# Crime Scene

Winter 1999

Volume 25, Issue 1

**INSIDE**



## *President's Message Winter 1999*

I recently sent out five N.W.A.F.S. letters of appreciation to five Oregon State Police Crime Lab forensic scientists who have retired recently. The majority of which started their forensic careers after I did in 1970. Besides being green with jealousy that they were able to retire before me, it does remind me how things have changed since I started my career in forensic science. The most obvious change is how forensic laboratories have become institutions with agendas that are not necessarily related to what science is really about. When I started in forensic science it was usually considered an applied science and not a specific scientific discipline. The sciences were recognizable as chemistry, geology, biology, physics etc. Now when the scientific disciplines are involved in the examination of physical evidence they are all merged into the all encompassing umbrella of forensic science. The principles of the basic sciences which underline forensic science at times are lost in the semantics and the agendas of forensic science. I am not aware of any procedure or instrumentation used in forensic science that did not have its origin and development in the basic sciences. Somehow we feel we are more important as scientists if we describe ourselves as forensic scientists instead of chemists, biologists, or geologists etc. I personally feel by doing this we are doing our profession a disservice because we are removing ourselves from the rigorous scientific scrutiny that the basic sciences entail. This leads to an arrogant belief that we alone can decide what is competent scientific testing of the evidence we examine, and what a minimal acceptable testing procedure is. This is more often based on the time and resource restraints placed upon us by the courts and laboratory management than by the under-lying scientific principles we use to examine the evidence. Unfortunately, the more procedures are standardized and automated the more the profession of forensic scientist turns into the profession of forensic technician. This process is slowly turning many of us into laboratory worker bees. The worker bees who process the evidence for the queen bee who interprets for the courts the significance of the test results. I personally hope to retire before all you will hear in the forensic laboratory is the buzzing of the worker bees and not the sound of scientists doing actual scientific discovery in the forensic laboratory.

***Arnold Melnikoff***
***WSP Crime Lab—Spokane 509-456-4144***
***amelnik@wsp.wa.gov***

## Letters to the Editor

***In the last issue, I solicited opinions about the ABC Certification tests. Ms. Jennifer Zeppa related her views and opinions from her first hand experience with the General Knowledge Examination.***

***—Matthew Noedel, editor***

Matt,

I am a member of the NWAFS and work at the OSP Crime Laboratory in Springfield. In May of 1997, I took the ABC General Knowledge Exam (GKE) at the spring CAC meeting in Sacramento. My reason for doing this was to find out what the test was like, and was it worth all the "fuss." A lot of people I talked to had very strong (negative) opinions about ABC certification, but when I asked the reasons why, they were vague based on "water-cooler" talk more than anything else. So I decided to go through the process, and see what it was all about. Here's what I think, for whatever it's worth. . .

1. Does passing the test really mean anything? I think it does and doesn't. How's that for vague! The GKE is relatively difficult. I think that if you don't prepare (fail to do the recommended reading, brush up on more unfamiliar topics, etc.) it would be easy to fail. Regarding failing the test, I don't think that it means that you are a bad forensic scientist or criminalist. The GKE covers a huge range of topics in relative depth. For example, you need to know about photography filters for enhancement, the relationship between refractive index, birefringence, & retardation, the elements that you try to detect when looking for GSR and what reagents test for what, sequencing glass breaking patterns, legal crap, etc. I know plenty of great criminalists who may not know as much about one or two disciplines, and without studying would fail this test. I say, so what? They're still great criminalists.

Regarding passing the test, I think it is something to be proud of.

2. Is it fair to require specialists to take the GKE first, before they can take their specialty discipline test? Yes and no. It's my personal belief that nobody working in a specialty forensics area should work in a vacuum. Even if you do DNA analysis to the exclusion of everything else, I think it helps the DNA analyst to know something

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### NWAFS OFFICERS for 1998–99

**Executive Committee**

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|---|---|
| President | Arnold Melnikoff, WSP Crime Lab-Spokane WA |
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| Editorial | Matthew Noedel, WSP Crime Lab-Tacoma, WA |

*(Continued from page 2)*

about firearms, say. That is, to understand something about the profession as a whole, instead of just a little part of it. This is clearly the ABC's philosophy, and I like it.

