



# ASTEE

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January 2017

ASTEE Newsletter

## Message from the President

In 2009 a small group of trace examiners sat around a table and discussed the value of starting an organization specifically devoted to our discipline. Other disciplines such as firearms and DNA had their own associations and we felt that Trace Evidence in particular needed one due to the varied types of materials we analyze and the special challenges we face. We felt it would benefit the discipline to get together to exchange and disseminate ideas and information, stimulate research, and promote high standards of performance to strengthen the discipline we loved so much. These are still our objectives today.



Soon after that discussion we went about the task of naming this organization and decided we liked the term “society” because it gave homage to the microscopical “societies” that had long been established. We scavenged our administrative rules and by-laws from existing organizations that many of us were familiar with having served on other groups boards of directors....and of course since there was no election process in place YET – the people who sat at that table became the founding board of directors and stayed in those positions until the “American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners” became established.

Now, I am proud to say that in the relatively short time ASTEE has been in existence – we have come such a long way. We have grown in numbers to over 400 and we have a number of members from outside of the United States! ASTEE now regularly participates in joint meetings with other forensic organizations to provide excellent training and networking opportunities. Our next event will be at the upcoming AAFS meeting in New Orleans in February 2017. I encourage you to attend the ASTEE reception there to connect with fellow Trace Evidence examiners!

With regards to contributions to the trace evidence community, the Journal of the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners (JASTEE) has become a primary means of getting trace evidence related articles to the public. Our website has also become a valuable resource with the “Trace 101” section and I am very pleased to announce that our website now hosts all of the SWGMAT documents (see the *News You Can Use* section on page 8). This is truly important because Federal funding was dropped for the SWGMAT Website and the OSAC Materials Sub-group has not yet gotten new standards in place. Hosting these documents on the ASTEE website ensures that we still have access to this valuable


## Message from the President continued...

information. Special thanks to Robyn Weimer and Daniel Mabel for spear heading that operation. We do have plans to improve our website even more in the near future so I'd like to hear any input you all might have to make it as beneficial as possible to our members.

Please remember to take advantage of the awards that ASTEE offers its members. Training opportunities are supported through our Professional Development Award which provides funding to attend any upcoming McCrone Research Institute class or our Travel Award offers a Finally, if you know of a graduate student in the field of forensic science that plans on pursuing work in the Trace Evidence field, our Scholarship Award provides \$500 and a 2 year membership in ASTEE. You can find details and applications for these awards on pages 21-23 and on our website.

I cannot express how honored I am to have been chosen as your President. I want to thank outgoing President Kristine Olsson for her hard work and dedication to ASTEE and I'd also like to acknowledge Jeffrey Dake and Tammy Jergovich for their service to the organization as they leave the Board of Directors. I can't forget to give my appreciation to all of those who are staying on the Board and serving on committees. These volunteer positions often take up a considerable amount of time and energy and your efforts do not go unnoticed.

I wish you all have a wonderful holiday season!



Amy Michaud  
2017 ASTEE President

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## 2017 Dues

The new year is here, which means it's time to start thinking about dues! If submitted before March 31<sup>st</sup>, dues are \$25.00; after March 31<sup>st</sup>, they are \$30.00. We offer three methods by which to submit your payment:

- 1.) Mail a check and the completed dues form found on page 17 to the address on the form;
- 2.) Send a payment via PayPal to the ASTEE account at [asteetrace@gmail.com](mailto:asteetrace@gmail.com) (having a PayPal account of your own is necessary for this option), or;
- 3.) Use the PayPal button found in the Membership section of our website, [www.asteetrace.org](http://www.asteetrace.org), which allows you to use a credit card (it is *not* necessary to have a PayPal account of your own for this option).

If you use either of the PayPal methods, please also email or fax a copy of the completed dues form to ASTEE Treasurer Chad Schennum at [chad.schennum@dfs.virginia.gov](mailto:chad.schennum@dfs.virginia.gov) or 804-786-6305.

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## 2016 Election results

The results for the 2016 Election are in. Thank you to everyone who participated, and congratulations to ASTEE's new board members. The results are as follows:

### President-Elect

Kelly Brinsko 176 (98.9%)  
Write-in 2 (1.1%)

### Director

Daniel Mabel 111 (63.8%)  
Jennifer Rizk 63 (36.2%)  
Write-in 0 (0.0%)

### Treasurer

Chad Schennum 178  
(100.0%)  
Write-in 0 (0.0%)

Additionally, Thom Hopen has been promoted to Emeritus status with 99.4% in agreement.



## Tools for your trade

Looking for non-destructive techniques to enhance your analytical capabilities?

