

THE IDENTIFIER

HTTP://WWW.SCIAI.ORG/ | SPRING ISSUE | VOLUME 1. ISSUE 2.



SPRING CONFERENCE 2018

Registration is still open for the SCIAI Spring Educational Conference April 18-19th in Charleston, SC! The two-day conference will be located on the campus of Charleston Southern University, hosted by the Charleston Southern University's Criminal Justice program. The conference will take place in the Drew Conference Center, which is located in the Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership building positioned in the center of campus. Guest speakers featured include Alice White, Steven Bradley, and Dr.

Laura Pettler. A vendor showcase will take place, along with door prizes! Recommended hotel accommodations –Wingate by Wyndam- are on the same property as the University, which is an easy 20-minute drive into historic downtown Charleston. Registration fee for members is \$20, \$75 for Nonmembers, and student registration is \$50. Payment and registration forms may be submitted online via the SCIAI website at <http://www.sciai.org/2018SpringConf.html> . See you there!

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Spring Conference is fast approaching and I hope that each of you will be able to attend. We have three excellent speakers who will bring a great deal of knowledge and experience in their fields. We are also happy to have multiple students and staff from Charleston Southern University in attendance. Be sure to take time with these students to mentor them and answer their questions. It is not often that they have a chance to interact with so many working professionals in their area of study.

Membership renewal will be in June. I encourage each of you to renew your membership, stay active in the association, and bring others on board. We are just short of 100 members. Without the members, we would not exist. This association is for the members and we would like to know what speakers and topics you would be interested in bringing to South Carolina. We will soon begin to plan for a fall training event and will need to line up speakers, so let us know your desire and we will do our best to bring it to you at an affordable price.



In closing, I would like to thank the many new sponsors and vendors who have joined us since the last event. We will have a great vendor showcase on the second day of the Spring Conference, so be sure to register for the door prizes, view some great product demos, and take the information back to your agencies. The generosity of our sponsors makes these events possible. As we continue to grow, our desire is to host quarterly training events and one large conference per year. Thank you to the members and vendors for the confidence you have shown in this association.

Tyler R. Bucholtz

President

SCIAI ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to review the SCIAI constitution and by-laws posted on the website located under the News tab. We will open both for discussion during the Spring Conference, and hold a vote of membership present.
- ◆ Space is still available for the SCIAI Spring Conference **April 18th-19th, 2018** in Charleston, SC! Cost for Members is \$20, and Non-Members \$75, Student Non-Members \$50. Registration is available at <http://www.sciai.org/SpringConf.html>
- ◆ Submissions for case study features and Member Spotlights are open. We want to highlight our members and interesting or unique cases that you have personally been involved with. If you would like to see yourself, a coworker, or one of your cases featured, Please contact the Editor at wojoan@charleston-sc.gov
- ◆ Have a topic you would like to see covered or have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter? Submit your proposals to the editor – guest authors are welcome!





Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership

Spring Conference **SCHEDULE**

April 18th

08:00 – 08:30 Walk-In Registration / Sign-In

08:30 – 12:00 *Punctuated Equilibrium – The Evolution of the Latent Print Discipline* Alice White

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch (*FARO Lunch-n-Learn*, Registered Participants Only)

1:30 – 4:30 *Crime Scene Staging Dynamics in Homicide Cases* Dr. Laura Pettler

4:30 – 5:00 Book Signing with Dr. Laura Pettler

April 19th

08:00 – 08:30 Sign-In

08:30 – 12:00 Vendor Showcase

12:00 – 1:15 Catered Lunch, Sponsored by Spex Forensics

1:30 – 4:30 *Cyber Crimes and the Age of Technology* Steven Bradley

4:30 – 5:00 Members Meeting



Charleston Southern University

9200 University Blvd
North Charleston, SC 29406

Conference will be held in the

DREW CONFERENCE CENTER

Circled in **RED**

Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership

RECOMMENDED HOTEL

Wingate by Wyndham

9280 University Blvd,
North Charleston, SC 29406

Phone: 843.619.3892

** Request SCIAI Discount **



Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership



INTERVIEW WITH AN OFFICER

Getting to know our 2018 serving Officers

During each issue of *The Identifier* we will take time to introduce some of the SCIAI's officers in order to help our members get to know their elected officers better. For this issue we sat down with 1st Vice President, Trish Odom, who shared with us her visions for the future, advice stemming from lessons learned, and perhaps most importantly – what she enjoys doing during her time off!

