

# THE IDENTIFIER

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



## NEW LOOK, SAME PURPOSE

It's fairly difficult not to notice that changes are occurring to the SCIAI. Between the updated logo, newly created social media outlets, and a brand new website, the SCIAI has already gone through several major changes in a very short amount of time. What hasn't changed, however, is the objective to provide a sense of community to forensic science practitioners. Encouraging relationships among state based agencies

will only improve our effectiveness as professionals. As we continue to grow as an organization, we hope you show support by using these new outlets for the latest information as well as for additional content such as photographs and upcoming events!



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## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The South Carolina Division of the IAI has experienced a remarkable comeback over the past eight months. I praise each of those who have had a part in the successful renewal of this organization, as I know how much hard work and personal time has been invested. It is that very dedication that will continue to bring energy and excitement to the development of this association as a resource for practitioners throughout South Carolina. The first training event was held in September of 2017, and was a great success. I look forward to seeing each of you in April at the Spring conference.

You may have noticed a few changes and will continue to see them, such as updates to the SCIAI.org web page, the social media accounts, and this newsletter which will be distributed quarterly. We will also maintain a member directory so that everyone can keep in contact to share ideas and best practices.

It goes without saying that the officers of the

SCIAI cannot continue to advance the organization without your direct participation as a member. I want to invite and encourage you to share your thoughts and vision for this organization going forward. Feel free to contact any of the officers listed on the website. You are the SCIAI, and we value your feedback

Thank you for your support and confidence as we move forward.




Tyler R. Bucholtz  
President

## SCIAI Announcements

- ◆ Check out updates to the SCIAI Division website! Updates include options for credit card processing for membership dues and an area where vendors can sponsor training events. Also new to the site is a training section where upcoming information will be posted. Contact us to have your agency's training information posted!
- ◆ Mark your calendars for the SCIAI Spring Conference date – **April 18th-19th, 2018 in Charleston, SC!**
- ◆ A draft of the new constitution and by-laws are posted on the web page for review by members. The drafts will be open for discussion and voted on at the upcoming training conference in April, so please take some time to read and review the proposed changes and provide feedback!



Attendees of our Fall 2017 Conference

## FALL CONFERENCE 2017

Thank you to all who attended our first conference since the reorganization of the SCIAI! The event was a success with a total of thirty members representing agencies from across the state. The South Carolina Sheriff's Association in Columbia hosted our fall training conference with Chris Scott acting as Interim President.

Three guests speakers were featured during the event. John Black challenged attendees with Case Considerations from a Defense Perspective, and Matt Schwartz spoke on the topics of Crime Scene Evidence and Photography. George Weeks instructed on MorphoBis - an Automated Biometric Identification Systems (ABIS) for criminal identification—and it's best used practices. In addition to lecture and continuing education forums, members elected nine officers to serve for the 2018 year term.



Vendors represented included Evident, Medtech Forensics, Data Works Plus, and Arrowhead Forensics. Vendor booths included Evident and Arrowhead Forensics. Door prizes, goodie bags, snacks (Arrowhead), and lunch (Data Works Plus) were sponsored by the vendors.

Thank you to those who had the vision to see our state come together once again to promote learning and fellowship in the forensic community, and for the hours spent in making that vision a reality!

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## SPECIAL THANKS

To **Alex Gieser** and **Attestor Forensics US Inc.** for joining our team in providing hard copies of the newsletter to all of our members!





## MEET THE BOARD

Please welcome our newly elected officers for 2018!

Tyler Bucholtz – **President**

Trish Odom – **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Chris Scott – **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Nova Grilli – **Secretary/ State Representative**

Harold Bouknight – **Sergeant at Arms**

Nada Kerstein – **Treasurer**

Jeffery Scott – **Vendor Representative**

Ashleigh Wojslawowicz – **Editor**

Luke Spratt – **Historian**

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Check us out!



