

THE IDENTIFIER



<https://www.iStockphoto.com/photo/one-yellow-crime-scene-evidence-marker-on-the-beach-a-ter-a-gun-shooting-brass-gm1653783938-534350121?searchscope=image%2C ilm>

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SCIAI Members,

As we continue to grow and strengthen the South Carolina Division of the International Association for Identification (SCIAI), I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of involvement, professional development, and certification within our organization and our profession.

First, I encourage each of you to help promote SCIAI by recognizing the outstanding work of those around you. We work alongside talented, dedicated professionals every day who deserve acknowledgment for their commitment to forensic science and public service. Take the time to nominate your fellow members, coworkers, and employees for awards and recognition opportunities within SCIAI and beyond. Recognition not only honors individual achievement but also strengthens our profession as a whole.



I also encourage members to consider becoming more involved in SCIAI leadership. Serving as a board member or officer is a meaningful way to contribute to the future of our organization. Fresh ideas, diverse perspectives, and active participation help ensure that SCIAI continues to serve the needs of its members and remains a strong voice for forensic professionals across our state.

Training remains one of the most valuable resources we can provide to one another. SCIAI thrives when members are willing to share knowledge and create opportunities for learning. If your agency has space available for workshops, seminars, or hands-on training, consider offering it as a location for professional development events. If you have expertise in a specialized area, I encourage you to step forward and instruct others in your field of interest. Your experience may be exactly what another professional needs to advance their own career. Additionally, I invite members to contribute articles to our newsletter. Sharing case studies, lessons learned, best practices, or emerging trends helps strengthen our community and creates a valuable resource for all members.

Another important area of professional growth is certification. Certification demonstrates competence, commitment, and credibility within our profession. It reflects not only technical knowledge but also dedication to maintaining high standards of excellence. Whether you are pursuing certification in crime scene investigation, latent prints, forensic photography, or another discipline, the process helps elevate both the individual and the profession.

There are excellent organizations that provide certification preparation classes and resources, including Forensic Pieces and Tri-Tech Forensics. Forensic Pieces is widely recognized for developing and teaching the IAI Crime Scene Certification Prep courses and offers a 28-hour course for \$465. Tri-Tech Forensics has recently begun offering a 32-hour course for \$559. These programs can help candidates prepare for the testing process while expanding practical knowledge and professional confidence. I strongly encourage members who have not yet pursued certification to begin exploring the opportunities available to them.

SCIAI is only as strong as the commitment of its members. By recognizing excellence, supporting training, sharing knowledge, and striving for certification, we continue to move our profession forward together. Thank you for your dedication to forensic science and for your continued support of SCIAI. I look forward to seeing the many ways each of you contributes to the success of our organization and our profession.

Sincerely,
Teresa Bryant, SCIAI President

SCIAI ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ALL MEMBERS** are encouraged to review the SCIAI constitution and by-laws posted on the website located under the News tab.
- Have a topic you would like to see covered or have an article you would like to submit for future issues of *The Identifier*? Submit your proposals to the Editor at bribrown@greenvillecounty.org — guest authors are welcome!

NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO

OFFICER MEETING RECAP

On 04/20/26, President Tersea Bryant and Vice President George Potash attended a Zoom Meeting discussing what future plans the South Carolina division of the IAI has in store. The survey focusing on training needs for the state has finally been established and is being released– **turn to page 4 for more information!** The joint conference hosted in North Carolina was discussed and further information about the keynote speakers and vendors were established. Quarterly meetings with the officers will continue as the year progresses.

Reminder:
Membership
renewals are due
July 1st, 2026.

NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO

MEET THE OFFICERS

- **President—Teresa Bryant**
- **Vice President—George Potash**
- **Treasurer—James Kearney**
- **Secretary—Chris Gary**
- **Historian—Brittany Brown**





South Carolina Forensic Training Needs Survey

South Carolina Division of the International Association for Identification

FORENSIC TRAINING SURVEY

Help us build and provide forensic training that meets your agency's needs!

Participating SC agencies are entered to win a free registration to our upcoming Regional IAI Conference (a \$300 value!) (Drawing August 1st)

This quick 1-2 minute survey will guide the South Carolina Division of the International Association for Identification (SCIAI) in developing relevant, practical forensic training and support across the state.

Share it with your investigators—forensic or otherwise—and make your needs heard.

Survey Link: www.tinyurl.com/SCIAISurvey



SURVEY QR CODE

ABOUT US

The South Carolina Division of the International Association for Identification (IAI) is a professional organization supporting forensic practitioners across the state. As part of the global IAI network, we provide training, resources, and collaboration opportunities to enhance forensic science practices, promote professional standards, and strengthen the quality and consistency of crime scene and forensic services statewide.