TRISH ODOM

1st Vice President



Our 1st Vice President Trish Odom is a Senior Latent Print Analyst with the Richland County Sheriff's Office. As Vice President, Trish acts as presiding officer due to the absence of the President, as well as assists the Secretary and Treasurer with the business of the association.

Tell us about your work experience. How long have you been a practitioner in the field and what is your current position? I began my LE career with a small department in the Columbia area called the Forest Acres Police Department. I began as a police dispatcher then attended SCCJA about a year later. After about four years, I came to the Richland County Sheriff's Department, where I worked on the road for about 9 months, then was promoted to what we called Forensics back in the day! That was November of 1999, and I have been working in the Crime Scene/Latent Print Unit since then. When I started in the lab, all of our investigators did everything: photography, crime scene investigation, AFIS submission, latent print comparisons, etc. Around 2004, I was

given the opportunity to specialize in latent print comparisons, and that is what I have done primarily ever since. I now hold the title of Senior Latent Print Analyst.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I work with an amazing group of professionals! All are talented, professional, and passionate about doing the best job possible!

What improvements would you like to see in the forensic community? I think continuing education and uniform standards and reporting would benefit us all.

What are you passionate about (this does not have to be work-related!)? My faith and my family! If I am to have any lasting impact in this world, I know it's going to be in my personal relationships and living out my faith in Jesus Christ for the world to see. I love my job and the people with whom I work, but I know that I can be replaced by a younger, more energetic analyst. But my husband and children are never going to have another me. If I squander that precious time with them, I won't get it back and neither will they!

What is something you have learned in your work experience that you can pass along to others? Something I'm still working on: Do the very best job you can, learn from your mistakes (and those of others), and don't take stuff personally.

Is there a training course or certification you have completed that you feel has furthered your career? I'm a Certified Latent Print Examiner through the IAI. The process of studying and taking the exam sort of forced me to revisit some things I might have forgotten in the 14-plus years between my start in the field and my certification.

Who or what has had a major impact on your career? I have been extremely fortunate to work with great people, some of whom were amazing latent print examiners, and some of whom just had amazing, never say die work ethic.

Why did you decide to pursue a position in the field of forensic science? I always knew I wanted to get into the investigative side of law

enforcement. My department has a field training program for all new deputies that included spending a week with investigations. In that week, I rode for a day with one of the Forensic Investigators and I knew it's what I wanted to do.

"If I am to have any lasting impact in this world, I know it's going to be in my personal relationships and living out my faith."

- Trish Odom

IN THE NEWS

Preparing CSI Units for Forensic Accreditation- What You Need to Know

By Michael Cunningham, Operations Manager at CrimeCenter Software. Article used with permission.

The "CSI effect" has conditioned society to expect that forensic evidence can solve most high-profile crimes. And while forensics and crime scene investigation continue to be popular topics for prime-time TV, there are many in the industry – from law enforcement officers to prosecutors and judges – that argue that what works for TV drama and ratings does not work for real-life CSI and that the process of forensics investigation needs to be improved.

Cleaning up and setting new standards for how forensics evidence is handled, collected and categorized is a top priority for many in the law enforcement industry, given the mishaps that occur when evidence is mishandled. Pointedly, there have been hundreds of exonerations due to newly discovered, or improperly handled, DNA evidence; overturned cases due to faulty hair examination; and bite-mark studies that reveal serious shortcomings.

The end result of all the attention is that a reliance on high quality forensic evidence by the courts and

society has never been greater and law enforcement is expected to deliver it. To ensure quality evidence is delivered, many crime labs turn to ISO accreditation. While accreditation does not equate to automatic high quality, it does mean that the lab adheres to external quality management systems. Crime labs that adhere to ISO guidelines are accredited by an inspection body that audits their procedures and performance on a regular basis. This process exists to regulate and guarantee the validity of results.



