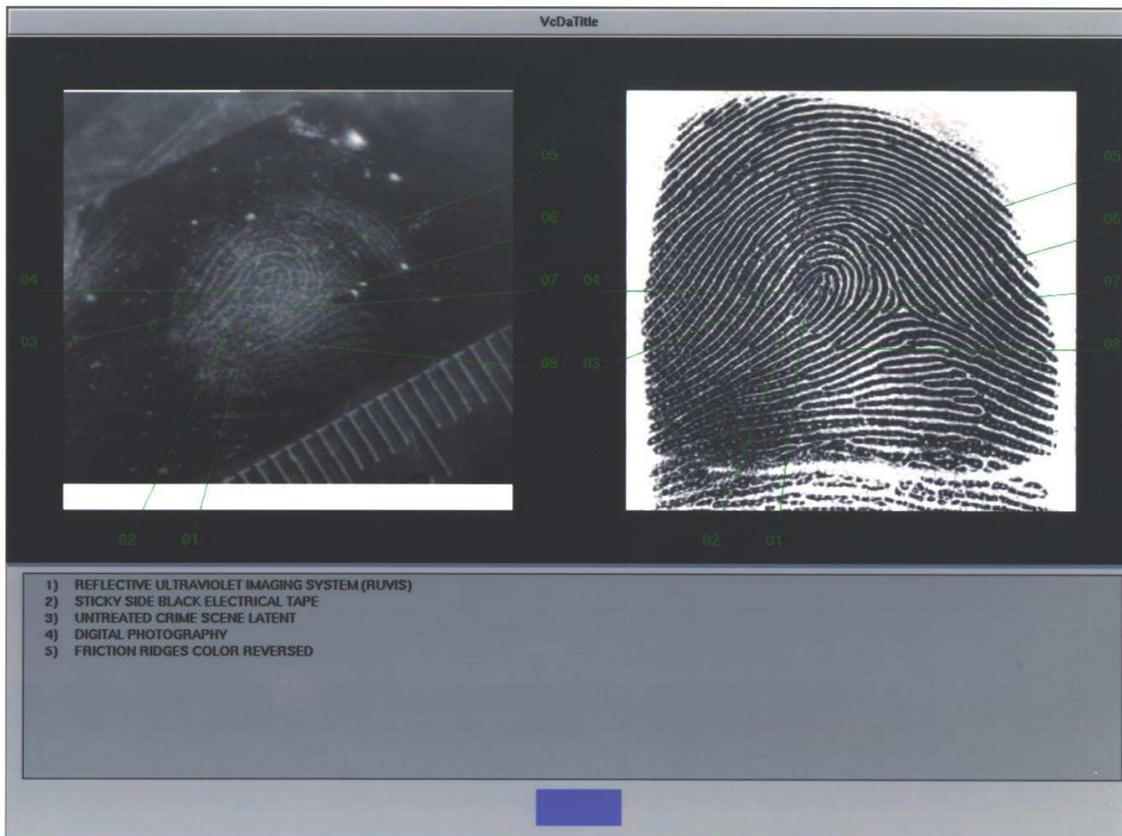


# NEWSLETTER

## NEBRASKA CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION

FALL 2006



## ***LETTER FROM THE EDITOR***

Dear Members,

I hope each of you experienced an enjoyable and productive summer. It always amazes me how quickly that season can pass. In fact, I was quite surprised to feel cold upon walking outside the other day. As a scientist I find these natural transitions interesting and exciting because much can be learned from the succession of one component of nature by another. Indeed, I think 'transition' acts as an appropriate theme for this issue of the Newsletter.

Several transitions become obvious when comparing this Newsletter to the Summer issue. The current issue contains some exciting new sections, including 'In Service Research' where we get exposure to developments that are conducted by practicing professionals. In this issue we are treated to an article by Sgt. Jim Davidsaver of Lincoln Police Department. Also, an 'Education Update' now serves to provide progress reports on forensic science education and research being conducted at Nebraska Universities and

Colleges. In addition, we have included a 'Spotlight on Student Research'. We are fortunate to be associated with several very bright students and have an opportunity to share the contributions that they are making to forensic science. These new sections are all exciting avenues for us to experience different aspects of this profession.