### Elemental mapping of gun powder residue

- Minimal sample preparation
- Non destructive analysis
- Multiple elements mapped simultaneously
- Small spot mapping for elemental analysis of small sample quantities

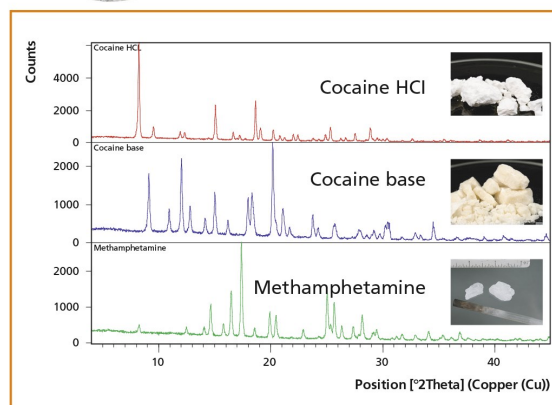


### Counterfeit pharmaceutical identification using computer tomography

#### Illicit street drug identification using the CanDI-X drug database

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## Message from the Outgoing President

Another year draws to a close! I am very excited to say that ASTEE is positioned for a great 2017 with our new President, Amy Michaud, at the helm! Under the guidance of the incoming Board of Directors, ASTEE is sure to continue to flourish. Congratulations are in order to President-Elect Kelly Brinsko, who has served on the Board as the Executive Secretary for the past two years, Treasurer Chad Schennum, who continues to serve as the money man, and we welcome new Director Daniel Mabel, who has previously served ASTEE as the Communications Chair.



I would like to extend my thanks to the current Board of Directors and to all the ASTEE committee chairs and committee members that provide their time and energy to guide the organization. Many thanks to Tammy Jergovich, who has served ASTEE as Director since 2014 and will be departing this year; Michelle Palmer who performs double duty as both Director and the Chair of the Awards Committee; Robyn Weimer who also wears two hats as both Director and the Chair of Publications Committee; and Secretary Emily Weber who keeps track of all Board's activities! Past President Jeff Dake was gracious enough to serve on the Board as an ex-officio member and his input and guidance were greatly appreciated. Special thanks goes out to Robyn Weimer and Daniel Mabel, who worked this year to ensure that all the blood, sweat, and tears of the SWGMAT efforts were retained on the ASTEE website (see the *News You Can Use* section, page 8).

This year was an incredibly active year for ASTEE with regard to increasing our presence at national and regional meetings. ASTEE co-hosted two regional meetings on both coasts: the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS) and the California Association of Criminalists (CAC). Since 2014, it has been a goal of ASTEE to partner with regional organizations and provide the opportunity for ASTEE members to attend a meeting close to home with targeted trace evidence content. In 2017, ASTEE returns to the Midwest for a joint meeting in October with both the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) and the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS). We are also on the lookout for the return, in 2017, of the Impression, Pattern and Trace Evidence Symposium (IPTES) hosted by NIJ and the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE).

ASTEE members do enjoy the social side of things, and once again ASTEE's Events Chair, Allyson Karr, has finely executed several networking opportunities for ASTEE members throughout the year. Receptions were held at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), the MAAFS meeting, and the CAC meeting. Additionally, ASTEE provided sponsorship for a reception at the McCrone Research Institute Inter/Micro conference held this summer. Please take advantage of these social and networking opportunities should you have the chance to attend training in the coming year, as I'm sure ASTEE will offer at least a few in 2017!

Chances to attend training may be limited, so ASTEE continues to work hard to provide opportunities to our members with the ASTEE Travel Award and Professional Development Award, both of which were taken advantage of this year. ASTEE extends hearty thanks to the McCrone Research Institute, who continues to support ASTEE by offering tuition to any McCrone Research Institute course to the recipient of the Professional Development Award. Many thanks go to the Awards Committee, who manage not only the above awards but also the Research Grant Award, the Scholarship Award, and the Edmond Locard Award for Excellence.

## Message from the Outgoing President continued...

Many of ASTEE's objectives were furthered in the past year. For example, the exchange and dissemination of information was achieved with the collaboration between ASTEE and the FTCoE to offer a webinar on the practical explanation of the OSAC registry-approved ASTM E2926, a standard test method for forensic comparison of glass using  $\mu$ -XRF Spectrometry (see page 10 for more information). Another key objective of ASTEE is to stimulate research, and thanks go to the Research Committee, who have created a pathway to connect interns and university students with practicing ASTEE members in an effort to ensure that the research that is highly desired by practitioners in the field is accurately conveyed to and produced by our partners in academia.

I extend my thanks to all those ASTEE members who volunteer their time to further ASTEE's objectives and goals. ASTEE only operates with the support of all, and I am truly honored to have been a part of an organization whose members consistently seek to grow, promote, and protect the field of trace evidence. I thank you for allowing me to serve ASTEE, and it is my hope that 2017 comes with continued success in all of these endeavors!



