

# NEIAI Newsletter

NEBRASKA DIVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION



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## NEIAI 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Recap!



THIS IS HOW WE ROLL

It was no small feat, but **together**, with social distancing (as much as possible), mask wearing, hygiene protocols, and a dedicated and hardworking Board, we pulled it off and were able to hold the 37th Annual NEIAI Educational Conference!! The 2021 NEIAI Conference was held on April 6-7, at Mahoney State Park in Ashland, Nebraska. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the NEIAI was the first division to hold an in person conference; and we nailed it!! One hundred sixty-eight attendees ranging from forensic scientists, crime scene responders, evidence technicians, law enforcement officers, AFIS operators, attorneys, students and educators were in attendance. This years conference encompassed a broad range of lectures and workshop topics and we were honored and grateful to be able to bring in Dr. Lawrence Simon, who is recognized within the law enforcement community as one of the most knowledgeable, skilled and respected instructors in the area of sexual deviance and cold case serial homicides, to present at the conference. The following lectures and workshops were provided during the two-day conference:

- DMORT (lecture presented by Kevin Willis)
- Underwater Crime Scenes (lecture presented by Nick Gangwish & Joseph Dekker – Omaha Fire Department)
- Human Trafficking (lecture presented by Tony Kavan – NSP)
- Detecting More Evidence by Utilizing Full Spectrum Lighting (lecture presented by Jason Cole – Foster & Freeman, USA)
- Sexual Deviant Killers (lecture presented by Dr. Lawrence Simon)
- Sexual Deviance into the New Millennium (lecture presented by Dr. Lawrence Simon)
- Sydney Loofe Investigation (case study presented by Matt Franken & Robert Hurley – LPD; Mike Maseth & Eli McBride - FBI)
- Search and Recovery of Forensic Anthropological Scenes and Evidence Handling Procedures (workshop presented by Dr. William Belcher – UNL)
- Latent Processing – Lifting Prints from Difficult Surfaces (workshop presented by Jason Cole – Foster & Freeman, USA)



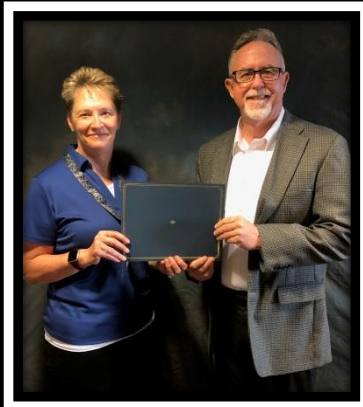
Attendees listening to Dr. Simon's lecture



Newsletter Editor Sarah Zarnick presenting a speaker certificate to Dr. Simon



President Robert Hurley presenting speaker certificates to Nick Gangwish (left) and Joseph Dekker (right)



Board Member LaVone Tienken presenting speaker certificates to Kevin Willis (left) and Dr. Belcher (right)



Board Member Chris Weber presenting a speaker certificate to Tony Kavan



Matt Franken, Eli McBride, Mike Maseth & Robert Hurley – Presenters of the Sydney Loofe Investigation case study



Vice President Launa Groves presenting a speaker certificate to Jason Cole



Attendees preparing for the Forensic Anthropological Scenes workshop presented by Dr. Belcher

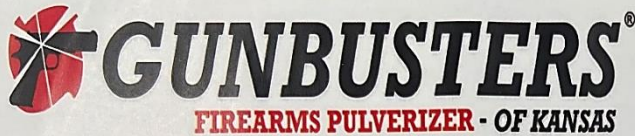


Attendees braving the weather to order from the food truck



President's Reception sponsored by IDEMIA  
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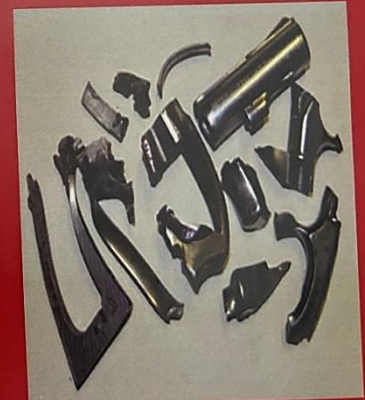
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# Conference Highlights