After taking the GKE, however, I think that the depth that they go into definitely puts the specialist at a disadvantage. The specialist who has worked solely in DNA for 10 years would probably have a much harder time passing the test than an analyst of 3 years who has worked a variety of types of cases and evidence. And the reality is, sticking people in specialty areas is where forensics is headed. In this sense, I think it is unfair.

3. Is keeping certification current a burden, especially with regards to lab budgets? This was a big reason my direct supervisors gave me for their reluctance to embrace the ABC certification. To stay current, the individual has to accumulate 50 points in 5 years. If you don't get 50 pts/5 years, you have to retake the test. The concern was the lab couldn't pay to send people to meetings, etc. to keep them current.

**...Is it fair to require specialists to take the GKE first, before they can take their specialty discipline test?**

Here are examples of how you get points: you get 2 points just for working casework >50% of the time; 1 point per year just for being a member of a professional organization; 2 points per day for attending a professional meeting; 2 points per day for receiving training (includes training on things like statistics, computers, testifying, etc.); 5 pts/ day for giving training. Without even haggling to go to training, meetings, etc. I accumulated 15 points in the first 6 months, and 22 points for 1998 to date.

Put another way, if you do casework and belong to 3 professional organizations, you have a guaranteed 5 points a year - half of what you need to accumulate. And it's pretty easy to get the other 5 pts.

While I'm funding my own membership to the ABC, I think that it would be fairly easy to demonstrate that it would not be a burden on lab budgets to keep individuals current with their certification.

4. Why the hell do we need somebody testing us? I'm not sure, but it seems to the be wave of the future. I don't necessarily believe that it is a bad thing, assuming that the certification is done properly. I do not think that it should be a requirement for employment (see #2 above), but I think that it should be encouraged if an individual would like to pursue it.

If the NWAFS can participate in ABC, by providing info on the "development, evolution and maintenance of certification", we ought to. I would rather have our regional and national forensics organizations helping direct this wagon train instead of some "outsiders" who haven't a clue.

That's my 50 cents. . .and it'll teach you to ask a bunch of forensic scientists their opinions!! :)

Jen.

*Thank You, Jen, for your insightful contribution! I am also GKE certified and found your analysis to be very accurate. One of my concerns, however, is that taking this exam and failing could have devastating effects on one's ability to qualify as an expert, even though as a specialist, they truly are "an expert". I can imagine the exchange during Voir dire:*

**Mr./Ms. Scientist—are you certified?**

**-1. Yes, by the ABC**

**-2...No, I choose not to participate in the ABC certification because I feel that the test does not reflect my expertise specifically—or—**

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Customer Service in the Crime Laboratory

Gary Knowles, OSP Crime Lab

I was fortunate to attend a workshop at the Sun Valley, ID meeting on Leadership, Ethics and Human Relations in the Crime Lab put on by FOCI, Organizational Development Consultants. Of particular interest to me was the topic of customer service. I will pass on some of their comments and, of course, some of my own. I was reminded that, although government run crime labs are not in the business to sell a product for monetary gain for the work they do, they still sell a service from which there is profit. Now I do not mean that the Public, of which we are a part, is gaining by forensics seeking the truth for the justice system and, therefore, we profit by exonerating the innocent and putting away the bad guy. I'm not that deep. On a more practical level, as scientists and supervisors in crime labs, we profit in other respects.

It's not hard for us to understand that it is the agencies for which we do crime lab stuff are our customers. Besides the standard definition of customer as "One who buys goods or services", a second definition is "An individual with whom one must deal". That second definition is the one all labs work under. As broad a topic as that definition may be, I will comment on the aspects related to labs and lab people. You'll have to deal with your own personal customers outside the lab.