@theSCIAI



South Carolina IAI



SC Division of the  
International Association  
for Identification

## IN THE NEWS

### OSAC Draft Standards Submitted to AAFS/ASB

As of November 2017, the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science's Friction Ridge Subcommittee has submitted a draft standard to the American Academy of Forensic Science/American Standards Board (AAFS/ASB). The draft submitted is titled *Guideline for the Articulation of the Decision-Making Process Leading to an Expert Opinion of Source Identification in Friction Ridge Examinations*. In light of the recent shift towards expressing

friction ridge comparison findings as an expert opinion as opposed to an absolute term, the document establishes the process of how an expert opinion may lead to an identification, in addition to how this process may be interpreted during testimony or in conversation with applicable associates. The draft may be viewed in entirety on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Friction Ridge Subcommittee website or viewed at: [CLICK FOR PDF](#)

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### Evaluation of BPA Training and Standards Recommended

Most should be aware that the Scientific Working Group on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (SWGSTAIN) updated terminology that should be used by investigators and analysts during documentation. In addition to terminology, SWGSTAIN has introduced an educational model, which serves as a recommended framework for the development of introductory bloodstain pattern analysis (BPA) training. Those developing training for inter-department purposes, or who are beginning the process of BPA education, are encouraged to evaluate course content as outlined by the SWGSTAIN model. The educational model may be accessed on the SWGSTAIN website, [www.swgstain.org](http://www.swgstain.org). A draft of BPA standards as recommended by OSAC may be viewed through the NIST website or [HERE](#).

### In Search of (ISO)

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](mailto:wojoan@charleston-sc.gov). We look forward to seeing the responses!

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### OSAC Annual Report

The Annual Report of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) for the February 2016-February 2017 year is now released. [View the PDF](#) or access the report online at [www.nist.gov](http://www.nist.gov)

## IN THE NEWS

### Hands-On Learning at Its Best

*NCBRT's Advanced Forensic Investigations for Hazardous Environments course brings real world techniques and latest equipment into the classroom*



Follow the evidence to interpret the hazardous crime scene. No, it's not the opening to a murder mystery party or a promo for the latest crime investigation drama on network television. It's the blind training exercise included in the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training's Advanced Forensic Investigations for Hazardous Environments (PER-228) course.

The course is geared toward fire service, hazardous materials, and law enforcement professionals. In particular, this course is helpful for crime scene investigators, crime scene technicians, and crime scene analysts who are trained to work with various types of evidence as part of one's job requirements, such as crime scene photography; crime scene mapping or sketching; latent fingerprints; hair and fibers; serological evidence; trace or transfer evidence; or impression evidence.

In summary, if you think you will be called on to investigate something as mundane as a drug lab or as complex as a scene like the one at the Boston Marathon bombing, this class is for you. As a matter of fact, the Boston Police Crime Scene Response Unit received several deliveries of NCBRT's Advanced Forensic Investigations for Hazardous Environments course. The CSRU formed a CBRNE team, made up of former NCBRT students, who confidently used several of the techniques learned from the course while

investigating on Boylston Street.

"Even though we are teaching those who are experienced in forensics how to process these types of scenes, they commonly find they can actually apply a lot of the collection and documentation techniques from this course to standard forensic investigations," NCBRT Instructor Candace Matthews points out.

This course was developed to combine classroom instruction with hands-on learning, realistic mock scenarios, and expert instructor guidance to prepare you to investigate in a hazardous environment when you're most needed.

"Practical exercises follow each module after it's taught, which gives students experience with the equipment," said NCBRT Instructor Edward Wallace.

To put it another way, "we practice what we preach, leaning more heavily on the practice side," adds Matthews.

During the course, participants will learn to define commonly used terms; analyze and discuss case studies; don, doff and operate in high-level PPE; understand and implement crime scene management; learn how the FBI 12-step process relates to crime scene investigation; use field screening CBRNE techniques; practice evidence collection and documentation in CBRNE environments; learn how to recognize CBRNE production; and gain experience with new technology.