Michael Cunningham | Manager

IN THE NEWS

Preparing CSI Units for Forensic Accreditation Continued

Many forensic labs voluntarily seek this accreditation as a way to demonstrate compliance with acceptable standards. Although typically not mandated by law to be accredited, if a lab were to choose not to be accredited, when they introduce evidence at trial, their results could be called into question. As a result, labs have an incentive to comply to substantiate the reliability and credibility of their work.

Unlike tests done in the crime lab, some forensic work, such as crime scene investigation and fingerprint analysis, may be carried out by CSIs or technicians outside of the traditional laboratory. These tasks are less likely to be carried out by accredited units, but that has been slowly changing, and this trend may continue.

Accreditation: Then and Now

In 2009, the National Academy of Sciences released a report called [Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward](#). Legislation was then proposed and a Forensic Science Commission was formed under an executive order from President Obama to act on the report's recommendations. The Forensic Science Commission operated until April 2017 making recommendations to the Attorney General on regulating the field. One of the recommendations was to have all forensic science providers (including CSI Units) subject to mandatory accreditation and all personnel subject to mandatory certification by the year 2020. Mandatory accreditation seemed

to be the case – until last year when newly appointed Attorney General Jeff Sessions failed to re-new the Forensic Science Commission after its term and opting instead for a new strategy to be set by an in-house team of law enforcement advisers. This left the previous recommendations in a state of limbo.

So while the deadline may come to pass, accreditation certainly still has some strong support.

Preparing for the Future

With all of this uncertainty on how to move forward, what should your department do to prepare, assuming accreditation remains a priority?

1. Develop a list of all forensic evidence collection, testing, handling and processing tasks performed within the agency (think broadly).
2. Review your existing policies and procedures. Determine if they meet existing ISO Standards. Perform a gap analysis to identify where the current procedures are absent, or don't meet the standards.

Once these steps are completed, the agency can begin to design formal policy and procedure manuals and develop training and quality assurance programs and, if desired, apply for accreditation with an accrediting body.

Once a unit receives accredited status, audits are required to ensure those standards are continuing to be met. These audits typically do not take place in the field; instead they mainly look back at case work and records to see if the

agency has been operating within accepted policies.

One common reason cited for failing an audit is improper records management. That's where robust [case management software](#) with an integrated CSI module can be incredibly helpful. When evidence management is integrated with case management all interested parties, including the investigators, CSIs, scientists, property managers and agency executives can easily share information and ultimately ensure better documentation and better outcomes.

While there continues to be a national conversation continuing around the topic of accreditation – and whether or not it should be universally required – reviewing developing policies and adhering to standards can always help improve CSI operations. Furthermore, taking a step in this direction will demonstrate that your agency continues to strive to ensure your forensic evidence is of the highest integrity.

Find out more about how organizing your records can aid with meeting accreditation requirements at <https://crimecenter.com/>

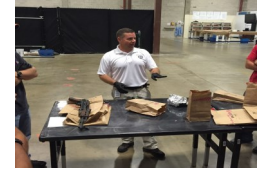
IN THE NEWS



BLACK & WHITE FORENSICS, LLC

www.bwforensics.com

4241 Thigpen Road Olanta, SC 29114



Black & White Forensics is a forensic consulting and training company owned by former SLED Agent John P. Black. We specialize in the following services:

- Fingerprint, crime scene and footwear case reviews
- Development and review of standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- Providing highly specialized training to the law enforcement, forensic, legal, military and educational communities
- Assistance with reduction of fingerprint casework backlogs

The following courses have been approved by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy for Continuing Law Enforcement Education credits:

Crime Scene & Evidence Photography
Courtroom Testimony for Law Enforcement and Forensic Personnel

