



# ASTEE

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July 2021

ASTEE Newsletter

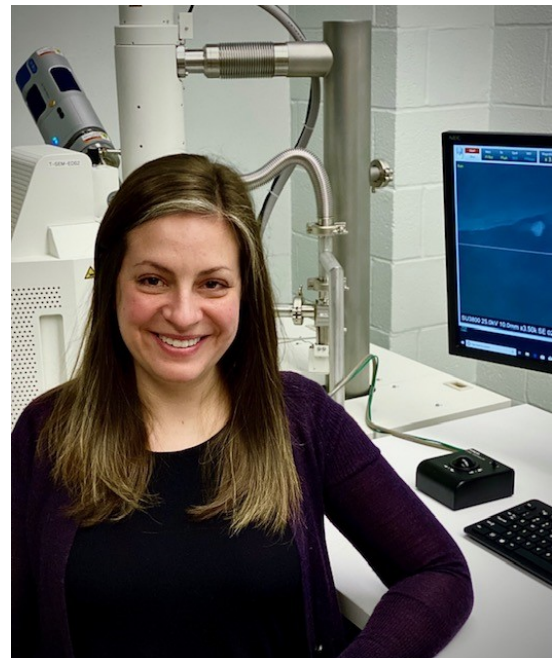
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## Message from the President

ASTEE Members,

It has been over a year since we have been able to meet in-person with colleagues and friends. Now optimism and excitement fill the air (instead of cicadas)! We finally have some on-site meetings scheduled for this fall. ASTEE is partnering with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS) to co-host their annual meeting. This joint meeting will be held September 21<sup>st</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania. Numerous trace evidence workshops are on the agenda. Topics include explosive residues, advanced fibers, and utilizing a statistical method to determine the presence of gasoline. If you are able to attend these workshops, you will see some familiar ASTEE faces including our current treasurer, Kelsey Winters, and 2018 president, Kelly Brinsko Beckert. In addition, the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) also plans to host its annual meeting this fall. The DuPage County Forensic Science Center will host the meeting from October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup> in Oak Brook, Illinois. The schedule includes a variety of trace evidence workshops. Topics include hair and ancestry, approaches to qualitative conclusions and report writing, the detection and identification of



## Message from the President continued...

general unknowns, as well as explosive residues. Again, you will see ASTEE members, Board members, and Committee members instructing these workshops including ASTEE's 2020 president, Sandy Koch.

Because of ongoing budget constraints due to the pandemic of 2020, we understand some agency budgets and policies will not allow for travel. Fortunately for ASTEE members, our Education Committee has been hard at work securing more virtual training options. Be on the lookout for two RTI webinars: Digital Processing with David Witske on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> as well as Footwear Interpretation with Leslie Hammer on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Another virtual opportunity for continuing education is the 2021 Online Forensic Symposium: Current Trends in Forensic Trace Analysis which will take place July 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. This symposium is free, so be sure to save your spot now! Topics to be discussed include trends in gunshot residue, fire debris/explosives, fiber examinations, the role of human factors in decision making, and collaborative studies to advance trace evidence.

While 2020 was a year no one expected, our organization persevered through every challenge due to the dedication and innovation of our Board and membership. I am confident we will continue to overcome any obstacle but honestly, I am ready to see my colleagues faces in-person rather than through a computer screen!

Sincerely,

*Emily Weber*

Emily Weber

2021 ASTEE President

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## Important Dates

July 26-30, 2021	2021 Current Trends in Forensic Trace Analysis Symposium
August 3, 2021 and August 5, 2021	RTI webinar: Digital Processing with David Witske
September 21-24, 2021	Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS) Annual Meeting (Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania)
September 30, 2021	RTI webinar: Footwear Interpretation with Leslie Hammer
October 31-November 5, 2021	The DuPage County Forensic Science Center will host the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) Annual Meeting (Oak Brook, Illinois)

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- ✓ Gun Shot Residues
- ✓ Accelerants & Explosives



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## **ASTEE at a Glance – Committee Updates**

### **Awards Committee**

Congratulations to our award winners! Oriana Ovide was selected as the 2021 ASTEE Scholarship award winner and Dr. Geraldine Monjardez was selected as the Research Grant Award winner.

