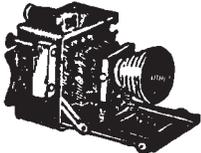




# THE PRINT

*The Official Publication of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers  
An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937*

*November / December 2003 Volume 19 Issue 6*



OFFICERS 2003

**PRESIDENT**

George Durgin  
USPHS  
(310) 831-6123 x 116  
durgin@scafo.org

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Ed Palma  
San Diego Police Dept.  
(619) 531-2573  
palma@scafo.org

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Dennis Uyeda  
Calif. Dept. Of Justice  
(916) 227-3314

**SECRETARY**

Susan Garcia  
Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.  
(213) 989-2163  
garcia@scafo.org

**SERGEANT AT ARMS**

Gina Russell-Durgin  
Escondido Police Dept.  
(760) 839-4770  
russell@scafo.org

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

Steve Tillmann  
Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.  
(213) 989-2163  
tillmann@scafo.org

**DIRECTOR**

Lisa DiMeo  
Arcana Forensic Services  
(619) 992-0690  
dimeo@scafo.org

**DIRECTOR**

Elaine Sena-Brown  
Santa Monica Police Dept.  
(310) 458-8497  
sena-brown@scafo.org

**DIRECTOR**

Craig Johnson  
Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.  
(213) 989-2163  
johnson@scafo.org

**DIRECTOR**

Tom Washington  
San Diego Police Dept.  
(619) 531-2838  
washington@scafo.org

**HISTORIAN**

William F. Leo  
Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.  
(213) 989-2163  
leo@scafo.org

**TREASURER**

James Lawson  
NCIS- San Diego  
(619) 556-1390  
lawson@scafo.org

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Clark Fogg  
Beverly Hills Police Dept.  
(310) 285-2116  
fogg@scafo.org

**EDITOR**

Alan McRoberts  
McRoberts Forensic Investigations  
(909) 693-9082  
mcroberts@scafo.org

WWW.SCAFO.ORG

## Small Police Department Forensics and DNA

*(This article was originally published in the Fall 2003 issue of the Chesapeake Examiner. Thanks to the author for allowing us to reprint in The Print.)*

By **DETECTIVE SERGEANT RALPH A. BARFIELD**  
Forensics Supervisor

Edited By **Timothy J. Longo**  
Chief of Police  
Charlottesville Police Department  
Charlottesville, Virginia

Many small police departments nationwide are under the misguided impression that because of their size they lack the operational capacity to fully appreciate the benefits of DNA evidence recovery and forensics examination. Whether this impression is founded simply in the number of human resources that exist in smaller agencies, or the inaccessibility of funds to train and equip those resources with state of the art equipment, no department is exempt from the power of forensic technology and the value it brings to law enforcement service delivery. Notwithstanding their size, law enforcement organizations must utilize the full potential of all the scientific technology available to them. The advancement of such technology coupled with the power of DNA in the retrospective investigation of crime has produced highly effective results for American policing and has paved new roads for investigators.

What follows is a glimpse at how a small to mid-size Central Virginia police department leveraged its time, energy, and resources to develop a model forensic program that has served to both identify criminals and make a community safer. If it can happen in Charlottesville, Virginia, it can happen in your town. The recipe is one of people, systems, process, and vision. If you understand the value of science in helping to identify criminals and clear open cases, then everything else that is necessary will fall in place. The future success of your department as it relates to criminal investigations depends on it.

The Charlottesville Police Department has an authorized strength of 119 sworn police officers and 29 civilian support personnel. It is accredited through the Virginia Association of State Law Enforcement Accreditation. The department's annual budget is approximately 8.4 million dollars. A community of approximately 40,000 residents, Charlottesville is home to three of our nation's Presidents, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate, and the nationally renowned University of Virginia.

The police department's forensic unit has a long history of commitment to the field of forensic science and has quickly gained national and international prominence for outstanding contributions in the field of forensic science, particularly through DNA crime scene processing. Despite the seemingly uneventful posture of this Central Virginia community, CBS Television, National Public Radio, and German Television have seen fit to feature the department's investigative strategies in the area of forensic science. Additionally, the Virginia Division of Forensic Science and Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine have recognized the department's forensic unit for its effectiveness and success through the use of DNA identifications, DNA eliminations and the DNA data bank. The unit has led nationally departments per capita in the area of DNA identifications, elimination, and cold DNA data bank confirmations. Such success proves paramount in the clearing of cold cases through the use of DNA.

One of the essential elements in creating an effective forensic unit is a police manager who has a basic knowledge, understanding, and appreciation for the value of both DNA and forensic science. Beyond the willingness to advance, these managers must have a willingness to assume a leadership role in implementing the necessary steps within their departments to create an atmosphere conducive to utilizing new scientific technology. This includes assessing personnel within the department who will be dedicated to providing the best possible forensic services to the citizens and developing a training curriculum that properly educates each member of the department in the substance of forensic science and the techniques for crime scene processing and evidence recovery.

Like any program implemented by a police department, identifying a funding source is second only to the willingness to move forward. Oftentimes, identifying a funding stream will require managers to "think outside the box". Such creative "thinking" may include requesting supplemental appropriations to the department's budget, making application for state and federal grant funds, requesting funds from private philanthropic donors and foundations, and creating a departmental foundation for the purpose of funding this and other important departmental programs and initiatives. Requests for supplemental appropriations are generally the more difficult of choices, particularly during tough economic times for localities. Nonetheless, a wealth of compelling evidence exists that supports the proposition that departments could well serve their constituency through the knowledge, skill, ability, and technological/scientific advancements associated with forensic investigations and evidence recovery.

Capacity, operational need, and fiscal responsibility are fundamental issues to be considered when embarking on the creation of a forensic unit. As previously mentioned, capacity should never be a hindrance to a

department's ability to move ahead with an operational plan that brings value to the department and the community. Nonetheless, departmental leadership may find it necessary to examine the current table of organization in an effort to determine if funds may be necessary to support the enhancement of human resources, to include equipping and maintaining those resources. A long-term plan that examines the necessary equipment and training is also critical in order to determine the funds that will be required for unit start-up. A three- to five-year strategic plan would not be unusual with funding increases at each step.

With all these things in mind, the Evidence Advisory Group of the Charlottesville Police Department was formed in 1994 and consisted of a cross section of patrol officers, detectives, and sergeants. Over a period of approximately eight months, the group met and developed a strategy for creating a new unit. During this period, the excitement piqued as more department members became involved in this important process, and an overwhelming sense of purpose grew. The group presented their recommendations to the Chief who endorsed the plan and ordered its implementation.

