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August 2017

ASTEE Newsletter

Table of Contents

Message from the President	1	Professional Development Award	8
Upcoming Elections	2	OSAC Summary Update	9
ASTEE at a Glance	4	In Memoriam	12
News You Can Use	6	ASTEE Events	13

Message from the President

I hope you are all having a great summer and are getting to spend some quality time with family and friends.

ASTEE has been busy this year so far! We held amazing networking events at the CAC, AAFS and Inter-micro meetings that were all very well attended. I think these gatherings that allow us to connect with others in our discipline are invaluable because of the varied nature of trace evidence. More than any other area of the laboratory – I believe trace examiners need to have a network of other trace examiners that they can exchange ideas with about casework or research. Come make some contacts of your own and consider joining us to at our next event which will be held September 19th during the MAFS/SAFS/ASTEE meeting!



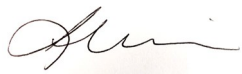
The joint MAFS/SAFS/ASTEE meeting will be held September 17-27, 2017 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Meeting planners have already announced 34 approved workshops and a well thought out agenda sure to provide a lot of useful information. Please remember to get in your registration before August 28th to get the best pricing and take advantage of the ASTEE member discount on attendance. We hope to see you there!

As always, I would like to remind everyone about the awards ASTEE provides each year. Consider applying for one of the travel awards that will provide \$500 in travel funds to attend the fall meeting. We have also approved funding for professional development awards, research grants, and student research projects. These are valuable perks you get for being an ASTEE member so I encourage you to go to our website for details and apply today!

Message from the President continued...

As we move forward this year we have a few major projects we are working on. We are looking into enhancing our ASTEE website to provide more information to our members and we are also updating our Bylaws and Administrative Rules. Our website and our documents have had no significant modifications since 2009 when the society was formed, so you should expect to see some big changes taking place later this year. I should also let you know that an in-person statistics for trace evidence workshop is being planned as we speak. More details will be provided as the class comes together so please consider this when planning your upcoming training needs.

My best to all of you for a safe and happy summer!



Amy Michaud
2017 ASTEE President

Upcoming Elections

ASTEE will be holding elections in October for the following 2018 Board of Directors positions:

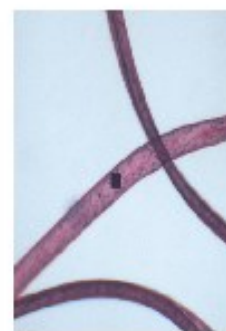
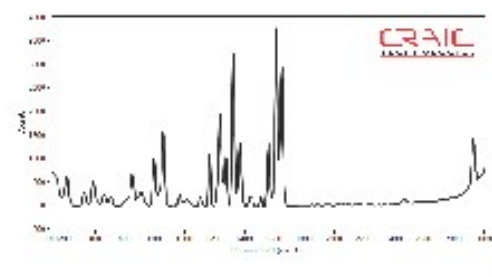
- ◆ President-Elect (1-year term, then serves as President for 1 year): Fulfills the President's duties should the president be absent, leave office or become incapacitated. The President's duties include: presiding at meetings; conducting the business of the Society, and promoting the fulfillment of 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 this organization, and to have a positive impact on the forensic science community and your fellow trace analysts. 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) by September 05, 2017. The election will take place via electronic ballot in October.

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ASTEE at a Glance – Committee Updates

JASTEE Update

Efforts continue towards the inclusion of *JASTEE* in a searchable database. Traditional routes through the big five publishers have been excluded due to the high fees associated with their partnership. To accommodate some of the alternative options, you may find that the presentation on our website of the journals and articles has changed. Journals will still be available, but the articles will each individually be available as well.

JASTEE Submissions have slowed in 2017. So just a reminder, *JASTEE*'s frequency and success rely on you for contributions. If you would like to submit an article for publication in *JASTEE*, contact Robyn (robyn.weimer@dfs.virginia.gov).

Awards Committee

The 2017 Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence was awarded to Dr. Diana Wright. Dr. Wright has made significant contributions to Trace Evidence as both a practitioner and an educator regarding paint and tape. She has published numerous articles regarding research she has conducted, and she has worked diligently to help create forensic standards in the examination of paint and tape through her work on both SWGMAT and OSAC. Congratulations, Dr. Wright!

The 2017 ASTEE/Inter/Micro Travel Award was given to Sandra Koch. Congratulations, Sandra!

