

THE IDENTIFIER

[HTTP://WWW.SCIAI.ORG/](http://www.sciai.org/) | SUMMER ISSUE | VOLUME 1. ISSUE 3.



CONFERENCE SUCCESS

A huge thank you to all our guest speakers, vendors, and members who participated in our 2018 Spring Educational Conference in April. Also, thank you to Charleston Southern University for hosting our event and all the students who were able to attend! The SCIAI continues to expand with each event hosted, with this spring conference being the highest attended event to date since the reorganization of the group. Following on the heels of our success, the SCIAI elected Officers and Members of the Board will continue to identify our member's needs and strive to discover ways to provide events and training that

are not only relevant to the field, but also affordable. We hope to continue to see membership grow, and have already begun planning for next year's educational conference. The SCIAI would fail to exist without it's members, so we encourage all to invest with us and share suggestions, ideas for possible events, and visions for the future. Continue to watch our social media outlets as well as our website to keep current on all things SCIAI—and don't forget to order your SCIAI gear!

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I HOPE YOU ALL are having a great start to your summer and have plans to enjoy some time off from work with family and friends. We have made it past the one-year mark of the new SCIAI and I am happy to see how far the South Carolina division has come in this short amount of time. The spring conference in North Charleston was a great success with 86 registrants from 10 agencies, 2 schools, and 2 private companies. We also had 8 vendors in attendance demonstrating products at their booths, a lunch-n-learn and a hands-on ALS workshop. We received great feedback from the conference through the surveys that were handed out in the last session. This information is guiding us as we plan for next years conference.

A survey went out at the end of April and was available for two weeks. The results of that survey will help us plan future training events to bring classes that are relevant to you, at an affordable price, and when you are most likely to be able to attend. We want the training to be as accessible as possible for all of our members. As a result of the survey and the feedback from the conference, we will be hosting a bloodstain examination course on September 21st in Columbia, SC. This training is free for members (\$75 for non-members) but is limited to 50 participants. Details about this and other training events in the region can be found on the training page of sciai.org. I hope many of you are able to attend and take back some useful information to put into practice.

Membership renewal is due by July 1, please be sure to renew before the 90-day grace period to avoid a change in your membership status. We will be holding officer elections at the 2019 spring conference, so indicate what positions you would be interested in as some will be rotating out. We need officers who will continue the growth of the organization and will have the time to invest in it. If you have any questions regarding the type of membership you should be applying for, you can consult the By-Laws which are posted on the news section of the website or contact an officer through the officers section. We expect the SCIAI to continue to advance at a steady pace as it has over the past year, and I thank you all for your support along the way.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler R. Bucholtz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tyler R. Bucholtz
President

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Charleston Southern University's Science Building



SCIAI Spring Conference 2018

SOCIAL MEDIA

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SC Division of the
International Association for
Identification



South Carolina IAI

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Chris Scott – **2nd Vice President**

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Luke Spratt – **Historian**

Forensics in the **COMMUNITY**

Gone But Not Forgotten

Sheila Williams gives our readers a glimpse into the responsibilities of a Coroner, where death is only the beginning.

An avid knitter and loving dog mom to Bitsy and Bunny, her two Chihuahua rescues, Sheila Williams is a Deputy Coroner for one of South Carolina's largest populated counties. Her jurisdiction covers approximately 1,358 square miles of land, marshes, rivers and wetlands. Cases have required her to respond to everything from rural communities and affluent neighborhoods, to cruise ships and small islands. I sat down with Sheila to not only learn more about her job, but to also discover how those of us in the forensics community can continue to learn how to work together.

Sheila's background may seem somewhat eclectic. It includes careers in the medical field that vary from pharmacist technician and pathology transcriptionist, to experience in law enforcement as a Community Service Specialist and Crime Scene Technician. She even perfected interpersonal skills as a travel agent. Not only does she possess a Bachelor of Science in Justice and Policy Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Biology, but she is also a certified paralegal in the state of North Carolina. Upon closer inspection of each job requirement, it is revealed how each position, degree, and certification has equipped her perfectly for her current role.

It is quite rare to find an individual who not only understands the medical field and its processes, but also has hands-on experience in criminal investigations. Able to personally relate to both sides of the death investigation spectrum, Sheila possesses a needed perspective that is founded in her unique experience. "It was step by step, [that] led me to exactly what I'm doing," she stated. Each new experience building off the last, guiding her to a purpose that appears to have been predestined.