Kristine Olsson  
2016 ASTEE President

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## Congratulations to ASTEE's 2015 Edmond Locard Award Winner

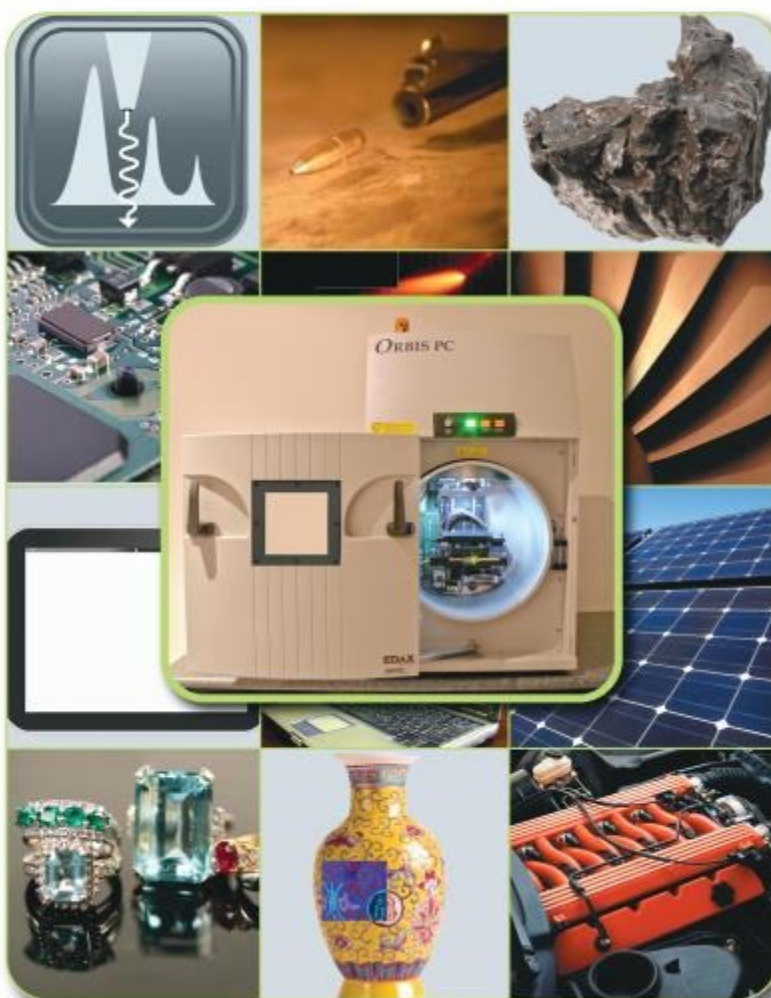


Dr. John Reffner receiving the 2015 Edmond Locard Award, as presented by Chris Taylor, former 2012 ASTEE President, at the 2016 ASTEE reception at AAFS



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## ASTEE at a Glance – Committee Updates

### ***JASTEE Update***

Similar to the *JASTEE* Guide for Authors that was recently uploaded to the website, there is now also an article template for new *JASTEE* submissions. The use of the template, though optional, can help you format your manuscript in the preferred *JASTEE* style. Additionally, efforts have been made towards the inclusion of *JASTEE* in a searchable database. If you would like to volunteer for this effort or would like to submit an article for publication in *JASTEE*, contact Robyn ([robyn.weimer@dfs.virginia.gov](mailto:robyn.weimer@dfs.virginia.gov)).

### ***Awards Committee Update***

The 2016 Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence was awarded to Dr. Peter de Forest. Dr. De Forest has made significant contributions to Trace Evidence as both a practitioner and an educator. He has produced, presented and authored numerous papers, chapters, etc., that have influenced and educated both the fledgling and the seasoned Trace Evidence examiner. He has been instrumental in the advancing the refractive index measurement of glass, bullet trace evidence, and providing information regarding postmortem human hair. Congratulations, Dr. De Forest.

Sandra Koch was awarded the 2016 ASTEE Research Grant Award for her study to test the accuracy and reliability of microscopical hair analysis. We look forward to her sharing the results of her study with the ASTEE membership. The 2014 ASTEE Research Grant Award winner Tamara Hodgins presented her research at the NIST Trace Evidence Database Symposium in July 2016, and she recognized ASTEE for aiding the research through the ASTEE research grant.

The 2016 Professional Development Award was given to Casey Hughes, a criminalist with the California DOJ. This award provides funding for a McCrone Research Institute class offered 2016 - July 2017 and up to a \$500 travel stipend. Check out page 9 for a list of 2017 Forensic Microscopy courses.

The 2017 ASTEE Scholarship February 1 deadline is rapidly approaching. This \$500 scholarship includes a 2 year student membership in ASTEE. 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. Please share the scholarship forms found on pages 21-23 and on the website with eligible students and faculty who can disseminate the information.

Please be thinking about who you can nominate for the 2017 Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence. The deadline is June 1, 2017. The nominee does not have to be an ASTEE member. There are many people in the Trace Evidence field who would qualify for this award but are never nominated. Nominations have been down for the past couple of years. This is a great opportunity to recognize those who have advanced and continue to advance the field of Trace Evidence. The nomination form can be found on page 25 and online.

### ***Research Committee Update***

The Research Committee now has some documents posted on ASTEE's website under the Resources Tab. Please take a few minutes to look them over and learn what we are trying to do with this committee. Expect to see a survey coming your way soon regarding any disciplines you feel you could mentor a fellow researcher in. As always if you have any comments or concerns or would like to get involved, please feel free to reach out to us. We have a new email address at [asteerresearch@gmail.com](mailto:asteerresearch@gmail.com) or you can reach the chair, Dana Greely, directly at [dana.greely@hamilton-co.org](mailto:dana.greely@hamilton-co.org).

