ASTEE at a Glance

2011 is shaping up to be a big year for Trace Evidence and ASTEE. We have quite a bit going on this year with some things requiring a prompt response from as many members as possible, so please take time to read through this newsletter.

2011 AAFS Meeting in Chicago

We started off the year with a reception at the AAFS meeting in Chicago. This event, generously sponsored by CRAIC Technologies, Gateway Analytical, and Bruker Forensics, was attended by over 35 of our members. We would like to specifically thank Dr. Paul Martin, Arlene Adolfo and Saya Yamaguchi from CRAIC and Linda Batykefer from Gateway for helping to make this reception a reality. A good time was had by all at the reception.

As the AAFS meeting progressed, not only did an informative meeting unfold, but one of our members, Mike Trimpe, received the prestigious Mary Cowan Distinguished Service Award from the Criminalistics section. Congratulations Mike on a well-deserved award!

For the past few years, there have been grumblings about the lack of trace evidence content and trace evidence examiner participation at AAFS meetings. With the various trace-related workshops offered and presentations given, along with a strong showing from the ASTEE membership, the 2011 meeting seemed to be a start at reversing that trend. In order to further our field and demonstrate the utility of trace evidence as a forensic discipline, it is important for us to attend this meeting. Therefore, we are looking to continue this social tradition and will hopefully be hosting another reception at next year’s AAFS event in Atlanta. Perhaps we could entice a few more people from our field to attend and have an even stronger showing in 2012.

2011 Trace Evidence Symposium

The 2011 Trace Evidence Symposium is quickly approaching. It will be held August 8-11 in Kansas City, Missouri. Registration and a agenda can be found on the event website: http://projects.nfstc.org/trace/2011/index.htm. The theme for this year’s Symposium is Advancing Science, Significance, and Impact. From the looks of the workshops and scientific sessions offered, this meeting will be very informative.
ASTEE at a Glance (Cont. From Page 1)

Our ad hoc Social Committee headed by Jenny Smith and Sandy Parent has been hard at work. On Wednesday evening during the week of the 2011 Trace Symposium, ASTEE will be hosting a member’s only reception at the Boulevard Brewery, located just a few blocks away from the symposium hotel. This event will feature Boulevard beer, wine, soft drinks, catering by Oklahoma Joe’s BBQ, and a DJ. Thanks in large part to our sponsors CRAIC Technologies and Gateway Analytical who have once again made generous donations, this event will be free to all members who are able to attend. Unfortunately, space will be somewhat limited (225 maximum attendance) so there will need to be a registration process with access to the reception given on a first-come/first-served basis. Additional details on the registration process will be sent out soon via e-mail. We are looking for additional sponsors for this event, so if anyone knows of someone who would like to contribute, please have them contact our Treasurer Sandy Parent at: Sandy.Parent@txdps.state.tx.us

2011 ASTEE Awards
Our Awards Committee Chair Michelle Palmer and her crew have been diligently developing two awards that will be presented during the ASTEE reception at the Trace Evidence Symposium. These awards are the Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence and the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Award. Nominations for the Edmond Locard award and applications for the Scholarship award are due by July 15, 2011. A description of these awards and application materials can be found on pages 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, and 16 of this newsletter.

2011 ASTEE Election
Later this year, we will be holding our first election of officers. As per our bylaws, we must present a slate of candidates to the membership 90 days prior to the election closing date, which is stated as the second Tuesday in October. With the closing date being Tuesday, October 11\textsuperscript{th}, the slate is due by Thursday, July 14\textsuperscript{th}. The positions that will be voted on this year include President, President-Elect, Secretary and Director. If anyone is interested in serving the organization by running for any of these positions, please submit, via e-mail, a brief cover letter indicating the position desired and a two page CV outlining your professional involvement to Vincent Desiderio at vfornsic@yahoo.com. At this time, priority will be given to members who have made contributions to ASTEE first, followed by individuals who have a strong service record with other forensic organizations. All information must be received by Friday, July 8\textsuperscript{th} in order to be considered.