Now that the chief executive was on board and the plan was to be implemented, the following areas needed to be addressed:

- Creation of a new policy and procedure that governed the purpose and operational mandate of the unit;
- Defining a Standard Operating Procedure for the unit and its processes, to include crime scene processing and analysis protocols;
- Identification and selection of a knowledgeable forensic first line supervisor;
- Development of a training curriculum for forensic technicians;
- Identification of a storage facility and development of policy, procedure, and protocols addressing such storage;
- Coordination with the Commonwealth Attorneys Office;
- Coordination with management and support personnel within the department;
- Development of equipment specifications, budget, and requisite purchasing procedures.

The Evidence Advisory Group's recommendations provided a blueprint for development of the forensic unit. Over a four-year period, from 1995 to 1999, the metamorphosis of an effective forensic unit began. In short, the retrospective investigation of crime had begun to change in Charlottesville, and it wasn't long before success was evident.

## Policy and Procedures

The first step to program implementation was the re-engineering of the department's policies and procedures related to evidence handling. Additionally, all evidence in storage was inventoried and sorted as follows:

- Evidence retention for pending cases
- Evidence archives
- Items to be returned to owner
- Items to be sold at auction or destroyed

Once the proper policies and procedures were in place, greater attention was paid to processes. One such process was the manner in which crime scenes were handled. Initially, particular attention was given to burglary cases. With a focus on better documenting and securing items of evidentiary value, the following systems and processes were implemented:

- Better documentation of crime scenes by utilizing evidence case files containing evidence recovery logs, sketches, body injury diagrams, weapon documentation, photographs, reports and supplements.
- All major cases are filed in three-ring binders, using section dividers and sheet protectors. This simple process proved to be very functional and effective considering the number of officers and prosecution and defense attorneys constantly reviewing the files prior to trial.
- All recovered handguns are properly reported to the Virginia State Police and Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF).
- All weapons and expended shell casings are checked through the state and federal ballistic systems (NIBIN).
- All latent fingerprints, regardless of offense type, are checked through the Virginia State AFIS, with major unsolved cases being checked through the FBI's IAFIS.
- All cases involving potential DNA evidence are submitted to the Virginia State laboratory for analysis and check through the DNA data bank.
- A regional agreement with the police chiefs, commonwealth attorneys, and judges has been developed to authorize the destruction of drug evidence in compliance with state statutes that authorized such procedures.
- All evidence is to be inventoried on a quarterly, semi-annual, and annual basis to ensure quality control.
- A major case forensic board has been developed as a quick reference tool for the department.

## Personnel

Once the intricacies of identifying funds, drafting protocols, and selecting unit leadership are accomplished, finding the right mix of policing experience is critical to successful implementation and long-term success.

Two full-time forensic detectives who answered to a remote supervisor had historically staffed the Charlottesville Police Department's forensic unit. This primitive scheme was not only ineffective but diluted the importance of our forensic mission. The first step in the unit's evolution required that room be made for a full-time forensic supervisor. This was accomplished in March of 1995 after a deliberate examination of the department's pool of qualified sergeants. Additionally, the number of technicians was expanded and a specific number of positions were assigned to patrol and investigations. The patrol division is allotted ten part-time positions, three on days, four on evening, and three on midnight. Shift technicians are titled as Primary, Secondary, and Back-ups. The Investigations Division is allotted three part-time positions.

All technicians are categorized based on their formal forensic training and experience as Evidence Tech I, Evidence Tech II, Senior Tech, Forensic Tech, and Crime Scene Analyst. Advances in the system depend on advanced forensic courses, crime scene experience, and number of years as an evidence technician. All technicians are issued utility uniforms, pagers, and cell phones and are available for voluntary call out.

Eventually, a civilian clerical position was added to help handle the enormous increase in evidence, administrative paperwork, and data entry. The unit relies heavily on college interns to assist with the daily administrative tasks. The system works to the benefit of both the interns and the unit. They handle the daily, oftentimes routine, clerical tasks and, in turn, are exposed to all aspects of the unit's operation. In order to protect the integrity of both the process and the evidence, interns are not permitted physical contact with any item of evidence during their internship.

All members of the police department, sworn and civilian, are fingerprinted and their prints are sent to the Virginia State Police Headquarters for entry into the AFIS employee database.

## Training

There is no aspect of a law enforcement organization that can afford to diminish the importance of training. Forensic science is, perhaps, one of the most sophisticated and complex areas in policing and is clearly an area in which formal training must be approached aggressively. When the message became clear that the Charlottesville Police Department was moving forward

with a more defined mission in the area of forensic science and evidence recovery, a wide variety of training opportunities for technicians became a top priority. Eight twenty-four-hour and forty-hour courses covering a multitude of forensic topics are at the disposal of unit membership. Unquestionably there are cost benefits with such a shift in priorities. Nonetheless, when balanced against the operational needs of the department and our strong desire to reach the cutting edge of this technology, such expenditures seem more than prudent.

Notwithstanding the wealth of training opportunities outside the department, in-house forensic training was dramatically increased for not only evidence technicians but for all members of the police department. The decision to proceed in this fashion proved to be important and enhanced initial DNA identification.

In addition to training that is specific to job function, Senior and Forensic Technicians are required to obtain instructor certifications to assist with the increased training demands. This diminished the need to seek outside, and often costly, training opportunities.

The hallmark of evidence training is the Virginia Forensic Science Academy. This prestigious program includes a nine-week course designed specifically to train crime scene investigators in every major aspect of forensic science and evidence recovery. It remains, without question, one of the most effective courses of its kind in America. The Charlottesville Police Department has had the distinction of graduating 11 members from this Academy since its creation in 1974.

In an effort to better educate our community about the department's new forensic unit and the value it brings to our department, Senior and Forensic Technicians are encouraged to participate in public speaking engagements on forensic topics.

Lastly, technicians are encouraged to select forensic specialties in which they are interested and to pursue higher levels of expertise. Furthermore, the technicians are required to be capable of operating all unit equipment and computer programs. A system of gradual formal forensic schooling while continuing to process crime scenes has proven to be a much more effective method of preparing new evidence technicians for a career in crime scene investigation.

## Facilities

The evolution of a new unit had begun and the need for a larger and more advanced evidence storage room was evident. The new accommodations include a separate evidence vault for drugs, guns, and money. While general access to such areas must be controlled to protect the integrity of the evidence and the department, evidence technicians are given access to the main evidence room so that the evidence may be properly logged and processed

for storage without the need to hire and train additional staff for that specific purpose. Some are given access to the evidence vault itself and only three have access to drugs and money. Determining who will have access to these areas and for what specific purpose is a critical piece of the policy and procedure dealing with the evidence storage area, particularly those areas where evidence pending trial, narcotics, weapons, and monies are stored.