Membership and Conference Details at www.sciai.org

**2026 Regional IAI Conference | September 14-18, 2026
Cherokee, NC**



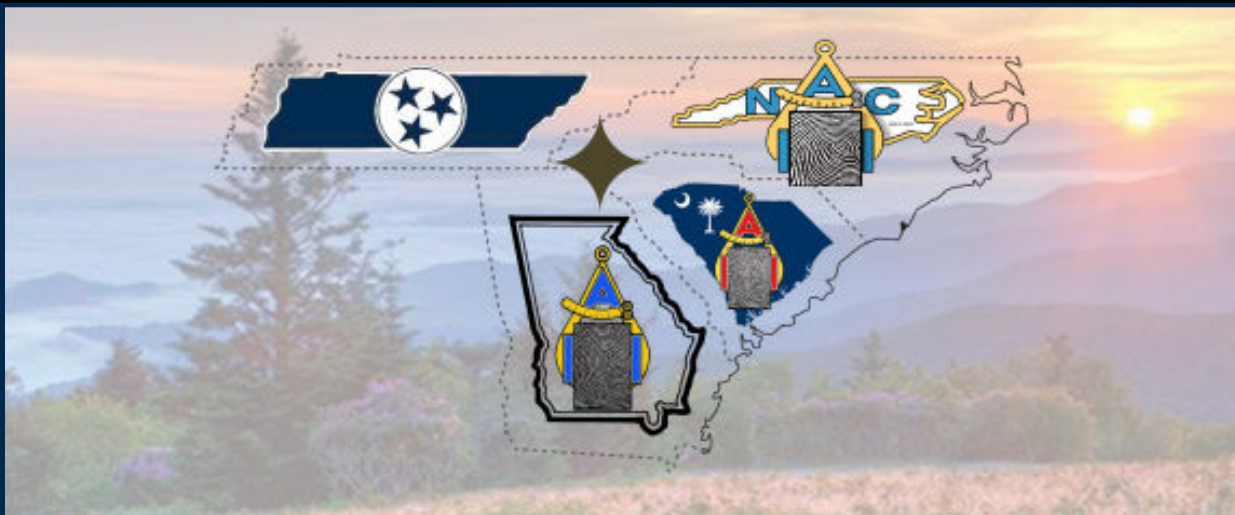
International Association for Identification

A SCIAI member reached out to the Editor requesting to create a resource for fellow SCIAI members to establish what disciplines are represented throughout the division. It is the goal to create a resource for members that want to reach out to professionals who have recently passed any IAI certifications in the respective disciplines for tips, advice, questions, and/or assistance with professional goals.

Please reach out if you have recently passed one of the IAI Certifications (and/or recertifications) and are willing to provide your contact information in the newsletter for anyone to reach out.

****We encourage any members to participate in the poll even if you have not personally taken an IAI Certification test.****

[Click here to participate in the poll](#)



2026 REGIONAL IAI CONFERENCE

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE CASINO RESORT

CHEROKEE, NC

SEPTEMBER 14-18, 2026

GEORGIA IAI

NORTH CAROLINA
IAISOUTH CAROLINA
IAI

TENNESSEE IAI

 **FOUR CLASSROOMS EACH DAY** **16000 SQ FT VENDOR HALL, 50+ VENDORS** **300+ ATTENDEES EXPECTED** **PRESIDENT'S/ VENDOR RECEPTION** **EVENING SOCIALS:****BOWLING/VIDEO GAMES/ DINNER** **EVENING INSTALLATION BANQUET** **ROOMS ONLY \$99 PER NIGHT**

The Cherokee Hotel Tower at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort



Hotel Information

A limited hotel room block has been secured onsite for the conference at a discounted rate of **\$99 per night** (plus taxes and fees). Rooms are available Sunday September 13th through Friday September 18th. Nearby hotel options are very limited, making this the most convenient and cost-effective choice. Rooms are expected to fill quickly!

Reserve Your Room Here: <https://tinyurl.com/IAICF>

Address: 777 Casino Dr., Cherokee, NC, 28719

Parking: FREE Parking for Hotel Guests

Location: Located in the mountains of western North Carolina, within the town of Cherokee near the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

- Approximately 1 hour west of Asheville (the closest major city)
- About 2 hours west of Charlotte
- Roughly 45 minutes from Bryson City and 30 minutes from Sylva

Airports:

- Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) – ~1 hour drive (most convenient)
- Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) – ~2–2.5 hour drive (largest airport with most flight options)

BOOK YOUR ROOM HERE

Planned Events and Details to Come

Social Events on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening
Forensic and General Photography Contest and Prizes
Student Poster Presentaion Contest and Prizes

Things of Note!