Help Save The FSS
One of our European counterparts, Kornelia Nehse, has provided a letter outlining the situation with the FSS in England. Please take the time to read what she has written (See Page 5) and respond to the petition.

We also have another great contribution from Thom Hopen on the differences between microphotographs and photomicrographs (See Pages 8 to 11) so enjoy the reading.
Photographs Courtesy of Peter Diaczuk, Graham Rankin, and Vincent Desiderio
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Dear colleagues,

since many of you are aware that there is a difficult situation with the Forensic Science Service in the UK and have requested more information regarding the current situation I have tried to accumulate as much reliable and verified background information as possible to give an overview and to provide enough information to get a clearer picture.

On 14\textsuperscript{th} December 2010, the government of the United Kingdom announced that the service would be wound up, adding that as many of its operations as possible were to be transferred or sold off. A steering committee has been set up by the government to oversee the closure of the FSS which is anticipated to take place by march 2012 but to my knowledge there is no published plan for this available at the present time.

The FSS has offices and laboratories in Birmingham, Chorley, Huntingdon, London, and Wetherby. As many as 1600 people who are currently employed with the FSS are affected by the decisions made in December 2010. At the present time the FSS is continuing to carry out casework as normal and is involved in national and international projects and working groups.

Recently the Commons science committee (this is a cross-party parliamentary committee) has said it is to hold an inquiry into the closure specifically to investigate the following questions:

- What will the impact of the FSS closure have on forensic science and its future development in the UK?
- What will be the impact on quality and impartiality?
- What is the prospect for a future market in forensic science in the UK?
- Can the private companies cope with the additional work?
- What are the alternatives to closing the FSS?
- Are the plans for closing the FSS adequate?

There is currently a petition running under http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/savethefss to reverse the decision. There are currently about 25.000 signatures but only if 100.000 signatures are obtained, which don't have to originate from UK citizens, the matter has to be debated in parliament.

That is the situation the colleagues from the FSS face at the present time. It seems inevitable that things become clearer in the coming months.

Kornelia Nehse
EFG-chairperson
ASTEE AWARDS

We are pleased to announce that two awards will be presented at the Trace Evidence Symposium during the ASTEE reception on Wednesday night, August 10th. These awards are the Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence and the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Award. The Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence will be awarded to an ASTEE member who has demonstrated excellence in Trace Evidence and who has made significant contributions to the field of Trace Evidence. This award will be based on nominations. The American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Award is an award for $250 that will be awarded to a student currently enrolled as either an undergraduate or graduate in the physical sciences who has demonstrated academic excellence in the field of Forensic Science, with an emphasis on Trace Evidence. All nominations/applications must be received no later than July 15, 2011, by the awards committee.

The Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence was developed by the ASTEE Board to offer an award that recognized an individual who had made significant contributions to the field of Trace Evidence in Forensic Science. The board believed that the award should be named after one of the most significant historical figures in Trace Evidence— the late Dr. Edmond Locard. Chris Taylor, ASTEE Director, had recently met the daughter and granddaughter of Dr. Locard at a meeting in Lyon, France. Mrs. Denise Stagnara, daughter of Dr. Locard, gave ASTEE permission to use Dr. Edmond Locard’s name for this award. Mrs. Stagnara was very appreciative, and she stated that she was honored to have this award named after her father.

Dr. Edmond Locard (1877-1966) was a French Criminalist who was a pioneer in forensic science and specifically in the field of Trace Evidence. He is best known for his exchange principle, which eventually came to be known as Locard’s Exchange Principle. Locard’s Exchange Principle essentially states that whenever two objects come in contact with each other, there will be a mutual exchange of matter, or that any action of an individual cannot occur without leaving a trace. Dr. Locard’s principle has continued to be a defining force in Forensic Science and specifically Trace Evidence because it explains the transfer of evidence. Dr. Locard’s principle is even more applicable to this award because, as Chris Taylor aptly put it, “the Edmond Locard award truly recognizes the individual whose contact has left a trace with other scientists and within the field of Trace Evidence and Forensic Science.”
To nominate an individual for this award, the award nominee must be a member of ASTEE who has made significant contributions to the field of Trace Evidence and must have a minimum of ten years in Trace Evidence. The Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence award nomination form must accompany the nomination.