ASTEE is pleased to offer two \$500 travel awards to the MAFS/SAFS/ASTEE joint meeting in Cincinnati, OH September 18-22, 2017. In order to be eligible for the award, the applicant must be a member in good standing with ASTEE, traveling greater than 50 miles, and giving an oral or poster presentation. To be considered for this award, members should email an essay of a maximum of 1000 words detailing why they should be given this award, membership number, and details regarding the oral or poster presentation they will be giving at the meeting. The deadline to be considered for this award is August 31, 2017, and should be emailed to the Awards Committee (michelle.drake@dfs.virginia.gov).

The ASTEE Professional Development Award will be offered again in 2017. This award supports trace evidence training by providing funding for any upcoming 2017 through July 2018 McCrone Research Institute class and up to a \$500 travel stipend. Applicants should refer to the Professional Development Award Application form (Page 8) for requirements and submission details. The submission deadline is September 15, 2017.

Sponsorship Committee (new!)

This is a new committee to ASTEE – set in place in an attempt to foster more consistent relationships between our sponsors and our organization. Sponsors are critical to the mission of ASTEE and we recognize we need to do a better job of communicating, working together, and hopefully, growing our number of sponsors. As a new committee, it needs help and we are hoping you may be interested in volunteering. If you would like more information about this committee or would like to become more involved with ASTEE by helping this committee, please contact Kristine Olsson (kristine.olsson@jocogov.org).

Events Committee

ASTEE will host a reception at the MAFS/SAFS/ASTEE Combined Meeting in Cincinnati on Tuesday, September 19th from 6 – 9 pm at Moerlein Lager House. The cost will be \$10 per person. Email Allyson Karr (akarr@isp.in.gov) to RSVP. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

ASTEER at a Glance – Committee Updates (continued...)

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has teamed up with the Membership Committee to audit the contact information for all ASTEE Members. If you have a change in your contact info, please email ASTEE (asteetrace@gmail.com) so you can stay abreast of all news and updates.

ASTEER is in the beginning stages of building a brand new website! In addition to an aesthetic overhaul, we aim to migrate the ASTEE membership database online and streamline both the dues payment and membership application processes. We also want to add more “member’s only” functionality, such as a searchable membership directory (for those who opt in) and forums for posting trace evidence jobs and training. If you have any experience building or maintaining a website, your knowledge and/or recommendations would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Daniel Mabel (dmabel@cuyahogacounty.us) if you are interested in helping with this process.

Mentorship Committee

"Baby steps through the office. Baby steps out the door. It worked... All I have to do is take one little step at a time and I can do anything." -Bob Wiley (What About Bob, 1991)

The Mentorship Committee has made some progress and we have a rough course charted. One remaining obstacle is to ensure we are taking the necessary legal steps and precautions for ASTEE, for the mentors, and for the future mentees. Consultations, though challenging, have been underway. Anyone with legal contacts who may be willing to help with this process is encouraged to contact the Committee Chair Kim Mooney (kim.e.mooney.civ@mail.mil). The next step will be soliciting some information from the membership about events/event types, and then we might be able to get this bad boy rolling.

Education Committee

The Education Committee has finalized a listing of routinely offered courses for various aspects of Trace Evidence including discipline specific testing and instrumental methods. The listing will be posted on the ASTEE website for members to review. Over the next few months, the committee will finalize a quick reference webpage to link members to various educational resources which are infrequently offered such as workshops at regional meetings. We are in the process of finalizing an in-person workshop on the application of statistics to trace evidence interpretation, dates pending. Finally, we've been hard at work organizing webinars with one of our sponsors, RTI International. In July, we saw a paints and polymers webinar, and we are hoping to organize a second instrumental-based webinar by the end of the year.

Research Committee

The research committee has received its first request for a research mentor. The current request is for a mentor to give guidance to a graduate student on the topic: *Assessing variability in vehicle greases, brake fluids, transmission fluids*. A formal research proposal outline is being compiled as well. If you feel you have the background and knowledge in to help guide this student on this subject, please reach out to us (asteeresearch@gmail.com).

As a reminder, the mission statement of the research committee is: “To advance the field of trace evidence forensic science through the promotion of research; to enable fruitful collaborations between practitioners, academics, and interns; and to ensure this research is carried out in a scientifically sound, thorough, and publishable manner. “A mentor is there to guide the researcher in his or her work through regular check-ins

ASTEE at a Glance – Committee Updates (continued...)

and updates. We are expecting more requests to roll in as the new school year approaches. Please consider being a research mentor.