So What Does A Coroner Do?

While the obvious responsibilities of a coroner include identification of the decedent and determining cause and manner of death, the job itself requires much more than the visible field work. It is a continual process of information gathering and sharing. By accumulating information on the decedent through first responders, medical offices, family members, and friends, the assigned coroner can create a timeline of the decedent's last movements as well as establish habits that may indicate when or how death occurred.

Another responsibility that is considered extremely important is the notification of death to family members. What can be an uncomfortable situation for many, the coroner's office will take the burden off other agencies and handle with tact and compassion. If no family exists, or is unable to be involved, the coroner will take over the case and handle the decedent through an appearance in probate court in which the coroner is given custody of the body.

Additional responsibilities including cremation permits and assisting other counties or states in performing death notification. They will also request for their own out of jurisdiction notifications to be given in person. The Charleston County Coroner's Office places a heavy emphasis on in-person notifications, knowing that the information they are about to give can be earth shattering for the recipient.

Moving Parts

Due to being one of the more populated counties in the state, the Charleston County Coroner's Office requires many hands to function efficiently. Coroner Rae Wooten, an elected official and head of the department, appoints staff members that so far include; one Deputy Chief Coroner, eight Deputy Coroners, a forensic anthropologist, a forensic odontologist, an evidence technician, cremation specialist, case coordinator, office administrator, and a paralegal. While office staff work the standard Monday-Friday office hours, deputy coroners are on call for twenty-four hour shifts, with a newly implemented back-up "on-call" deputy coroner in place due to rising demands. This on-call system is in effect 365 days a year, holidays and weekends included.





With so many moving parts, the Charleston County Coroner's Office has accomplished what only twenty-three other coroner departments have done in the United States, which is accreditation. The International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IAC&ME) awarded Accreditation to the Coroner's office for providing the highest level of service to the citizens, neighbors and visitors of Charleston County. The IAC&ME accreditation recognizes coroner and medical examiner offices whose practices and procedures are in compliance with international standards. The accreditation process required a review of 288 standards that encompassed administration, forensic, investigative procedures, and a site visit.

The Charleston County Coroner's Office also requires their coroners to pursue personal certification. Sheila holds a Diplomate status from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI), whose testing process includes training verification and an exam. However, this requirement for certification is not something that is reflected in every coroner's office across the state. Differences are seen in other counties such as funding availability, requirements for autopsy, personnel on staff, and actions preformed on scene. This is most apparent when comparing small rural counties. It is a good reminder then, to note that our discussion was based solely on how Charleston County performs and operates.

Why This?

What could be the motivation for staying in a job that deals with death 24/7? Sheila responded to this question by saying that it is because no day is ever the same. With the constant information gathering and sharing, administrative tasks, and assisting others in the office who may be overwhelmed, there is always something that needs to get done. Not only is it the continual busyness, but the investment into this type of career is grounded in the people that they meet. There is an opportunity to learn about families that one would not come into contact otherwise. By trying to get to know about the decedent through the families, an almost cathartic effect occurs for family and friends left behind and helps the healing process.

Sheila possesses an apparent passion about her job that is unmistakable when discussing these topics. I noted it most often when she repeated the phrase "my families". It was a constant theme throughout the time we spent together, where again and again motivation and decisions made were rooted in the concept concisely stated as, "[our first] priority is the decedent, and the second are the families". By learning so much information about the decedent and spending time with people who were close to them, Sheila described that by the conclusion of an investigation, you really do feel like they become part of your family.

Lasting Effects

When asked if there was one case that had had a lasting effect on how Sheila performs her job, it was difficult for her to narrow it down to just one. "A lot of them do," she said, "from large scale scenes such as the Mother Emmanuel AME church shooting to the individual that dies in their home alone and doesn't have any family". She continued that being in this profession is a constant reminder of reality. You never know when something is going to happen, when your life will change, and there is no guarantee on anything. Unfortunately, there are examples where sometimes you may care more about decedent than families do. It is important for her to remember that in every case we take, that person is or was significant to someone at some point. The background of the decedent does not matter in that they will be taken care of once we step in, we don't judge at all.