To qualify for the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Award, applicants must currently be enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student in a Forensic Science or related science program with plans on pursuing work in the field of Trace Evidence. To apply, applicants will submit an essay of no more than 1000 words detailing their personal goals with regards to Trace Evidence, their achievements, and their reasons for being considered for this award. Applicants will also provide an official school transcript which includes semester grades for the most recently completed semester, a letter(s) of recommendation from a professor in the applicant’s curriculum, the Scholarship Applicant Form, and the Scholarship Recommendation form.

Nominations for the Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence and applications for the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Award must be received by the ASTEE Awards Committee no later than July 15, 2011 and may be mailed or e-mailed to the address listed below. Official school transcripts must be mailed by the school or by the applicant to the listed address. Scans or photocopies of the transcript will not be accepted.

Michelle Palmer  
Virginia Department of Forensic Science  
6600 Northside High School Road  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
Michelle.palmer@dfs.virginia.gov
Microphotograph vs. Photomicrograph

There is a Distinction & There should be No Confusion

Thomas J. Hopen*

Trace evidence analysts routinely photograph microscopic features during a microscopical examination of a sample to include in their notes or for possible presentation in court. Unfortunately, from time to time, you will see the term “microphotograph” used when referring to a “photomicrograph” and the process of the action as “microphotography” when “photomicrography” is the proper term. Even though these terms have been around for over 150 years, there still seems to be some misunderstanding about their correct use.

The Royal Microscopical Society (1) defines:

1) Microphotography - "Photography, especially of documents, arranged to produce small images which cannot be studied without magnification. Not to be confused with photomicrography."
2) Photomicrography - "The recording by photography of an image formed by a microscope; i.e. photography through a microscope. Note: Not to be confused with microphotography."

Furthermore, the New York Microscopical Society (2) defines:

1) Microphotograph - "A small, microscopic photograph, in which the image is minified; it requires enlarging or use of a lens system in order to view it. See photomicrograph."
2) Photomicrograph - "An image enlarged approximately 40X or higher, produced by light, cf., electron micrograph."
3) Photomicrography - "This term should not be reversed into microphotography. A photomicrograph is a photograph of a small object, the image is magnified more than approximately 40X by means of a compound microscope. A microphotograph is a small photograph, requiring an enlargement or a lens system in order to view it; the image is minified."

Also, in most general use dictionaries one will see the correct definition for "photomicrograph" with an added noted that "micrograph is sometimes used". Sadly, this note does not express that microphotograph is an incorrect substitution.

John Delly addresses this misunderstanding and explains in a footnote (3) that "Photomicrography should not be confused with microphotography, which involves making extremely small images of large objects. The distinction between the terms photomicrography and microphotography was made as early as 1858, but the confusion still persists. A contributing factor is faulty translation from the German language in which photomicrography is mikrophotographie."

* Forensic Chemist Thomas J. Hopen, ATF-Forensic Science Laboratory, Arson and Explosives Section, 2600 Century Parkway, NE, Suite 400, Atlanta, GA 30345
Microphotography is a fascinating subject that will only be briefly covered in this article. This author made a presentation on this subject with a good friend Robert Kuksuk, Curator of the State Microscopical Society of Illinois (SMSI), back in the eighties. The presentation was composed of 12 individual microphotographs that were recorded on a single microscope slide using the microscope in reverse. This was accomplished by projecting the presentation images downward through a microscope with high resolution film placed on the microscope stage to record the images. Once developed, a microscope was used with a video system connected to TVs that showed the presentation to the audience.

