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May 2015

ASTEE

Message from the President

Dear Fellow ASTEE Members,

As spring (finally) arrives, we are about a third of the way through what has been an exceptionally busy year for ASTEE. There have been many developments over the past few months, and an ambitious slate is planned for the future. I'm so excited to have seen such enthusiastic responses from our membership on our new initiatives. I hope that others will see these endeavors and be inspired to get involved and continue to help ASTEE grow into the future.

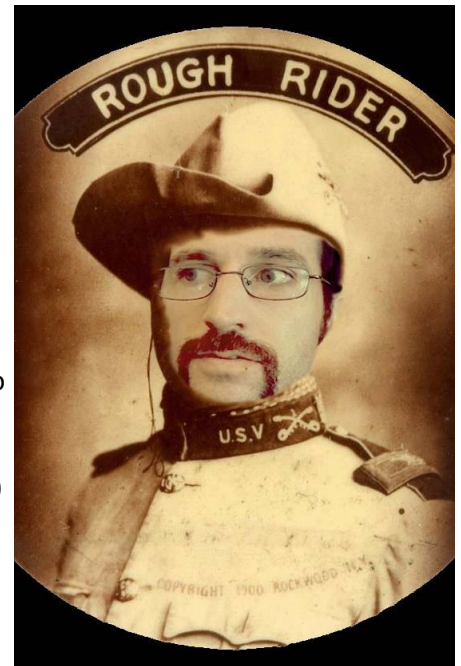
ASTEE hosted a fantastic social event in Orlando during the American Academy meeting, with over 50 members attending. Past-Presidents Vinny Desiderio, Chris Bommarito, and Chris Taylor were all in attendance. The event brought in new members from the ranks of students all the way up to venerated pillars of the Trace Evidence Community. Those of you who could not make it were sorely missed, but you can at least see some photos from the event on Page 16.

The drive to expand the services provided by ASTEE has really taken off. We have instituted four new committees, each aimed at meeting one of our objectives stated in the bylaws:

The Research committee is dedicated to fostering partnerships between practicing examiners and research institutions. The committee is Chaired by Past-President Andy Bowen, and staffed by Barb Fallon, Dana Greely, and Kate Schilling. If you have research needs, or are looking for subject matter experts to partner with in your research endeavors, please reach out to them.

A Publications committee has been formed to consolidate the newsletter and JASTEE under one Chair, Director Robyn Weimer, which will be supported by Director Larry Wayne, Tamara Hodgins, Kiersten LaPorte, Katie Villarreal, and Micheal Villarreal. This move will streamline the production of these products and will help to share the burdens of putting together our published materials.

The Events committee is devoted to expanding ASTEE's footprint at professional meetings. Allyson Karr is the committee Chair, and she'll be working to plan upcoming ASTEE networking functions, as well as to keep membership informed of critical dates regarding upcoming events. She is already hard at work planning an event for our next joint meeting!



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The Mentorship committee will focus on developing a mentoring network within ASTEE. The committee chair is Kim Mooney, and she is supported by Asriel Gorski, Chantelle Taylor, Chesterene Cwiklik, Chris Chen, David Flohr, Elizabeth Farnham, and Lara Mosenthin. They are in the process of drafting plans to outline the structure of mentorship within ASTEE to ensure that mentors and mentees receive the maximum benefit from these relationships.

I want to thank all of the members who've stepped up to contribute to these new initiatives. We've also had several members added to our existing committees, and I want to commend them for contributing. You all set a great example, and are the real reason that ASTEE has been successful as a young organization. I encourage the rest of our membership to follow their lead and volunteer for a committee that you're interested in.

News regarding the planned Trace Evidence Symposium for 2015 has been slow coming in, and no firm confirmation has come through as of yet. In light of this, and to ensure that ASTEE continues to provide ample opportunities for professional development and networking, I'm pleased to announce that ASTEE will be partnering with the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists to host a joint meeting in Atlanta, Georgia from October 12th through the 16th. Several trace evidence workshops are being planned, as well as some manufacturing tours to provide further education on the production of materials commonly encountered in trace evidence casework. It's going to be a great meeting, and a wonderful chance for professional development. Look for more information to come in soon, as well as opportunities to defer costs by volunteering and through travel stipends. For more details, visit the SAFS website at <http://www.southernforensic.org/>.

And in case you had any doubts as to the work ethic and ambition of your Board of Directors, I'm also pleased to announce that ASTEE is working to partner with not one, but two regional organizations in 2016. ASTEE has agreed to a partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS) for a meeting in May of 2016 and is in the process of finalizing an agreement with the California Association of Criminalists for a meeting in the fall of 2016. These meetings will provide opportunities for ASTEE members to get exposed to the practices, training, and ideas of practitioners in different regions of the country, and for ASTEE to draw increased membership by having a visible presence in new locales. We have invitations for more partnerships in 2017, which is a testament to the reputation that ASTEE is developing as a professional organization. That reputation stems from the contributions of each and every one of you, so please continue to attend these meetings and bolster our status as a valuable professional partner.

It's an exciting time of growth for ASTEE! Thank you all for your involvement, expertise, contributions, and support to our organization and to our discipline. I'll close with another ASTEE presidential portrait, courtesy of your Communications Chair Mat Wyatt. Have a wonderful spring!



