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ASTEE

American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners

July 2010

ASTEE at a Glance

Things have been progressing very well for the first year and we have a good deal of news to report. Our membership is steadily growing and our first dues campaign has placed some money into our account. Hopefully we will be able to use those funds to help further the cause of the field of trace evidence analysis.

By far, the biggest news to report is the publication of the first issue of the **Journal of the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners** or **JASTEE** for short. See pages 2 and 3 for a sneak peak and some additional details.

We have been receiving a great deal of support from several sponsors. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank **Bruker** once again for their generous donation to help get us started and **CRAIC Technologies** for their generous sponsorship of our group dinner at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting this past February in Seattle.

Several members have inquired as to how they can **get involved**. We need a great deal of help and are currently looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

Membership Committee: Tasks include reviewing membership applications and coming to a consensus for acceptance of potential members.

Education Committee: Tasks include searching for and implementing trace related workshops at various sites across the United States.

(Cont'd. on Page 2)

ASTEER at a Glance *(Cont. From Page 1)*

Webmaster: Tasks include updating and maintaining website. A major project that we would like to accomplish in this area is the population of the Trace 101 section of the site.

Newsletter Editor: Tasks include the coordination of content for and the distribution of the society's newsletter.

Regional Representatives: Tasks include dissemination of ASTEE related information to forensic professionals in the various regions of the United States, regional membership recruitment, and regional scouting for potential workshops and other educational opportunities. We are looking for individuals to represent the following regions: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Midwest, Northwest, California, and Southwest. Along these lines, we would also like to include one or more international liaisons and an academic liaison.

Awards: Tasks include the development and disbursement of awards including student scholarships.

Journal Editorial Board: At the direction of the Journal Editor, these individuals will serve as peer reviewers for the various articles that are submitted.

If anyone is interested in any of these positions, please contact Vinny Desiderio at:

vfornsic@yahoo.com

The Journal Has Arrived

Our journal Editor **Chris Bommarito** has done an outstanding job of getting the first issue together and distributed. It looks amazing and the articles are excellent. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Chris for taking on this monumental task, this first group of authors for their contributions, and all of the peer reviewers who contributed their time.

We have heard from numerous members over the past few months who have mentioned that they have work that they would like to publish. There is no time like the present to get your information out to the perfect target group. If you would like to submit a manuscript, you can send it to Chris at:

bommaric@michigan.gov .

For the time being, the first issue of the journal has been posted on the website for public viewing. It is our plan to place future issues in a secure area that would be accessible by members only.

JOURNAL OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINERS



www.asteeTrace.org

Volume Number One, Issue Number One
June 2010

Editors Comment

By Christopher Bommarito,
ASTEE Journal Editor

The mission of ASTEE is to encourage the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information within the field of trace evidence through improved contacts between persons and laboratories engaged in trace evidence analysis. To this end, we have established a peer reviewed journal dedicated to the analysis of trace evidence.

The idea of the journal is to inspire and provide an outlet for the rapid dissemination of knowledge that we generate through the course of our work. Trace evidence is unique among the forensic disciplines as we encounter the unusual on a daily basis. Trace examiners often must find innovative ways to examine materials or perform research to assess the variability of a material in order to determine the significance of an association. Many of us have these small scale studies in our heads or may present the material at a scientific meeting but never get around to publishing the information in a peer reviewed journal. We hope to change that in the future by providing an outlet for your knowledge and experience that can be easily accessed by other trace evidence examiners.

To fulfill this goal we will rely on ASTEE members to submit articles and research for the journal. The journal will be distributed as often as we receive enough articles to publish, with the goal of quarterly distribution. We hope to be able to keep the time between submission and publication under three months. For context, from what I

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understand, the time from submission to publication for other prominent forensic journals is around two years. If you have some research or case studies that you feel would benefit others in the trace community, please consider submitting your work to the Journal of ASTEE. Please utilize the same submission format as is in place for the Journal of Forensic Sciences.

We have also established a working arrangement with *The Microscope*, the journal established and edited by the McCrone Institute. Under this arrangement, articles published in *JASTEE* may be selected for publication in *The Microscope*, and vice versa.

Lastly, I would like to thank our initial contributing authors for taking a chance on a new and unknown journal.

** Originally published in *The Microscope* 57:2, 2009, copyright (c) McCrone Research Institute.

Membership

We currently have 210 members and are looking to increase this number as we go. If anybody knows of anyone who would like to join, we have included a membership application on page 9. Additional membership information can be found on the website.

Most of our members have paid their 2010 dues, but there are a few stragglers. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to pay, please contact our Treasurer **Sandy Parent** at **Sandy.Parent@txdps.state.tx.us** ASAP. We do have a PayPal option available for payments.

Training and Events

AAFS 2010

ASTEE had a strong showing at the 2010 meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Those of us that attended were able to meet up and talk trace one evening for a over dinner at Assaggio Seattle (see photos on page 5). This dinner was graciously sponsored by **Paul Martin** and **CRAIC Technologies**. We will be looking to continue this tradition at upcoming AAFS meetings with our sights set on a formal meeting and reception during next years event in Chicago.