Our newly designed evidence storage space includes the following things:

- A separate intrusion alarm
- Additional lighting
- New video cameras (monitored 24 hours a day)
- Organized storage bins and shelves
- An evidence refrigerator to preserve perishable evidence
- Drug and money vaults
- A separate and lockable cabinet for federal drug evidence
- New boxes for preburn and premelt drugs and guns and bio hazard material
- A drying cabinet for wet or blood-stained items (restored from available materials)

The procedures and protocols that are put in place with regard to evidence packaging and storage require the input and support of every member of the department. To ensure this buy-in, efficiency and convenience are seen as critical. Evidence-packaging materials have been relocated to a central location within the police department for easier access and better utilization. A newly organized and stocked evidence supply storage area has been created and allows for better inventory control and re-ordering.

The following other efficiencies were created to enhance the efforts that we had put into place:

- A temporary evidence locker system was instituted in several locations in the department with access to remove items limited to three designated personnel.
- The forensic office was moved from the basement of the headquarters building to an area adjacent to investigations. This proved to increase communication and effectiveness between evidence technicians and investigators.
- Due to the effectiveness of Virginia's forensic data banks such as DNA, AFIS, and NIBIN, the department was compelled to create yet another evidence room was solely for storing archived evidence.

## Crime Scene Processing

The success of any forensic unit is in large part due to the effectiveness of its crime lab technicians and the protocols that they follow. Acknowledging that most criminals leave behind traces of themselves prior to fleeing the scene of a crime, procedures were established to ensure that all crime scenes within the city are documented and processed for physical evidence. Notwithstanding the frequently "non-violent" nature associated with their commission, burglaries are given particular attention. Properly processing such scenes frequently provides information that not only assists in the identification of the person responsible for this crime, but also oftentimes is responsible for incidents of a more intrusive nature.

Major crime scenes, such as homicides, shootings, and sexual assaults, require the expertise and experience of a trained graduate of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy or a Senior Evidence Technician. Oftentimes, the processing of such scenes goes beyond the identification and recovery of evidence, and requires knowledge of blood splatter, trajectory, impression recovery, and a host of advanced forensic examination and evidence recovery. In contrast, policies should permit, if not require, patrol officers to process their own larcenies, vandalisms, and minor burglaries. This allows for the initial training and introduction of basic evidence techniques and allows the department to process crime scenes and conduct preliminary investigations more efficiently.

Notwithstanding the complexity of a given scene, any seized evidence is properly documented, packaged, and stored as we await identification of a subject and a subsequent, and hopefully, successful prosecution.

## State Laboratory and Evidence Analysis

Recognizing that our officers were well on the way to developing great skill in evidence recovery, the need to establish an excellent working relationship with the Virginia State Laboratory examiners at the Central Laboratory and the Chief Medical Examiners Office in Richmond seemed a prudent next step.

A big part of the initial marriage was implementing policy requiring that all evidence of probative value be submitted to the state lab for analysis. The examiners are contacted on a routine basis, and cases are discussed freely and without reservation with the department's forensic staff and investigators. The requirements, suggestions, and recommendations of the examiners are followed closely and are given the greatest respect in the investigator's evaluation of a case.

## Commonwealth Attorneys Office

The successful prosecution of forensic cases requires that the prosecutors must be educated on forensic technology. This is another important element in the utilization of modern forensic technology for it is the attorneys who must present the evidence to the court. The attorneys were hesitant at first but, as time went by, their knowledge and confidence grew. Different types of forensic evidence cases were presented in court such as latent print identification, Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), DNA, the DNA data bank, ballistics and the National Integrated Ballistic Identification Network (NIBIN), blood stain interpretation, firearms, trace evidence, toxicology, etc. As the number of solved cold cases grew, the convictions of two separate serial rapists, and many cases involving DNA, the attorneys became well-versed in prosecution of cases involving all types of forensics.

## Equipment

All forensic unit equipment was inventoried, repaired, or replaced. Additional 35mm and Polaroid camera sets were purchased to allow each technician to be issued his or her own equipment. This policy immediately resulted in more effective and efficient crime scene processing. An Omnicrome 5000 alternate light source (ALS) was purchased to enhance evidence and crime scene processing for latent prints and biological materials. A Ford van was set up as the unit's primary crime scene vehicle. The primary patrol crime scene vehicle was re-equipped with all necessary documentation and collection supplies and restricted to evidence technician operation.

The unit's evidence computer program, the Property and Evidence Tracking System (PETS), is continually upgraded and enhanced. All essential unit functions, such as Request for Laboratory Examination (RFLE), Court Orders, Ten Print Fingerprints files, Palm Print files, Juvenile Print files, and Laboratory Identifications/eliminations, were computerized. Computerizing the laboratory request forms proved to be an enormous improvement over the handwritten or typed system previously utilized. All officers are required to complete routine lab requests and are trained to use the computer system while going through the field training officer (FTO) program. Additionally, computer software programs for crime scene sketching and suspect composite sketching were purchased. A small electrostatic dust lifter was purchased to encourage more frequent use. A video camera and digital camera were purchased to better document major crime scenes.

All necessary equipment, such as a portable generator, portable lights, portable tents, privacy shields, and sufficient hand tools to process outdoor crime scenes were purchased. A new, more effective metal detector was purchased to assist in locating metallic physical evidence at crime scenes.

## Management Support

It is important for police executives to understand that the rebuilding and enhancement of the forensic unit would not have been accomplished without the continuing support of the Police Chief. The chief had to buy into the long-term vision of the process. It was critical that he made it clear to managers, supervisors, and officers his strong support for developing an effective forensic unit. The second issue was finding mid-managers willing to learn about and have a working knowledge of crime scene processing, forensics, and the power of DNA. The third issue was convincing the majority of first line supervisors the importance of their support for the forensic program. This proved to be problematic initially, due to the large number of older sergeants not familiar with all the new forensic scientific technology. The management support must be an ongoing and continuously process.

## Results

In 1995 the unit began a concerted effort to record and track all forms of forensic identifications and eliminations. Although time-consuming, this system has provided a unique tool to help determine the effectiveness of the unit. The unit has gone from fifty-four identifications/eliminations in 1995 to over 250 in 2002. All the information is logged onto the unit's computer system and, at a moment's notice, reports can be generated on a multitude of data topics that show status and yearly comparisons.

Between January 1, 1995 and July 2003, the unit has had 240 DNA identifications in 91 cases. During the same time period, DNA eliminations were utilized 207 times in 43 cases. Learning how to fully utilize DNA elimination has proven to be an invaluable tool by focusing valuable investigative time, energy, and resources.

In 1998 the unit had its first lip print identification. By 1999 the unit had established its reputation through effectiveness with routine and major case crime scene processing. The unit had been utilizing bloodstain interpretation (blood spatter) for several years in numerous cases and proved to be valuable evidence at trial.