Jeffrey Dake
ASTEE President

JASTEE Update

We are very excited to add the capability of searching all JASTEE issues. An excel spreadsheet will soon be, or has recently been, added to the ASTEE website in which the "Find" feature can be used to search through article author names, titles, and keywords. This is a temporary solution until JASTEE is included in a large searchable database. There has also been a recent addition of volunteers to assist in producing the journal. We welcome Tamara

Hodgins and Kiersten LaPorte to the journal's editing team. A larger team means higher capacity, so flood the gates with submissions! If time is what you need, we understand and remind you that JASTEE continuously accepts submissions throughout the year. Do you have a great research idea but need more resources? If funding is what you seek, see page 19 for information on this year's ASTEE Research Grant which can provide monetary support for materials. Questions and journal submissions should be sent to robyn.weimer@dfs.virginia.gov.

A statement on the current FBI hair examination situation.

Recently there has been a great deal of media attention regarding the microscopical analysis of hair evidence by FBI hair examiners prior to 1999, and an internal investigation into the cases where hair analysis was conducted, which the FBI itself has been pursuing. The FBI has published press releases on their website detailing preliminary findings as well as the continuing steps in the review process; you can read more at www.fbi.gov. Key points from the initial press release by the FBI are that the scientific practice of microscopical hair comparison is scientifically valid, and the underlying science is not the subject of the review (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/lab/scientific-analysis/fbi-doj-microscopic-hair-comparison-analysis-review>). Microscopical analysis of hair is supported through validated practices and peer reviewed studies. The addition of mitochondrial DNA and/or nuclear DNA analysis has been shown to increase the specificity of hair comparisons in general, and DNA analysis acts as a complementary technique to microscopic hair comparisons.

At this time we don't have all of the details; though it is clear that the FBI and DOJ felt that a comprehensive examination of past reporting practices and testimony was necessary. When the final outcome of the investigation is completed, ASTEE will be ready to employ our resources and network to assist in steps moving forward. ASTEE is dedicated to furthering the analyses of trace evidence, and providing education to the community on the capabilities of all trace evidence sciences. If further research, development, or evaluation of the science is needed, ASTEE members will be involved in driving that work to a high level of excellence. If education is needed on the foundations of the science so the capabilities and limitations of hair analyses are better understood, either in the forensic community or to the general public, ASTEE will ensure our educational resources are available.

For now, we encourage our members to remain abreast of developments, and in the spirit of rigorous science, wait for all of the facts before reaching conclusions. Support lively and open discussions regarding improvements, while focusing on quality science and ethical responsibilities. Constant improvements and developments in all forensic disciplines should encourage us all to continually review our interpretations and practices. As an organization, we will do our best to pass on information as it becomes available.