*Article continued on page 7*

## IN THE NEWS

### Free Federal-Sponsored Training *Continued from page 6*

“There are a lot of courses about hazmat scenes and a lot about how to process the scene. However, this is the only course that blends the two skill sets, so when you have finished the course, you have performed the tasks you will need to in the field wearing the PPE you will need to keep safe,” said NCBRT Instructor Debbie Hilliard.

“Overall, the course gives you the tools to be safer and more effective when responding to these hazardous incidents,” continued Hilliard.

NCBRT courses are certified by the Department of Homeland Security and covered under DHS’s Homeland Security National Training Program. DHS recertified the Advanced Forensic Investigations for Hazardous Environments course in March 2016. The recertified version of the course has been cut down from a five-day course to a four-day course. This has made the course much more streamlined by combining modules and allowing for more hands-on learning.

As a DHS primary training provider, NCBRT can offer this vital training at no direct cost to your agency. Visit [www.ncbrt.lsu.edu](http://www.ncbrt.lsu.edu) to learn more or to schedule this course.

NCBRT’s course catalog may be viewed here:

<https://www.ncbrt.lsu.edu/pdf/NCBRTCatalog.pdf>.

South Carolina Regional Representative:

Meghan Lawson:

@mlawson\_ncbrt

[mlawson@ncbrt.lsu.edu](mailto:mlawson@ncbrt.lsu.edu)

877-806-7404

*Article provided and used with permission by Louisiana State University*



## Upcoming Articles

Look out for our next issue in Spring 2018! Do you have a topic you would like to see featured? Let us know!

- ◆ **Member Spotlight**— submit yourself or a deserving fellow member who has contributed to the forensic community.
- ◆ **Interview with an Officer**— get a closer look at some of our serving officers!
- ◆ **On the Case**— a unique case study submitted by our members will be chosen for recognition and training opportunities.
- ◆ **Forensics in the Community**— see how forensics are being used outside of the crime scene!
- ◆ **And More!**

**All submissions for publication consideration should be received by the Editor no later than February 1, 2018 to be considered for the Spring Issue.**

# SCIAI SPRING CONFERENCE 2018

Mark your calendars and start planning your restaurant wish-list, the SCIAI's spring conference is officially scheduled for April 18-19<sup>th</sup> in Charleston, SC! Our two-day educational conference will be located on the campus of Charleston Southern University, hosted by the Charleston Southern University's Criminal Justice program. Several guest speakers will be featured, along with vendors and door prizes! Recommended hotel accommodations (Wingate by Wyndam) are on the same property as the University, which is easy 20-minute drive into historic downtown Charleston. See you there!

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS



### Alice White

has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She began her career in latent prints in 1997 and has been certified in latent prints by the International Association for Identification

since 2001. Alice served on the Scientific Working Group for Friction Ridge Analysis, Study, and Technology; NIST Expert Working Group on Human Factors in Latent Prints; and the JFI Editorial Board. Alice currently serves as a member of the OSAC Friction Ridge Subcommittee, a member of RTI's Human Factors Sourcebook Working Group, and a member of the AAFS Standards Board Friction Ridge Consensus Body. Alice has published numerous articles and lectured throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

*Abstract from guest speaker Alice White. .*

### **Punctuated Equilibrium – The Evolution of the Latent Print Discipline**

Key events have spurred research that has broadened our understanding of latent print evidence and latent print examiners. This lecture starts with a summary of the original 1992 Daubert decision in California (to lay the foundation for how science changed in the courtroom). *Abstract Continued on page 9*



## Steven Bradley

### *Cyber Crimes and the Age of Technology.*

*How smart devices can assist in investigations as well as various free technology tools and evidence collection strategies for phones, location apps, and social networking sites*



### **Steven Bradley**

is the Safety and Technology Specialist for the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

With a law enforcement career focusing on investigating

crimes against persons, specializing in sex crimes, child abuse, domestic violence, and crimes against the elderly, Steve was recruited by the FBI to start a taskforce that would investigate technology and cyber related crimes.