As always if anyone has any questions, concerns, or is interested in joining the committee please reach out to us (asteereseearch@gmail.com).

Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee has been very busy carefully going through the ASTEE Bylaws and Administrative Rules in order to clarify certain items, expand and detail various sections, and provide general grammatical or syntactic edits. Their recommendations are currently being reviewed by the ASTEE Board of Directors. Any significant changes will be detailed to the membership prior to voting in the October election, but several highlights include:

- ◆ Details have been added to the Bylaws regarding membership upgrades (student to associate, associate to regular member, etc.). This also includes the change to allow promotion to Emeritus via a Board vote rather than the current proviso requiring a membership vote.
- ◆ The Bylaws currently require ASTEE to hold regular business meetings (attended by the Board of Directors and a quorum of ASTEE members). Since an official business meeting has never been held, the stipulation is being changed. The Bylaws will instead officially include alternate ways to disseminate information (ASTEE newsletter, website, etc.) and tabulate members' votes via the annual election.
- ◆ Regular membership requirements for a forensic examiner include 3 years of experience, while there is no such requirement for researchers or educators. This requirement was overlooked when membership was extended to these two groups during the last Bylaws review and vote two years ago, and is now being added.

Look for the official list of proposed changes to be voted on during the October election!

News You Can Use

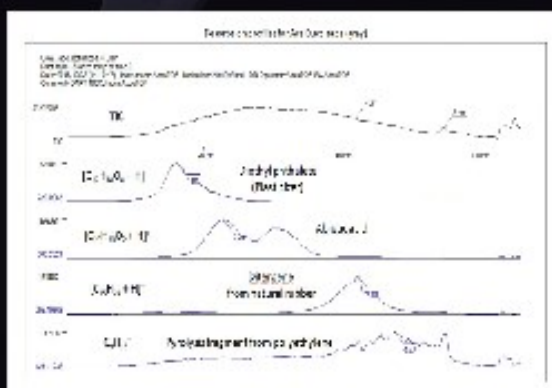
ASTEE's Award Committee is pleased to announce the formation of a new award - *The ASTEE Student Research Project Award*! This award offers a \$250 research award to undergraduate or graduate students who are performing research specifically in the field of Trace Evidence. More details will be made available as the award is finalized. The tentative deadline for the award will be December 1, 2017.

In the February 2016 Newsletter, we shared how to join two relevant email listserv groups – the Trace Evidence Yahoo Users Group and the Forensic SEM User Group. Since that time, another group has formed – **the Forensic XRF Users Group**! Have you had a challenging sample, instrumentation problem, or interpretation question that you could have used someone knowledgeable about XRF to discuss it with? Now, that option exists! To join, send an email to Troy Ernst (ernstt@michigan.gov). You can include any colleagues that are XRF users (name and email address) as well, and each of you will receive an invitation to join. Note: "forensicXRF" is a restricted yahoo group, so you must be invited to join.

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ASTEE Professional Development Award



We are pleased to announce that the ASTEE Professional Development Award will be offered again in 2017. This award supports trace evidence training by providing funding for any upcoming 2017 through September 2018 McCrone Research Institute class and up to a \$500 travel stipend. Professional development activities not only deepen our knowledge and skills as professionals, they also energize us with a new enthusiasm. In order to apply for this Professional Development Award, proof of membership in ASTEE is required.

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

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

In order to be considered for this award, applications must be received by September 15, 2017.

Check out who was spotted at the ASTEE event held at the 2017 AAFS meeting — ASTEE's 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th presidents!





OSAC, What's New?

The Chemistry Scientific Area Committee, which includes the Trace Evidence Subcommittees, had their latest meeting in Leesburg, VA, April 18th – 21st. This was an all-hands-on-deck meeting where all subcommittees were invited simultaneously to promote and more easily facilitate the interdisciplinary collaborations. There seemed to be a more concerted focus on significance and reporting at this meeting, though work continued on all subcommittee efforts. Here are some subcommittee-specific updates:

Materials (Trace)

This subcommittee has at least six documents which are soon to have votes, either at ASTM or within OSAC. Several others are in the public comment or comment adjudication phase. In order to address a negative vote received during an ASTM vote, subcommittee members will soon be undertaking an inter-laboratory glass study in order to better address bias and precision for refractive index measurements. Despite editing, revising, and improving so many documents (remember this subcommittee includes fibers, hair, tape, paint, and glass), this group also remains focused on prioritizing a guide for the assessment of significance for reporting of comparisons. We all know that not all associations are created equal, but we need a way to better communicate (even when we lack statistical means) when one association has greater/weaker significance than another. The significance assessment document, originally drafted within SWGMAT, takes a scaled approach in order to provide context to any drawn conclusion. A validation-type test using the significance assessment document may be coming soon and would be the first step in getting examiners to speak the same language. If you would like to participate in this validation study, please contact Sue Gross (sue.t.gross@state.mn.us).