ASTEE Board of Directors

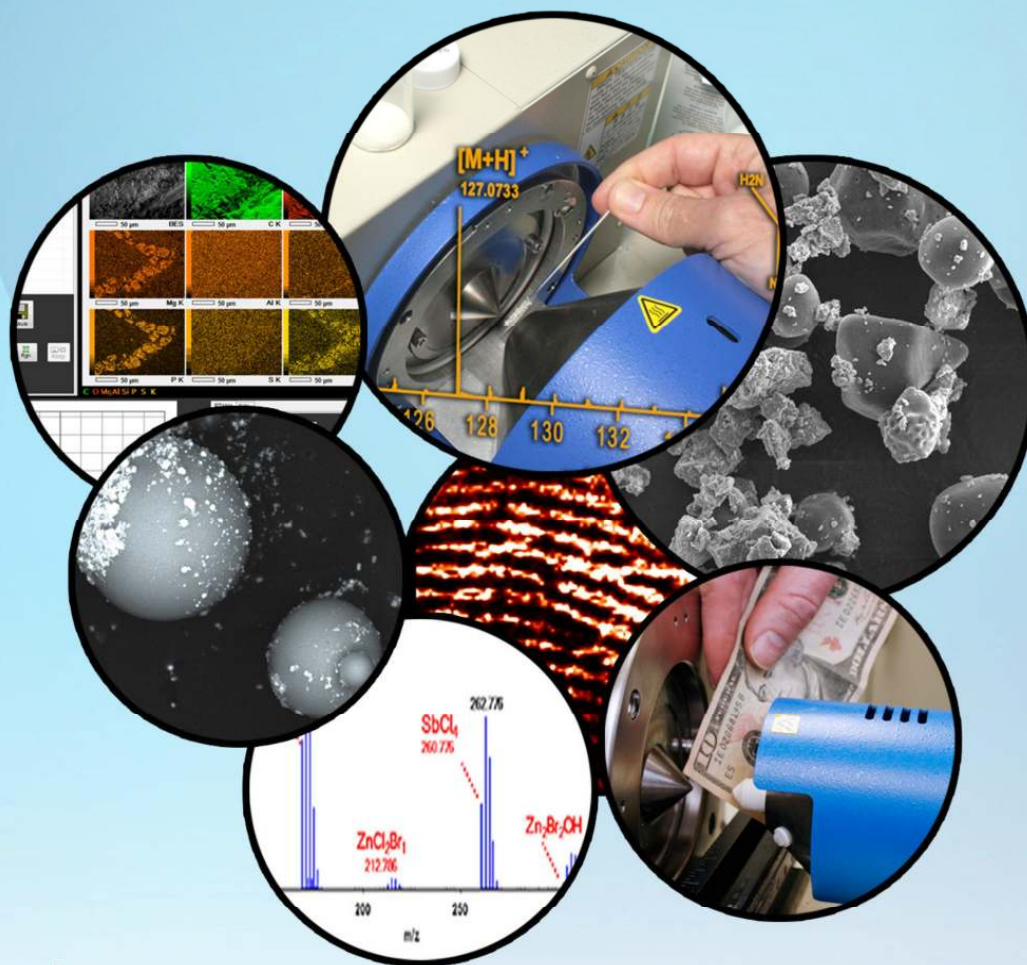
ASTEE Committee Reports

This issue brings us updates from several committees, including two newly-formed ones. That we're able to form two new committees, much less staff them so well, speaks highly of the people in our organization.

Mentorship Committee

A huge "Thank You" to everyone that has expressed interest in the newly-formed Mentor Committee. We are finally getting ready to start officially rolling on some of the tasks we have set for ourselves, and I wanted to give a little tip of the cap to the members who have volunteered to form the body of the committee and help build this idea into reality.

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What can we help you achieve?



The members of the Mentorship Committee are as follows:

Azriel Gorski
Chantelle Taylor
Chesterene Cwiklik
Chris Chen
David Flohr
Elizabeth Farnham
Lara Mosenthin

We may form the initial committee, but we welcome input from everyone, so please feel free to send a note to me (kim.e.mooney.civ@mail.mil) or just grab us at a meeting and have a chat. This committee is working to better ASTEE as an organization by providing a service, so we encourage feedback from the organization to help steer our path.

On a similar note, we have already gotten a number of volunteers to mentor. (I'm so excited to see this!) Please rest assured that all requests are being recorded, and as soon as we are ready to start the process, we'll put out another general call for participants.

Thank you again to everyone who has assisted so far; I hope to have some updates on the progress of the committee to share with everyone fairly soon!

Kim Mooney

Research Committee

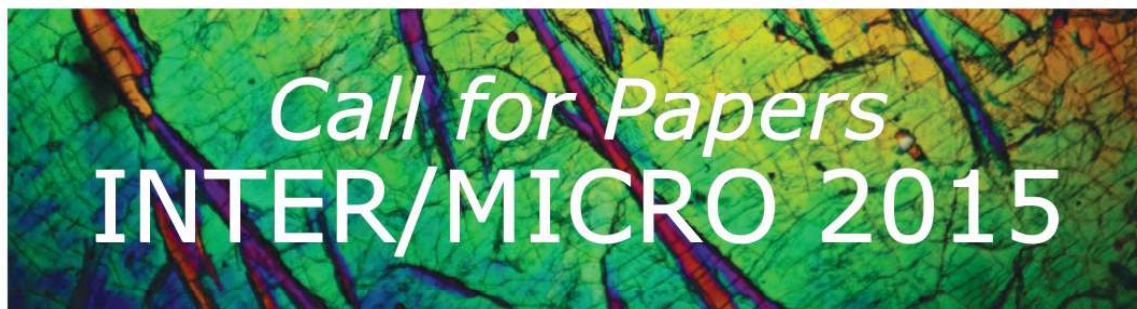
It is my pleasure to introduce the new Research Committee, the brainchild of ASTEE President Jeff Dake. This new committee is composed of ASTEE members Andrew Bowen, Barb Fallon, Dana Greely, and Kate Schilling. As a new committee, we still have some work to do in order to clearly define all of our priorities and activities. One of our early areas of focus, however, will be attempting to bring trace evidence practitioners together with those individuals engaged in research related to trace evidence. Our hope is that we can influence the research being conducted in our field in a manner that produces results with practical value for those of us engaged in forensic casework. We would welcome suggestions (send to: AMBowen@uspis.gov) from ASTEE members who have ideas about how ASTEE can make contributions to future research in trace evidence.

Andrew M. Bowen

Membership Committee

I am happy to announce that ASTEE is closing in on 400 members. The last quarter was the strongest in the last few years, with 13 new members voted in by the Board of Directors. I know it may seem like a stretch, but I have a goal of bringing the membership to 500 by the end of the year. I would like to see as many members as possible actively recruiting their colleagues, their mentors and their old professors to become the newest professionals to join our organization.

Larry Wayne



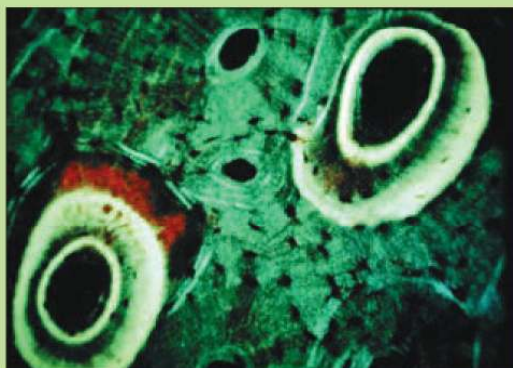
June 8–12 at McCrone Research Institute in Chicago

McCrone Research Institute cordially invites you to participate in the 67th annual Inter/Micro conference by giving a presentation of your research paper.

We are accepting presentation abstracts in techniques and instrumentation, environmental and industrial microscopy, and chemical and forensic microscopy. Presentations will be held at McCrone Research Institute on June 8–10.