For More Information Contact:
 601-604-6766 or
john@bwforensics.com

Instructor John P. Black

- 26 years experience in Federal, State and Private Labs
- IAI certified as a Latent Print Examiner, Footwear Examiner and Senior Crime Scene Analyst
- Conducted over 240 training events throughout the United States, Africa, Asia, Central America, and Europe
- Testified as an expert witness on over 110 cases
- Published in Peer-Reviewed Scientific Literature

IN SEARCH OF

Has your agency dealt with a unique case where non-traditional methods of processing or analysis were required? During an investigation, was an uncommon piece of evidence discovered or requested for processing, and successfully analyzed? Have you developed a new technique that has assisted you or your unit in a specific discipline? Has your department purchased a new product and have you found it to be beneficial to your unit (or not)? If so, we want to know about it! Our upcoming *Member Spotlight* section will highlight SCIAI members who have contributed recently to their fields of discipline by submitting a short summary and/or photographs of their experience to share with our members. Please forward all submissions to the Editor at: wojoan@charleston-sc.gov. We look forward to seeing the responses!

Free Software Finds New Forms of Fentanyl

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a free software tool that may help chemists identify new forms of fentanyl and other illegal drugs. This new method, called Hybrid Similarity Search, uses an algorithm for searching chemical databases. The software can identify new fentanyl analogs in the database, even if no matches occur. This method is also stated to work with synthetic cathinones — better known as “bath salts” — synthetic marijuana, and other drugs.

For free download instructions and to read the NIST article on Hybrid Similarity Search, visit the NIST website or [CLICK HERE](#).

IN THE NEWS

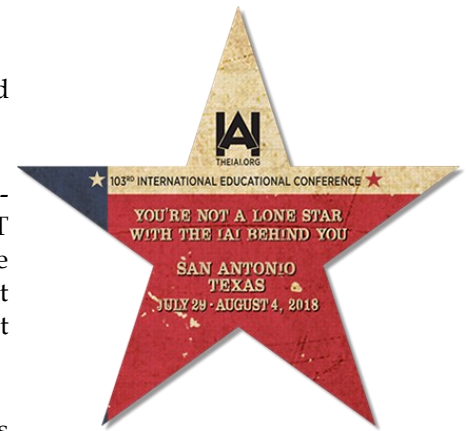
The IAI's 103rd International Forensic Educational Conference July 29 - August 4, 2018 in San Antonio, Texas

All educational sessions, meetings, and events will be held at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio Hotel.

Registration will be \$375 (U.S.) for International Association for Identification members and \$475 for nonmembers. The full registration DOES NOT include workshops that require an additional fee. Individual workshops are estimated to range from \$30 to \$200 depending on the specific workshop cost and how many workshops are selected by the attendee. Please note this cost could be higher if multiple workshops are selected.

The full registration includes all conference materials; the Sunday President's Reception and Exhibit Grand-Opening Reception; Tuesday-night Poster Presentation/Photo Contest and Reception; and Friday-night Installation and Closing Banquet. (Note: receptions are not full meals).

The full conference program details are anticipated to appear on the website April, 2018 [click here](#) to see the tentative Conference-At-A-Glance.



Forensics in the COMMUNITY

As we examine the impact of those involved in the Forensic community and how we influence each other, we reach out to Haley Pollock, a SANE Nurse with the Medical University of South Carolina. We then travel across the world, as our Editor shares her experiences with national police training and forensic responses in hazardous environments.

Putting Into Practice

A behind-the-scenes look at a SANE Nurse's job and what our role is during a sexual assault investigation.

I met Haley during a BodyCombat class at my local gym. I noticed her because she was one of the participants who always stood in the front row, and had stunning right hooks. It was before one of these Saturday morning sessions that I overheard her speaking about her job, and my ears perked at the mention of "forensic nurse". It was at this moment that I knew I had to speak with her outside of the context of Muay Thai and how much water weight I just lost. We soon met for coffee and I was immediately impressed with her passion and expertise when discussing her profession.