Microphotography was invented by John Benjamin Dancer from Manchester, England, in 1839 using the Daguerreotype method (4). In 1858 he popularized and started to commercially produce microscope slides bearing microphotographs on a variety of different subjects using the collodion process. A John Benjamin Dancer slide is shown in Figure 1 along with images of the microphotograph on the slide at higher magnifications. The detail that can be seen is amazing, especially since the microphotograph is well over 130 years old. This J. B. Dancer slide bears an image of a painting by Sir Edwin Henry Landseer (1802-1873) that was commissioned by the 6th Duke of Devonshire. The book on this topic by Bracegirdle and McCormick (4) is beautifully produced, extremely informative, and is a wonderful addition to anyone’s library.

When first introduced, Dancer’s microphotography slides were very popular but a microscope was needed to view the images. This problem was addressed by René Prudent Patrice Dagron (5), a Frenchman, who combined the Stanhope lens (invented earlier in the century by Charles, 3rd Earl of Stanhope) with the microphotograph to produce magnificent novelty items (pendants, charms, rings, religious items, pocket knives, tie-pins, letter openers, etc). The novelty item was referred to as a "Stanhope", a "Stanhope Lens" or sometimes a "Peep". A Stanhope pocket watch fob is shown in Figure 2 with each optical tube containing a different picture. When the Stanhope is placed near the eye one will see an enlarged image of the microphotographs when looking through the optical tubes. Stanhopes can be found on eBay and sometimes at antique stores. Again, it is worth noting that the book by Jean Scott (5) is beautifully produced, extremely informative and is an excellent addition to anyone’s library.
The first non-novelty application of microphotography was used during the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). During the "Siege of Paris", stories have been told about how pigeons were used to carry military messages about the war. But what one may not know is the messages were in the form of microphotographs. René Dagron was able to escape Paris by balloon and organize sending microphotographs of military dispatches back to Paris which was surrounded by the Prussian Army. These military dispatches consisted of approximately three thousand messages contained on a piece of film measuring 3.6 cm by 6 cm. Each pigeon carried approximately 17 pieces of film enclosed in a goose quill attached to their tail with a silk thread. A similar application was used in World War II when approximately 15 lines of text were embedded in a full stop or period (.) contained in letters from Germany (6). The period looked innocuous but when removed and examined under a microscope at approximately 200X the message became obvious. The use of microphotography in the world of espionage continued throughout the twentieth century.

There has always been an unofficial competition to produce the smallest microphotograph containing the most information. In 1925, E. Goldberg recorded a legible page with 50 lines of text which was no larger than 0.1 mm (100 μm or 0.004 of an inch). This would be equal to imaging 50 complete bibles in one square inch (7). An example of a micro-Bible is shown in Figure 3. This micro-Bible contains 1245 pages in approximately one square inch and can be easily read using a magnifying system. If interested, a micro-Bible can be purchased from GreatScopes, Inc., (www.greatscopes.com). Some individuals may not know that a number of micro-Bibles were taken on the Apollo 14 mission to the moon. Once the astronauts returned, the micro-Bibles were then presented to dignitaries as gifts. One will probably recognize this micro-Bible as Microfilm or Microfiche. Today microphotography is applied to data storage, optical reticles, and microelectronics (8). Also, the passion to see how much data can be stored in a minute area still continues.
today. In 2007, it was reported (9) that Israel produced a Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) containing ~300,000 words by photon etching a silicon surface within a 0.5 mm square area.

In contrast, a photograph taken of an enlarged image through a light microscope is correctly referred to as a photomicrograph or light micrograph. The term macrophotograph may be used if the magnification of the image is less than 40X. An image obtained by an electron microscope (e.g. scanning electron microscope) is referred to as an electron micrograph. Determining and expressing the correct magnification of a micrograph (light or electron) is another topic for discussion that will be addressed in a future article.