The deadline to submit titles and abstracts is April 13, 2015.

Speakers will receive a \$50 conference registration discount!



Workshop: Introduction to Basic Human Body Tissues

Taught by Lynne D. Herold, Ph.D.

This two-day workshop will introduce participants to the seven basic human body tissues: nerve, muscle, bone, epithelium, connective tissue, blood and cartilage. Lectures, group viewing of prepared and unprepared body tissues (both macroscopically and microscopically), and individual hands-on laboratory exercises will provide first-hand experience in simple preparations and observations of body tissue. The workshop will be held on June 11–12.

SMSI Awards Dinner

Join Inter/Micro and the State Microscopical Society of Illinois (SMSI) as they honor Thomas A. Kubic with the 2015 Émile M. Chamot Award. Kubic is associate professor and doctoral program director of forensic science in the criminal justice program at John Jay College, CUNY.



The awards dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. on June 10 at Café Bionda (1924 S. State Street, Chicago) and will also feature a live auction of microscopy-related equipment and memorabilia. Cost is \$65.

Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities

Inter/Micro attracts influential scientists who look to exhibitors as sources of information on equipment, techniques and supplies.

There are several events available for sponsorship at Inter/Micro 2015, including a wine and cheese reception, social hours and coffee breaks. An option for an exhibitor booth is also available.

Complete exhibition information is available in the Inter/Micro 2015 section at www.mcri.org or by contacting Julie Antia at intermicro@mcri.org.

For abstract guidelines, registration and hotel information, visit the Inter/Micro 2015 section at www.mcri.org, or contact us at 312-842-7100 or intermicro@mcri.org.

ASTEE Announces partnership with SAFS for 2015 Meeting

ASTEE members,

It is my great pleasure to announce that ASTEE has entered an agreement to partner with the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS) for a Joint meeting in 2015. The 2014 meeting with MAFS was such a success that we have decided to try and partner with a regional organization each year. Hopefully this will allow ASTEE members from different regions more opportunities to attend Trace Evidence-focused meetings and help ASTEE members share their expertise with new communities. The meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from October 12-16, at the Georgian Terrace Hotel. ASTEE members will get a membership discount for registration, group rates for rooms, and there will be travel award opportunities from your awards committee. There will be a meeting gala at the Fabulous Fox Theatre, and, of course, ASTEE will be hosting a reception during the meeting. The schedule of workshops, talks, and posters has yet to be set, so this is your chance to have an impact on what materials will be presented at the meeting.

Current ideas for Trace-focused workshops include: MSP interpretation, instrumental applications (GC-MS, LC-MS, DART-MS, Raman, FTIR), courtroom testimony, QA/QC, techniques in photomicrography, fire debris analysis, low explosives analysis, lubricant analysis, bias in casework, and case management strategies. Additionally, several manufacturing tours are being planned and organized, including fiberglass, glass fabrication/modification, carpet fibers, paint, plastic bags, and 3SI (producers of bank and ATM security systems).

If any of these workshops are of interest to you, please let me know so we can use attendee interest to drive the workshops which will be held. Also, if there is a topic which you would specifically like to see (which would entice you to attend!), or a workshop you are interested in presenting, please send me that information at Jeffrey.h.dake.civ@mail.mil.

We'll be keeping you informed of deadlines and information as it arises, and you can also keep track at <http://www.southernforensic.org/index.asp>. This is a great opportunity to present research and interesting cases which you've worked, as well as to network with colleagues in a region that you may not be familiar with. I highly encourage ASTEE members to participate in this meeting and continue to build our reputation as excellent professional partners and the vanguard of trace evidence examinations. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments you may have.

Jeffrey Dake
President - ASTEE

Editor's note: Please remember to check your emails. A ballot has recently been sent out regarding interest in the joint meeting and what you would like to see as part of the meeting program.

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OSAC, what's new?

There are four Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) subcommittees most relevant to Trace Evidence: Materials (Trace), Fire Debris and Explosives, Gunshot Residue, and Geological Materials. The Materials (Trace) subcommittee is predominantly tasked with covering hairs, fibers, paint, glass, and tape, though others may be covered with time and resources permitting.

The first OSAC meeting was held this past January in Norman, Oklahoma. As a result, you may be wondering, what are OSAC members working on? This is an attempt to keep the trace evidence community current with OSAC activities.

In Norman, one major task was to review documents from the compiled Catalog of Standards and Guidelines. This catalog was "intended to contain any standard, guideline, best practice, protocol, or policy created in collaboration with a body of stakeholders that is applicable to forensic science" (2015, March 30. Retrieved from <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/standards-guidelines-catalog.cfm>). Examples of documents in the catalog include SWG documents, ASTM documents, and documents from the international community such as the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI). During this review, subcommittees could vote to move a document to the Registry, remove it from the Catalog, move to archive it as a resource, or choose to revise it. The OSAC Registry will include standards and guidelines approved first by the OSAC subcommittees and then by overarching committees including the Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis Scientific Area Committee (SAC) and the Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB). One important note, a standard or guideline must have successfully passed through a Standards Development Organization (SDO) to be considered for a vote by the SAC or FSSB for the Registry. As a result, each subcommittee met and discussed action plans and set priorities for how to move forward.