In the summer of 1999, the forensic unit was confronted with two simultaneous major investigations. The first, the Spinner Homicide, relied exclusively on DNA evidence for identification of the victim who was totally skeleton. We also attempted a botanical DNA identification from a leaf found in her car trunk to bushes found at the gravesite. The botanical analysis was conducted by Virginia Tech College. This case has been presented to the Virginia Forensic Science Academy Re-Training Seminar and was featured on German Television. The second case, a burglary/rape/robbery, yielded the department's first DNA data bank hit in October of 1999. The DNA data bank was absolutely essential in solving this case. A latent fingerprint recovered from the scene failed to hit in the

Virginia Automated Fingerprint Identification System and was later identified with the suspect, after DNA. This case has been featured twice on CBS Television.

In 2000 the department led the state in weapon, shell casing, and bullet identification through the use of NIBIN. This resulted from a departmental policy to collect shell casings and bullets from all shootings, including simple shots fired calls, and register them in NIBIN. Additionally, all handguns and semi-automatic rifles that have been seized for any reason are submitted to the state laboratory for test firing and registering in NIBIN.

As of mid July 2003, the department has obtained forty-one (41) DNA data bank hits on individuals, twenty of which have resulted in arrest and conviction. Of these data bank hits, ten were sexual assault and ten were from burglary, reiterating the need to pursue burglaries. Through the use of the DNA data bank, cold rape cases from 1993, 1996, 1998, and 2000 have been cleared. Of those arrested, two were serial rapists. Recently, a double hit occurred in a cold 1985 homicide that continues under investigation. The department has re-opened numerous burglaries, larcenies, and stolen autos cases due to DNA data bank hits. In one recovered stolen auto case, the lab identified three suspects through the data bank and then identified an additional four DNA profiles. Awesome! Additionally, the department has obtained fourteen (14) data bank case-to-case matches, including four against a serial rapist in three different jurisdictions. The remaining hits came from robbery, stolen autos, larceny, and vandalism cases.

## Summary

Small police departments actually have a very distinct advantage over our big jurisdiction brothers. Their volume of calls and cases prohibit the detailed processing of routine burglaries. However, all agencies should make a concerted effort to process crime scenes and routinely submit the evidence to their laboratories for analysis.

Unsolved rape and homicide cold cases must be reviewed, and those with DNA evidence must be submitted to the agency's laboratory for analysis. How will a match ever be made if the evidence is still sitting, not analyzed, in the evidence room?

We get numerous calls from agencies wanting to know what our special technique is. There several simple rules: Process the crime scenes diligently, pay particular attention to burglaries, search for DNA, and submit the evidence to the laboratory for analysis.

Creating an effective forensic unit for a small police department takes time, effort, organization, support, and a dedicated staff. The department must be willing to persevere through the early stages of development, and all the hard work and sacrifice will pay off.

# Missing Prints Could Affect Case

*(The following article was posted on Aug. 30, 2003, on Star-Telegram.com.)*

By **DEANNA BOYD**  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**FORT WORTH** - Fingerprints lifted from the car of a woman found slain in Johnson County in 1996 were inadvertently destroyed by Fort Worth police because records indicated they were related to a burglary, not a capital murder, officials said.

Lt. Jesse Hernandez, a police spokesman, said the error apparently occurred because of an incorrect criminal offense written on the fingerprint card and a lack of communication. He said police plan to change procedures to prevent future problems.

The lost fingerprints did not match those of three suspects who are in jail and awaiting trial in the kidnapping and fatal shooting of Gina Dykman of Richland Hills, prosecutor Camille Sparks said.

"I don't think it's going to harm the case in any way," said Sparks, who is seeking death sentences for the three suspects. "It would have been nice to have them. Certainly, it could raise a question for the defense. They could obviously bring this up if they want to."

Daniel Shockley Miller is the first suspect scheduled to go on trial, next month.

Wes Ball, Miller's defense attorney, said he plans to research whether charges could be dismissed based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding prosecuting entities that destroy exculpatory evidence.

"We'll probably draft a motion to have a hearing on it," Ball said. "My concern is, now they want to seek the death penalty on someone where evidence potentially helpful to the defendant has been destroyed."

Hernandez said a records employee disposed of the fingerprints in July 2002 because the statute of limitations had expired on the burglary offense written on the card.

"When that expires, the fingerprints are destroyed," Hernandez said. "We can't use them any more."

The district attorney's office learned two weeks ago that the prints had been destroyed after asking Fort Worth police to retest the prints in preparation for trial.

Sparks said prosecutors wanted to compare the fingerprints with those of people associated with the suspects.

"It always comes up in trials -- 'Did you test them against anybody else?'" Sparks said. "These people hung around a very close group of people. We wanted to make sure no one else's prints were on the car as well.

"We don't have any evidence that anyone else is involved. It's just a matter of being complete for a capital murder case."

Sparks would not say what evidence prosecutors have against the three suspects but called it a "strong case."

Dykman's 1993 green Dodge Stealth was found abandoned in Fort Worth with the key in the ignition on July 23, 1996. She had last been seen alive two days before in Richland Hills, by friends with whom she had been living.

Because the car had not been reported stolen and Dykman's father did not report her missing until Aug. 9, 1996, police had the Stealth towed.

On Aug. 16, 1996, an auto theft detective received a call from Dykman's father, who told him that the car belonged to his daughter and that he had recently reported her missing.

Suspicious of foul play, the detective requested that the car be processed for evidence, the police report states. On Aug. 21, a supplemental report noted that the crime lab had processed the car for fingerprints but said that "no evidence of value was found."

Hernandez said police don't know why the five prints lifted from the car were not noted on the supplemental report. He said it is "highly possible" that the crime lab report the officer reviewed was referring to other evidence taken from the car and processed in the lab, not the fingerprints, when it said that no evidence of value was found.

On Aug. 22 of that same year, Dykman's remains were found in a Johnson County cemetery. She had been shot twice and beaten. Johnson County investigators advised the auto theft detective of Dykman's slaying on Aug. 28.

Fort Worth police apparently did nothing further with the car, which was returned to Dykman's family, Hernandez said.

"At that time, we had no idea how she wound up in Johnson County," Hernandez said. "As far as we were concerned, it was their homicide."

But the case would eventually find its way back to Fort Worth.

No arrests were made until May 2002, when a Tarrant County grand jury indicted Miller, 33; Kirk Alan Cantrell, 34; and Beverly Cropp, 30, on capital murder charges. The three suspects remain in Tarrant County Jail with bail set at \$500,000 each.