ABA Prescriptions for Criminal Justice Forensics

Several of our members had the opportunity to attend the American Bar Association's "Prescriptions for Criminal Justice Forensics" seminar on June 4th in New York City.

The session titled "Cutting Edge Issues: Fingerprints, Handwriting, Trace Evidence, Impression Evidence, and Ballistics" promised to deliver some interesting discussion on the validity of the mentioned topics. Considering the title of the session it is interesting to note that not one practitioner from any of these fields was represented on the panel which consequently consisted entirely of legal professionals.

The session did not live up to any of the perceived hype as pretty much none of the listed topics were actually discussed. It was however great to see that many forensic professionals are taking these kinds of challenges seriously as there were many scientists in attendance representing several different disciplines.

One thing that did come out of this seminar is the need for us to do a better job of educating those around us as to what it is that we do, how we do it, and the significance of the results that are obtained. It was clear that many of the legal attendees were unaware of how we go about performing our work and arriving at conclusions.

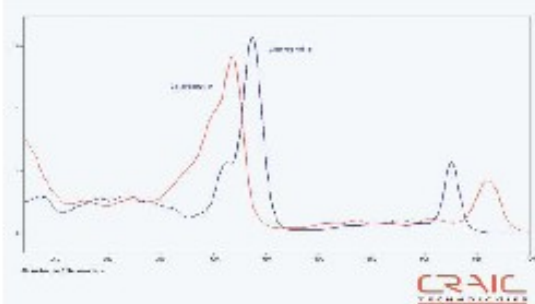
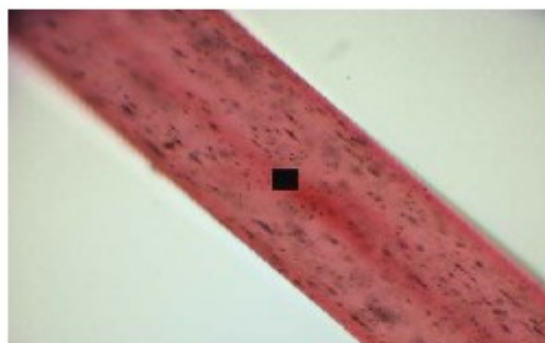
Future Events

If anyone knows of any events that our members should be aware of or would like to report on an event that they attended we would certainly welcome any contributions.

Seattle February 2010



Photo's Courtesy of Peter Diaczuk



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think forward

Spectroscopy

Sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team Training Conference

**May 25 – 27, 2011
Austin, Texas**

The primary focus of the 2011 SART Training Conference will once again expand the capacity of SARTs to promote health and healing of sexual assault victims, hold sex offenders accountable for their crimes, and realize the hope of preventing further sexual violence in their communities.

The training in 2011 will add an additional concentration on responding to victims of sexual assault in Indian Country. This focus will serve to help practitioners increase their collective capacity to respond to sexual assault, provide them a forum to consider how to best facilitate healing and justice for Native victims, and ultimately meet the goal of developing sustainable and high-functioning SANE/SART programs in Tribal communities. It is essential to the success of Tribal SARTs that all disciplines involved receive adequate training and technical assistance.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

OVC has made numerous scholarships (up to \$1500.00 per person) available to encourage attendance at the conference:

- 25 SART team scholarships (100 individuals)
- 25 Tribal / Native Alaskan team scholarships (125 individuals)
- 50 Law Enforcement individual scholarships

For conference updates and scholarship applications, log on to:



www.sane-sart.com



Sponsor: SANE-SART Resource Service, Minneapolis, MN (612-873-2434)
with funding awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs,
U.S. Department of Justice, Grant No. 2009-VF-GX-K011

**SAVE THE
DATE**



**Registration
opens
November
2010**

ASTEE Membership Application

DIRECTIONS:

1. All information supplied on this form WILL be verified.
2. Type or print in ink and check your preferred mailing address.
3. Attach a copy of your curriculum vitae/resume and lists of applicable forensic coursework to this form.
4. Have two (2) current ASTEE members propose and second your membership application.
5. Enclose a check or money order (made payable to ASTEE), for the non-refundable \$5.00 application fee.
6. Mail application and fee to the Treasurer (see address below).

Name:

Agency:

Title:

Preferred Mailing Address: ☐ HOME ☐ BUSINESS

Business Phone: () EXT. E-mail Address:

Education and Experience: (attach Curriculum Vitae/resume and a list of applicable forensic course work)

Please select any disciplines in which you actively conduct analysis/examinations.

Administration	Forensic Education	Impression Evidence
Arson	General Unknowns	Ink
Explosives	Glass	Paints & Polymers
Fibers	Gunshot Residue	Physical Matches
Fire Debris	Hairs	Soil

My signature acknowledges that all information on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant Date

PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP:

ASTEE Member #1 Signature: Printed Name: Daytime phone: ()	ASTEE Member #2 Signature: Printed Name: Daytime phone: ()
ASTEE Treasurer Amy Michaud ATF National Laboratory 6000 Ammendale Road Ammendale, MD 20705	For ASTEE Use Only Date application & fee received: Check No. ASTEE Membership No.



Treasurer/Dues Remittance

ASTEE

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