As priorities were identified within the subcommittees, task groups were formed to address them. The task groups include OSAC members, but can also include non-OSAC members referred to as affiliates. Affiliates must have submitted an application for OSAC membership, and can be drawn into a task group for their expertise and assistance in accomplishing goals. If you did not submit an OSAC application previously, the NIST website is still accepting applications and you are highly encouraged to apply so that you may be considered and called upon when/if needed. You can still be part of the process, even though you may not currently be an OSAC member.

The Materials (Trace) subcommittee had over 65 documents to vote on, and not all could be discussed due to time limitations. They voted to move four glass ASTM Standard Methods and four paint ASTM Standard Guidelines to the SAC to be considered for status in the Registry. Eight task groups were formed overall, however, the top three priorities were considered to be: (1) the development of an interpretation document to address the NAS Report's call for standardization of terminology and to provide recommendations regarding how to interpret and report the significance of comparative examinations; (2) a strategic plan and outreach initiative to understand the perception, reality, and needs of the trace community and establish promotional opportunities and create educational materials to counteract being undervalued; and (3) addressing almost 20 other SWGMAT documents, which may include updating, revising, condensing, and/or formatting for ASTM submission. Within the next year, the subcommittee hopes to be voting on about 25 documents including the much anticipated interpretation document.

The Fire Debris and Explosives subcommittee narrowed down their original 32 documents for review to 25. One ASTM Standard Method and four Standard Guidelines (three ASTM and one NFPA) were voted up to the SAC for Registry consideration. Additionally, the subcommittee voted to revise five standards prior to ASTM submission, the revisions for four of which have already begun. Moving these revised documents to the registry is their first



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McCRONE 2015 FORENSIC MICROSCOPY COURSES

Food Microscopy

May 11–15, 2015

This course was developed for scientists and technicians in the food and allied industries, who are called upon to study food ingredients in new product research and development, quality control, competitive analysis and cases of suspected contamination.



Forensic Dust Analysis*

July 27–31, 2015

This course is an introduction to the analysis of dust traces for trace evidence analysts and is based on instructor Skip Palenik's experience of more than 50 years in studying dust in a forensic context. Beginning with the history of dust analysis and the work of Locard, Popp, Schneider, Heinrich, Frei-Sulzer and others, the course will explore the techniques for collecting, separating, analyzing and interpreting dust evidence.

Animal Hair Identification

September 1–3, 2015

This course begins with an introduction to mammalian taxonomy, the importance and establishment of reference collections and hair atlases. This is followed by lectures explaining and illustrating the structural, morphological and anatomical features of hairs that may be exploited for their identification. Demonstrations show how hairs can be sequentially prepared so that all of these characteristics can best be observed, if necessary, on a single hair.

Forensic Fiber Analysis: Advanced Microscopy and Microchemistry*

October 19–23, 2015

This is an advanced course in microscopy and microchemical methods used for the characterization and identification of natural, regenerated and synthetic fibers. Methods for the collection of fibers are considered and practiced.

Microscopy of Explosives*

October 26–30, 2015

This is an advanced course in the microscopy of bulk explosives, pyrotechnics and explosive residues. Organic, inorganic, military, commercial and improvised explosives are covered. Using chemical microscopy to identify explosives was one of Dr. Walter McCrone's first research projects, and McCrone Research Institute continues to teach the methods he developed.

Comparative Microscopy of Soil*

November 9–13, 2015

Students study the composition and origin of soils and approaches to scientific soil comparison through lectures, demonstrations and laboratory exercises. Small soil samples are literally taken apart and separated into clay-, silt- and sand-size fractions, light and heavy minerals, and concentrates of pollen, spores, diatoms and phytoliths.

*The prerequisite for this course is McCrone's Applied Polarized Light Microscopy/Forensic Microscopy course or equivalent.

Visit www.mcricri.org for a complete course calendar,
full course descriptions and online registration.

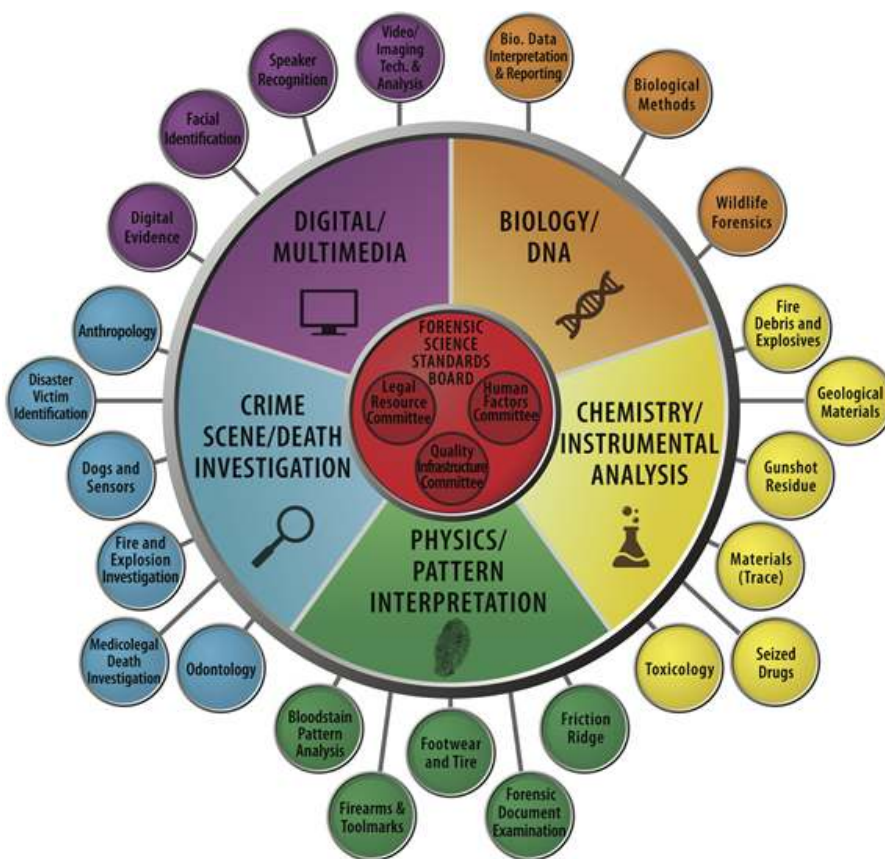
OSAC, what's new? (cont'd.)

