

International Association for Identification



December, 2008 – IAI 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.

Hello again from the IAI office.

Certification Board Trademark Registration

You may remember that a while ago the IAI's Board of Directors passed a resolution to register with the United States Patent and Trademark Office all IAI certification program names as well as the IAI logo. For quite a while now, I have been working with a patent/trademark attorney to get this accomplished. The Patent/Trademark Office initially rejected the application because there were no exemplars of use of those certification names included in the application, particularly business cards showing the certification designation of those individuals. At this time, in order to complete this process, we need examples of business cards with the following IAI certifications listed. If anyone has a business card with the designation ***exactly as noted below***, please forward the card to this office or send an e-mail including a Word or .pdf file showing that designation. Please note that the words on your card must be ***exactly*** as shown in the below listing.

Certified Crime Scene Investigator
Certified Senior Crime Scene Investigator
Certified Footwear Examiner
Certified Forensic Artist
CTPE
Certified Latent Print Examiner

Thanks for your assistance and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Latent Print Certification Board Website

Steve Howard from the Latent Print Certification Board sent the below information and asked that it be included in the *Monthly Update*.

The Latent Print Certification Board website is now officially live on the IAI site. It has been significantly redesigned and includes a great deal more information about the program than was previously listed. Please visit that section of the IAI's site at

http://www.theiai.org/certifications/latent_print/index.php

for more information.

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***Human Factors in Latent Print Analysis – Expert Working Group
National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST)***

On December 15th and 16th, 2008, NIST is conducting a meeting of an Expert Working Group dealing with Human Factors in Latent Print Analysis. That meeting, to be held in Las Vegas, will explore error rate, contextual bias and other matters. A number of IAI members have been invited to participate as well as individuals from academia and the sciences. The panel will be moderated by Melissa Taylor, formerly of NIJ and now working as a contractor for NIST. For those of you familiar with NIST, Melissa works with Sue Ballou. Both Sue and Melissa are very active in the larger forensics community. I will provide more information in future *Monthly Updates* and *Identification News* columns.

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

On March 19, 2009, the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio will hold a symposium titled the *Future of Forensic Sciences*. The symposium will deal with community reaction to the soon-to-be-released National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on forensic science. Representatives from the academic, law enforcement, prosecutor, defense and forensic science perspectives will be presented in a panel discussion format. Board Chair Ken Martin has been invited to participate in this symposium on the law enforcement panel. Other participants include FBI Laboratory Director Dr. Christian Hassell, Peter Marone, Director of Forensic Science for the State of Virginia, Barry Fisher, Jay Siegel, Ken Melson and many other familiar names and faces in the forensics community. Anne-Marie Mazza from the NAS will lead off the presentation with an overview and background of the report and its recommendations.

I also received information that Arizona State University (ASU) College of Law is holding a conference of the same nature on April 3rd and 4th, 2009 in Tempe, Arizona. See the below link for an overview of that conference.

<http://lst.law.asu.edu/FS09/index.html>

Survey Request

The following information was received from Isobel Hamilton, a graduate student at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, Scotland. I told her I would include it in my Monthly Update for anyone who might like to respond to her request.

I am an MPhil student at Strathclyde University in Scotland, studying in the Centre for Forensic Science. The focus of my research is fingerprints, in particular rationality, objectivity and uniqueness in fingerprint identification. In recent years there has been much discussion about the status of fingerprint examination, with forceful arguments made by all sides. Part of my study has been looking at the available published literature in this area, but I am interested in discovering the

views of those working in fingerprints and related fields (forensic science, police, law, scene examination, lab technician, academia) working all over the world.

The survey is short, and anonymous. The results will be used to compile a summary of views on various fingerprint issues across different professions and experience levels.

Having browsed your website I can see that the IAI has a great many members in many of the fields in which I am seeking responses. I was wondering if it would be possible for you to pass on my survey link to your members? The more responses I can gather the more valid my results will be, and reaching IAI members would be a great advantage.

The survey can be found here:

<http://www.eye-2i.net/survey1.html>

If you would like any further information about my research please feel free to contact me.

Thank you very much for your time.

Isobel
E-mail: i.hamilton@strath.ac.uk

Announcement of FBI-sponsored NIST Evaluation of Latent Fingerprint Technologies: Extended Feature Sets

Peter Higgins sent the below information and asked that it be forwarded to all of you.

We are pleased to announce ELFT-EFS - the FBI-sponsored NIST Evaluation of Latent Fingerprint Technologies: Extended Feature Sets. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of human latent examiner marked fingerprint features on latent fingerprint search accuracy, specifically with respect to the comparative accuracy of image-only searches, image+minutiae searches, and image+extended feature searches. The attachment outlines the evaluation, which begins with a public challenge problem and workshop, tentatively planned for February 2009.

As additional information becomes available, updates will be made at the ELFT-EFS website (<http://fingerprint.nist.gov/latent/ELFT-EFS>), with notifications sent to interested parties.

To register as an interested party, please send contact information (name, affiliation, email, telephone) to latent-efs@nist.gov

Austin Hicklin
703-610-1995
E-mail: hicklin@noblis.org

We are happy to take comments on scope, timing and any technical or other aspects.

January 2009 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors of the association will hold its mid-year meeting in Orlando, Florida on January 12th and 13th. If anyone has any issues to be brought to the attention of the board, please

send them to Board Chair Ken Martin at kenneth.martin@theiai.org or to this office. I will forward anything sent here to Ken.

Thanks

As the end of yet another year rolls around, I would like to thank all those who give so generously of their time and talent to make the IAI the successful association it is today. The current membership of 7,228 is an all time high and continues to place the IAI at the forefront of forensic organizations. The educational opportunities offered through the IAI, the annual educational conference, the networking and contacts available to our members as well as the association's seven certification programs all combine to give the IAI unprecedented visibility. During 2008 we saw the re-introduction of *Identification News* as the official newsletter of the association. That publication, in addition to the Journal of Forensic Identification (JFI), provides yet another benefit of membership and a vehicle to keep members apprised of the current activities of the association.

We say goodbye to those members and officers who have served so well and extend a welcome to those who are new and will carry the association into the future.

On behalf of the IAI office staff, Jennifer, Theresa and me, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and productive new year!!!

Joe Polski