Spring Conference Photos

April 18th & 19th, 2018





Photographs provided by Luke Spratt



Gone But Not Forgotten **continued**

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This concept has manifested itself into Sheila's life in how she now treats everyone she encounters. She makes it a point to acknowledge everyone, whether that is through holding a door open, saying excuse me, or looking someone in the eye to say hello. Life is precious and in everyday situations where you meet a stranger, you don't know what is going on in their life. Sheila further remarked, "a small kind gesture may be all it takes to make something better for that person in that moment, and that if you can do that, then you should".

Working Better Together

The second half of our discussion was rooted in how those of us in the forensics community can better work with our coroners. One way is to educate ourselves of their responsibilities and what we can do – or not do - on our end to ensure we work together in the best way possible. While each county in the state is quite different, the end result of the coroner's office remains the same. The investigation of death is the focus and will be where their efforts are concentrated.

In reviewing actions of first responders and those who respond to death investigation scenes, one of the most frustrating and possible damaging actions that occur is the disturbance of the scene (body). Again and again it was referenced to not touch anything before the coroner arrives on scene, even if it for the purpose of searching for identification or a wallet. Coroners will take the responsibility of confirming identification as well as talk with the families, relieving the officer or first responder of those duties. This releases the burden from the officer or first responder, knowing that there is no expectation to have everything figured out before the coroner arrives on scene.

While there is a strong emphasis on not disturbing the body prior to the coroner's arrival, it is understood that exceptions exist where movement or removal of items are necessary. For example, the

location of the decedent if it is in a publicly visible area or the presence of a firearm. If there is a danger present that must be dealt with, the coroner will give guidance as to what or how something should be moved. The on-duty coroner is often contacted by EMS or the fire department to respond to a scene, and it is at this time that information can be relayed regarding weapons, decedent placement, or transient evidence that may be in danger of being lost. Being able to communicate concerns is better than guessing what should be done and then causing an additional problem.

Difficulties and Limitations

While the availability of training is a concern that has not escaped the coroner field, I was surprised to learn that perhaps the most difficult aspect of a coroner is being unable to answer every question a family member may have. Sheila informed me that it is impractical to have every answer, even though you can often predict what questions will be asked. It is impossible to know the exact time of death of your loved one, or what the decedent was thinking in his or her last moments before committing suicide. There is no answer as to why a drug overdose was fatal this time and not the week prior. Neither can you explain why the Narcan worked last time, but not today. While you may be able to answer some questions further on, in those first moments of interacting with family members there is little that is known that can be shared.

Even still, at the end of a coroner's investigation there may be questions that go unanswered. Whether there is difficulty in obtaining medical records and investigative reports, or there is simply information that can't be obtained, being unable to complete the puzzle is a struggle that many of us in the forensics field can personally relate to.

Best practices

Before ending our conversation, I wanted Sheila to help create a list of best practices

that those of us in the field can refer to in evaluating our procedures. Not surprisingly, this list was short and succinct. The first on the list was **Wait**. Wait until the coroner arrives before manipulating the body or causing a major disturbance to the scene. Know that you can still complete tasks such as information gathering, speaking to officers or detectives on scene, and even conduct overall photographs, but wait to go further in the process until they arrive so that you may both work the scene together unless prior permission has been obtained from the coroner. The second is **Ask**. Ask the coroner questions. If you want to know why something is done or not done, what is significant or what they are looking for, asking a question is the best way to learn. Develop strong communication practices between you and your coroner's office, allowing for moments of learning in the field.

Final

As Sheila and I parted, she left me with several thought provoking comments. She wanted to remind our readers to look at every scene and case as a chance to learn something. Whatever may motivate you, use that to increase your desire for knowledge. Be wary of becoming so focused on one thing that you end up overlooking the big picture. And finally, there will always be that one case in your career that haunts you, but harness that experience as a way to push yourself to learn and do not allow it to hold you back.

Thank you to the Charleston County Coroner's Office for allowing Sheila to speak with us. For anyone who has additional questions, they may contact the CCCO at 843-746-4030.

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 Secretary and State Representative, Nova Grilli and our Sergeant at Arms, Harold Bouknight. Thank you to Nova and Harold for your hard work in making the SCIAI what it is!



NOVA GRILLI

Secretary and State Representative



Nova is graciously serving dual officer positions as our Secretary and the State Representative. Her duties include maintaining membership records as well as serving as a liaison between the parent body by sharing information between our state and the IAI. Not only is she serving multiple roles in the SCIAI as well as full-time career, she is mom of three boys – further proof of her superwoman status. For this segment of Interview with an Officer, we asked Nova several questions to help us get to know her better!