During the NEIAI Business Meeting held on April 7, 2021, three board members were re-elected and the Harold Moon Scholarship recipient was named. There was also discussion and membership approval to revise some wording of the bylaws and change the **Secretary/Treasurer** position from a rotating elected position to a permanent appointment. More information regarding the wording revisions to the bylaws will be posted on our website [www.neiai.org](http://www.neiai.org).

## **Board of Directors election results:**

- Launa Groves (LPD) was re-elected to the post of Vice President
- Chris Weber (LPD) was re-elected to the post of Board Member at Large
- Sarah Zarnick (NSP) was re-elected to the post of Newsletter Editor

## **2021 Harold Moon Scholarship recipient:**

**Cheri Ivers** (NSP) was awarded the \$500 Harold Moon Scholarship to attend the 2021 IAI Conference in Nashville, TN on August 1-7, 2021. **Congratulations Cheri!** We look forward to hearing about the conference and your experience!



Also during the NEIAI business meeting, it was brought to the membership's attention that the 2022 IAI Conference will be held in Omaha, NE at the Century Link Convention Center on July 31- August 6, 2022. Since this conference will be in our backyard, we as the local IAI division will have an important role in making this conference a success. NEIAI will be looking for volunteers, willing to help out with different aspects of the conference. More information on volunteering opportunities will be sent out as it becomes available. For more information on the IAI organization, membership, and conference, please visit their website [www.theiai.org](http://www.theiai.org)

## **VENUE CHANGE**

In other important news, the NEIAI BOD is also looking into pursuing a venue change for our annual conference. Due to our increasing attendance size, the cost and issues encountered with hosting the conference at Mahoney State Park, and in an effort to provide the best training possible for our membership, we have decided that it is necessary to look into other venues/locations. We have tentatively located a venue in Lincoln, NE for the 2022 conference, and will be providing more details soon!!

# *The other guys are just all wet.*

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# 2021 NELA Photo Contest Winners



**Forensics/Crime Scene/Law  
Enforcement**

*"Facing the Unknown"*

Rachel Dellovechio

Omaha Police Department



**People**

*"The Miracle of Birth"*

Rebecca Keller

Lincoln Police Department



**Nature/Scenery**

*Burano, Italy*

LaVone Tinken

Federal Bureau of Investigations



**Animals**

*"Drey Hay"*

Kristen Smith

Omaha Police Department

*The Board of Directors would like to send out a special thank you to all of our vendors!  
Our conferences would not be possible without your continued support, donations and  
sponsorship. Thank you for supporting us!!*



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## NEIAI Board of Directors



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The Nebraska Division of the International Association for Identification (NEIAI) is a non-profit organization for those professionals engaged in forensic identification, investigation, and scientific examination of physical evidence. In support of this goal, and in collaboration with our parent organization the International Association for Identification (IAI) the NEIAI has these goals:

- To associate persons who are actively engaged in the profession of forensic identification, forensic investigation, forensic education, and the scientific examination of physical evidence in an organized body within the State of Nebraska, so that the profession in all of its branches may be standardized and effectively and scientifically practiced.
- To encourage the advancement and improvement of the science of forensic identification and crime detection.
- To keep its members apprised of the latest techniques and discoveries in crime scene detection.
- To encourage research work in scientific crime detection.
- To raise the standards of all personnel engaged in scientific crime detection.
- To employ the collective wisdom of the profession to advance the scientific techniques of forensic identification and crime detection.
- To provide training, education and publication in forensic science disciplines represented by the Nebraska Division of the International Association for Identification.
- To work closely with the International Association for Identification, in furthering the profession of identification generally.

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