I think these additions make the NEIAI Newsletter exciting and relevant on a global scale. This is not a mere exaggeration, as the NEIAI website regularly receives hits from around the world. I think this is a testament to the expertise and vision that exists in our Chapter. In fact, one could argue that a critical ingredient for success in this field is having the ability to continually evolve with changes while maintaining a firm grasp on the fundamentals. It is with this in mind that we construct these Newsletters. So please keep an eye out for transitions in your life, education and work. You never know what you might learn from them.

-David Carter, Editor

## ***IN SERVICE NEWS***

### ***Crime Scene Latent Visualized with RUVIS***

Crime Laboratory Technician Diana Hoffman responded to a burglary scene and found black electrical tape affixed to the window at the point of entry. Apparently the burglar taped the window before breaking the glass to avoid injury. The black electrical tape was carefully collected from the window. Upon

returning to the laboratory, the recovered tape was examined with Reflected Ultra-Violet Imaging System (RUVIS) Scene Scope. One latent print was visualized with RUVIS and was photographed using a digital camera (**see Newsletter cover page**). A photograph of the RUVIS latent was canned and entered into Nebraska AFIS. Diana was able to identify the latent to the number one candidate in the search results. The

“sticky finger” burglar was arrested and received a six year jail sentence for his crime.

The RUVIS imager uses intensified UV reflectance to view fingerprints instead of fluorescence as in forensic light sources. The system can detect fingerprints on most non-porous surfaces prior to any treatment.

### ***Congratulations!!!***

Since the last congratulations were published in the Newsletter (see the Jan/Feb 2004 issue), Omaha Police Department has had four new IAI certifications:

CST	James Brady	04/2004
CST	Angela Harder	09/2005
CSI <sup>1</sup>	Amanda Miller	02/2006
CSI	Karen Foreman	08/2006

The Douglas County Sheriff's CSI Division also has five new certified CSI's, all within the months of August and September 2006. Certification is now mandatory at DCSO:

CSI	Bill Kaufhold
CSI	Dave Sobotka
CSI	CL Retelsdorf
CSI	Christine Gabig
CSI	Josh Connelly

In addition, OPD's Patricia Osier has recertified as a CLPE. At Lincoln Police Department Bob Citta has recertified as a CLPE

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<sup>1</sup> Note: As of January 2006, Level I Crime Scene Certification changed from CST (Crime Scene Technician) to CSI (Crime Scene Investigator).

## ***IN SERVICE RESEARCH***

Sgt. Davidsaver has provided an excellent article, “Bullet Holes in Plastic-Composite Material”, for our education and interest. We truly appreciate your contribution. Please follow this **link** to the article.

## ***EDUCATION UPDATE***

### ***College of Saint Mary***

The Biology Department at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska is pleased to announce the offering of a new forensic science minor. The start date was made official this fall of 2006, with the first course being offered in the spring of 2007. The overall minor includes a required course in Survey or General Biology, Human Anatomy with a laboratory component, Introduction to Forensic Science with a laboratory component, Field Biology (which will cover outdoor crime scene situations), Advanced Forensic Science with a laboratory and research component, and Bioterrorism and Toxic Agents.

This minor is available for all College of Saint Mary students, especially suited for those with majors in Biology/Chemistry, Nursing, Law, and Psychology. College of Saint Mary is a private Catholic institution dedicated to the education of women in an environment that calls forth potential and fosters leadership. For more information please contact, Nicole A. Wall, 402-399-2692, or [nwall@csm.edu](mailto:nwall@csm.edu).

### ***Nebraska Wesleyan University***

Dr. Jody Meerdink resigned this summer as Director of the Forensic Science

Program. Dr. Melissa Connor succeeded her as Program Director. NWU was pleased to find two quality instructors that will continue the behavioral track courses, Sgt. Gary Plank (NSP) and Special Agent Scott McMillion (FBI-Omaha). NWU also welcomes another new instructor, Carole McMahon-Boies, Esq., teaching Criminal Law and the Law of Evidence. NWU was proud to graduate 36 MFS students in the '05-'06 academic year, bringing the total number of degrees it has granted to 112. Kudos to all the new MFS recipients! For more information on classes please contact Melissa Connor 402-465-2550, or [mconnor@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:mconnor@nebrwesleyan.edu).

NWU is also continuing its seminar program. Seminars yet to come this year include: Introduction to GIS in Forensics, Geographic Profiling in Forensics using GIS, Interviewing, Expert Witness Testimony, and Forensic Linguistics. Contact Denise Waller ([dwall@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:dwall@nebrwesleyan.edu)) for more information. Scott McMillion taught a successful seminar in "Crimes Involving Children" in September.