Tell us about your work experience. How long have you been a practitioner in the field and what is your current position?

My last year of college, I landed an internship with the Montana State Crime Lab, specifically with the Latent Print unit. I completed a small portion of their training program and helped with other various parts of the lab. My professional career began in 2007, where I started at CBI (Colorado Bureau of Investigation) as a Tenprint Examiner. In 2009 I started at Ideal Innovations (I3), first as a Biometric Examiner, and then trained as a Latent Print Examiner. In 2015, my husband received a job in SC. My oldest son was a newborn and with no possible job prospects at that time, I thought I could give up my career and everything I had trained for. About 4 months in I realized I wasn't cut out to be a stay at home mom. I missed the crazy life of foren-

I would like to see an understanding that Training is vital in forensics.

sics and thankfully I didn't have to wait too long. In 2016 I was very fortunate to land my current job as the Latent Print Supervisor with Charleston PD.

What improvements would you like to see in the forensic community? I would like to see an understanding that training is vital in forensics. I know a lot of agencies don't have the ability to send their examiners to classes or conferences. It would be beneficial to see some type of funding available to send people to training. **What is something you have learned in your work experience that you can pass along to others?**

You will make mistakes and it's okay. I believe an important way to learn is to make mistakes. I have worked with some amazing examiners and they are not immune to mistakes either. When mistakes happen don't beat yourself up, learn from them and

move on.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Being a Latent Print examiner I am constantly challenged and learning new things. I never know what I will be walking into on a daily basis and I enjoy that aspect of this job.

What are you passionate about? I'm most passionate about my family. I have three boys

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INTERVIEW WITH AN OFFICER continued

and to see them learn and grow into these awesome human beings has been the best thing in my life. My family has been the glue to keep me going through the highs and lows in life. I've learned early on family is everything and without them, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

What is your vision for the SCIAI? My vision for the SCIAI is that we can keep getting people who are just as passionate about their job and what they do as the current officers. Bringing in new blood, sort of speak, it will help evolve this organization into something amazing. This organization benefits all forensic practitioners and I would like to see local training available to everyone.

Is there a training course or certification you have completed that you feel has furthered your career?

After years of considering going back to school, I completed my Master's degree in Forensic Science in 2011. In 2014 I became an IAI certified Latent Print Examiner.

Who or what has had a major impact on your career? My family

has been a huge impact in my career. My parents cheered me along, even though they knew it would lead me far away from home. They saw my passion in forensics early on and always encouraged me to follow my dreams, even when I may have doubted myself. My husband continues to encourage me to know more and do better. He works with biometric systems and listening to him talk about how a certain system works (the little bit I can actually understand!), it makes me want to know more and step outside of my comfort zone.

Why did you decide to pursue a position in the field of forensic science?

Senior year of High School, we had to complete a senior project in order to graduate. I knew I wanted to do something in forensics. The director of the crime lab paired me with the Latent Print unit. With the guidance of the Latent Print supervisor at that time, I did my senior project on the foundation of fingerprints; this included the history, pattern interpretation and some processing. From that first day learning about fingerprints, I knew what I wanted to do for the rest

of my life.

What has been a challenge you faced professionally, and how did you respond to it?

A challenge I have faced professionally is my current job. When I worked for I3, everything we did was electronic. I never had to worry about chain of custody or going to court. Majority of the time I was at I3, we had 20-30 latent print examiners working. Coming into my current job, it was me and my co-worker, Nada. It was a huge adjustment to go from a large agency to a very small one. I had to learn about chain of custody and knowing my streak of never testifying was now over. On top of this, our agency is accredited, which I didn't have any experience. Accreditation is very complex, especially when you are learning 100 other new things. As intimidating as this job was, I knew I wanted to evolve in this profession. I give credit to everyone I work with in my division for supporting me and making sure I understood what I needed to do. I'm still learning on a daily basis and I'm thankful I work with a group of people I can depend on.

"I've learned early on family is everything and without them, I wouldn't be the person I am today"

- Nova Grilli

Harold Bouknight

Sergeant-At-Arms

As Sergeant-At-Arms, a few of Harold's responsibilities include assisting in maintaining order at conferences, trainings, and meetings, as well as preventing unauthorized entry to SCIAI gatherings. He is the SCIAI's "muscle" and we're glad he's on our side!