Given that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, our meeting couldn't have been timed better. I was informed that over the next several weeks **People Against Rape (PAR)**, along with local police departments, universities, and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), will host events in the low country, bringing awareness to prevention, risk reduction, and resources for sexual assault victims. Fundraising events will be held for the numerous nonprofit organizations who are involved in working with sexual assault victims. These fundraisers aren't your typical events - PAR thinks outside of the box, last year holding a fundraiser at a brewery, incorporating high risk environments with a safe space. This unique concept targeted an environment where a perpetrator may be or where risk reduction should be taking place. As a forensic nurse, people like Haley depend on organizations like PAR to exist as a dependable resource for their patients.

Haley's experience prior to entering the medical field encompassed women's advocacy groups and helping find support available for sexual assault victims.

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Forensics in the COMMUNITY

When her medical studies began, she was exposed to the field of forensic nursing, realizing that this was the opportunity to weld her two passions – nursing and working with victims of violence – together. She became involved with the SAFE program (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner) under Dr. Kathy Gill-Hopple, the current director of the program at MUSC. As a nurse practitioner specializing in women's health, Haley is in a unique position where she has more authority of reaching patients and is able to approach her duties as a SANE nurse from a different perspective.

The SANE Process

Forensic nurses work an "on-call" shift, oftentimes not being immediately available at the hospital when a victim arrives. When a SANE Nurse has become aware of a victim, PAR is contacted, who will send an advocate for the victim, sometimes even providing transportation for the victim if he or she doesn't have a way to get to the hospital. A timeline of the incident must be determined due to CDC guidelines that dictate when a sexual assault examine may take place. While timelines vary across the country, MUSC policy states that sexual assault exams are limited to 96 to 120 hours (5 days) post-incident. Ideally a victim would come forward immediately after an assault to ensure the highest quality of evidence is able to be recovered, however responders often deal with trauma syndrome and psychological impacts that change and alter someone's decision making skills.

The SANE Nurse will then meet with the victim and review general information, determining when the assault occurred. The exam consists of multiple aspects which can be very traumatizing to the victim, thus victim consent is crucial. The victim must be aware of what the nurse is

doing and be comfortable with each step. One method used is for the nurse to completely explain the exam process and what each aspect entails, along with evidence recovery potential, then asking the victim what they are comfortable with. Despite the victim's agreement and signature of a consent form, consent can be revoked at any time, even if it is in the middle of the exam.

The next step is for the SANE Nurse to perform a full health history and physical exam, which is a way to identify if an acute situation is present (i.e. suicidal) or a more immediate medical need. The nurse will also determine if the patient is stable enough to proceed with the exam. Information given to the nurse prior to meeting with the victim is minimal. The only information provided to the nurse is what the victim states, thus limiting outside bias. The nurse will walk through the story first with the victim and determine evidence collection areas based upon the history of the assault. However, the nurse may use discretion based upon observations noted prior to and during the exam.

The SANE nurse will next conduct photographs of the victim, which include external and internal images, covering head to toe of the victim to include with clothes or hospital gown. The order in which the images are captured creates a story book, in that the images will overlap one another and are easily pieced together. Injuries are documented, as well as areas made aware to the nurse by information provided by the victim. This includes the presence or lack of physical indicators such as micro-hemorrhaging and petechiae. Often photographs are the best way to prove a victim's story due to laboratory backlog or laboratory submission restrictions.



MUSC SANE team, Haley is front step, far right

Photography and evidence collection are often performed simultaneously. During the exam, the nurse wears masks and gloves, changing gloves whenever changing body systems (inside to outside, outside to inside). The SANE Nurse will utilize alternative light sources to help determine areas of evidence potential and collect swabs from those areas. Additional forms of evidence collected include buccal swabs, pubic hair samples, fingernail scrapings, suspect DNA, and suspect fluid. Air dryers are used to dry swabs as well as small clothing items prior to packaging, following protocols dictated by the state laboratory for the evidence kits. The pelvic exam is the most difficult component of the exam, where the presence of internal injuries is determined and documented. It was highlighted that consensual sex can cause injury, and consequently non-consensual sex can cause no injury. Meaning that a laceration observed during the exam, doesn't confirm that an assault occurred. This information is considered a misnomer for law enforcement and the public in that damage does not need to be present in order to confirm an assault took place.