Most recently, the exciting news is that OSAC has approved ASTM E2926, the *Standard Test Method for Forensic Comparison of Glass Using Micro X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry*, for inclusion on the OSAC Registry. Check it out here: <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-approved-registry-documents>.

Fire Debris and Explosives

The Fire Debris and Explosives subcommittee has sent both a Fire Debris and an Explosives Terminology document to ASTM. The revision of ASTM E1388 (headspace) recently navigated through the ASTM revision process, and a new revision is available. The Fire Debris and Explosives subcommittee continues to review and edit other ASTM documents based on comments from ASTM, public commenting, and OSAC advisory committees: 1412 (charcoal strips), 1413 (dynamic headspace), 2881 (vegetable oils and fats) and 2451 (extract preservation). At the subcommittee level, work continues on several documents, including but not limited to, a Guide for Ignitable Liquid Analysis, a Guide for Intact Low Explosive Material, a QA/QC Guide for Ignitable Liquid Analysis, and a new Active Headspace Extraction standard (similar to what is commonly performed in Europe). Unable to escape the significance discussions, they too are working on a Fire Debris Report Writing Standard (to separate it from E1618, see May 2017 position statement <https://www.nist.gov/forensics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science>) and an Explosives Report Writing Standard.

OSAC, What's New? (continued...)

Gunshot Residue

This subcommittee have sent a training document and a glossary document to ASTM for votes, and will promote the recently approved ASTM E1588 (GSR Analysis by SEM/EDS) Standard Practice through the OSAC approval process. They took the opportunity to discuss interpretation of GSR, including Bayesian and Likelihood Ratio methods, with at least two statisticians at this meeting, and continued their work on a report writing document and a guide for GSR testimony. They will soon be undertaking several literature reviews and a validation, performance check, and diagnostic evaluation document. Contributions were also discussed regarding participating in an ENFSI prevalence study to help determine the level of GSR on the hands of people in various occupations and populations. For more information or to participate, please contact Doug DeGaetano (doug.degaetano@dfs.virginia.gov).

Geological Materials

The Geological Materials subcommittee made considerable progress during the April 2017 in-person meeting in planning the scope of future standards that they hope to produce. Similar to what SWGMAT produced for forensic paint examination, they envision one standard guideline for the forensic analysis of soil evidence, along with numerous additional documents that focus on the application of specific instruments to forensic soil analysis (for example, EDS analysis of soil evidence), or that focus on evaluating and comparing specific soil properties (such as forensic analysis of soil color). As this is a relatively small subcommittee, they could use assistance in drafting these documents. A proposed document "roadmap" is included below. If you have expertise in any of these areas and feel that you could contribute to drafting one of these documents, please consider applying to join the Geological Materials subcommittee as either a full member or as an affiliate. For questions related to their activities or how you might contribute, please contact Andrew Bowen (AMBowen@uspis.gov).

- Standard Guideline for the Collection of Dust
- Standard Specification for Education and Training in Forensic Geology
- Standard Guideline for Opinions and Testimony in Forensic Geology
- Standard Guideline for the Collection and Analysis of Pollen
- Standard Guideline for the Fractionation of Soil Evidence
- Standard Guideline for X-Ray Diffraction of Soils and Geological Materials
- Standard Guideline for the use of SEM/EDS with Soils and Geological Materials
- Standard Guideline for X-Ray Fluorescence of Soils and Geological Materials
- Standard Guideline for the Analysis of Color in Soil Evidence
- Standard Guideline for the Polarized Light Microscopy Analysis of Soil Evidence
- Standard Guideline for the Forensic Analysis of Soils and Geological Materials
- Standard Guideline for Raman Analysis of Soil Evidence
- Standard Guideline for FTIR Analysis of Soil Evidence
- Standard Terminology for the Forensic Analysis of Soils and Geological Materials
- Standard Practice for a Forensic Soil/Geology Training Program

Microscopy Courses

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- Polarized Light Microscopy
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- Crystal Characterization

Complete course descriptions, course calendar, and secure online registration are available at www.mcric.org.