What is your current position and work history?

I am currently the Lieutenant over the Crime Scene/Latent Print Section at Richland County Sheriff's Office. I have been in law enforcement for twenty-one years, and assigned to the Crime Scene Unit for thirteen years.

What is it about your job that you enjoy the most?

I enjoy putting the puzzle together and figuring out what happened at a crime scene –

also, cutting up vehicles with a Sawzall!

How would you like to see the forensics community advance?

I would like to see consistency in training and report writing, so that everyone would be on the same page.

What are you passionate about?

I love to build and make things. I enjoy woodworking, welding, blacksmithing, carving, etc.

What have you learned in your work experience that you can help others by sharing?

If you think about doing something at a scene – do it! Chances are the Defense Attorney will think of the same thing. **How would you like to see the SCIAI improve?**

I'd like to see the organization grow in size and scope – as well as offer more multi-day training opportunities.

What training or certification have you completed that has progressed your career? Bloodstain and Reconstruction courses, as well as acquiring certification as a CBPE (Certified Bloodstain Pattern Examiner) through the IAI.

“We need to make sure our field doesn't experience a slow down in performance...”

Who has made a major impact on your career? My supervisors since starting here (RCSO). They gave me the tools to help me get where I am.

Why forensic science as a career? I wanted to be able to use my brain and feel challenged again.

What is a challenge you have faced professionally? Learning how to deal with some of the scenes in an appropriate manner. I began talking about them in a safe environment to people that I trust.

What other words of wisdom can you share with us? As leaders, elders, or the old folks in forensics, we need to make sure that the new people are being properly trained to take over positions. We need to make sure our field doesn't experience a slow down in performance while waiting on the new blood to learn what to do. Don't be afraid to share your knowledge with someone else!

IT IS COMING...



**BLOODSTAIN PATTERN
ANALYSIS TRAINING**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

**CHECK SCIAI.ORG FOR MORE
DETAILS**

IN THE NEWS

Spring Conference Recap

The 2018 Spring Educational Conference was a huge success! Eighty-six attendees were present, which included members, non-members, and students! This is more than double the participants that attended our Fall 2017 Conference! Our guest speakers were Alice White, Dr. Laura Pettler, and Steven Bradley, who filled the two-days with fascinating topics of *The Evolution of the Latent Print Discipline*, *Crime Scene Staging Dynamics in Homicide Cases*, and *Cyber Crimes and the Age of Technology* respectively. Participants were also able to enjoy a vendor showcase with representatives from Attestor Forensics, Foster & Freeman, Med Tech, DataWorksPlus, SPEX Forensics, FARO Forensics, Forensic Source, and Arrowhead Forensics. Thank you to all who attended, let's keep up this amazing momentum!

Digital Evidence Overlook

In a recent article published by *The Guardian*, Owen Bowcott approached the topic of mishandling digital evidence in the United Kingdom. The argument presented to the reader is not so much the physical mishandling of evidence by the officer, but rather the lack of training and experience needed to recognize from where digital evidence may be recovered, the recovery potential for different electronics, and how that evidence will be analyzed.

These concepts require one in the field of forensics to stop and consider whether our current methods and search tactics are truly being utilized to the full potential. Computers and data are more prevalent now than ever, and the data that is present in clouds, cell phones, tablets, smart watches, vehicles, security systems and monitors, (the list goes on and on) could prove to be extremely valuable during an investigation.

For those of us who are field practitioners, it is important for us to recognize those items of potential evidence, and convey that information to others. Where we may not have the personal training and experience to retrieve certain types of digital evidence, simply knowing the potential present and reaching out to another agency for assistance can help progress an investigation and may lead to evidence that helps solve a case.

Interested in reading Bowcott's article? Find it here at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/may/15/police-mishandling-digital-evidence-forensic-experts-warn>

Call For Speakers

The SCIAI is searching for members and/or parties who are interested in speaking at upcoming educational conferences or trainings. If you are certified in a specialized area or have expertise in a specific field and experience teaching adult learners, please contact an SCIAI Officer with your information, resume, and topic you are interested in sharing. Upcoming speakers will be featured in training announcements as well as on the SCIAI's website.