It's not sufficient to just satisfy customers; now we are being told they must be delighted. The returns of a delighted customer of the crime lab include; increased resources in funding, equipment and personnel. Law enforcement agencies, which have a good experience with the lab, may support budget requests to the legislators or other government body that provides the finances. In Oregon we have taken a proactive approach to public relations as it relates to customer service. In methodical surveying of the officers, investigators, prosecutors, courts and defense attorneys we measure our effectiveness in satisfying the needs of those customers. The results of the surveys are compared to "Benchmarks" of success. If an individual is dissatisfied, we make an effort to contact that person and determine the cause. Sometimes it is a miscommunication, but other times we have messed up. It is important to make a rapid, personal contact and correct the wrong. Correction may take the form of simply explaining the reasons for the way the lab does business. Whatever the problem, a personal contact helps sooth ruffled feathers.

The key to a delighted customer is a personal touch. This is true in the business world where we might have been delighted as a customer at one time or another, albeit infrequent. If you were fortunate to have been delighted as a customer, it was probably related to some personal consideration you received. It is a challenge to keep a personal touch when most of us are locked away from the customer in a secured facility, often quite distant from the reception

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**Lionel Tucker (left) and author Gary Knowles (not left) sing the praises of good customer service.**

(Continued from page 4)

counter. I would guess some us never see most of the officers for whom we work. Most large agencies have property officers (another customer) to transport evidence to the lab, so there is little opportunity in the lab to speak with the street cop or detective. Take opportunities to meet face to face or make a personal phone call on the results of a particularly intriguing case.

E-mail is an efficient way to communicate information. It is a great way to pass information when you don't have time or don't want to chat and they can read it at their convenience. We were shown in the workshop how communicating is like speaking to someone back to back. Yep, we paired off and spoke to each other back to back. I think E-mail might be worse. At least in back to back communication one has voice inflections, tone, etc. Sure, I know the computer culture has created "Emoticons" to express moods... like :) for happiness and :( for unhappiness. They help a little and were probably created because of the inability to effectively communicate in the written word. It is estimated that only 20% of communication is verbal and only 3% of the process of convincing/learning is by written word. To effectively communicate, try the personal touch... figuratively speaking (be careful).

There are internal customers as well as external customers. Your co-workers or, in the case of supervisors, your employees are also customers. Hey, supervisors are customers, too!

I was pleased with this workshop the Idaho folks arranged. I recommend this workshop for any organization or individual who must deal with another individual. That's pretty much all of us.

"The key to a delighted customer is not that the service was delivered, but HOW the service was delivered." Delight me... delight them!

(Continued from page 3)

**-3..No, I took the ABC certification exam and did not pass it.**

**Mr./ Ms. Scientist, so you are here today as an expert in the field of_____, but could not pass the general forensic certification program?**

*—Uh Oh—Trouble—Doubt in at least one of the juror's minds—A scientist who takes and fails the exam is much worse off than one who has never taken it at all!*

*The GKE should be a "What every Forensic Scientist should know" exam. As a "specialist" (I'm a Firearms Examiner) I think that it is reasonable for me to know enough about the other laboratory sections to direct a Detective to the proper expert. I also believe that I have a responsibility to be able to recognize what is useful evidence to another section. I don't believe that I should have to know a good extraction scheme for Methamphetamine or how to "paint with light" at a crime scene.*

*As far as certification as a Quality Control measure, I believe that a strict adherence to peer review and proficiency testing are sufficient for scientific work to remain high quality.*

*I welcome further debate on this and any other topics relevant to our field.*

*-Matthew Noedel editor*

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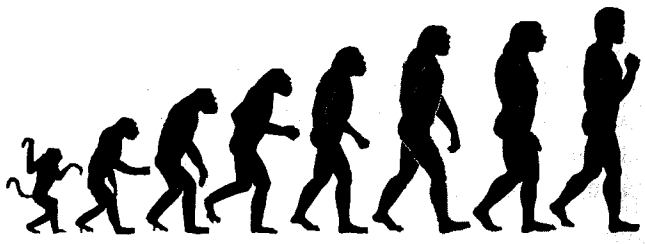
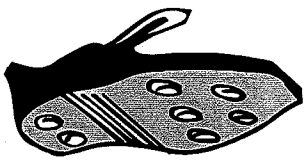
**(mailing details appear on p. 9)**





# Summary Of Collaborative Testing Services Inc. Imprint/Impression Evidence Report No. 9812

Helen Griffin, WSP Crime Lab—Marysville, Wa.