## ASTEE at a Glance – Committee Updates continued...

### ***Mentorship Committee Update***

One of our newest committees, the Mentorship Committee, has a mission to establish a mentorship program within ASTEE to foster the development of professional networks for practitioners and encourage cross-disciplinary/inter-institution communication and exchange of ideas. While this committee does not yet have the Rand McNally atlas for the course they are taking, they at least have a sketch on the back of the napkin! The ASTEE Board of Directors currently has a few draft documents for review, with the group's next steps to include creating application forms and seeking feedback from the membership.

As always, those seeking to help chart a course for the Mentorship Committee should send inquiries directly to committee Chair Kim Mooney ([kim.e.mooney.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kim.e.mooney.civ@mail.mil); 404-469-4568).

### ***Membership Committee Update***

Membership steadily increased over the last year. The total is now well over 400 members, though some have retired or left the organization due to career changes. Hopefully we reach the milestone of member #500 within the next year. It has also been noted (by our incoming president, no less) that we are getting a larger international presence, with members from countries including Singapore, Nigeria, the UK and many others.

Please note that ABC likes to have proof of membership in an organization. The membership committee does provide certification letters on request. Please contact [lisa.schwenk@atf.gov](mailto:lisa.schwenk@atf.gov) if you should need one.

## ***News You Can Use***

In the past few years, we have witnessed the transition from the SWGs, for example SWGMAT, to OSAC. Because SWGMAT is no longer active, their website is in the process of being shut down. The SWGMAT website contained a wealth of information and resources for the trace evidence community that was at risk of being lost. But have no fear, ASTEE is here! All of those free SWGMAT resources will remain accessible, as they have now been transferred to ASTEE's website under the Resources tab.



Each SWGMAT subgroup has a link. There you will find SWGMAT documents, admissibility packages for Daubert-like hearings, hard to find tape articles, an expanded paint pigment FTIR and Raman spectral library, and more. Check it out!

Please contact [asteetrace@gmail.com](mailto:asteetrace@gmail.com) if you have trouble opening any of the documents or links or if you have a contribution to this section (e.g., industry trends, something unusual you found in casework, a special trick or technique, etc.).





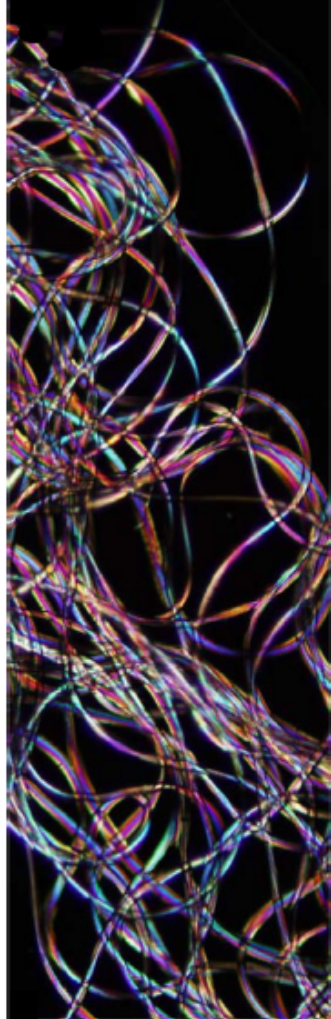
## FORENSIC MICROSCOPY COURSES

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## 2017 MCCRONE FORENSIC MICROSCOPY COURSES

### Applied Polarized Light Microscopy (1201)/ Forensic Microscopy (1204)

*February 6–10, April 3–7, July 17–21,  
September 11–15, and November 6–10, 2017*

Students will acquire the basic knowledge and practical skills to apply polarized light methods in their areas of interest and will appreciate the potential contribution of more advanced methods and techniques. The materials examined emphasize particle analysis, including fibers, paint, glass, hair, explosives, soil, drugs, etc.



### Forensic Dust Analysis (1750)\*

*April 17–21, 2017*

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, this course will explore the techniques for collecting, separating, analyzing, and interpreting dust evidence.

### Microscopy of Explosives (1722)\*

*April 24–28, 2017*

Organic, inorganic, military, commercial, and improvised explosives are covered in this five-day course. The identification techniques are based on morphology, optical crystallography, microchemical tests, and visual thermal methods.

### Forensic Fiber Analysis: Advanced Microscopy and Microchemistry (1507)\*

*June 26–30, 2017*

Optical and microchemical methods are used for characterization and identification of natural, regenerated, and synthetic fibers. Animal fibers are recognized by their morphology and classified into major groups; synthetic and regenerated fibers are characterized by polarized light microscopy; and vegetable fibers are characterized by anatomical features. Methods for the collection of fibers are considered and practiced.

### Animal Hair Identification (1208)

*August 29–31, 2017*

This three-day course will introduce mammalian taxonomy, the importance and establishment of reference collections and hair atlases. Lectures explain the morphological and anatomical features of hairs that may be used 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. Students will prepare microscope slides, scale casts, and cross-sections and then microscopically examine them.