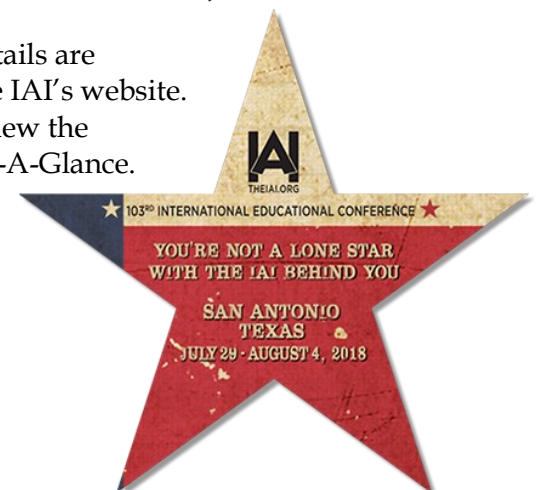
The IAI's 103rd International Forensic Educational Conference

July 29 - August 4, 2018
in San Antonio, Texas

Conference details are available at the IAI's website.

[click here](#) to view the Conference-At-A-Glance.

See you there!



IN THE NEWS

SCIAI Fall Training

The SCIAI is hosting a one-day fall training event on September 21st in Columbia, SC. The class will be taught by Lt. Harold Bouknight from Richland County, and will focus on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis. The class is **free** for SCIAI members, however, the class is limited to 50 participants. A wait list may be enacted in light of high interest. Due to the allotted time available for this one day class, lunch will be on site. A catered lunch will be provided, and will cost \$5 for those who participate. Non-SCIAI members may register for the class, but will be required to pay the full class price of \$75. Those who wish to register should complete the registration form available on the SCIAI website and send the completed form to our Secretary, Nova Grilli at grillin@charleston-sc.gov. Any questions or concerns regarding the class may be directed to Nova.

Updated details and information will be provided via the SCIAI social media outlets and website as it becomes available. If you have ideas for future training topics, contact an SCIAI Officer!



EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Conway, South Carolina is providing it's students with a practical approach to criminal justice education. By highlighting techniques that will be required of those who hope to enter into a crime scene investigation position, students are equipped with skills that will prepare them for tasks such as scene processing, report writing, and courtroom testimony.

Criminal Justice Technology—The CSI Path

How one school is pushing ahead and giving students the hands-on learning that often comes post-employment

Jeffrey Scott, Criminal Justice Technology program chair at Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC), is committed to providing his students with an education that will prepare them for real-world experiences. He feels so strongly about this form of learning, that Jeffrey drove a van of his students from Conway to Charleston to attend the SCIAI Spring Educational Conference, thus giving his students the opportunity to network and learn with forensic practitioners—something that is priceless for forensic hopefuls attempting to enter into the field.

Students have the option to choose the Crime Scene Investigation Path while pursuing the Criminal Justice Technology Associate in Applied Science degree. Horry-Georgetown Technical College describes the program as offering an in-depth study in legal issues, fundamental principles, and investigative techniques used in criminal investigations, crime-scene processing, and case preparation. The Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) emphasis is designed for the student who is interested in seeking employment with a law-enforcement agency, and after academy training and probation, applying within his or her agency for a position in investigations or with a crime-scene unit. The CSI

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

program is also designed for the current law-enforcement officer who is seeking additional education or training for advancement or as a member of an investigative or a crime scene unit. Students not only learn the basic principles of criminal investigations, crime-scene processing, and forensic-science techniques, but also become familiar with theoretical perspective application through classroom discussions and familiarization of equipment used by practitioners during hands-on field training.



Jeff Scott with several of his students

Well-Rounded Graduates

Sarah Bonnoitt, Social and News Media Coordinator at HGTC had the following to share about the program:

Horry-Georgetown Technical College's (HGTC) criminal justice program provides a well-rounded, hands-on study of all aspects of the criminal justice system. It is designed for students who want to increase their employment potential, advancement potential, or transfer into a senior institution to continue their education. The program concludes with an intensive capstone course in which students develop education portfolios and participate in a 135-hour internship that allows them to apply what they've learned throughout the program and prepares them for their careers.

The CSI program at HGTC provides training in areas of crime scene work to include criminalistics, fingerprint science, forensic photography, criminal investigations, bloodstain pattern analysis, and practical crime scene investigations. These classes give the student a basic working knowledge of the different forensic disciplines used in policing today.