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Putting Into Practice continued

Once evidence collection is complete, the patient may be treated for certain diseases if they meet the CDC guidelines.

Investigator Obstacle?

Recent discussion on forensic terminology has resulted in some crime scene units evaluating how much detail or when labels should be used by the investigator during injury description. When I asked Haley her opinion on the topic, her perspective came from the mindfulness of allowing the victim the best opportunity of prosecution if they chose to do so. As investigators, we do not have a medical background or training. Although we may be familiar with what certain injuries look like, there is no medical basis in deciding those labels. It was therefore strongly encouraged to be as descriptive as possible in report writing. An example for petechiae would read something like, "multiple red dots less than one millimeter in diame-



Sexual assault kit contents and collection tools

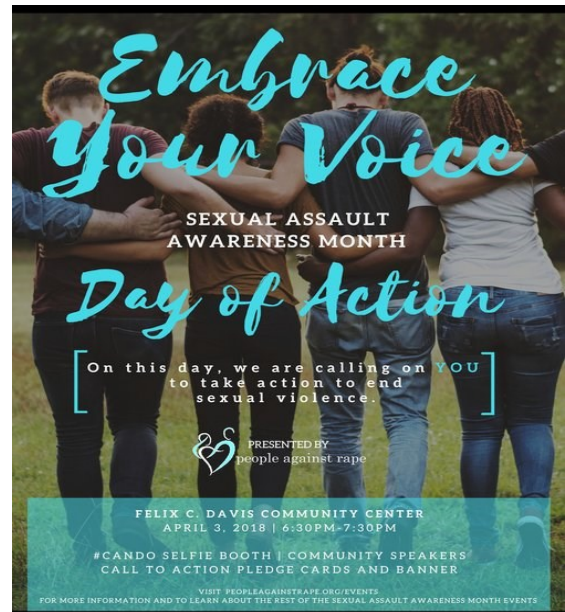
ter observed on the upper area of the mouth". It is better to err on the side of caution, allowing an investigator's report to be combined with the SANE nurse's report and photographs to create one cohesive package. Recent moves by OSAC have highlighted the use of appropriate terminology for forensic investigators, thus keeping this discussion relevant.

Post- Exam

Once the exam is complete, sterility of evidence and chain of custody is maintained. The evidence kits are submitted to a secured storage area for the respective investigating agency to pick-up. SANE Nurses have no follow-up with victims apart from a referral to additional medical surfaces, which is where PAR enters back into the picture. PAR has a dedicated team that will follow-up with the victim, offering emotional support. In addition, the SANE nurse will often have little to no contact with investigators, allowing a detailed report and body map to be the main form of communication.

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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Volunteer • Educate • Donate •

www.peopleagainstrape.com

Contact PAR to organize events in your area

- ◆ **April 3, 2018 Day of Action**
- ◆ **April 19th, 2018 Performing Arts Gala & Silent Auction**
- ◆ **April 26th, 2018 Take Back the Night**

This year's Take Back the Night events will feature three separate rallies taking place simultaneously, with one rally at each of the three counties in the Charleston Tri-county area.

Charleston County Take Back the Night | Gage Hall, Unitarian Church in Charleston, 4 Archdale St, Charleston, SC 29401

Berkeley County Take Back the Night | Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center, 519 N. Goose Creek Blvd, Goose Creek, SC 29445

Dorchester County Take Back the Night | Doty Park, 320 N. Laurel St, Summerville, SC 29483

Forensics in the COMMUNITY

The entire exam process – from the SANE nurse initially meeting with the victim to the submission of the evidence and report - takes an average of 4 hours from start to finish, with 90 minutes being with the patient. The remaining time is the SANE nurse charting, packaging, and report writing.