priority, followed by the development of a general fire debris analysis guide, a general explosives analysis guide, and a standard terminology guide. Drafts of these guidelines are planned for completion before the end of the year. Other guides they plan to tackle include a QA/QC guide, a report writing guide, and a best practices guide for proficiency and competency testing.

The Gunshot Residue subcommittee had fewer documents to vote on, but they formed eight task groups. The group revised one ASTM Standard Guideline in October and resubmitted it to ASTM. Upon approval by ASTM, which is anticipated in the very near future, the subcommittee intends to put this ASTM Standard Guideline forward to the SAC for Registry consideration. Their top three priorities for 2015 include: (1) developing a report writing guide to include qualifying and disclaimer statements for the interpretation and documentation of results; (2) developing a training standard, and (3) drafting a testimony and ethics guide, to include guidance for dealing with legal challenges. To assist in such endeavors, steps have been taken to expand their joint collaboration with ENFSI.

The Geological Materials subcommittee is one of the smallest subcommittees with only 11 members. This group is working on a "Standard Guide for the Collection of Soils and other Geological Evidence for Forensic Applications". Once complete, the guide would be put forward to ASTM, hopefully before the end of summer, and then put up to the SAC for Registry consideration. There are no other standards and guidelines for their review at this time, so this subcommittee has much work ahead of them. This subcommittee's other top priorities include the development of a "Soil Examination Technical Procedures Guideline" and a "Soil and Geological Materials Geo-sourcing Guideline".

Not surprisingly, each subcommittee stressed the importance of research, however, may shift that priority behind the more pressing task of populating the OSAC Registry. Most Trace Evidence subcommittees also stressed the importance for report writing or interpretation guides and foresee the necessity for collaboration across subcommittees. For more information on OSAC, applications to become a member or affiliate, or for recorded webcasts of the first public SAC meeting held in February, see <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm>. The next OSAC meeting has yet to be planned, however, you can count on ASTEE to work to keep you updated.



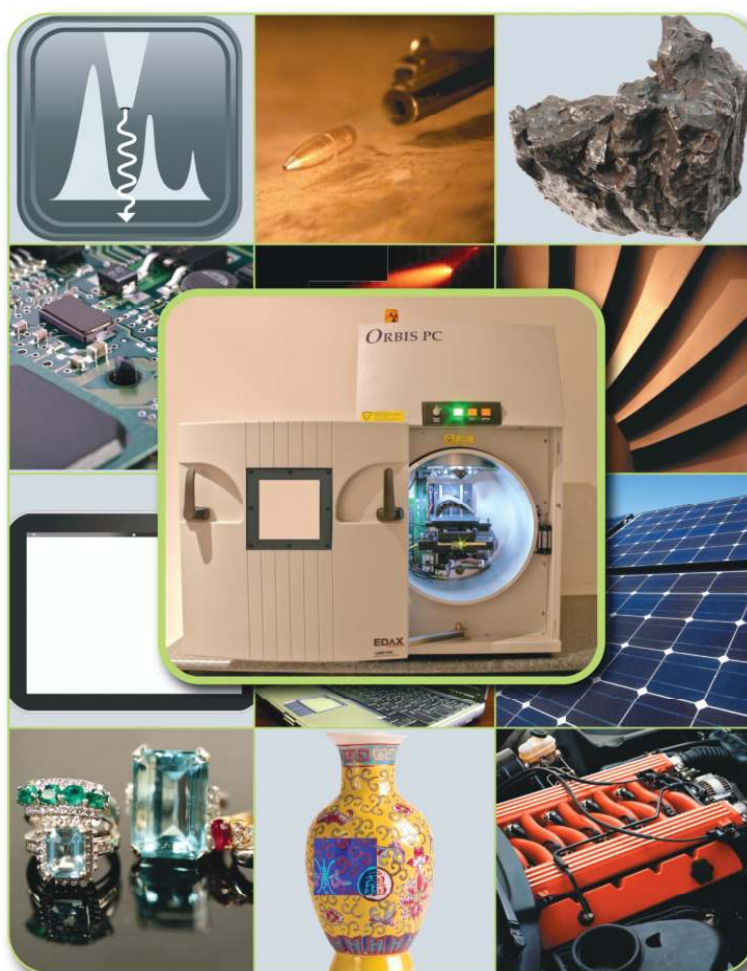
OSAC graphic courtesy of NIST



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Awards Committee Update

Do you know someone who has made significant contributions to the Trace Evidence community? Please consider honoring them with a nomination for this year's Edmond Locard award, which recognizes the extraordinary achievements of a long time contributor to the Trace Evidence community. Your letter of nomination is needed by August 1st. See page 17 for more information on this award.