Travel awards are back! The ASTEE Board has approved one travel award for the upcoming joint MAAFS-ASTEE meeting in September and another travel award for the MAFS meeting in October/November. More details will be announced soon.

### **Communications Committee**

We're sending a big welcome to the former forensicXRF Yahoo! Group, which recently made a new home on the ASTEE Forum. Thanks to Troy Ernst for making this happen. This new category in the Forum is not limited to former Yahoo! Group members, it is open to all of ASTEE. Please feel free to ask your questions, share your insights, and continue to build the XRF user community.

And speaking of the Forum, we want to encourage ASTEE members to post new topics for discussion, employment opportunities, training/continuing education opportunities, and educational resources. The Forum is all yours! It provides direct access for you to speak to your peers about anything and everything Trace Evidence. The Forum is also very flexible, so if you have an idea about a new category, a new resource to make available, or anything you think might benefit the TE Community, please leave us a message in the Comments and Feedback category (or email [asteetrace@gmail.com](mailto:asteetrace@gmail.com)) and we will do our best to make your idea a reality.

### **Education Committee**

We are proud to announce three upcoming webinars! The first two will be regarding digital processing practices for impression evidence, presented by David Witske, on August 3 and August 5, 2021. Additionally, there will be a webinar regarding footwear interpretations and conclusions, presented by Lesley Hammer, on September 30, 2021. More information will be posted on the ASTEE forum as we get closer to those dates!

Don't forget to register for the joint MAAFS/ASTEE conference in Poconos Manor, PA on September 21-24, 2021!

Be sure to visit the ASTEE member forum! We have been posting various journal articles, conference materials, and online resources for your enjoyment. Please post anything you would like to share with the membership! If you have any questions, please contact the committee at the e-mail listed below.

If you have ideas for potential webinars, you can recommend someone (including yourself) who may be able to offer a workshop or webinar, or you or your laboratory are interested in hosting a workshop (virtual or otherwise), please send an e-mail to [astee.edu.committee@gmail.com](mailto:astee.edu.committee@gmail.com).



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

### Elections Committee

ASTEE will be holding elections in October for the following 2022 Board of Directors positions:

- President-Elect (1-year term, then serves as President for 1 year): Fulfills the President's duties should the president be absent, leave office or become incapacitated. The President's duties include: presiding at meetings; conducting the business of the Society, and promoting the fulfillment of the Society's objectives.
- Secretary (2-year term): Records the minutes of the Board and Society meetings, maintains the Society records, and files (or appoints an agent to file) any and all necessary documents with the state of New Jersey.
- Director (3-year term): Act at the direction of the executive board (President, President- Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary) to carry out assigned tasks on behalf of the Society. Directors are voting members of the Board.

Serving on the ASTEE Board is a great way to contribute to the organization and to have a positive impact on the forensic science community. If you are interested in serving on the ASTEE Board of Directors in any of these positions, please send a photo along with a brief bio detailing your qualifications and the reasons why you would like to serve on the Board to Katie Igowsky, [Katherine.Igowsky@state.mn.us](mailto:Katherine.Igowsky@state.mn.us), by September 3, 2021. The election will take place via electronic ballot in October.

### Publications Committee

#### *Newsletter*

The Publications Committee is always looking for new content to share with ASTEE Members! Please send any ideas for ASTEE Newsletter content, including *News You Can Use* topics, to Kiersten Coffin ([Kiersten.Coffin@dps.texas.gov](mailto:Kiersten.Coffin@dps.texas.gov)).

