

International Association for Identification



December, 2009 – 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. It is also available on the “Members’ Area” of the IAI’s website. Please see the last page of *Identification News* for login and password information.

Hello again from the IAI office.

California Crime Lab Report

Several years ago, then IAI President Ken Martin appointed Steve Nash to a California Task Force charged with examining the state of forensic science in California and making recommendations. Last week I received the below e-mail from Steve:

Here is a link to a crime lab task force for California that Ken Martin appointed me to a couple years ago. The report was officially released this week and is now posted at the below link. It will be released further next week. It is for California but of course could continue to other states.

We are not completely done with our task and will continue for another year for supplemental information. Please pass this along to the BOD and officers that the initial report is completed but we have another year of work and supplemental reports.

http://ag.ca.gov/publications/crime_labs_report.pdf

Steve

This is a very well done report with many moderate, practical recommendations that could be used by other states that want to model some of the California practices.

Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

The IAI’s Board of Directors will hold a mid-year meeting in Orlando on January 20th and 21st 2010. If anyone has items for board consideration, please forward them to Board Chair Bob Garrett at robert.garrett@theiai.org and/or me.

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Meeting

On December 2 IAI President Vici Inlow, Board Chair Bob Garrett, CFSO Liaison Ken Martin and I met with the Kristina Rose, the Acting Director of NIJ and many members of the NIJ staff. Our meeting with NIJ is part of an on-going effort by the Institute to familiarize themselves with the various forensic organizations serving the community. The meeting was a very productive exchange of information. The bibliography of research, articles and other publications regarding

fingerprint identification compiled by the Standardization II Committee was presented to the Director. Sufficient to say those in attendance were quite astounded at the 269 pages of material and 5,000+ articles/research/publications etc. found by the Committee. NIJ is most interested in considering follow-on grant proposals to build on the information compiled by the Standardization II Committee.

2010 IAI Conference – Spokane, Washington

Are you considering making a lecture presentation or a providing a workshop during the Spokane Conference next summer? If so, the IAI's Educational Program Coordinator, Jim Gettemy, is now accepting applications for both workshops and lecture sessions. Please visit the IAI's website where you will find, on the Home Page, a Call for Papers icon that links to an application to present either a workshop or lecture.

Human Factors in Latent Fingerprint Analysis – Expert Working Group

The next meeting of the above Expert Working Group will be held in San Diego on January 13-15, 2010. This group is preparing a comprehensive process map of the latent print analysis process as well as identifying in that process where the highest likelihood of errors may occur. An analysis of this type has never been done and will prove invaluable to the fingerprint community.

Impression and Pattern Evidence Symposium

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) recently announced a Call for Abstracts for the *Impression and Pattern Evidence Symposium* to be held August 2-6, 2010 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. The symposium will bring together hundreds of pattern evidence practitioners and other stakeholders in the pattern evidence community to discuss techniques, research, challenges and many other matters related to pattern evidence. Invitations to this symposium will come later but abstracts for presentation are now being accepted. For more information please visit the below section of the NIJ's website:

<http://projects.nfstc.org/ipes/>

...Another Year...

Another year has come and almost gone and I would be remiss if I did not thank all those who work so hard to make the IAI a success.

First and foremost, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to each and every IAI member for without you, everything else is meaningless.

The *Journal of Forensic Identification* (JFI) continues to be a world class, peer reviewed technical journal that provides the highest quality articles, research and information to our membership. *Identification News* brings news of the association in a new format enhancing communication within the IAI. Each year's annual conference and educational offerings are a first rate experience and I would challenge anyone to find a better educational program. All this is guided by the officers and board of directors who deserve our thanks for the time they spend ensuring the IAI "ship" stays on course. Then there are the certification boards, committee chairs, regional representatives and the IAI office staff who ensure the smooth day-to-day operation of the association.

2009 completes my 12th year as Chief Operations Officer for the IAI. When I took this job in January of 1998, I could have never envisioned the wonderful “second career” it turned out to be. Over those years, the IAI has grown from an association of about 4,300 members to the 7,200 we have today. It has been and continues to be a great experience and I very much enjoy working with each of you to ensure the IAI continues its successes and responds to the challenges facing forensic science today.

Best wishes to each of you, regardless of your beliefs and customs, for a wonderful Holiday Season, a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!!!

Joe Polski