For students, ASTEE is looking for a deserving recipient of a \$500 scholarship. New this year, the scholarship recipient will receive two years of student membership in ASTEE dues-free! See page 20 for the forms, which are due July 1st.

We are happy to announce that the McCrone Research Institute is partnering with ASTEE again to provide a Professional Development Award. This award provides funding for any upcoming 2015 through July 2016 McCrone Research Institute class and up to a \$500 travel stipend. More information can be found on page 18. To be eligible, the necessary information must be received by August 1st.

Have a research idea but need funding support? ASTEE's Research Grant is a \$500 award to be used to aid in the research efforts of Trace Evidence related research in the hope of expanding and improving the field of Trace Evidence. Proposals are due August 1st. Further information on requirements can be found on page 19.

Please consider applying for these awards, nominating someone, or sharing these awards with others. The forms for each of these awards are located at the end of the newsletter, but can now also be found on our website.

Michelle Palmer

Buried in Casework?



At Gateway Analytical, we understand that sometimes keeping up with the never ending backlog of casework analysis can leave you feeling a bit overwhelmed. Luckily, our forensic scientists have over 15 years of experience in traditional and specialized evidence analysis. No matter what type of forensic support you need from trace evidence analysis to criminal case review, Gateway Analytical can provide fast, legally defensible results to help ease your casework demands.

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ASTEE at AAFS in Orlando



I drank what?
-Socrates



The Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence

Criteria: This award is to be presented to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in the field of Trace Evidence. This award will be determined by nomination. Nominee must have a minimum of ten years in Trace Evidence and will have made a major contribution to the field of Trace Evidence. This could include teaching or training, presented or published research, or innovations in techniques, methods or instrumentation in the Trace Evidence field. Only members of ASTEE may make nominations, but the nominee does not have to be a member of ASTEE.

Prior nominations may be reactivated by sending an e-mail to the nominating committee requesting that the nomination for that individual be refreshed.

Give a summary of the nominee's background and the reason(s) for the nomination:
(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Submitted by:

Address:

Work Phone: ()

All nominations must be postmarked or e-mailed by the Awards Committee for review no later August 1, 2015. The recommendations of the Awards Committee will then be forwarded to the ASTEE Board of Directors, who will determine the final choice for the award recipient.

Please mail or e-mail nomination to:

ASTEE Awards Committee
ATTN: Michelle Palmer
Virginia Department of Forensic Science
6600 Northside High School Road
Roanoke, VA 24019
Michelle.Palmer@dfs.virginia.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Palmer at (540) 283-5937



ASTEE Professional Development Award

We are pleased to announce that the ASTEE Professional Development Award will be offered again in 2015. This award supports trace evidence training by providing funding for any upcoming 2015 through July 2016 McCrone Research Institute class and up to a \$500 travel stipend. Professional development activities not only deepen our knowledge and skills as professionals, they also energize us with a new enthusiasm. In order to apply for this Professional Development Award, proof of membership in ASTEE is required.

Applicants should submit a letter with name, address, occupation, phone number and e-mail where they can be reached, information detailing the course they would like to attend at McCrone Research Institute, and a letter explaining how this class will help with their Trace Evidence professional development. The information should be emailed or sent to:

ASTEE Awards Committee
ATTN: Michelle Palmer
michelle.palmer@dfs.virginia.gov
VA DFS
6600 Northside High School Road
Roanoke, VA 24019

In order to be considered for this award, applications must be received by August 1, 2015.



ASTEE Research Grant Award

Criteria: This award of \$500 was created to promote research to advance the field of Trace Evidence.

Eligibility Requirements: The applicant must be an ASTEE member. Members of the ASTEE Board of Directors are not eligible for this award.

Application Requirements: Proof of membership in ASTEE is required. Applicants will submit a written research proposal less than 1000 words detailing their research goals, how the research will benefit Trace Evidence, the length of time anticipated to complete the research, how the grant will help them accomplish their research, and whether it is supported by their department. The applicant should also describe their background in Trace Evidence. The award recipient will be required to send a summary of their research results to the ASTEE Board of Directors within one year of receiving the grant. The recipient is encouraged to publish their results in the ASTEE Journal.

All required material must be postmarked or e-mailed to the Awards Committee for review no later August 1, 2015. The recommendations of the Awards Committee will then be forwarded to the ASTEE Board of Directors, who will determine the final choice for the award recipient.

Please mail or e-mail applications to: ASTEE Awards Committee

ATTN: Michelle Palmer

Virginia Department of Forensic Science

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Roanoke, VA 24019

Michelle.Palmer@dfs.virginia.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Palmer at (540) 283-5937



American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Award

Criteria: This scholarship of \$500 and a 2 year student membership in **ASTEE** is to be presented to a student who has demonstrated academic excellence in the field of Forensic Science, with an emphasis in Trace Evidence.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be currently enrolled as a graduate student in a Forensic Science or related science program with plans on pursuing work in the Trace Evidence field. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in his/her academic program.

