

May, 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

By now all IAI members should have received the registration brochure for the upcoming San Diego Conference. If you have not received that brochure or if you are not a member of the parent body IAI and wish to obtain a registration brochure, please contact the IAI office by phone at (651) 681-8566 or by e-mail to iaisecty@theiai.org and we will be happy to send one to you. If you are not an IAI member, be sure to include your complete mailing address.

Please note that an Adobe Acrobat file of the registration brochure is available on the Conference section of the IAI's website, www.theiai.org

Registration for the conference is now open and can be done by mail, fax or via the website. Please note that registrations via fax and the web require the use of a major credit card.

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. A sign-up sheet will be located in the conference registration area. Please sign up if you plan to attend this breakfast meeting.

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

National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC)

For the past several years, I have been fortunate to serve on the board of directors of the NFSTC in Largo, Florida. The IAI is a member organization of the NFSTC and, as such, has a vote in electing the NFSTC's Board of Directors. IAI Board Member Mike Campbell is the IAI's member organization representative to the NFSTC.

I am honored to have been chosen as the Chair of the Board at the recently completed NFSTC Board and Member's Meeting. This is especially noteworthy as I was the first person without ties

to ASCLD to be elected to the Board and am the first non- ASCLD individual to hold the position of Board Chair.

The NFSTC was founded in 1995 by ASCLD to assist crime laboratories in achieving quality services. It grew from nothing to an organization with over 30 employees, a multi-million dollar budget and an impressive record of deliverables to the forensics community. I strongly encourage you to visit the NFSTC's website at www.nfstc.org for more information about the organization.

As an aside, a number of classes sponsored jointly by the IAI and Ron Smith and Associates have been held at the NFSTC in Largo, a first rate facility with laboratory space as well as excellent classroom space. Lodging is available at a reasonable cost nearby so it is an ideal site for training conducted in central Florida.

FBI Identification Services Sub-Committee to the APB

As you may know, the IAI has a seat on the Identification Services Sub-committee (ISS) of the FBI's Advisory Policy Board (APB). At the recent meeting in San Antonio, TX, two issues arose that may require input from the IAI.

You are undoubtedly aware of the Next Generation Identification (NFI) system being developed by the FBI's CJIS Division. NGI succeed and replace the current IAFIS. Among several increased capabilities of NGI is the ability to store and search palmprints. It became apparent during the recent IS meeting however, that there are a number of standards that need to be created and implemented before state and local users can interface with and use these new capabilities.

The other area where IAI input, especially AFIS practitioners, may be required is in setting standards for handheld fingerprint capture devices. These devices allow for fingerprints of a suspect to be taken in the field, transmitted to a central record source and a hit or no-hit response returned to the taker. It became apparent there are numerous standards issues with respect to these devices as well. For example, some of the devices operate with only a specific vendor and will not allow the search of databases in neighboring jurisdictions. The problem identified with handhelds is exactly the same as the problem with AFIS systems themselves: lack of interoperability of systems of disparate manufacture.

In any event, the matter was assigned to the IAFIS Interface Evaluation Task Force (IETF) chaired by Mike Lesko from the Texas Department of Public Safety. I suggested to Mike that the IAI could supply subject matter experts to assist the IETF with both of these issues, palmprint standards and handheld device standards.

Please let me know either by e-mail or phone if you are interested in volunteering to assist the IETF with this important project. If you are an AFIS person familiar with palmprints or if you have a palmprint system in your agency and would like to assist, this is your opportunity. The same holds true for anyone with expertise with hand held capture devices. The FBI will pay any expenses connected with the meetings. Please note that this is not a sure thing but I suspect we will be asked for assistance during the upcoming months.

Give me a call if you have any questions on this.

IACP August Vollmer Award

For the past two months, a note about the IACP's August Vollmer Award for excellence in forensic science/identification. Please note that that application period has now closed. This is an annual award so watch for the announcement again next year and keep in mind those deserving individuals who you may want to nominate.

Division Secretaries and Editors Please Note

Each month, this *Update* is sent to about 180 people in leadership positions in the IAI as well as the IAI's state, regional or country divisions. When I first began publishing this *Update*, it was sent by mail. That gradually morphed into sending it by e-mail which is much more efficient and cost effective. At the present time, there are only four people in leadership positions who do not have e-mail so only four need to be mailed each month. That makes the job of getting this to you much easier.