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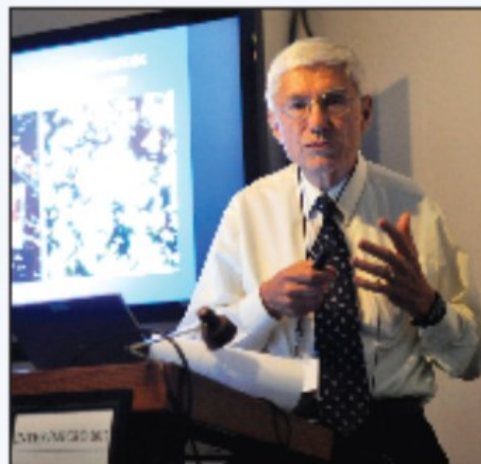
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In Memoriam

It is with great fondness that we remember **Richard Saferstein, Ph.D.**, who passed away on July 28, 2017. Dr. Saferstein, retired in 1991 from the New Jersey State Police as Chief Forensic Scientist after heading the NJSP Forensic Science Bureau for 21 years. He was a leading national expert and author in the field of forensic science and was a highly sought after consultant, participating in a multitude of high profile cases throughout the country. Dr. Saferstein had served as an expert witness over 2000 times in nearly 150 federal and state courts involving a variety of forensic issues. His areas of expertise encompassed breath and blood testing for alcohol, pharmacological effects of alcohol and drugs, detection and identification of drugs in biological fluids, arson-related analysis, and the forensic examination of blood, semen, hair, paint, fiber and glass evidence. His expertise also included review and evaluation of forensic DNA evidence.



Dr. Saferstein was a prolific writer who authored numerous papers and 14 books and laboratory manuals including five books published by Prentice-Hall. His most notable is the standard forensic science text available in the field, *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science*, which continues to be the leading textbook in most forensic science academic programs in the United States. Dr. Saferstein was also the editor of the leading professional reference books in forensic science- *Forensic Science Handbook Vol. I*, *Forensic Science Handbook Vol. II* and *Forensic Science Handbook Vol. III*. Dr. Saferstein has also authored the book, *Forensic Science: From the Crime Scene to the Crime Lab*.

Dr. Saferstein earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the City University of New York in 1970. He became a member of the AAFS in 1975 and was promoted to Fellow in 1977. He was presented with an award of merit by the AAFS in 1995 and was the recipient of the AAFS 2006 Paul L. Kirk Award for distinguished service and contributions to the field of Criminalistics.

Dr. Saferstein's service to the forensic sciences extended well beyond the activities of the AAFS. His name can be found in the membership roles of numerous professional organizations, which reflected his broad range of professional interests. He was a member of American Chemical Society, the International Association for Identification, the Canadian Society of Forensic Scientists, the New Jersey Association of Forensic Scientists, the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the New York Microscopical Society and the Eastern Analytical Symposium (EAS). Dr. Saferstein served as President of EAS in 1989.

Dr. Saferstein was the Rosenblatt Memorial Lecturer in Forensic Science at Northeastern University in 1994, an advisory board member for the Barnett Institute-Northeastern University, and a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Forensic Identification* (2001 - 2017), the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* (1984 - 1994), the *Microchemical Journal* (1988 - 1995), and the *Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis* (1980 - 1984).

He has presented numerous forensic science seminars many of which included high school teachers. He was adjunct professor at The College of New Jersey where he taught an Introduction to Forensic Science for over 10 years.

Dr. Saferstein is survived by his wife, Gail, son, Neal, daughter Sharon and her husband, James Brophy, grandchildren, Xavier and Gabrielle Brophy and sister, Rochelle Saferstein and grandchildren, Bernie and Nicki Saferstein. A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 2, at Platt Memorial Chapel in Cherry Hill, NJ. Shiva was observed at the late residence.

Dr. Thomas Brettell
Associate Professor of Chemistry, Cedar Crest College

ASTEE Reception at AAFS Meeting

Continuing with tradition, ASTEE hosted a reception at this year's AAFS meeting in New Orleans. The event was held at CellarDoor and went very well. Dr. Peter DeForest, with his extended family in attendance, was presented with the 2016 Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence. Big thanks go to Paul Martin and Craic, who graciously sponsored above and beyond the basic sponsorship obligation.