- Attendee Registration will close on September 1st, 2026.
- Vendor/Exhibitor Registration has limited space available.
- Cancellations and Refunds must be made prior to September 1st, 2026.
- The Monday Vendor Reception will not include dinner.
- The Tuesday Social Event and the Thursday Banquet will include dinner.

2026 REGIONAL IAI CONFERENCE

2026 Regional Conference Agenda Overview *					
	MON SEPT 14	TUES SEPT 15	WED SEPT 16	THURS SEPT 17	FRI SEPT 18
7:30 AM		Vendor Room Sponsored Breakfast	Vendor Room Sponsored Breakfast	Vendor Sponsored Breakfast	
8:00 AM					
8:30 AM		Presentations	Keynote Speaker	Presentations	
9:00 AM					
9:30 AM					
10:00 AM	Conference Check-In	Vendor Room Break	Vendor Room Break	Break	Keynote Speaker & Closing Remarks
10:30 AM		Presentations	Keynote Speaker	Presentations	
11:00 AM	(Vendor Set-Up 12 PM - 5 PM)				
11:30 AM		Lunch on Your Own (Concessions in Vendor Area)	Lunch on Your Own (Concessions in Vendor Area)	Lunch on Your Own (No Concessions)	
12:00 PM					
12:30 PM					
1:00 PM	Opening Ceremony				
1:30 PM		Presentations	Presentations	Presentations	
2:00 PM	Keynote Speaker				
2:30 PM		Vendor Room Sponsored Snack Break	Vendor Room Sponsored Snack Break	Vendor Sponsored Snack Break	
3:00 PM	Photo & Vendor Sponsored Snack Break				
3:30 PM	Keynote Speaker Continued	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations	
4:00 PM					
4:30 PM		Board Meetings	Nominations Meetings	Business Meetings	
5:00 PM					
5:30 PM	Vendor Reception				
6:00 PM			Explore Cherokee / Casino on Your Own		
6:30 PM					
7:00 PM		Bowling/Arcade Social Event	(Vendor Breakdown 3:30 PM)	Banquet	
7:30 PM					
8:00 PM					
8:30 PM					

*Subject to change

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



2026 REGIONAL IAI CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



David Owen
Special Agent (Ret.)
SLED

The Murdaugh Murders

This case study presentation will enlighten attendees about the investigation into this gruesome crime including the scene response and ensuing 18 month investigation that followed. David will discuss the challenges encountered, the financial crimes aspects, and what investigators deemed Alex's motive behind these gruesome crimes that occurred in 2021 when Maggie and Paul Murdaugh were found deceased on their isolated family estate.

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David retired in June 2024 after 28 years of service including with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) assigned to Investigative Services in the Low Country Region covering many rural counties in which he was involved in this high profile case. Prior to his time at SLED, David also worked for Orangeburg DPS, Folly Beach DPS, and Charleston County Sheriff's Office. David now serves as a Senior Special Investigator for Atlantic Casualty Insurance Company and holds a South Carolina State Constable Commission.



**Loretta Bush**  
**James Keller**  
Special Agents- FBI

### The Gabrielle "Gabby" Petito Murder Investigation

Attendees will be walked through the events leading up to the murder of Gabby Petito and follow the criminal investigation from a law enforcement perspective as the presentation is led by FBI Special Agents directly involved in the case.

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SA Loretta Bush has served with the FBI since 2016 and is currently with the FBI Tampa Division. A former U.S. Air Force Arabic Linguist/Intelligence Analyst, she began her FBI career in Sarasota on violent crime, gang, and narcotics investigations. Since 2021, she has worked Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking. She is also a member of the Evidence Response Team and Crisis Negotiation Team.

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SA James Keller joined the FBI in 2024 working in the New Orleans Division after serving with the North Port Police Department, where he investigated violent crimes and ICAC cases and served as an FBI Task Force Officer. He has experience in digital forensics and proactive online investigations. He is currently assigned to the Monroe Resident Agency, focusing on federal crimes including crimes against children.



**Robert J. Morton**  
Supervisory Special Agent  
(Ret.)- FBI

### The Hunt for the BTK Killer

This presentation reviews the BTK serial murder case involving Dennis Rader, who committed 10 murders in Wichita, Kansas between 1974 and 1988. It examines the full progression of the case, including Rader's communications with media and law enforcement, and the investigative strategies used to reinstitute contact and support his identification. The presentation also addresses the role of forensic evidence, behavioral analysis, and interview techniques that led to Rader's confession.