### ***Peru State College***

Peru State College offers CJUS 450, Criminalistics, as a course that involves a large amount of applied and practical exposure to forensic science through classroom lectures, laboratories, and applied experiences. Students study the practical, legal and scientific aspects of forensic science as applied within the criminal justice system. Laboratories that are conducted involve many practical applications of forensic science used in policing: fingerprinting, blood spatter analysis, tire mark/footprint

casting, drug detection through urinalysis and field test kits, glass breakage analysis, crime scene measurement, crime scene investigation, suspect interviewing, questioned document examination, crime scene photography and tool mark/ballistic impression evidence examination. The course culminates with students attending the NEIAI seminar each spring. For more information please contact Greg Galardi, 402-872-2397, or [GGalardi@oakmail.peru.edu](mailto:GGalardi@oakmail.peru.edu).

### ***University of Nebraska-Lincoln***

Beginning in the Summer of 2006, UN-L offers three courses in forensic science. A graduate level course "ENTO 896 Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation" is delivered via distance education and will be offered during the first 8-week Summer Session in 2007. In addition, two undergraduate courses are offered. ENTO 496 "Introduction to Forensic Science" and ENTO 496L "Introduction to Forensic Science Laboratory" are currently underway and will be offered again during Fall Semester 2007.

UN-L is also in the process of proposing an undergraduate major in forensic science. The anticipated start date is fall 2007, but this is still subject to approval. This major will contain two tracks: forensic biology and crime scene investigation. The Forensic Biology track will train students in laboratory-based analysis of biological evidence. Crime Scene Investigation track will train students in field-based techniques. For more information please contact David Carter, 402-472-8285, or [dcarter2@unl.edu](mailto:dcarter2@unl.edu).

## ***WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, ETC.***

### **November 2006**

**6-10** The Southwestern and Northwestern Association of Forensic Scientists Joint Conference—to be held in Colorado Springs, CO.

*Contact:* The Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists.  
[swafsweb@swafs.us](mailto:swafsweb@swafs.us), [www.swafs.us](http://www.swafs.us)

### **December 2006**

**3-8** Robert F. Borkenstein Course on Alcohol and Highway Safety: Testing, Research and Litigation—to be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.

*Contact:* Center for Law in Action, Indiana University,  
[www.indiana.edu/~lawactn](http://www.indiana.edu/~lawactn) Phone: (812) 855-1783

### **January 2007**

**22-26** Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course—Sponsored by the Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Division of Forensic Pathology, to be held in St. Louis, MO.

*Contact:* Mary Fran Ernst or Julie Howe, St. Louis University, School of Medicine, 1402 S. Grand Blvd; R152, St. Louis, MO 63104. (314)-977-5970. [mldi@slu.edu](mailto:mldi@slu.edu), <http://medschool.slu.edu/mldi/>

### **February 2007**

**12-16** Detection, Recovery and Examination of Footwear Impression Evidence Course—to be held at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in Centennial, CO.

*Contact:* William J. Bodziak, [wbodziak@earthlink.net](mailto:wbodziak@earthlink.net) Phone: (386) 447-3568.

**19-24** 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences—to be held in San Antonio, TX.

*Contact:* Nancy Jackson, [njackson@aafs.org](mailto:njackson@aafs.org) Phone: (719) 636-1100

## ***SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT RESEARCH***

This new section aims to provide exposure to some of Nebraska's best and brightest forensic science students. This issue contains two articles, both from students in the Nebraska Wesleyan Forensic Science Program.

Angela Bell, Ridge Count Differences Between Genders. Please follow this **link**.

Brenda M. A. Rohren, Estimation of Stature from Foot and Shoe Length: applications in forensic science. Please follow this **link**.

## ***PHOTOGRAPHS FROM 2006 CONFERENCE***

Please follow this **link** to see the photographs taken by Katherine McCaul (OPD) at the April 2006 Meeting of the NE-IAI. Please submit captions to David Carter [dcarter2@unl.edu](mailto:dcarter2@unl.edu) that you think best captures the photograph. Humorous submissions are always appreciated. The authors of the captions found to be the best will be awarded with a complete volume of Dr. Carter's published works. Insomnia will never be a concern for the winning authors.