Congratulations to ASTEE's 2016 Edmond Locard Award Winner

ASTEE Trivia Night at Inter/Micro

As in previous years, ASTEE sponsored the Tuesday night dinner and trivia contest at Reggie's Music Joint during the Inter/Micro conference in Chicago. It was a beautiful night at the rooftop event and the food and drinks were delicious! Fourteen ASTEE members attended for free (paid for by ASTEE), plus the event brought in two new members: Shan Mei Jones and Casey Turney. Kelly Brinsko Beckert, ASTEE's President Elect, emceed the trivia contest. Congratulations to the winning team (named "Ninjas vs. Unicorns"), which included the following ASTEE members: Jay Beckert, Pete Diaczuk, Sandy Koch, Joe Insana, Casey Turney, Shan Mei Jones, Meggan King, and Peter Zoon. A few sample questions from each category are listed below, see page 15 for the answers.

Science

1. Which British bacteriologist discovered penicillin in 1928 and won the 1945 Nobel Prize for his achievement?
2. Which is the rarest blood type in humans?
3. If you studied horology, what would you be studying?
4. What element is commonly used to give fireworks their green color?
5. What celestial event is occurring in the US this year for the first time since 1979?

Food and drink

1. What popular soft drink contained the drug lithium citrate--now available only by prescription--when it was introduced in 1929?
2. For over fifty years, Ann Turner Cook's portrait has been the symbol for what well-known food product?
3. Which traditional dish is made from a sheep's heart, liver and lungs, minced with oatmeal and seasoning, and boiled in the sheep's stomach?

National Parks

1. In what National Park are the famous sliding stones at Racetrack Playa found?
2. Which State has the most National Parks?
3. What is the most visited National Park in the US?

World geography

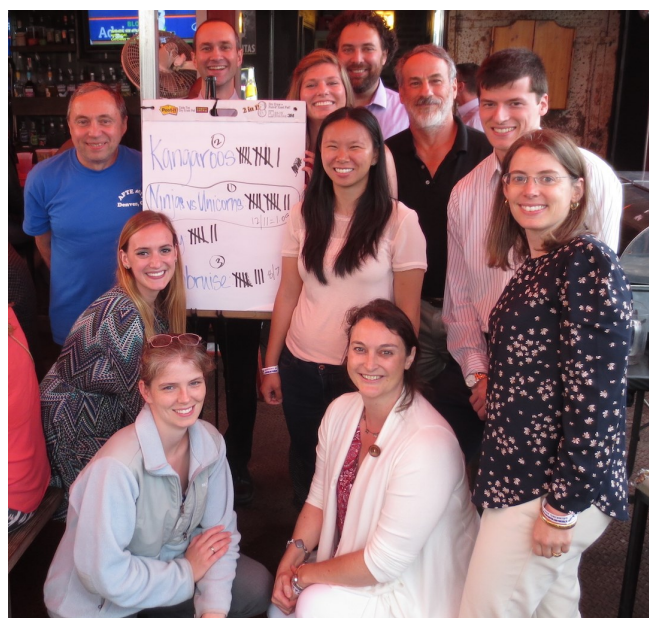
1. Which mountains are traditionally regarded as separating Europe from Asia?
2. What is the most populous country in Europe?
3. How many time zones are there in China?

1948 (The first year of Inter/Micro)

1. This camera was invented by Edwin Land in 1948
2. This famous baseball player died in 1948 after playing for both the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees
3. The Donora Smog of 1948 killed 20 residents over a 5 day period in what US state?
4. This discriminating policy was instituted starting in 1948 and lasted for 43 years
5. The Nobel prize in Medicine was awarded to Paul Hermann Muller for his work on the use of what pesticide to control vector diseases like malaria and yellow fever?



ASTEE Trivia Night at Inter/Micro (continued...)



Trivia Answers

Science

1. Alexander Fleming
2. AB negative (<1% of the population)
3. Time (or the art of clock making)
4. Barium
5. Total solar eclipse

Food and Drink

1. 7-up
2. Gerber baby food
3. Haggis

National Parks

1. Death Valley
2. California (9)
3. Smoky Mountain National Park

World Geography

1. Urals
2. Germany
3. One (Beijing standard time)

1948 (The first year of Inter/Micro)

1. Polaroid
2. Babe Ruth
3. Pennsylvania
4. Apartheid
5. DDT



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