How We Can Help

When asked what field investigators can do to assist in the evidence collection process for the sexual assault exam, one of the simplest actions taken by the victim can cause the largest amount of evidence to be lost. Allowing the victim to shower, brush their teeth, or even using mouth wash prior to the exam can be the deciding factor whether suspect DNA is able to be retrieved. While the victim will often feel dirty after an assault, and instinct tells them to clean themselves up, victims should be encouraged not to shower, or change clothes. If the victim has already discarded their clothing at the time of law enforcement notification, have the victim bring the clothing worn at the time of the incident with them to the exam. This allows the nurse to make the decision of what article of clothing may be important, with not every piece of clothing perhaps having evidentiary potential. Clothing should be packaged in paper, being transported and kept in separate bags - never combined. It was emphasized that once items are placed in the same bag, it becomes impossible to prove which item the DNA came from (i.e. outer vs inner clothing). SANE nurses

document clothing items as they are received, thus keeping discarded clothing separate assists in maintaining the integrity of the evidence.

Why We Need SANE

So what happens when a sexual assault occurs where a SANE nurse is not available? The only hospital in the Low Country hosting a SANE nurse is MUSC, and currently SANE nurses do not travel outside of their hospital jurisdiction. PAR aids with the transportation of victims from different hospitals or areas as well as arranges appointments with a SANE nurse. Unfortunately, if a victim is unable to meet with a SANE nurse within the 120 hour time limit, that evidence is lost. It is possible for a victim to respond to an Emergency Room where the exam may be performed by an ER Doctor, but how much better for the patient to have an expert with extensive training in this area, who knows what to look for, injuries that may have been sustained, and the right questions to ask. The criteria to qualify an incident as a sexual assault is not restricted to penetration. Even attempted sexual assault can often cause internal injuries that could be documented by a SANE nurse. The exam performed by the SANE nurse is so much more than a mere collection of evidence but includes the process of searching for and assessing injuries from a medical and forensic standpoint. Indeed, there is a great need for establishing training programs for nurses in this specialty area. MUSC is being proactive, their Outreach

Coordinator Janet Lord is reaching out to smaller hospitals and training specific nurses to do the exams. Investigators can help bridge the gap to encourage expansion through partnerships with local hospitals and encouraging outreach. Our area of the low country has developed a great community for victims of crime, and that community is actively trying to expand outward to others who would benefit from these resources.

Lasting Words

Haley reminds us to be empathetic with victims. While our job is not to be a victim advocate or provide emotional support, we must find a way to perform our role and be human at the same time. Victims that we encounter have recently been through something traumatic, and while we are walking in on a snapshot of their life, it is difficult to not become jaded from what we as investigators see every day.

Through this interview I was reminded of how many players are on the team of discovering truth. We must utilize our resources, acknowledging that it takes a village to bring justice for victims, with each of us serving an important role. When asked where Haley sees herself in the future, she candidly responded that she would love to one day be unemployed, because that means sexual assault has ceased to exist. Unfortunately, bad people do and will always exist, but thankfully for us, Haley and her team will as well.

For more information on PAR and how you can become involved, visit www.peopleagainstrape.org or one of the following:



Information about general support and direct services: FollowUp@PeopleAgainstRape.org
 Information about volunteering: Volunteer@PeopleAgainstRape.org
 Information about presentations and education: Prevention@PeopleAgainstRape.org
 Information about community awareness and partnerships: Outreach@PeopleAgainstRape.org
 Information about PAR as an organization: ExecDirector@PeopleAgainstRape.org

Forensics in the **COMMUNITY**

International Hazardous Crime Scene Preparedness and Response

How agencies across the world are preparing for bio-terrorism and CBRNE events.

By Ashleigh Wojslawowicz – Editor

The best time to prepare your agency for a high-profile, closely scrutinized investigative response is before that response is even needed. Simple, no? Here in the United States we are blessed– or cursed– by a feeling of separation from the rest of the world’s threats. Yes, we have had several events in past years to increase our preparation for and response to terrorism events, but how many local agencies have a current policy in place that outlines a unit’s roles and responsibilities if a suspected chemical or biological threat is



Participants simulate a decontamination line during a hazardous scene response in Semarang, Indonesia

identified?