### Microcrystal Tests for Illicit Drugs and Diverted Pharmaceuticals (1725)\*

*October 2–6, 2017*

This course teaches basic and advanced techniques for the identification of illicit drugs and diverted pharmaceuticals. An emphasis on polarized light microscopy and optical crystallography methods will allow students to recognize and identify specific microcrystals formed in the presence of targeted drugs. Major drug categories are covered, including narcotics, depressants, hallucinogens, and stimulants.

\*The prerequisite for this course is McCrone's Applied Polarized Light Microscopy (1201)/Forensic Microscopy (1204) course or equivalent.

Visit [www.mcri.org](http://www.mcri.org) for a complete course calendar, full course descriptions, and online registration.

## ASTEE at a Glance – Committee Updates continued...

### ***ASTEE Financial Audit Update***

The 2012 Audit information has been released previously. Audits for 2014 and 2015 were completed during the calendar year of 2016 with no major findings. Any minor discrepancies were resolved. The Audit Committee is caught-up at this time and is on track to complete the audit for 2016 in the first part of the new year.

ASTEE feels that it is important for you to know where your dues money is going. A number of Workshops were hosted during this time, including Post-mortem hairs, Cordage, and Tape analysis. The largest expenses by far are the ASTEE-hosted receptions, held as part of other conferences, including AAFS, MAFS, SAFS and TIPE/TES. Research Grants and scholarships were awarded and Liability Insurance must also be included. These costs are offset by sponsorship from companies such as Craic, JEOL, Foster + Freeman, Leica, EDAX and PANalytical and, of course, membership dues. Below is the total 'ins and outs' for each calendar year, since the last reported 2012 audit.

	2013	2014	2015
In	\$ 15,564.15	\$ 11,984.93	\$ 16,626.64
Out	\$ 14,605.02	\$ 15,456.33	\$ 11,103.14

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### ***Glass Webinar***

On December 7, Troy Ernst of the Michigan State Police Forensic Laboratory and Ted Manasian of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Laboratory presented a webinar in association with RTI titled "μ-XRF of Glass: A Practical Explanation of ASTM E2926." There were 83 participants who learned about the application of the newly OSAC-approved ASTM E2926-13 to forensic analysis of glass and discussed XRF instrumentation for use in forensic casework.

Thank you very much to Troy and Ted for this great webinar!

If you have an interest in producing a webinar on a future topic, please contact the Education committee.





## OSAC, What's New?

The Chemistry Scientific Area Committee, which includes the Trace Evidence Subcommittees, had their second meeting of 2016 in Phoenix, AZ, August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Heat was pervasive, with the outdoor temperatures extending to heated discussions indoors at times. Hard work has continued since their previous meeting in January, but as anticipated, face-to-face meetings tend to be more productive. Task groups reported on their progress and stated their goals, input was sought and provided from the subcommittee at large, and the gathering of minds generated stronger products. Keep reading for some subcommittee-specific updates.

### **Materials (Trace)**

Excitingly, the Materials (Trace) subcommittee welcomed four additional members at the meeting. Another member will be added soon, bringing the subcommittee to a total of 25 members. The four additional members were present to opine as several documents within the Materials (Trace) Subcommittee required public comment adjudication. Some documents were revised, some with plans to revise, and others will continue along in the process (i.e., within subcommittee, ASTM, or OSAC).

The term “significant differences” was discussed at the August OSAC meeting. After much deliberation and conversation, the Materials subcommittee will be changing documents to refer to “meaningful differences” instead of “significant differences”. This terminology change is intended to alleviate the concern that “significant differences” may imply some formal statistical evaluation was performed, consequently misleading our submitters, jury members, attorneys, judges, etc. Expect a shift away from “significant difference” and for “meaningful differences” to be used more commonly.

### **Fire Debris and Explosives**

This subcommittee capitalized on their time together by editing and revising a number of documents including, but not limited to, report writing documents, an explosives guide, and another for ignitable liquid analysis. Several documents are either with ASTM or OSAC and will continue through the vetting process. Group discussions focused on ASTM E1618 Test Method for Ignitable Liquids by GC-MS and finding a path forward to strengthen conclusions.

### **Gunshot Residue**

The SWGGSR Subcommittee has submitted an updated version of ASTM e1588-16a to be balloted. Soon this subcommittee will also be voting on and submitting a GSR training document for the Chemistry SAC to comment on, as well as a document created from the Validation Requirements, Performance Checks, Instrument Performance Requirements and General Troubleshooting Task Group. Following review of Chemistry SAC comments, they will submit to ASTM for balloting.

### **Geological Materials**

This subcommittee recently welcomed three new members and a new international affiliate. Two workshops were scheduled to help assess their Guideline on field collection of soil samples. These workshops were held during the 2016 MAFS Meeting in Branson, MO on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the 2016 CAC/ASTEE Meeting in Palm Springs, CA on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Based on feedback received from these workshops, they plan on finalizing their first guideline and submitting it to ASTM.