Investigators say the suspects kidnapped Dykman in Fort Worth because they mistakenly believed that she was a police informant who was going to snitch about their drug activity.

Although the slaying is believed to have happened in Johnson County, Tarrant County is prosecuting the case because Dale Hanna, the Johnson County district attorney, deferred jurisdiction.

Sparks said the district attorney's office learned about the fingerprints after beginning to gather information.

Sparks said that the destroyed fingerprints could belong to Dykman's friends or anybody who came in contact with the car.

"The car was left in a high crime area with the windows down and the key in the ignition. They could have just been from people passing by. That's always a possibility," Sparks said. "But it's still physical evidence we needed to test because it could, in fact, be part of the case we made against these people."

Hernandez said the Police Department will overhaul evidence-handling methods.

"If something like this happens again, we're going to make sure as information comes in that we're going to flag it and make sure our records folks and investigators communicate about these things," Hernandez said.

"Unusual circumstances sometimes points out deficiencies in practices that are established for normal business," he added. "We don't want it to happen again, obviously."

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

### An Unusual Historical Similarity between Typewriting and Fingerprint Comparison

*(Thanks to long-time SCAFO member Russell Bradford for this interesting comparison.)*

By **RUSSELL R BRADFORD**  
Document Examiner

In the Science of Criminal Investigation, a "fictional person", testified in two major sciences, before a qualified examiner testified. Typewriting comparison was first testified to in a trial in 1893 and then in 1911. The first fingerprint testimony took place in a New York court. Both of these famous trials were preceded by the expertise of fictional experts, "Sherlock Holmes" and "Pudd'nhead Wilson".

## Believe it or Not

In 1893 the first typewriting case in history went to a court of review. The Judge in his ruling did not cite any prior case on typewriting examination in this *Levy v Rust Typewriting Trial of 1893* (49 Atl. 1017 - New Jersey).

An incredible feat occurred two years before the *Levy v Rust Trial*. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in a Sherlock Holmes story "A Case of Identity", wrote about typewriting identification in 1891. "It is a curious thing", remarked Holmes, "that a typewriter has really quite as much individuality as a man's handwriting. Unless they are quite new, no two of them write exactly alike. Some letters get more worn than others and some wear on one side. Now you remark in this note of yours, Mr. Windbank, that in every case there is some little slurring over the "e" and a slight defect in the tail of the "r". There are fourteen other characteristics, but those are the most obvious." This statement by Sherlock Holmes was made using sound principles, two years before the first court trial using the science of typewriting identification.

The second part of this unusual expertise concerns the science of fingerprint comparison. In 1911 the first American fingerprint case was tried in New York. The case began when a New York detective lifted fingerprints from a windowpane at the scene of a burglary. The detective was called to testify to the identity of the fingerprints. The Judge, realizing the importance and necessity to convincingly establish the detective's expertise in the new field of identification, had each member of the jury impress his fingerprints on a separate pane of glass. After returning to the courtroom, the detective, within a few minutes, identified the correct prints. The case received widespread publicity as the first conviction in New York State on the basis of fingerprint evidence.

But, as in the typewriting case, a fictional person beat the New York detective as the first to testify. In 1883, Samuel "Mark Twain" Clemens used his fictional genius to write "Life on the Mississippi" and later in 1884 "Pudd'nhead Wilson". In both stories, the science of fingerprints was used. In "Pudd'nhead Wilson" the story ended with a "dramatic identification" in court, proving the infallibility of fingerprints. Pudd'nhead Wilson had each member of the jury place his fingerprints on a pane of glass and then had one of the jurors place a print on another pane. Wilson then identified the fingerprint, just as the New York Detective did, 17 years "later".

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Samuel "Mark Twain" Clemens wrote about Scientific Examination of Typewriting and Fingerprints before the true to life experts ever testified. Most incredible of all was that a New York Detective testified and then proved the first fingerprint case to a jury, using methods perfected by Pudd'nhead Wilson (a fictional person), 17 years BEFORE.

## Believe it or Not

# SCAFO Certification Programs

In this issue of *The Print*, the association has posted the requirements for two certification programs: the Fingerprint Examiner Certification for 10 print examiners and the Evidence Print Examiner Certification for latent print examiners.

The idea of SCAFO developing a certification program for its members resulted from a telephone conversation between SCAFO President Elect Ed Palma and Bill Leo concerning members who were being challenged in court because they were not certified. Asking for and challenging fingerprint examiners who do not hold a certification during the Voir Dire process has become more common since the airing of a *Sixty Minutes* program which stated that “there is not even a requirement that fingerprint examiners be certified”.

Currently, the only certification program for fingerprint examiners is offered through the International Association for Identification. The earliest in a fingerprint examiner’s career that he or she would be eligible for certification through the I.A.I. Program would be three years and then only if the examiner had a bachelor’s degree. The Board felt that our membership needed a program that would provide a certification for examiners who have completed training and are now assigned to testify as comparison experts in court. We felt that waiting, sometimes for years, to become eligible to be certified while being required to testify as an expert was not an acceptable alternative.

The Board has approved certification programs for latent print examiners and for ten print examiners who have completed training and are now assigned to do journey level work. Applicants must show proof of training and, through written and comparison testing, show a level of proficiency expected of a fully trained examiner. Additional tenure and educational requirements have by design been left out of the SCAFO’s Certification Programs. Our goal is to provide our members with the ability to provide the courts and other interested parties a means to verify that an examiner’s experience and training has been reviewed and verified by a professional organization of his or her peers and, through testing, that the examiner has demonstrated technical competence.

After reviewing the requirement for certification, we also encourage your comments and suggestions that may improve the program. Please forward any comments or suggestions to Bill Leo at [leo@scafo.org](mailto:leo@scafo.org). Your comments and suggestions will be shared at the Association’s Board meeting in January. It is hoped that any final adjustments will be made at that time and testing will begin in January or February.

The board encourages the active membership of the Association to take advantage of these programs.

## Recommended Study Areas for the Written Test SCAFO Certification Programs

The following SWGFAST Guidelines:

Guidelines for Professional Conduct  
Standards for Conclusions  
Friction Ridge Examination Methodology for Latent Print Examiners

Knowledge of the definitions of and the ability to recognize the eight basic fingerprint patterns as defined in the FBI *Science of Fingerprints*.

Knowledge of the structure of friction skin.

Knowledge of the scientific research that supports the basic premise of the permanence and uniqueness of all areas of friction skin.

Examples for a narrative question, which requires the preparation of a stipulation suitable to be read into court record. The following are two examples:

I am prepared to testify to the following:

On October 3, 2003, at Department G, Orange County Superior Court, I compared the recorded prints on the following documents:

Sheriff’s Booking Slip #1234465 dated 12-12-03, bearing the name Smith, John and a ten print fingerprint exemplar card bearing the name, Smith, John, dated 1-12-03.