#### *JASTEE*

JASTEE is looking for submissions to round out its next issue! If you have original research or a Trace Evidence case study that you have been trying to write up, please be encouraged to complete and submit that to JASTEE. Manuscript submissions and questions may be directed to the Journal Editor, Heidi Prough ([ProughH@michigan.gov](mailto:ProughH@michigan.gov)).

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UV-VIS FLUORESCENCE

RAMAN

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GLASS REFRACTIVE INDEX

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## ASTEER Word Search

Q	S	V	B	T	N	A	C	I	R	B	U	L	W	S	O	I	L	D	H	X	F	E
C	Y	J	D	Z	S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	P	O	L	Y	M	E	R	V	F	H
A	E	D	D	C	Y	J	I	M	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	P	D	Q	O	G	H
S	X	O	Y	G	O	L	A	R	E	N	I	M	T	E	X	T	I	L	E	J	O	E
O	P	M	I	C	R	O	S	C	O	P	I	C	V	M	G	E	C	B	F	E	T	T
A	A	V	F	H	G	N	I	T	F	I	L	E	P	A	T	K	I	Q	L	P	J	L
C	N	O	S	I	R	A	P	M	O	C	Y	D	O	B	D	I	O	V	O	O	M	E
O	S	E	V	I	S	O	L	P	X	E	M	I	R	C	S	C	J	V	A	C	C	E
R	S	U	G	Z	W	Y	G	O	L	O	N	Y	L	A	P	E	S	F	T	S	C	P
D	U	Q	S	X	R	E	T	T	I	L	G	M	S	P	V	D	K	T	G	O	I	N
A	E	I	R	P	L	M	C	P	Y	R	O	G	C	M	S	Q	M	I	L	E	T	I
G	E	L	M	O	Y	S	F	I	L	A	M	E	N	T	D	M	H	R	A	R	A	H
E	T	B	G	A	M	I	D	O	B	L	A	C	K	U	S	E	M	A	S	E	M	T
A	S	O	D	E	P	A	T	R	O	T	A	M	Y	R	H	C	A	L	S	T	O	Q
S	A	X	C	A	S	T	I	N	G	Q	G	S	W	G	M	A	T	O	C	S	S	H
J	O	E	L	G	P	H	Y	S	I	C	A	L	F	I	T	L	O	C	A	R	D	E

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden     and .

AMIDO BLACK  
ASTEER  
CASTING  
COMPARISON  
CORDAGE  
EXPLOSIVES  
FILAMENT  
FLOAT GLASS

FTIR  
GLITTER  
GSR  
IMPRESSION  
LACHRYMATOR  
LOCARD  
LUBRICANT  
MICROSCOPIC

MINERALOGY  
MSP  
OBLIQUE  
OSAC  
OVoid BODY  
PALYNOLOGY  
PDQ  
PHYSICAL FIT

PLM  
POLYMER  
PYRO GCMS  
ROOT  
SCRIM  
SEM  
SOIL  
SOMATIC

STANDARD  
STEREOSCOPE  
SWGMA  
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TAPE LIFTING  
TEXTILE  
THIN PEEL



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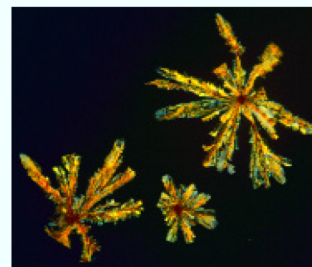
## COMING SOON

the  
microscope

## Volume 68, No. 2

We are pleased to offer the next issue of **The Microscope** journal Vol. 68:2 (2020) as an online edition, which can be viewed on the McCrone Research Institute website, [www.mccroneinstitute.org](http://www.mccroneinstitute.org). Featured research articles include:

- The microscopical examination of the roughness of surfaces, by John Russ.
- Brian J. Ford's Critical Focus column on Covid-19 vaccinations.
- Microscopical analyses of asbestos-containing fibrous adhesive, by James Millette, et al.
- New microcrystal tests for illicit drugs, diverted pharmaceuticals, and psychoactive bath salts, by McCrone Research Institute.



