

# March, 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.

## *American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Meeting*

A few weeks ago President Diana Castro and I had the privilege of attending the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) in San Antonio, Texas. The AAFS staff provides a very visible location for us to erect the IAI's pop-up display and provide literature, JFI sample copies, etc. to AAFS attendees. Next year's AAFS meeting will be held in Washington, DC and leaders expect to capitalize on the political atmosphere of the city to raise the visibility of forensic science in the nation's capitol.

Many other associations also hold meetings during that event so it is a wonderful opportunity to bring the IAI's name in front of these attendees and to network with other forensic organizations.

After three years as chair of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO), I stepped down from that position during the annual CFSO business meeting in San Antonio. Peter Marone, the Director of Forensic Services for the State of Virginia, was elected to the position of Chair and will lead the CFSO during the upcoming year.

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

The next meeting of the NAS Forensic Committee is set for April 23, 2007 in Washington, DC. The IAI has been asked to supply names of people to address the Committee in the areas of fingerprint identification and Firearm/Toolmark identification as well as research aspects of those two disciplines.

On March 1, a conference call dealing with AFIS issues was held between AFIS Committee Chair Peter Komarinski, several NAS staffers and myself. Because the issue of AFIS Interoperability/Interconnectivity is one of the eight points that Congress asked the NAS to explore, the Committee wanted to discuss background information regarding AFIS, how it works, access issues etc. The call lasted about 1 1/2 hours and was very productive in assisting the NAS to better understand AFIS and related issues. It is expected that an entire half day session will be devoted to this subject at a future Committee meeting.

## *IAI/RS&A Training*

You may be aware that a couple of years ago, the IAI entered into an agreement with Ron Smith and Associates (RS&A) to co-brand training between RS&A and the IAI. That arrangement allowed the IAI to offer quality training through RS&A and meet the ongoing training needs of our members and the forensics community in general.

From time to time in this *Update* I'll call your attention to a class or classes that might be of particular interest to IAI members in the both the parent body and the divisions. Below is a short overview of a tenprint course scheduled for June in Phoenix, AZ.

This course is a 40-hour course designed to take the experienced tenprint examiner to the next level in comparing friction ridge detail. Participants will learn the ACE-V methodology for friction ridge identification and what is meant by Levels 1, 2 and 3. Students will receive hands-on training and searching smart tips to develop advanced comparison skills through a progression of practical applications of friction ridge comparisons (*be sure to bring those magnifiers*).

Too often, inked prints do not contain the needed ridge detail to complete an examination. Examiners will learn the importance of properly recording Major Case Prints, and through practical exercises, how to obtain them. How do these manually recorded inked prints compare to electronically (livescan) recorded prints? What are the advantages and the "pitfalls" of these electronically recorded prints?

AFIS is not only a tool for tenprint examiners, but a latent print examiner's success in utilizing AFIS is dependent on how well the tenprint examiner inputs data. What can you do as an examiner to assist in the overall success of a latent print examiner when entering latent prints. AFIS from the perspective of a Latent Print Examiner's needs and expectations will be presented and discussed.

Are you considering pursuing IAI Tenprint Certification? How much training do you need and what does the certification process entail. An overview of the certification program will be presented to help you determine whether or not you are ready for this multi-phased rigorous exam process.

What if a disaster hit in your area, would you know what to expect? An introduction to Field Disaster Identification will be presented.

How do Frye, Daubert and Kumho affect the tenprint examiner? What are some of the questions you can expect at a "Daubert Hearing?" What is a Plaza style challenge? These questions and more will be answered in detail during this week while developing testimony strategies and preparing for, and participating in, moot court sessions in this preparation for testifying as a fingerprint expert. Moot court sessions will be conducted as time permits to meet the specific requirements of each individual student.

For registration information, please visit the following website:  
[training@ronsmithandassociates.com](mailto:training@ronsmithandassociates.com)

### ***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.

### *San Diego Conference*

The IAI's Conference Planner, Candy Murray, advises that if you are planning to stay in San Diego after this summer's conference, it would be advisable to book your room early. There is an annual Comic Book Convention in San Diego from July 26-29 that draws many people and hotel rooms get scarce. (Just for giggles, here is the website for that convention: <http://www.comic-con.org/cci>)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Palshin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.