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Robert J. Morton is a retired FBI Supervisory Special Agent with over 40 years in law enforcement, including 26+ years with the FBI. A former Behavioral Analysis Unit profiler, he worked major cases such as the Oklahoma City and Atlanta Olympic bombings and the Pentagon attack on 9/11. He is an experienced instructor, author, and former Senior Crime Scene Analyst, currently teaching at the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute.

SCCJA Advanced Forensic Training Opportunities

For additional class information: [click here to visit SCCJA 2025-2026 Course Catalog](#) and [click here to visit the SCCJA 2026-2027 Course Catalog](#).

The SCCJA offers the below advanced forensic related courses throughout the upcoming 2026 year. This list has been added to the newsletter for member convenience in hope to spread more awareness of these training opportunities for agencies. Please refer to the SCCJA Course Catalog for information about class credits, prices, and further information. All classes are offered at SCCJA. Class 1 and Class 3 should contact their training officer to sign up through the ACADIS portal. Civilians are also welcome to audit the classes, but will need to contact Missy Collins (803) 896-9912 for registration and payment.

2026

Jun 1-4: Crime Scene for Investigators	September 21: Sexual Assault Investigation
June 11: Advanced Crime Scene for Patrol	October 1: Advance Crime Scene for Patrol
June 17: Latent Print Techniques	Oct 12-16: Basic Detective
June 25: Basic Detective	Oct 19-20: Child Homicide Investigation
July 9: Advanced Crime Scene for Patrol	Nov 2-5: Fingerprint Recognition and Comparison
July 15: Latent Print Techniques	November 16: Sexual Assault Investigation
July 20: Sexual Assault Investigation	November 18: Latent Print Techniques
July 20-24: Basic Detective	Nov 9-13: Basic Detective
Aug 3-6: Crime Scene for Investigators	November 12: Advanced Crime Scene for Patrol
Aug 17-18: Child Homicide Investigation	Dec 14-18: Basic Detective
August 20: Advanced Crime Scene for Patrol	
August 26: Latent Print Techniques	
Aug 31-Sep 4: Basic Detective	

Fun in Forensics

Frequently in the field of Forensics, we, as a whole, deal with a variety of difficult and demanding scenes, tough scenarios, and are often placed in stressful situations. This panel is designed for you to have the opportunity take a quick mental break, refresh your mind, and also to have a little fun. 😊

CRIMINAL ANAGRAMS

Unscramble each word or phrase below to reveal a word or phrase related to crime.

1. SCREEN MICE

2. EARLIER SKILLS

3. A CONSCIENCE

CITRIC FINES HENS

4. ENACT UTOPIA

5. BOD LO

6. AGE SHOT

7. DANK PIPING

8. BARBERRY DOME

9. CHAT FRET

10. RAT WARN

11. ECZEMA GRIDIRON

12. DEAR REST

13. MOBING

Above puzzle taken from: "Brain Games: Mini Mysteries" by Publications International Ltd.



Answers to CRIME RHYMES

1. *Ice pick* behind the *chick flick*, 2. *cyanide* by the *fireside*,
3. *pistol* behind the *crystal*, 4. *crowbar* in the *car*,
5. *bomb* in the *palm*, 6. *arrow* in the *wheelbarrow*



UPCOMING TRAINING/EVENTS

2026 SCCJA Advanced Forensic Training Opportunities (see page 10)

June 24-26, 2026, [CSI and Forensic Investigation plus Photography](#)

\$495—Sirchie, 1901 Boundary St, Beaufort, SC

August 10-14, 2026, [Advanced Homicide Investigation](#)

\$ 450—Southeastern Investigative Group, 3691 Leeds Ave, North Charleston, SC

August 17—21, 2026, [Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis](#)

\$749—TriTech Forensics, 3370 Presson Road, Monroe, NC 28112

August 25-27, 2026, [CSI and Forensic Investigation plus Photography](#)

\$495—Sirchie HQ, Youngsville, NC

September 14-18, 2026, [2026 Regional IAI Conference \[SCIAI, TNIAI, NCIAI, GAIAI\]](#)

\$250—Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, Cherokee, NC

January 11-15th, 2027 , [CSI and Forensic Investigation Plus Photography](#)

\$695—Sirchie, University of South Carolina Police Department, 1415 Henderson St, Columbia, SC

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Greenville County: [Criminalist \(Firearms Examiner\)](#)



Editor: Brittany Brown bribrown@greenvillecounty.org