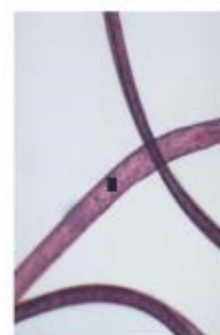
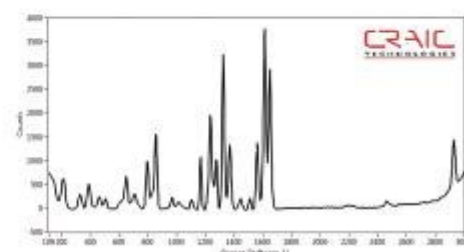


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## ***Joint MAAFS / ASTEE Meeting***

The joint meeting of MAAFS and ASTEE was held from May 17-20, 2016. There were five workshops for trace evidence examiners including: Topics in Microspectrophotometry, Physical Fit, Pressure Sensitive Tapes, Mass Spectrometry, and a Trojan Condom Factory Tour. There were also several short talks on various topics of interest to the TE community, covering things such as fire debris, soils, lubricants, GSR, and cosmetics. ASTEE also hosted a reception at the Capitol Ale House (see images below), which was well attended by your 2016 BOD, with special thanks to Allyson Karr (Events Chair) for organizing another excellent event. In all, the meeting was very successful, bringing a great addition of TE educational materials and networking to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting.



## ***ASTEE Reception at Inter/Micro, June 2016***





## CAC/ASTEE Meeting Summary

The joint CAC/ASTEE meeting was held from October 31-November 4, 2016. There were several workshops for trace evidence examiners including a Soil Recognition and Collection Field Exercise, a Natural Dye workshop where participants dyed and took home samples to analyze, a Plastic Bag Factory Tour, and Paint Coating Facility Tour. There were also several short talks on various topics of interest including trace particles, fire debris, plastic bags, soils, and presentations discussing the importance of Trace Evidence at crime scenes and in specific cases. ASTEE also hosted a reception at the conference hotel in Palm Springs, which was well attended.



Fiber workshop participants



Paint Powder Coat tour

Co-sponsoring regional meetings serves as an important part of ASTEE's core mission to spread Trace Evidence awareness throughout the forensic community and wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of ASTEE members and our sponsors.



Group from the ASTEE reception

Special thanks to Gina Williams and Marianne Stam for their work as the CAC/ASTEE hosts and to Allyson Karr as Events Chair for putting together another excellent event. In all, the meeting was very successful, bringing a great addition of Trace Evidence materials and networking to the CAC Regional Meeting.



Soil Workshop (1), photo credit John Houde



Soil workshop (2), photo credit John Houde



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## The AAFS Standards Board (ASB) and the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Brad Wing  
Secretariat, ASB

SDO is a term meaning *Standards Developing Organization*. Recently, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) has established an SDO (called the AAFS Standards Board, abbreviated ASB) that works closely with the Organization of Scientific Area Committees, OSAC, to develop voluntary consensus standards, technical reports and best practice recommendations.

The term voluntary consensus standards is the key as to why the ASB was created, and why OSAC needs the cooperation and participation of the ASB and other SDOs. In 1995, Congress passed a law called the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA). This law states “All federal agencies must use voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards in their procurement and regulatory activities, except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical.” This also has a trickle-down effect, since Federal grants involving standards are also subject to NTTAA. The important point for this discussion is that OSAC was not created to generate voluntary consensus standards. The NTTAA and the policy document explaining it (available at <http://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/omb119.cfm#3>) define the processes required to develop a voluntary consensus standard:

- I. *“Openness*
- II. *Balance of interest*
- III. *Due process*
- IV. *An appeals process*
- V. *Consensus, which is defined as general agreement, but not necessarily unanimity and includes a process for attempting to resolve objections by interested parties...”*

The AAFS Academy Standards Board (ASB) meets these criteria. In fact, it has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which requires adherence to the principles defined above. OSAC is not an SDO and will not become an SDO. While an OSAC subcommittee may identify a gap in existing standards for a field, and even develop a draft document for submittal to an SDO, it is the role of the SDO to ensure that the procedures are properly followed so that the requirements of the NTTAA for *voluntary consensus standards* are met.

When OSAC was established, it became apparent that some fields in forensic science had existing relationships with SDOs – such as in fire science and gunshot residue. Others may have had professional organizations (such as the American Board of Forensic Odontology) which had issued guidance documents. In some fields there were Scientific Working Groups (SWGs), such as in DNA. However, the standards and best practice guidelines produced by professional organizations and SWGs do not meet the requirements of the NTTAA for being voluntary consensus standards. OSAC approached several professional groups, including AAFS to see if any were interested and capable of establishing an SDO to generate voluntary consensus standards.

The AAFS accepted the challenge and created the ASB. The ASB has created consensus bodies that have close relationships with their corresponding OSAC subcommittees for disciplines not already served by other SDOs. The ASB won't set up a consensus body in a forensic discipline when another SDO has a currently active body handling the development of such standards. Currently there are 13 such consensus bodies (Anthropology, Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Disaster Victim Identification, DNA, Dogs and Sensors, Firearms and Toolmarks, Footwear and Tire Tracks, Forensic Document Examination, Friction Ridge, Medicolegal Death Investigation, Patterned Injury, Toxicology, and Wildlife Forensics). With the exception of Patterned Injury, these exactly correspond to OSAC subcommittees. Patterned Injury corresponds to a new 'Virtual subcommittee' in OSAC that will draw members from several existing OSAC subcommittees.