For more than 75 years, **The Microscope** has been the foremost journal of microscopy for researchers in a variety of industries, including pharmaceuticals, law enforcement, forensic science, materials analysis, environmental services, academia, conservation, and government labs.

## Microscope Publications

### A Division of McCrone Research Institute

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[themicroscope@mcricri.org](mailto:themicroscope@mcricri.org)

## May We Introduce You To...

**May we introduce you to...** Amy Duhaime

**Occupation:** Criminalist III, Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory. I am the technical lead of the Trace Evidence section and Quality Manager of the lab.

**What Trace Evidence sub-discipline(s) are the focus of your work?** Fire debris, hairs, fibers, paint, impressions, physical fit, gunshot residue

**What is the top activity on your bucket list?** Most of the items on my bucket list involve travel. Currently New Zealand and Iceland are at the top of the list.

**Tell us something that would surprise others about you.** Growing up, I lived on a 40 acre farm in southern Indiana. We raised a wide variety of animals, including a large herd of goats. Every summer, my Mom and I would spend several weeks traveling around to various goat shows (yes, goat shows are a real thing). I got very proficient at showing the goats and one year I won the National Showmanship championship (no, I am not joking, I still have the plaque somewhere). As a result of living on a farm, I have an odd collection of skills that aren't much use to me in suburban Rhode Island. But I take great comfort in knowing that if anyone needs a goat milked very quickly or some hay baled, I am ready to step in.

**What is the most interesting place you have been?** Hands down, the most interesting place I have been is Australia. I encountered a mob of kangaroos while hiking, was surrounded by a herd of sheep while driving down the road, got attacked by leeches in the rain forest and don't get me started on the gigantic spiders. And the Australians are some of the kindest, friendliest, most interesting people you will ever meet.



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**May we introduce you to...** Rachel Newton

**Occupation:** Forensic Scientist at Miami Valley Regional Crime Laboratory in Dayton, OH

**What Trace Evidence sub-discipline(s) are the focus of your work?** Hairs and Paint



**What do you like to do in your down time?** Spending time with my boyfriend Brian, traveling to Pittsburgh to see family, watching football/hockey, shopping, reading, traveling to new places

**Tell us something that would surprise others about you.** People don't usually believe me, but my hair is naturally blonde

**What is the most interesting place you have been?** Went to Australia for 2 weeks when I was 16. We traveled from Sydney to Cairns doing various activities, including snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef.



## May We Introduce You To...

**May we introduce you to...** Jenny Lounsbury

**Occupation:** Forensic Scientist in Trace Evidence Section, Texas DPS Crime Laboratory

**What Trace Evidence sub-discipline(s) are the focus of your work?** Hairs, Fibers, Paints/Polymers, Impressions, Physical Fits, Pressure Sensitive Tapes, and Lamp Filaments

**What is the top activity on your bucket list?** More travel – I would love to go to places like the UK, Japan, South Africa, Australia, and so many more!

**What do you like to do in your down time?** Play field hockey! In January 2020, I tried out for and made the O-35 USA Women's Masters' Field Hockey Squad and was an alternate for the Masters' World Cup. Unfortunately, everything was cancelled due to the pandemic, so we never got to play and I'll have to re-tryout this coming January. But, I'm hopeful to make the squad again and can't wait to put on a USA jersey!

**Tell us something that would surprise others about you.** I collect Legos (although, maybe that isn't a big surprise...haha) and all the free time I had during the pandemic allowed me to buy more sets and display cases for my collection. I have over 50 sets and the most valuable set is the Tantive IV (aka Princess Leia's ship). #nerd



**May we introduce you to...** Karli Kaempfe

**Occupation:** Criminalist III in the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab Trace Evidence Section

**What Trace Evidence sub-discipline(s) are the focus of your work?** The majority of our case load is GSR, Hair exams, and ignitable liquid analysis. I am also proficient in Paint comparisons, Glass comparisons, fiber analysis, substance identification and fracture match.