Application Requirements: Applicants will submit an essay of no more than 1000 words in which they detail their personal goals with regards to Trace Evidence, their achievements, and why they feel they should be considered for this award. Applicants will provide an official school transcript which must include semester grades for the most recent completed semester, and a letter of recommendation from a professor in the applicant's graduate curriculum. Applicants will submit the Scholarship Applicant form and the Scholarship Recommendation Form with their application materials.

All required materials must be received no later than midnight on July 1, 2015. Applicants may e-mail all materials except the official school transcript. The school transcript must be an original mailed by the school or the applicant.

Interested candidates should submit all required materials to:

ASTEE Awards Committee
ATTN: Michelle Palmer
Virginia Department of Forensic Science
6600 Northside High School Road
Roanoke, VA 24019
Michelle.Palmer@dfs.virginia.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Palmer at (540) 283-5937 or via e-mail.



American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Applicant Form

Name: _____

School Residence Address: _____

Home Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

Alternate Phone Number: _____ Current Year: _____

E-mail Address: _____

College attended: _____

Degree program: _____

Please indicate which address and phone number is the best one for contacting you.

Application Requirements:

Scholarship Applicant Form

Scholarship Recommendation Form

Official School Transcript, including grades for the most recent completed semester

Essay detailing personal goals with regards to Trace Evidence, achievements, and reasons for award consideration (limit of 1000 words)

Interested candidates should submit all required materials by July 1, 2015 to:

ASTEE Awards Committee

ATTN: Michelle Palmer

Virginia Department of Forensic Science

6600 Northside High School Road

Roanoke, VA 24019

Michelle.Palmer@dfs.virginia.gov

(540) 283-5937



American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Recommendation Form

Candidate Name: _____

Affiliation to Candidate: _____

Professor Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Title of Recommender: _____

College/Institution: _____

Address: _____

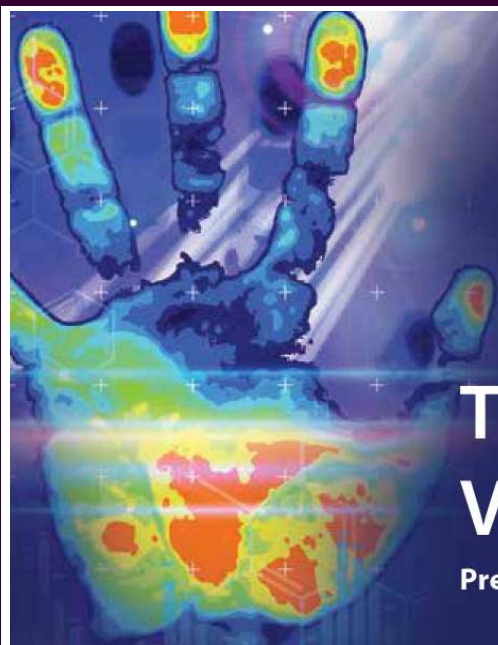
Contact Number & email address: _____

Please include the following information when submitting the recommendation for the candidate: Candidate's knowledge of the subject matter, ability to work with others, communication skills, reliability, attitude, integrity, motivation, maturity, and how relevant the candidate's course of study is to the field of Trace Evidence. Please feel free to add any additional information regarding this candidate that you feel would be helpful.

Please mail, e-mail or have the candidate submit this form and the letter of recommendation by July 1, 2015 to:

ASTEE Awards Committee
ATTN: Michelle Palmer
Virginia Department of Forensic Science
6600 Northside High School Road
Roanoke, VA 24019
Michelle.Palmer@dfs.virginia.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Palmer at (540) 283-5937 or via e-mail.



The Trace Evidence Virtual Training Series

Presented by the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

To provide the trace evidence community with greater access to information and support, the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence and the National Institute of Justice have developed a series of virtual training events geared toward forensic investigators and examiners working in this critical field.

From fundamentals and best practices to detailed case studies, this broad-based series provides participants with an opportunity to explore an array of topics:

- New tools and techniques
- Evidence collection and preservation
- Novel areas of trace examinations
- Interpretation and reporting
- Time and labor efficiency

If you perform routine evaluation and analysis of trace evidence material or serve as a technical or quality manager, this virtual series will be a valuable resource.

All events are free of charge, accessible online, and range from 60–90 minutes. Registration is per event, so you can selectively participate in those of most interest to you.

Subscribe today to the *FTCOE Happenings* newsletter to receive event postings as they are announced.



Expert Presenters Welcome

We are always looking for subject matter experts to present information that will increase the value and knowledge of trace evidence materials for forensic investigators.

If you have an event idea or topic that you would like to present, please contact [Erica Fornaro](mailto:efornaro@rti.org).

More Information

Erica Fornaro
efornaro@rti.org
919.541.6012
www.forensiccce.org

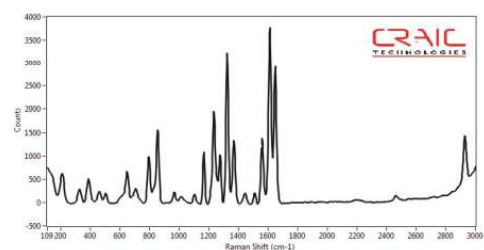
Notice of federal funding and disclaimer

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