The prints appearing on the two documents were made by the same person.

or

Based on the comparison of the fingerprints appearing on the above two documents, I am prepared to testify that the prints were made by one and the same person.

The points that are reviewed and scored include: Did the examiner accurately describe the exhibits compared? Did the examiner clearly express his or her conclusions? Is the written narrative legible? Would it make sense if read to a jury as a stipulation?

*For Evidence Print Examiner Certification Only:*

Knowledge of various latent print development processes including what types of surfaces they are used on and what they react to.

Powder development  
Ninhydrin  
Cyanoacrylate  
Small particle reagent  
Physical developer  
Forensic light source using dye staining  
Iodine fuming  
Silver nitrate

# SCAFO Certification Program for Fingerprint Examiners

## Purpose of the Certification Program

The Certification Program's sole purpose is to provide the courts and other interested parties a means to verify that a fingerprint examiner's experience and training has been reviewed and verified by a professional organization of his or her peers through testing where the examiner has demonstrated technical competence. Certification by SCAFO is not an endorsement or recommendation of any fingerprint examiner over another.

This program differs from the Evidence Print Examiner Certification Program in that the Fingerprint Examiner Program deals with the comparison and identification of recorded fingerprints for the purpose of personal identification rather than dealing with the identification of evidence prints found at crime scenes.

## Eligibility Requirements

Must be an active member of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers. Applicants for certification must agree to abide by the Guidelines for Professional Conduct as recommended by SWGFAST.

## Experience Requirements

One year of experience as a fingerprint examiner. Experience must be full-time, paid experience, with the identification of recorded fingerprints being the primary job duty.

The examiner must be off of training and currently employed in the searching, comparing, and identifying of fingerprints, and providing conclusions and reports as to his or her findings.

Written documentation of work experience must be submitted with application for certification.

The SCAFO Board will determine what documentation is acceptable, and all experience must be verifiable.

## Training Requirements

Applicant must have completed at least 80 hours of formal training in the searching, comparison, and identification of recorded fingerprints. This requirement may be met through a combination of training courses offered by professional or private organizations, colleges, or structured in-house training and internships. For training courses, course certificates of completion and the names of instructors must be submitted.

Proof of in-house training programs and internships shall consist of submitting a copy of the training outline

or syllabus plus a letter on department letterhead stating that the applicant successfully completed the program or internship and shall include the names and qualifications of the instructors. This letter must be signed by a supervisor overseeing the training.

Instructors for all training must meet the instructor qualifications as defined by SWGFAST as described below:

### *Instructor Qualifications*

#### Essential Qualifications:

An instructor must possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities for the courses being instructed. An instructor for the Friction Ridge Examination segment of training must have been accepted in court as an expert in friction ridge identification.

#### Desirable Qualifications:

An instructor should have completed training on how to be an instructor.

An instructor should have attained accreditation/certification from recognized institutions, agencies, or professional organizations.

An instructor should have completed a structured training and internship program covering the same subject matter.

## Written Test requirements

Pass a written test on the following subject areas (passing is defined as receiving a score of 75% or better):

### *Subject areas:*

- Basic premise of friction skin identification ACE/V
- The three levels of clarity
- Scientific basis that establishes the uniqueness of all areas of friction skin
- Acceptable conclusions of fingerprint examinations
- Fingerprint pattern interpretation
- Structure of friction skin
- Professional responsibilities and conduct

At the conclusion of the written test, the applicant will be given copies of two prints to compare and will be required to prepare a report suitable to be used as a stipulation in a court of law.

The report will be evaluated based on the following elements:

Be hand-printed and legible as to be read in court.

Include a statement(s) that the examiner is prepared to testify to the following:

When and where analyzed  
A description of the exhibits compared  
Conclusions

Printed name, title, and signature.

This exercise is intended to demonstrate the applicant's ability to communicate in writing his or her conclusions to a court of law. This section is valued as 25% of the written examination.

### **Comparison Test Requirements**

Successfully complete a series of comparisons of recorded fingerprints to include:

Digitally stored fingerprint images used to make identifications using an automated fingerprint identification system

Exemplar to exemplar comparisons

Driver's licenses

Pawn slips

Court documents

Each questioned print must be evaluated as to its quality and, if suitable for comparison, whether it is an identification or an elimination. Not all comparisons will result in an identification. Not all prints are suitable for comparison. Questioned prints have been selected to represent typical case work expected of fingerprint examiners who have completed a training program and are doing journeyman level work. A 100% score will be required for passing.

Certification by "The Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers" may be revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Falsification of information on the application for certification.
2. Conviction of a crime or termination for misconduct from a law enforcement agency.
3. Incompetent analysis or testimony.
4. Conduct in conflict with the goals and purposes of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers.
5. Failure to abide by the SWFGAST Guidelines for Professional Conduct.

Complaints or allegations of misconduct should be directed to the President of the Association.

The requirements for certification will be posted on the SCAFO web site along with an application for certification that will be capable of being downloaded. A listing of certified examiners will also be posted at this site for all to see.

### **Recertification**

Examiners must be recertified every 5 years. Re-certification requires the examiner to be active in fingerprint identification, submit a new and updated application, and complete the testing process. The applicant must have completed an additional forty (40) hours of continuing education training.

### **Cost**

A \$50.00 fee payable at time of application is required for both initial certification and recertification. Fees are collected to offset the cost of testing materials, certificates, and the cost of administering the program.

# SCAFO Certification Program for Evidence Print Examiners

## Purpose of the Certification Program

The Certification Program's sole purpose is to provide the courts and other interested parties a means to verify that an evidence print examiner's experience and training has been reviewed and verified by a professional organization of his or her peers through testing where the examiner has demonstrated technical competence. Certification by SCAFO is not an endorsement or recommendation of any evidence print examiner over another.

This certification differs from SCAFO's Fingerprint Examiner Certification Program in that the Evidence Print Examiner deals with all types and areas of friction ridge evidence, including the development and individualization of fragmentary latent prints found at crime scenes for the purpose of crime solution, rather than the identification of individuals through their recorded fingerprints.

## Eligibility Requirements

Must be an active member of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers. Applicants for certification must agree to abide by the Guidelines for Professional Conduct as recommended by SWGFAST.

## Experience Requirements

One year of experience as an evidence print examiner. Experience must be full-time, paid experience, with latent print development and examination being the primary job duties. Primary duty is defined as over fifty percent of the time is spent doing latent print development and examination.

or

Two years of experience where latent print development and examination is an additional duty, such as a burglary detective trained in latent print identification.

The examiner, must be off of training and doing evidence print examinations, providing conclusions and reports as to his or her findings.