## AAFS Standards Board continued...

The consensus bodies are made up of individuals from different backgrounds, which are characterized by 'interest categories,' of which we have eight: academia, consumer groups, general interest (typically lawyers and judges), private laboratories and testing facilities, producers, subject matter experts, user/government and user/industry. This helps to ensure balance of interest – one of the key requirements for an SDO. The ASB Consensus Bodies are open to anyone with an interest in forensic science. Note that while members of the OSAC subcommittees may apply for membership on consensus bodies, many of the members of the consensus bodies are not on OSAC subcommittees. A person does not have to be a member of AAFS to be on a consensus body.

We are currently accepting applications for persons in specific interest categories for several of the consensus bodies. We would welcome you to apply if you feel that you meet the criteria. The application form and a detailed description of the interest categories are available at <http://asb.aafs.org/consensus-bodies/>.

- Anthropology: Lacks Consumer Groups and Producers
- Bloodstain Pattern Analysis: Lacks Consumer Groups and Producers
- Disaster Victim Identification: Represented in all interest categories
- DNA: Represented in all interest categories
- Dogs and Sensors: Lacks Consumer Groups, Private Labs/Testing Facilities, Producers
- Firearms and Toolmarks: Lacks Consumer Groups, Private Labs/Testing Facilities, Producers
- Footwear and Tire Tracks: Lacks Consumer Groups, Private Labs/Testing Facilities, Producers
- Forensic Document Examination: Lacks Consumer Groups
- Friction Ridge: Lacks Consumer Groups
- Medicolegal Death Investigation: Lacks Producers
- Patterned Injury: Lacks Consumer Groups, Producers
- Toxicology: Lacks Consumer Groups
- Wildlife: Lacks Consumer Groups, Producers

Consensus bodies hold meetings open to all interested parties. So, you don't have to be a member to participate. On the webpage <http://asb.aafs.org/consensus-bodies/> there is a link to a calendar. By clicking on a calendar entry, you can find the meeting's agenda and instructions on how to join the web-based meeting.

A key reason for the ASB is to develop documents for inclusion in the OSAC *Registry*. There is a defined process to approve the documents in consensus bodies—ensuring due process, including an appeals procedure. Each document is put out for public review, so that any interested party—even if they do not participate on the consensus body—may comment on the document. All documents being placed for public review are announced on the ASB website, in ANSI's publication *Standards Action*, in the AAFS news feed, and notices are sent to all organizations that have established a liaison relationship with ASB consensus bodies.

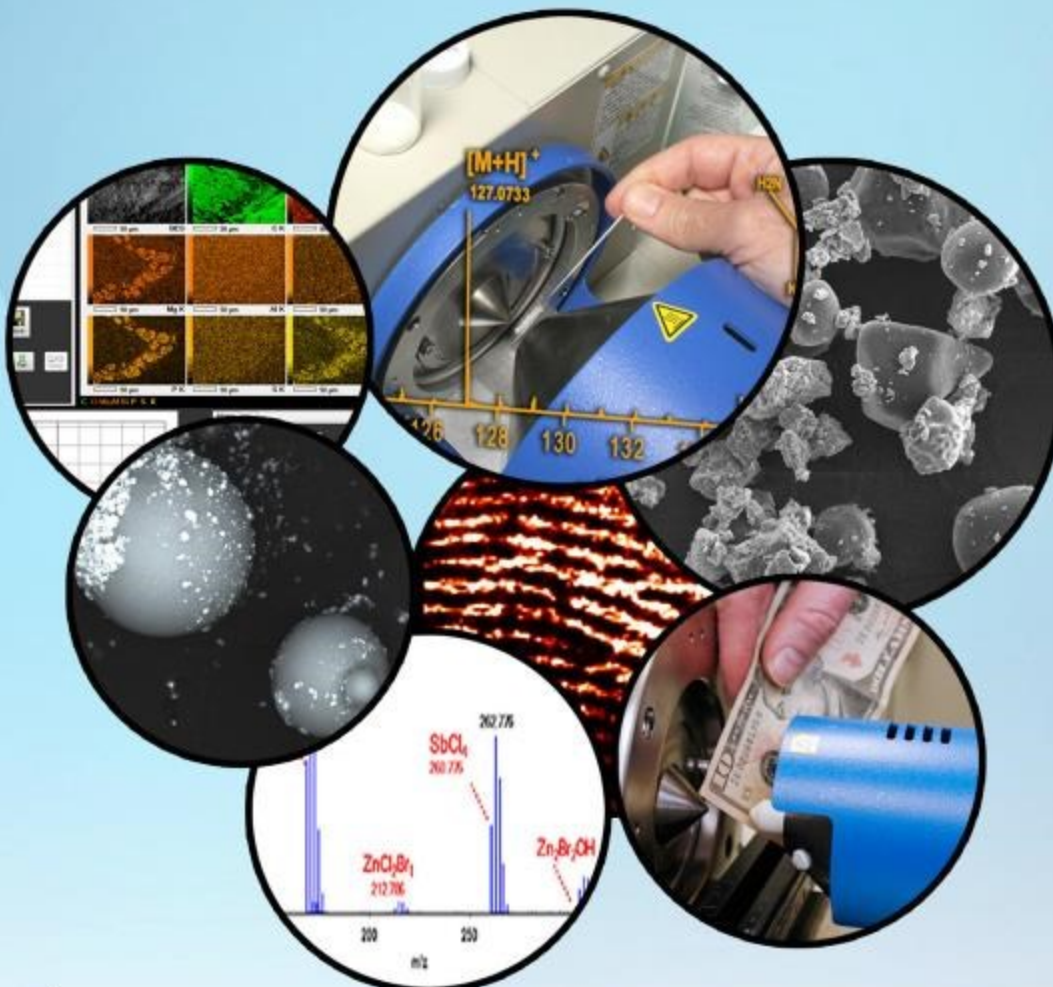
The consensus body is responsible for adjudicating any issues that may arise from the review. Consensus must be reached among the members of the consensus body for a document to be adopted. In addition, the Board of the ASB must approve the document prior to submission to ANSI (which allows a standard to become an American National Standard). Once the document is approved, it is placed on the ASB website, where anyone can download it for free. This is unlike most SDOs, which charge for standards.