The scenario for this proficiency reads:

"Police are investigating the abductions of a three year old and a two year old child. These children were taken from play areas inside their respective homes by an unknown person(s) on consecutive days. Investigators have found and photographed footwear imprints on coloring papers found on the floor at each scene. They have also found imprints on papers at a suspect's home. Police are requesting that you examine the imprints and determine if the children's shoe imprints can be identified to any of the imprints recovered from the suspect's home or if any of the adult shoe imprints from the suspect's home can be identified to any of the imprints from the abduction scenes."[1]

The submitted evidence consisted of four photographs with imprints; Item 1 A-D (crime scene 1), Item 2 A-D (crime scene 2), Item 3 A-D (one room of the suspect's home), and Item 4 A-E (another room of the suspect's home). This is clarified in the PAC comments as follows:

"Each participant received four photographs of footwear imprints from four alleged locations and was requested to determine whether or not any of the imprints were made by the same footwear. A total of six adult-sized shoes/boots were used to make eight imprints of which three were made by one boot. Six child-sized shoes were used to make nine imprints of which six were made by three different shoes."[2]

Only one of the six adult shoes used to make the proficiency is noted in the manufacturer's information[3] - a size 7 ½ W left U.S. Government Issue Army boot (used to make prints 1A, 3D, and 4D). Three of the six children's shoes used were listed - a children's size 6.5 right Okie Dokie shoe (used to make prints 2C and 3B), a children's size 8 right Basic Baby Edition shoe (used to make prints 1C and 4A), and a children's size 6.5 left Okie Dokie shoe (used to make prints 2B and 4C).

Table 1 consists of short answer entries to the question "Were any of the children's shoe imprints from items 3 & 4 made by the same shoes that made the imprints in items1 & 2?"[4]. Table 2 consists of short answer entries to the question "Were any of the adults' shoe imprints from items 1 & 2 made by the same shoes that made the imprints in items 3 & 4?"[5]. Table 3 consists of written conclusions. Table 4 consists of written comments.

**119 of 176** participants made all of the correct associations as indicated in the manufacturer's information. It should be noted that the PAC comments state that the number of participants who made all of the correct associations is 94 - presumably this is based solely on the responses in tables 1 and 2, rather than being based on the total information supplied by the laboratories (tables 1 through 4). A number of labs reported out only positive identifications in the table and reported out qualified identifications in their written replies (this could be based on the wording of the table). Because it was not submitted in English, CTS did not include the table 3 written conclusion of one of the labs which missed an association in table 2, so their written conclusion is not available for interpretation.

**77 of 176** participants used qualifiers in at least some of their conclusions. A number of the labs using the qualifiers stated that they were used because only class/wear characteristics were present in the imprints. The remainder of the labs reported out positive identifications for all of the corresponding imprints. One of the labs reporting out positive identifications for the children's shoes imprints specified that the reason was "random sole patterns of each shoe during the sole's fabrication and fixation on the shoe process"[6]. This implies that an examiner can distinguish a crepe outsole from an outsole made in a crepe-look mold based on an imprint. It is uncertain how many labs reported out

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positive conclusions for the children's shoes imprints based on the assumption that they were made by crepe outsoles.