Written documentation of work experience must be submitted with application for certification.

The SCAFO Board will determine what documentation is acceptable, and all experience must be verifiable.

## Training Requirements

Applicant must have completed at least 160 hours of formal training in latent print identification.

This requirement may be met through a combination of training courses offered by professional or private organizations, colleges, or structured in-house training and internships. For training courses, course certificates of completion and the names of instructors must be submitted.

Proof of in-house training programs and internships shall consist of submitting a copy of the training outline or syllabus plus a letter on department letterhead stating that the applicant successfully completed the program or internship and shall include the names and qualifications of the instructors. This letter must be signed by a supervisor overseeing the training.

Instructors for all training must meet the instructor qualifications as defined by SWGFAST as described below:

### *Instructor Qualifications*

#### Essential Qualifications:

An instructor must possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities for the courses being instructed. An instructor for the Friction Ridge Examination segment of training must have been accepted in court as an expert in friction ridge identification.

#### Desirable Qualifications:

An instructor should have completed training on how to be an instructor.

An instructor should have attained accreditation/certification from recognized institutions, agencies, or professional organizations.

An instructor should have completed a structured training and internship program covering the same subject matter.

## Written Test requirements

Pass a written test on the following subject areas (passing is defined as receiving a score of 75% or better):

### *Subject areas:*

- Basic premise of friction skin identification ACE/V
- The three levels of clarity
- Scientific basis that establishes the uniqueness of all areas of friction skin
- Latent print development with powders and chemicals
- Acceptable conclusions of latent print examinations
- Fingerprint pattern interpretation
- Structure of friction skin
- Professional responsibilities and conduct

At the conclusion of the written test, the applicant will be given copies of two prints to compare and will be required to prepare a report suitable to be used as a stipulation in a court of law.

The report will be evaluated based on the following elements:

Be hand-printed and legible as to be read in court.

Include a statement(s) that the examiner is prepared to testify to the following:

When and where analyzed  
A description of the exhibits compared  
Conclusions

Printed name, title, and signature.

This exercise is intended to demonstrate the applicant's ability to communicate in writing his or her conclusions to a court of law. This section is valued as 25% of the written examination.

Successfully complete a series of comparisons to include:

Partial latent prints developed with various powders and chemicals with known finger and palm exemplar.

Exemplar to exemplar comparisons

Driver's licenses

Pawn slips

Court documents

Each evidence print must be evaluated as to its quality and, if suitable for comparison, whether it is an identification or an elimination. Not all comparisons will result in an identification. Not all evidence prints are suitable for comparison. Evidence prints have been selected to represent typical case work expected of latent print examiners who have completed a training program and are doing journeyman level work. A 100% score will be required for passing.

Certification by "The Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers" may be revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Falsification of information on the application for certification.
2. Conviction of a crime or termination for misconduct from a law enforcement agency.
3. Incompetent analysis or testimony.
4. Conduct in conflict with the goals and purposes of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers.
5. Failure to abide by the SWFGAST Guidelines for Professional Conduct.

Complaints or allegations of misconduct should be directed to the President of the Association.

The requirements for certification will be posted on the SCAFO web site along with an application for certification that will be capable of being downloaded. A listing of certified examiners will also be posted at this site for all to see.

## **Recertification**

Examiners must be recertified every 5 years. Re-certification requires the examiner to be active in evidence print identification, submit a new and updated application, and complete the testing process. The applicant must have completed an additional sixty (60) hours of continuing education training.

## **Costs**

A \$50.00 fee payable at time of application is required for both initial certification and recertification. Fees are collected to offset the cost of testing materials, certificates, and the cost of administering the program.

## President's Message

The Annual Training Conference was a great success. The most attendees SCAFO has had. Each year we have learned and continue to improve. This year we had three projectors and three screens so that all of our presentations could be seen by all of our attendees. Handouts were great, even having Bill Leo running out to have last minute presentations printed for the over 200 attendees. The presenters that included your Board Members to Doctor Babler were exquisite as well.

Bill Leo never ceases to amaze us. Not only did we have it at a terrific location, had great speakers, good lunches, the fees were less than last year, we will also have a nice profit from our partnership with Long Beach Community College to make next year's training a little less as well.

We have all been fortunate with the vision of Bill and our Board to make these training conferences such a success. With that in mind, we will need to start planning for next year. We will once again be at the same location and the dates will be October 1 & 2, 2004. We hope to see if we can talk Ron Smith or another notable speaker to dominate one of our days to enhance our skills in latent print comparison. Any other suggestions are wanted, please contact Bill at [leo@scafo.org](mailto:leo@scafo.org) or our 2004 President Ed Palma at [palma@scafo.org](mailto:palma@scafo.org).

This issue of the Print will see the proposal of SCAFO's certification program. I hope that all of you take a good look at it. Consider that it is not intended to replace IAI's certification program, but to augment it for our members. Comments will be welcome to all of our Board Members as well as Bill Leo, the architect of this proposal.

It was a pleasure to see so many raffle items during the Training Conference. Many were donated by agencies, members, and our vendors. It sure made for some fun for our attendees and even a little rivalry. I was surprised to see my President's Gavel display case show up on the gift table. I just hope that our next President can hold onto the President's Gavel and display case longer than I did.

As my tenure draws near the end, I am proud that although there might have seemed to be a little controversy with a letter sent out for Dennis Uyeda it was easily resolved once we were all together. Dennis assured his fellow Board Members that he did not know of the letter, nor did he solicit it, and he was sorry for any ill feelings it may have created. As it turned out, it was sent out for not, as our election went as smooth as ever and all of our Board Members were elected to their next position without opposition.

I was extremely disappointed when I heard some of our members, to include Board Members comment that they were not going to our December 6 meeting at the Boat House in San Diego. Some comments were that it was too far away. Considering that our San Diego members regularly attend up north and Dennis travels at his own expense from Sacramento, that is a pretty lame excuse. Since we have our meetings planned in advance and are generally always on the first Saturday every other month, I find it difficult to understand why we all cannot plan to participate. It is through our membership that SCAFO succeeds. I challenge all of you, especially our Board Members who are suppose to be sworn in at the December meeting, to attend and support SCAFO.

*Fraternaly yours,*

**George Durgin, President**



**Upcoming  
SCAFO Meeting**

**December 6, 2003**

Christmas Dinner and Installation of Officers

**Boat House  
San Diego, CA**

For additional information contact:

Ed Palma  
San Diego Police Dept.  
(619) 531-2473  
[palma@scafo.org](mailto:palma@scafo.org)

# MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING

**DATE:** Oct. 3 & 4, 2003  
**LOCATION:** Embassy Suites, Covina, CA  
**HOST:** SCAFO Board of Directors  
**SECRETARY:** Susan Garcia  
**PROGRAM:** 12th Annual Training Conference  
**Call to order:** Business meeting, October 4th , 12:20 by President George Durgin.