I was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to travel to countries across the world where the mindset of the first responder for these types of incidents is not “if” but rather “when again?”. Countries where past events – often fueled by political discourse – have led to extreme actions, leaving law enforcement determined to be prepared for whatever may occur next.

The longer I spend time as a practitioner in the field of crime scene investigation, the more I am able to identify short comings and gaps in place regarding policies and procedures in the

area of hazardous scene response and evidence collection within crime scene units. Granted, during a WMD event/investigation, federal entities will lead the investigation, however response teams will be organized from resources and personnel that are readily available - which is the local responder and forensic investigator. What happens when the government does not have the equivalent of a National Response Framework (NRF) or a National Incident Management System (NIMS) in place?

In Indonesia, for example, law enforcement officers have recognized their need to adapt responses to include possible biological or chemical agent threats. The Indonesian National Police, along with its affiliated laboratory and additional regional resources, are in the early stages of organizing partnerships with each other to create a cohesive response. Recently, training held in

Semarang at the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) honed specific skills for hazardous scene response – including proper personal protective equipment selection, aseptic screening and sample collection techniques, and



A Sampling Team during a CBRNE incident

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Forensics in the COMMUNITY

*Hazardous Crime Scene
Continued from page 13*

CHEMICAL LAB IDENTIFICATION, KIEV
UKRAINE



were a priority. Several of the participants I interacted with had spent time in the ATO Zone, which if you haven't read up on your Ukrainian/Russian history, you should.

Not only were the threats from outside of the country very real for these participants, but so was the obstacle of

consider reestablishing trust between government authorities and citizens, sound path is not met without resistance—after a day of class, a car bomb was detonated near our hotel, targeting a member of Ukrainian Parliament. Now, more than ever, should the Ukrainian National Police demonstrate their dedication and ability to protect and serve their people, not just in hazardous crime scene response. One of the most profound concepts that I took from my experience in these countries was that the manner of investigator response and corresponding principles do not change just because your dominate language has. The process of crime scene response, whether in a hazardous environment or not, stays constant.

decontamination procedures. One of the biggest concerns? Containing and neutralizing threats. What was often found to be understated? Responder safety.

Safety of the responder should never be sacrificed for speed of the response. Continued training efforts in these areas hope to further advance the national police's ability to respond to and investigate hazardous incidents in a safe, efficient, and effective manner.

From Southeast Asia, I was next given the opportunity to travel to Eastern Europe. Partnering with the Ukrainian government, a similar course delivery was held in Kiev with participants members of or affiliated with the national police and military. With tension present regarding political and national security concerns along with threats from neighboring countries, it was not a surprise to find that response to, identification of, and the collection of radioactive materials

reestablishing trust between government and citizen. Just over four years ago the people of the Ukraine experienced what those outside of the country described as a Civil War. Many others, however, would call the events leading up to, on, and following February 18th , 2014 as a revolution. A government experienced the ultimate change, which has left a lasting effect for those in law enforcement. National police now must



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UPCOMING TRAINING/EVENTS

April 16-17, 2018 : Analysis of Distortion in Latent Prints, **Tuition \$325** Charleston, SC
(Contact Nova Grilli for available space: grillin@charleston-sc.gov)

April 18-19, 2018: SCIAI Spring Conference 2018 , Charleston SC. Cost- **Members \$20, Non-Members \$75, Student Non-Members \$50**. Register at <http://www.sciai.org/training.html>

April 23-27, 2018: Shooting Incident Reconstruction I, Lexington, SC. **Cost - \$910**. Register at www.bevelgardner.com

May 15-17, 2018: NCIAI Annual Educational Conference, Winston-Salem, NC.

For conference information: www.nciai.com

June 18-19, 2018: Logical Latent Analysis, Fort Mill, SC. **Cost- \$239**. Register at www.tritechtraining.com

For conference information: www.nciai.com

October 10-18, 2018: Shooting Incident Reconstruction II, Lexington, SC. **Cost - \$910**. Register at www.bevelgardner.com

If you have upcoming training that you would like advertised in the newsletter, contact the Editor with course information and details!



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