

# International Association for Identification



## March, 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.

### ***No-Cost Training***

The following message was forwarded to me by Mike Campbell from Ron Smith and Associates and outlines a no-cost training opportunity offered by West Virginia University (WVU).

Friends of the IAI and RS &A,

Since so many of you have supported Ron Smith and Associates, Inc. with your attendance at the courses sponsored by the International Association for Identification, we felt it would be nice to send along some information on an opportunity for some free training that is being offered through the National Institute of Justice and West Virginia University’s Forensic Professionals program. This program was offered in 2007 with great success and fortunately NIJ decided to repeat the opportunity.

The sign up period begins on March 2, 2009 through the link below. All the questions you may have regarding this opportunity have been pretty well explained on the website and contact information from WVU is listed below.

Ron Smith & Associates, Inc instructors will be participating in the program and we very much look forward to seeing some of you or your co-workers in Las Vegas this June. Please share this information with others.

God bless, stay well and stay in touch,

Mike

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The website link for the program is:

[http://fsi.research.wvu.edu/training/continuing\\_education\\_for\\_forensic\\_professionals\\_program\\_2009](http://fsi.research.wvu.edu/training/continuing_education_for_forensic_professionals_program_2009).

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### ***2009 IAI Membership Dues***

Final dues invoices were mailed a couple of weeks ago to all members who have not yet paid dues for 2009. Please note that those who do not renew for 2009 will be dropped from membership rolls on March 31.

Given the current economic times, we are aware that a number of agencies have withdrawn their support of membership dues. In these times of tremendous change, fueled by issues such as Daubert challenges, the National Academies Recommendations, innovations in technologies and techniques, it is more important than ever to stay current and connected with the forensics community. We hope that even if your agency stops paying your IAI membership dues, you will consider IAI membership a valuable resource worth continuing.

### ***2009 Scholarship Applications***

Each year the IAI accepts applications for scholarships and small research grants. Those scholarships and grants are funded from proceeds of the investment account for the Johnson-Whyte Memorial Foundation Fund. Due to the downturn in the investment market during the past year, there will be no scholarships awarded during 2009. We sincerely hope this situation will return to more normal times by 2010. A notice to this effect has also been placed on the IAI's website.

### ***National Academy of Sciences Forensic Committee***

On February 18, 2009 the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released their long awaited report titled *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*. The executive summary of the report is available on the National Academies website, [www.nas.edu](http://www.nas.edu). The full report is also available on that site as a .pdf file at a cost of \$33.00 USD. I urge all IAI members to obtain and carefully read the report. It contains a number of recommendations and comments directly affecting the pattern evidence disciplines and the fingerprint discipline in particular.

Today, a meeting is scheduled in Washington, DC to make recommendations for legislation to implement the recommendations contained in the NAS Study. A wide variety of forensic science stakeholders have been invited to this meeting hosted by the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO). Ken Martin is the IAI's liaison to the CFSO and will attend the meeting.

The outcome of this meeting will be discussed in future *Monthly Updates* or *Identification News*. The below link will take you to more information about the CFSO Roundtable.

<http://www.thecfso.org/news/>

In addition to the above roundtable, the House Science Sub-committee has scheduled a hearing on this matter for March 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon. The purpose of this hearing is unclear as is the process of who was invited to testify before the hearing. The IAI was not included. A link to the hearing page is below.

[http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings\\_markup\\_details.aspx?NewsID=2374](http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings_markup_details.aspx?NewsID=2374)

### ***2009 Tampa Conference – Special Notice***

The registration booklet for the upcoming Tampa Conference will not be printed and mailed to IAI members it has been in the past. This year the booklet will be posted in a “digital magazine” format on the IAI’s website. The technology used to display the booklet is remarkable and should be very easy for any computer user to navigate. In the next month or so, a postcard will be sent notifying members of this change. Notices to this effect will also be placed in *Identification News*.

This change will save a considerable amount in printing and postage, both of which have risen a good deal in recent years. The conference program distributed to attendees at the Tampa Conference **will** continue to be available as a printed document. We welcome your feedback on this process as we strive to provide services to our members, take advantage of new technology and be good stewards of the association’s funds.

As soon as the program is available on the website, I will send notices to all recipients of the *Monthly Update* so that information can be disseminated to all members and divisions.

### ***NIST/NIJ Human Factors Technical Working Group***

The second meeting of the NIST/NIJ Technical Working Group regarding *Human Factors in Latent Fingerprint Identification* was held in Las Vegas on February 26-27, 2009. More information on this important meeting will be provided in *Identification News*.

### ***International Association of Chief’s of Police (IACP) August Vollmer Excellence in Forensic Science Award***

Several years ago, the Forensic Committee of the IACP created the above award. Sponsored by Target Blue (a law enforcement cooperative sector of Target Corporation) and Technology, part of Global Options Group, the award is presented in six categories of forensic science:

- Current or Past Contributions to Forensic Science by a Police Agency
- Current or Past Contribution to Forensic Science by an Individual
- Current or Past Collaboration between a Police Agency and a Forensic Science Provider
- Innovation in Forensic Technology
- Significant Investigative Value in a Major Crime
- Enhancement of Forensic Capability by a Forensic Science Provider

The winners of these awards will be flown to Denver next fall to attend the award ceremony during the annual IACP Meeting. Each winner will be presented with a large, cast metal medallion of August Vollmer, often referred to as the “Father of American Policing” and a pioneer in utilizing forensic technologies for police purposes.

We all know someone or some agency that has done outstanding work in one of the above categories. Please take a few minutes from your busy day to nominate an individual or agency whose accomplishments are worthy of consideration in one of the above categories.

Submissions will be accepted through April 17, 2009.

For more information on this award, please visit the following website:

<http://www.theiacp.org/tabid/275/Default.aspx>

As always, don't hesitate to contact the IAI office if there is anything we can do to assist you.

*Joe Polski*