On a similar note, the term "microscopic" (e.g. microscopic examination) is commonly used when "microscopical" (e.g. microscopical examination) is the correct term. References (1), (2), and (10) define: "microscopic – Very small, pertaining to a very small object or to its fine structure. A microscopic particle requires microscopical examination to be adequately visible." and "microscopical - Pertaining to a microscope; pertaining to the use of a microscope." As expected, general use dictionaries usually make no distinction between the two terms.

I know this article has very little to do with the examination and analysis of trace evidence but I still hope you find it interesting and informative. By the way, a free Internet Encyclopedia (unnamed) defines "photomicrograph" and "photomicrograph" as having the same meaning. Not surprisingly, by searching the Internet for "pictures of photomicrographs" one will find thousands of photomicrographs and electron micrographs that are incorrectly identified as "microphotographs". Now the wrong usage and confusion is being spread world wide. What can I say?

REFERENCES

6) "Photomicrograph"; Microscope; 1954, 10(3), p. 83.
American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners Scholarship Award

Criteria: This scholarship of $250 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 an undergraduate or 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 in regard 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. Applicants will submit a letter of recommendation from a professor in the applicant's curriculum accompanied by the Scholarship Recommendation form. Applicants will submit a completed Scholarship Applicant form.

All required materials must be received no later than midnight on July 15, 2011. 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. Scans or photocopies will not be accepted.

Interested candidates should submit all required materials to:

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) 561-6600 ext. 50157 or via e-mail.
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 be a member of ASTEE and have a minimum of ten years in Trace Evidence. Nominee 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.

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 received by the Awards Committee for review no later than midnight on July 15, 2011. 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: 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) 561-6600 ext. 50157
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American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners
Scholarship Applicant Form

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________

School Residence Address: __________________________________________________________________

Home Address: __________________________________________________________________________

School Phone Number: _________________________ Home Phone Number: _________________________

Alternate Phone Number: ___________________________________________________________________

College attended: _________________________________________________________________________

Degree program: _________________________________________________________________________

Current Year: ________________________

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

Interested candidates should submit all required materials to:

Michelle Palmer
Virginia Department of Forensic Science
6600 Northside High School Road
Roanoke, VA 24019
Michelle.Palmer@dfs.virginia.gov
(540) 561-6600 x50157
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: ___________________________________________________________________

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 to:

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) 561-6600 ext. 50157 or via e-mail.
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United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL)

Pre-Recruitment Announcement for

Forensic Trainer / Researcher - Chemistry / Explosives

The United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) Training Division is seeking an experienced Forensic Trainer (GS 13 / 1320 Chemist; $85,500 to $111,148) in the discipline of chemistry / explosives. This position is currently a 2 year term appointment with full government benefits, with potential for becoming a permanent position.

The USACIL provides a full range of forensic science services for the Department of Defense (DoD). The Expeditionary Forensic Division (EFD) supports a system of deployed laboratories providing forensic science services for the war fighter. Chemistry / Explosives Trainers develop and deliver a Program of Instruction (POI) at USACIL designed to train forensic examiners on the analyses of explosives and explosive residues from materials and debris collected from the battlefield.

Ideally, the incumbent will have explosives analyses and training experience complemented with the ability to work as a team player. Those candidates with extensive chemistry and appropriate instrumental and microscopy experience will also be strong candidates for the vacancy. The Chemistry / Explosives training program collaborates closely with other forensic science disciplines (Trace Evidence, DNA, Latent Prints, Toolmarks) analyzing material and debris and interpreting data to provide the maximum information for the Joint Force Commander.

A formal announcement will be provided in the near future for this position. Details for the position and application process are available from the POC:

Mark Dale, MBA
Program Manager - Training and Education
United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL)
Training Division
4930 N 31st Street, Forest Park, Georgia 30297
404-469-4961 office
404-966-2495 cell
mark.dale1@us.army.mil
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 coursework)

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

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

Signature of Applicant Date

PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP:

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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
P.O. Box 10495
Austin, TX 78766

General Business
PO Box 10538
Trenton, NJ 08650

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