I send this e-mail to all the division editors for whom I have an e-mail address so they can, if they wish, include the information in the division newsletters. Not infrequently I get rejected e-mail from the division editor listing that I use. Below is the entire division editor e-mail list. If your editor is not on the list or if the e-mail listed is incorrect, please let me know and I'll be glad to make the appropriate correction. Thanks for your assistance.

bopez@yahoo.com (Robert Pestak, OH), janet.m.nelson@state.mn.us (Janet Nelson, MN), laurajtierney@yahoo.com (Laura Tierney, CBD), m-mizoguchi@cd.jp.nec.com (Japan Div), igorpacheco2000@yahoo.com (Igor Pacheco, FL), editor@tdiai.org (Edward McKinstry, TX), ctiai@aol.com (Ed Rondano, CT), rjgarrett1@cs.com (Bob Garrett, NJ), everett.baxterjr@okc.gov (Everett Baxter Jr OK), p5413s@lvmpd.com (Pete Schellberg, NV), RHouchins@co.adams.co.us (Robert Houchins, RMD), heather.baxter@cityofmesa.org (Heather Baxter, AZ), jean.curtit@mshp.dps.mo.gov (Jean Curtit, MO), jgass@isp.state.in.us (Joe Gass, IN), Jacqueline.hayworth@kbi.state.ks.us (Jacqueline Hayworth, KS), contact@carolinaforensics.org (Laura Pettler, NC), latents@aol.com (Chuck Schauer, IL), tlemke@wi.rr.com (Anthony Lemke, WI), 4n6editor@gmail.com (Alyssa Peterson, IA), editor@gai.ai.org (Roshanak S. Dehbozorgi, GA), tina.walthall@isp.idaho.gov (Tina Walthall, PNW Div), laura.hutchins@ic.fbi.gov, hannaforjd.bpd@ci.boston.ma.us (Jennifer Hannaford, NEDIAI), kaseywertheim@aol.com (Kasey Wertheim, MS), bonnie.stewart@slcgov.com (Bonnie Stewart, UT), rebecca.cyr@city.pittsburgh.pa.us (Rebecca Cyr, PA), eddie.aamold@state.sd.us (Eddie Aamold, Dakotas), deborahb3@cox.net (Debbie Brotherson, NV), Debra.Galaviz-Flores@atf.gov (Debra Galaviz-Flores, CA), whenningsen@ci.omaha.ne.us (Wm Henningsen, NE), Campbell@arkansas.net (Andrea Campbell, AR)

The Forensic Lab Television Show

I received the below information via e-mail and am passing it on to anyone who might be interested.

I'm researching a television episode titled "The Forensic Lab" (episode synopsis appears below). The show will be based on intriguing and entertaining applied science, where viewers will learn and discover interesting facts about forensics. I'm searching for participants to guide viewers through their very own forensics story. Each story will consist of solid and entertaining content: science or applied science info on research applications, equipment or applied process.

The episode will be broadcast worldwide on Discovery Channel (fall 2007).

Topics we will cover:

Chemistry, Computer Analysis and Response, DNA Analysis, Evidence Response, Explosives, Fires, Ballistics, Firearms and Toolmarks, Forensic Audio, Video and Image Analysis, Forensic Science Research, Forensic Science Training, Hazardous Materials Response, Investigative and Prosecutive Graphics, Latent Prints, Materials Analysis, Questioned Documents, Special Photographic Analysis, Structural Design, Toxicology and Trace Evidence.

We want to show:

- Process: how something works or is made
- Innovation: how something is developed or modified to obtain enhanced results
- Problem solving: testing, experimentation
- Surprising facts or things (equipment or process)
- Fun facts - directly or indirectly related to forensics
- Behind the scenes operations
- Stats, descriptions, images - things the general public is not aware of

Some of the questions / issues the episode will address:

- As a forensics specialist, what problems/challenges do you face on a regular basis?
- What are some unique or unusual problems that you have encountered?
- What are the components to piecing together a forensics puzzle?
- What equipment do you use to carry out analysis?
- What does the equipment do and how does it work?

Our unobtrusive, 3-person production crew (director + camera + sound) is scheduled to shoot August 6th to 20th. For those who are interested in participating, please be prepared to discuss availability, access (personnel, labs, etc.), location(s) and time frames.

If you are interested in participating (either on or off camera), then please contact me.

Regards,

Robert Morselli
Researcher
PixCom International
www.pixcom.com
rmorselli@pixcom.com
514-931-1188 ext 300