We hope that through this process, the ASB – working closely with OSAC – will develop useful and usable standards, technical reports and best practice recommendations for the forensic science community.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [asb@aafs.org](mailto:asb@aafs.org).



# Trace Evidence Imaging & Analysis



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# ASTEE Dues Form

Dear ASTEE member,

Please remit the sum of \$25.00 to ASTEE in payment of your membership dues for the 2017 calendar year by March 31, 2017. Please add a \$5.00 late fee for payment received after March 31, 2017. U.S. members remit checks and non-U.S. members remit International Money Orders payable to ASTEE.

Please send your payment to :

**Chad Schennum—ASTEE Treasurer**  
**Virginia Department of Forensic Science**  
**700 North 5th Street**  
**Richmond, Virginia 23219**

If you prefer to use our online option, you can pay through the **asteetrace@gmail.com** account on PayPal. If you choose this option, please email a copy of this form to [chad.schennum@dfs.virginia.gov](mailto:chad.schennum@dfs.virginia.gov) or fax the form to 804-786-6305 once your payment is submitted.

Please complete the following information and mail with your payment:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please check if any of the above information has changed
- ☐ Please check if you prefer **not** to have your contact information published in the ASTEE membership directory

If you have any inquires concerning your membership dues, please contact Chad Schennum at [chad.schennum@dfs.virginia.gov](mailto:chad.schennum@dfs.virginia.gov) or 804-588-4105.

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## 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 February 1, 2017. 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 or an official electronic transcript emailed by the school.

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](mailto: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 February 1, 2017 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 February 1, 2017 to:

ASTEE Awards Committee

ATTN: Michelle Palmer

Virginia Department of Forensic Science

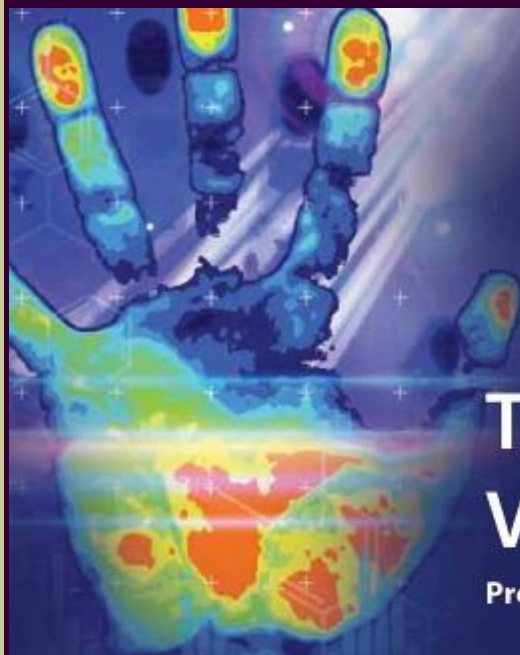
6600 Northside High School Road

Roanoke, VA 24019

[Michelle.Palmer@dfs.virginia.gov](mailto: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.

### More Information

Erica Fornaro  
[efornaro@rti.org](mailto:efornaro@rti.org)  
919.541.6012  
[www.forensiccocoe.org](http://www.forensiccocoe.org)

Notice of federal funding and disclaimer



## 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. Please include contact information for the person being nominated.

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

Please attach a summary of the nominee's background and the reason(s) for the nomination.

Submitted by:

Address:

Email Address:

Work Phone: (     )

**Nominee's contact information to include address, email and phone number.**

All nominations must be postmarked or e-mailed by the Awards Committee for review no later June 1, 2017. 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](mailto:Michelle.Palmer@dfs.virginia.gov)

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



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