entirely free of charge – and that includes transportation and lodging - to you and your agency. Offered in conjunction with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), this training is designed to address the oft-cited need for training of forensic managers. Often the best practitioners are promoted into management positions but the skills required as managers are quite different from those required as an analyst. Here is an opportunity to round out those skills.

WVU Announces the  
**Forensic Management Academy™**

*(Cost of Development, Tuition, Travel, & Lodging Funded by the NIJ)*

The WVU College of Business and Economics Center for Executive Education, in collaboration with the National Institute of Justice, announces the first of two offerings of the Forensic Management Academy™ (FMA). This unique program is specifically designed for current and aspiring forensic laboratory managers, law enforcement professionals and other forensic service providers interested in how contemporary business practices can improve the field of forensics.

Through customized case studies, interactive classroom projects, and lecture, forensic service providers will explore contemporary business topics as they relate specifically to working in a forensic laboratory or agency. Particular emphasis will be placed on managing in an environment where many functions and processes are legislatively mandated (salaries, budgets, discipline, etc.). These topics will be explored in an application based learning environment where the learning is designed for immediate application back at your agency or laboratory. This unique one-week program will examine business and leadership topics including leadership development and succession planning, business skills and their application, conflict resolution, budget and finance, motivation, strategy, as well as performance and project management.

Those interested in improving their individual and organizational knowledge of contemporary business practice as it applies to forensics should visit this website for more specific information about application and program details. Application deadline is April 20, 2007. With supervisory approval, twenty (20) forensic professionals representing a cross section based on laboratory/agency size, scope, and services will be selected to participate in this training, courtesy of The National Institute of Justice.

Training will occur September 9th to 14th, 2007, near the West Virginia University Campus in Morgantown, WV. Individual laboratories may be responsible for incidental costs. Details regarding the second offering in the spring of 2008 on the West Coast will be confirmed and posted on the website by November 1, 2007.

For more information or to apply to the program, visit [www.be.wvu.edu/execed/fma.htm](http://www.be.wvu.edu/execed/fma.htm)

***FBI Forensic Science Communication On-Line Publication***

The April 2007 issue of *Forensic Science Communications* has been posted to the FBI's website. The issue can be viewed at <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/current/index.htm>

If you have trouble accessing the issue via the link, go to the FBI's home page and access "Reports & Publications" on the left-hand side. *Forensic Science Communications* is listed under law enforcement services.

### ***National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee***

The second meeting of the *Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Sciences Community* will be held on April 23-24, 2007 in the Lecture Room of the National Academy of Sciences, 2100 C Street, NW. The meeting is free and open to the public, however seating is limited. To view the agenda and register, please go to <http://www7.nationalacademies.org/stl/>

The IAI was invited to suggest names of folks who could inform the committee about the current status as well as research needs in the areas of fingerprint identification and firearm/toolmark identification. Ed German will speak to the Committee regarding fingerprints and Pete Striupaitis, Chair of the IAI's Firearm/Toolmark sub-committee will speak about that subject.

### ***Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)***

The CFSO will hold the fourth annual Congressional Technology Fair in Washington, DC on May 22, 2007. A number of vendors have been invited to participate in this event that showcases to congressional members and staff various aspects of forensic technology and the forensics community. The event will be held in Room G50 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

### ***August Vollmer IACP Award***

In last month's Monthly Update, I mentioned the August Vollmer Award created by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to honor outstanding contributions to the field of forensic science. That information is reprinted below. Please consider making a nomination of a deserving individual or agency for that award. We all know of someone who has made a significant contribution to the field and deserves such an honor.

To recap, a while ago, the IACP formed a Forensic Committee to raise the visibility of forensics within the IACP community and represent that sector to the IACP membership. The committee has held several meetings the most recent of which was during last fall's IACP Annual Conference in Boston, MA. Board member Mike Campbell and I are honored to be members of this committee. During that meeting, the Co-Chairs of the Committee, Ann Talbot, the Laboratory Director for the State of New Mexico and Bill Berger, Chief of Police of the City of Palm Bay, Florida announced the finalization of the August Vollmer Award for Excellence in Forensic Science. The particulars of the award can be found by clicking on the link shown below. Please take a minute to review the information regarding this award and consider nominating someone who has made a significant contribution to the field of forensic science. As you will note, some of the awards are for individuals and some for agencies.

[http://www.theiai.org/iacp\\_vollmer\\_award.pdf](http://www.theiai.org/iacp_vollmer_award.pdf)

At the Boston Meeting, the award was first shown, a very, heavy and elegant medallion that is also pictured on the above link.

Again, please take time to visit this link and give some thought to nominating a deserving person for this award.

Joe Palishi