After returning from the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, he began combating many types of technology crimes including child pornography, cyber stalking, financial exploitation, and apprehending child predators. Later in his career, Steve expanded his skills to include financial crimes after becoming the Chief Investigator for the State's White Collar Crimes Unit. It was there, that Steve led a team of investigators who investigated consumer and financial related cases where citizens, especially the elderly, were targeted. Steven is nationally recognized as an expert on law enforcement's response to intimate partner violence, abuse of the elderly, and stalking/cyber stalking. As a National Trainer for the past 20 years, Steven is

known for his real world practical education and has provided training throughout the United States and U.S Territories on many related topics.

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*Abstract continued from page 8*

The story then continues with the elements of the first Daubert hearing on fingerprints (United States v. Byron Mitchell in 1999); the impact of the Brandon Mayfield misidentification in 2004; and the evolutionary force of the 2009 NRC report on forensic science. Research in latent prints was already on the rise before the 2009 NRC report. This lecture will summarize research before the report (what we knew then) and research after the report (what we know now). The research summarized will focus on our understanding of the science of latent prints (discriminability of fingerprints) and our understanding of those who examine latent prints (error rates). The lecture will wrap up with the latest discussions of latent prints in a 2016 report by PCAST (President's Counsel of Advisors on Science and Technology and a 2017 report from AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science).

## Laura Pettler, PhD, CSCSA

Dr. Laura Pettler is a forensic criminologist known as a pioneer and one of the world's most sought after experts in crime scene staging research and domestic violence homicide investigation field application as well as her dynamic presentation style. Laura is host and co-executive producer of one of the only True Crime Docuweb Series in the world, *Notorious: True Crime Stories* with Laura Pettler, of which she pioneered the Creative Format and travels extensively for work on several projects on True Crime TV shows for multiple networks. Laura published the third dissertation in the world on crime scene staging and is author of the world's



first book exclusively focused on crime scene staging phenomena. Laura is known as the inventor of the celebrated Kaleidoscope Crime Scene Reconstruction System sold in more than 30 countries and for internationally presenting her victim-centered homicide investigation methods. As a former District Attorney's Investigator, Deputy Coroner, and head of the former District Attorney's Cold Case Task Force, one of her most famous cases was the 2008 cold case homicide investigation of Harold Gentry's 1986 staged murder that led to the arrest of his ex-wife Betty Lafon Neumar. Laura is CEO of Monroe, North Carolina-based firm Laura Pettler & Associates, which is a Roundtable of Crime-Scene-To-Courtroom Experts known as LPA-Team, BlackHorse Productions: an arm of LPA, and is the Director of the LPA International Forensics Institute Online & Ground that provides personalized continuing educational learning experiences for law enforcement and human services.



*Southern Hospitality* by Luke Spratt

# Spring Conference **SCHEDULE**

## April 18th

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

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

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 *Crime Scene Staging Dynamics in Homicide Case* 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 Lunch

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

4:30 – 5:00 Members Meeting

## Vendor **SHOWCASE**

Come check out amazing products and equipment while having a chance to speak one on one with multiple vendors during our morning showcase! There will be drawings for door prizes and vendor giveaways. A few highlighted door prizes include a auto-graphed copy of Dr. Laura Pettler's book "Crime Scene Staging Dynamics in Homicide Cases" and a mini Kaleidoscope trajectory kit. Keep checking our social media outlets and the SCIAI website for vendor participation, features, and additional prize information!

### CONFERENCE LOCATION

**Charleston Southern University**

9200 University Blvd

North Charleston, SC 29406

**Conference will be held in the**

**DREW CONFERENCE CENTER**

**Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership**

### RECOMMENDED HOTEL

**Wingate by Wyndham**

9280 University Blvd,

North Charleston, SC 29406

Phone: 843.619.3892

*\* Request SCIAI Discount \**

## 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](mailto: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>

**May 15-17, 2018**: NCAIA Annual Educational Conference, Winston-Salem, NC.  
[www.nciai.com](http://www.nciai.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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