The program is strengthened by partnerships with local, regional, and local law enforcement agencies. HGTC opens its campus, free of charge, to organizations such as the FBI

and other local agencies for trainings throughout the year, including FBI LEEDA, Crisis Negotiation Workshops, and Critical Incident Stress Management courses. The Horry County Police Department also has a recruiter's office housed in the program's building.

HGTC's criminal justice program boasts some of the best technology in the state, which local agencies are able to utilize for training their own employees. Examples of these types of technologies include RUVIS Technology, Video Enhancement and Analysis Technology, and the Faro 3D Crime Scene Scanning System which was recently purchased. The FARO Scanning system will be used to train both students and police officers on scanning major crime scenes using 3D imaging technology.

Graduates of the program go on to work in a number of agencies throughout the state.

One notable graduate is City of Conway Police Chief Dale Long.

"Applicants that come to us with a degree in criminal justice routinely test well, interview much better, and are all around better prepared and ready to assume law enforcement duties and responsibilities," Chief Long said. "As a graduate of Horry-Georgetown Technical College with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice, I felt much more capable when I first entered law enforcement, even with no previous police experience."

HGTC's Criminal Justice Club works year-round to support both students and the surrounding community. Every year, the club partners with the Conway Police Department for its annual fundraiser for the Special



Jeff Scott and his class participating in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis learning

Olympics Torch Run. Through \$1 donations, the club facilitates the placement of sticky notes on a police cruiser, eventually covering the cruiser by the end of the day. During the most recent fundraiser, the club was successful in raising \$1,000! The club has also partnered with HGTC's human services program and hosted a Domestic Violence Awareness Event this past April that was open to the public.

The Benefits of Hands-on Learning

So what is the benefit of a program that is heavily focused on practical experience as opposed to a lecture-dominant education? The obvious answer is that students exit these types of educational programs with a specific working knowledge of practices and procedures that most would not become familiar with until participating in some type of in-field training. An entire class that focuses on one forensic discipline, will allow much greater comprehension of a topic than one class that attempts to cover a multitude of forensic disciplines in a single semester experience. In fact, this is the foundational ideology of much larger programs, such as West Virginia University's Forensic and Investigative Science Program.

Students that take full advantage of the opportunities provided by Jeff Scott and HGTC may exit the program not only with a resume that is reflective of employment eligibility criteria, but also possess network connections and references that expand beyond the classroom professors – and that alone is quite a head start.

Contributions for this article were provided by HGTC News Media Coordinator Sarah Bonnoitt and the HGTC website.

Where you can find HCTC CSI Graduates:

ANDREWS POLICE DEPARTMENT

AYNOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

CONWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

GEORGETOWN SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HORRY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HORRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

MULLINS POLICE DEPARTMENT

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL



HGTC Special Olympics Fundraiser

SCIAI ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Membership renewals are available on the SCIAI website www.sciai.org. Memberships renewed will be valid through July 1, 2019.
- ◆ Speakers and Instructors are needed for future conferences and training days. For more information review the Call for Speakers section on page 12.
- ◆ Planning for the 2019 Spring Educational conference has begun. Watch the website for upcoming information!
- ◆ Our SCIAI store page is now available! Check it out at <http://www.sciai.signaturesonlinestores.com>
- ◆ Submissions for case study features and Member Spotlights are open. We want to highlight interesting or unique cases our members have been involved with. If you would like to see yourself, a coworker, or one of your cases featured, contact the Editor at wojoan@charleston-sc.gov



UPCOMING TRAINING/EVENTS

August 15-16, 2018 - Courtroom Testimony for Law Enforcement and Forensic Personnel,
Charleston, SC [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#) Registration deadline is July 1, 2018

September 5-6, 2018 - Courtroom Testimony for Law Enforcement and Forensic
Personnel, Greenville, SC [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

September 21, 2018 – SCIAI Fall Training Event, Columbia SC Free for members, \$75 for non-
members. Class limited to 50 participants. Download the registration form on the
SCIAI website!

October 8-12, 2018 - Examination and Comparison of Tires, Tire Treads and Tire Tracks,
Lexington, SC [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

October 10-18, 2018 – Shooting Incident Reconstruction II, Lexington, SC
[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#) For additional information please contact,
Investigator Thomas A. Smith at 803-223-1689.

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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