## ATTENDANCE:

**PAST PRESIDENTS:** Alan McRoberts (1991), Clark Fogg (1994), Bill Leo (1996), Steve Tillmann (2002).

**LIFE MEMBERS:** Bill Corson & David Garcia

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:** George Durgin, Ed Palma, Dennis Uyeda, Susan Garcia, Gina Russell-Durgin, Steve Tillmann, Craig Johnson , Lisa DiMeo, Clark Fogg, Bill Leo, and Alan McRoberts. (Absent: Elaine Sena-Brown, Tom Washington, and James Lawson.)

**Members and guests present:** 200+

## OLD BUSINESS:

### Second Readings:

Jesus Baez, Martina Borrego, Graham T. Jeffrey, Adam Houg, Frank Giles

Motion to accept: Alan McRoberts

Second: Ed Palma

### Swear Ins by Past President Steve Tillmann

Carlos R. Gutierrez, Hawthorne Police Dept.

Leta Houle, San Diego Police Dept.

Leila Inniss, San Diego Co. DA Office

Katie Lassiter, INS

Rebecca Limon, San Diego Police Dept.

Robert Lio, Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.

Steve Staggs, UC-Riverside Police Dept.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### First Readings for Active Membership:

David Alonso, Pasadend Police Dept.

Kristian Arojado, Beverly Hills Police Dept.

Heather Baxter, San Diego DA Office (Intern)

Shirley Braggs, Riverside Sheriff's CAL-ID

Andrea Duncan, San Diego DA Office

Cindy Edison, Riverside Sheriff's Dept.

Erinn Elmore, Riverside Sheriff's Dept.

Karen France, Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.  
Charles Garcia, Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.  
Sheri Orellana, Pomona Police Dept.  
John Andrew Pedroza, Riverside Sheriff's Dept.  
Debra Schambra, Oxnard Police Dept.  
Christine Stickley, Downey Police Dept.  
Deborah Stiviers, Glendale Police Dept.  
Sonya Villa, Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.  
Jennifer Wren, Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.

## Introduction of New Associate and Student Members

Amanda Amabile, Sean Bove, Raquel Munoz,  
Veronica Rauch, Cindy Ann Selley, Ellen Wills.

## Election of Executive Board:

All offices ran unopposed.

## 2004 Board of Directors:

President: Ed Palma

1st Vice President: Dennis Uyeda

2nd Vice President: Susan Garcia

Secretary: Regina Durgin

Sgt. at Arms: Tom Washington

Chairman of the Board: George Durgin

Directors:

Lisa DiMeo, Craig Johnson (2003-2004)

Sarah Watson and Mari Johnson (2004-2005)

Treasurer: Jim Lawson (2003-2004)

Historian: Bill Leo (2003-2004)

Editor: Alan McRoberts (2004-2005)

## PROGRAM : The 12th Annual SCAFO Training Conference.

The conference was a great success thanks to the coordinators Bill Leo and Steve Tillmann.

The seminar covered several topics: Crime Scene Booby Traps, Basic Fingerprint Identification, Forensic Photography, Structure of Friction Skin, and Orientation of Friction Skin Evidence. The conference had more than 200 in attendance, making this our most successful conference ever.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting: Christmas Dinner to be held Dec. 6, 2003, in San Diego, at the Boat House, hosted by Ed Palma. Information will be forthcoming.

## Motion to Adjourn:

Gina Russell Durgin

Second: Susan Garcia

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1325 hours

---

***"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."***

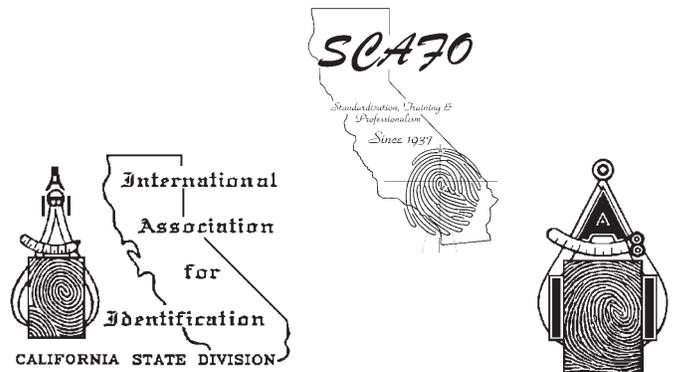
***- President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908***

For subscription or membership information, or address corrections contact:

**S.C.A.F.O. Susan Garcia, Secretary**  
2020 West Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 92591  
(213) 989-2163  
\$20.00 yearly subscription (attendance required for membership)  
\$30.00 yearly for International Subscriptions

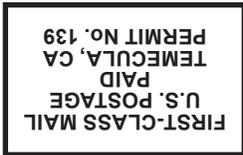
**C.S.D.I.A.I. Ricardo Tomboc, Treasurer**  
710 North "D" Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92401  
(909) 384-5701  
\$25.00 yearly membership

**I.A.I. Joe Polski, Chief Operations Officer**  
2535 Pilot Knob Road, Suite 117  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1120  
(651) 681-8566 [iaisecty@theiai.org](mailto:iaisecty@theiai.org)  
\$60.00 yearly membership



First Class Mail

Return Service Requested



S.C.A.F.O.  
2020 West Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90057-2404

*In This Issue*

- pg.
- 1 Small Police Department Forensics and DNA
  - 7 Missing Prints Could Affect Case
  - 8 Believe It or Not
  - 9 Certification Programs
  - 9 Recommended Study Areas
  - 10 Certification Program for Fingerprint Examiners
  - 12 Certification Program for Evidence Print Examiners
  - 14 President's Message
  - 15 October Meeting Minutes

---  
SCAFO Members  
get "yourname@scafo.org".  
See instructions on the  
website's email page.

*-- Upcoming Events/Schools/Seminars--*

- December 6, 2003 *S.C.A.F.O. Meeting*  
Ed Palma  
San Diego Police Department
- February 5, 2004 *S.C.A.F.O. Meeting*  
Lisa DiMeo  
Arcana Forensic Services
- February 16 - 21, 2004 A.A.F.S. Annual Meeting  
Dallas, TX
- April 3, 2004 *S.C.A.F.O. Meeting Past Presidents' Night*  
George Durgin  
USPHS
- May 10 - 13, 2004 C.S.D.I.A.I. 88th Annual Conference  
Sacramento, CA
- August 7 - 13, 2004 International Association for Identification  
St. Louis, MO

*Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers*  
*An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937*