**What is your favorite quote?** A wise woman wishes to be no one's enemy; A wise woman refuses to be anyone's victim' —Maya Angelou

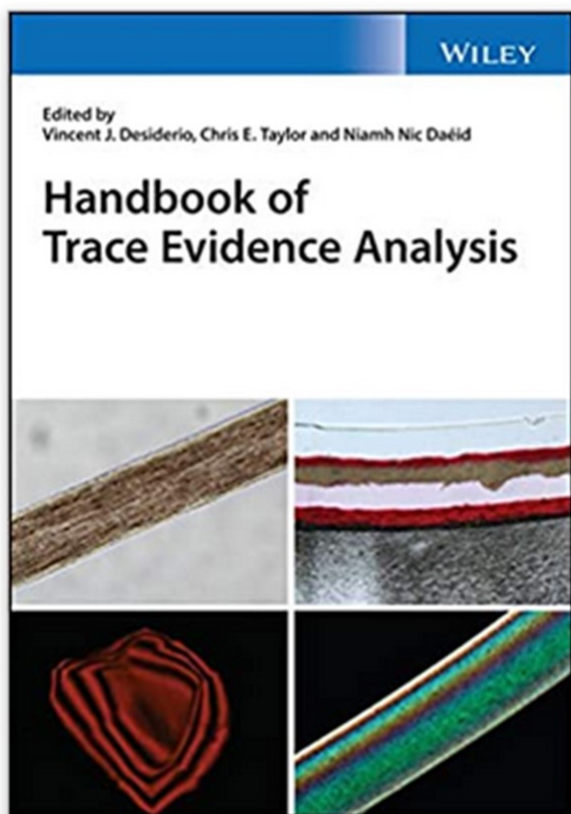
**What is the top activity on your bucket list?** Go on an African Safari

**What is the most interesting place you have been?** The Mayan port city ruins in Tulum, Mexico. The views were stunning and it was breathtaking to see the ancient architecture.

## ATTENTION ASTEE MEMBERS

There is a new Trace Evidence book, Handbook of Trace Evidence Analysis, that will be published soon and advanced copies are now being sold. ASTEE's very own past presidents Chris Taylor and Vinny Desiderio are two of the editors.

The book also features chapters by many distinguished ASTEE members and respected Trace Evidence experts.



Chapter 1: Trace Evidence Recognition, Collection, and Preservation: \*Ted Schwartz, Daniel Rothernberg, and \*Brandi Clark

Chapter 2: Polarized Light Microscopy for the Trace Evidence Examiner: \*Andy Bowen (ASTEE- Past President)

Chapter 3: Paints & Polymers: \*Robyn Weimer (ASTEE- Past President); \*Diana Wright (ASTEE-Edmond Locard Award for Excellence Recipient) and Tamara Hodgins

Chapter 4: Forensic Hair Microscopy: \*Jay Beckert

Chapter 5: Fibers: \*Sandy Koch (Current ASTEE President) and Kornelia Nehse

Chapter 6: Interpretation of Glass Evidence: \*Tatiana Trejos, James Curran, and Tacha Hicks

Chapter 7: Interpreting Trace Evidence: \*Patrick Buzzini and James Curran

\* ASTEE Member

**ISBN-13: 978-1118962114**

**ISBN-10: 1118962117**

Reserve your copy today!!! More information on this book and ordering information can be found at the following website (please note that other purchase sources are available).

[https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Evidence-Analysis-Vincent-Desiderio/dp/1118962117/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=9781118962114&linkCode=qs&qid=1596198810&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Evidence-Analysis-Vincent-Desiderio/dp/1118962117/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=9781118962114&linkCode=qs&qid=1596198810&s=books&sr=1-1)

Some of the royalties of the sale of the book will go to ASTEE- Thank you Chris Taylor!



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