**37 of 176** participants explicitly noted that items 1D and 3C might be a pair. Another **40 of 176** participants noted that items1D and 3C were left and right shoes with similar dimensions and outsole pattern. (The PAC comments state that only three participants noted this association, presumably based on table 2.) This makes a total of **77 of 176** participants who made note of this association. In a real investigation, this could be as valuable an association (either linking a suspect to the scene through the type of shoes - such as the Bruno Magli shoes - or possibly leading to the identification of an item of footwear associated with the footwear which made item 3C to the imprint item 1D) as the "correct" associations.

**3 of 176** participants incorrectly reported (in table 2) that item 1D was made by the same footwear as item 3C and **11 of 176** participants (only one lab reported this out in table 2) incorrectly reported that item 4E at least could have been made by the same footwear as items1A, 3D, and 4D. These associations are presumably what the PAC is commenting on when it writes "Four participants made incorrect associations, three of which reported 1D (from a right shoe) and 3C (from a left shoe) as being made by the same shoe."[2] The PAC does not specify the incorrect association made by the fourth participant it refers to.

**4 of 176** participants drew conclusions about the significance of the imprint evidence as it related to the scenario. This is especially interesting because this scenario involved a two-way transfer of evidence between crime scene 1 and the suspect's house. Using items 3D and 4D as secondary controls potentially places at least one suspect at crime scene 1. Using item 1C as a secondary control potentially places the child from crime scene 1 at the suspect's home.

A number of questions are raised by the reporting of this proficiency:

1) Should the short answer entry tables in the CTS proficiencies be worded with "could any" versus "were any"? Would the proficiencies be of more value if the tables used some type of "probability scale" as suggested by lab U3981A?[7]

2) Should the PAC be basing its comments on all of the information provided by the participating labs so that they more accurately reflect the results of the proficiency?

3) Should scenarios be part of a CTS proficiency or do they just get in the way of labs providing interpretable results? Would this, for example, have been a better proficiency if CTS had asked labs to inter-compare the imprints, state whether any of the imprints showed evidence of an association, what the association between the imprints was (i.e. similar pattern, similar dimensions, similar wear, corresponding individualizing features), and how strong a conclusion could be formed regarding the associations?

4) If scenarios are used, should the PAC comments address forensic interpretation of the evidence as well as the yes/no type answers?

All references are contained in CTS Forensic Testing Program Imprint/Impression Evidence Report No. 9812:

1. Appendix, page 51.
2. PAC Comments, page 2.
3. Manufacturer's Information, page 1.
4. Table 1, page 3.
5. Table 2, page 8.
6. Table 3, U2719A, page 39.
7. Table 4, U3981A, page 50.

# NWAFS MEETING...SPRING APRIL 19TH-23RD 1999 ANCHORAGE ALASKA

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You are cordially invited to Anchorage, Alaska, April 19th-23rd for the 1999 Alaska Peace Officers Association and Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists Crime Conference. Our theme, *Training & Technology: The Future is Now*, recognizes the challenges law enforcement and forensic scientists are facing in training and technology to prepare for the new millennium. The future is NOW!

Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged. The full conference registration fee includes:

- All Conference Materials
- Four Lunches (Monday to Thursday)
- Banquet (Thursday evening)
- Train Ride with Box Lunch (Friday)

- Members - *Full Registration Fees:*
  $250 until February 28, 1999
  $300 after February 28, 1999

Non-Members - *Full Registration Fees:*
$300 until February 28, 1999
$350 after February 28, 1999

Spouse/Guest Registration - $125 (includes one training session per day, Monday to Friday, and four lunches, Monday to Thursday, Banquet, and Train ride w/box lunch)

## ACCOMMODATIONS

The beautiful Anchorage Hilton located in the heart of downtown is the host hotel. The rooms afford a panoramic view of the city, Cook Inlet, Sleeping Lady Mountain, and moonrise over the Chugach Mountain Range. Room rates are: $95 Single or Double ($20 for each additional person). For reservations, dial toll free (Alaska only) 1-800-245-2527 or (Worldwide) 1-800-445-8667 If you make your own reservations, be sure to give the name of the conference, the dates, and ask for the NWA conference rate.

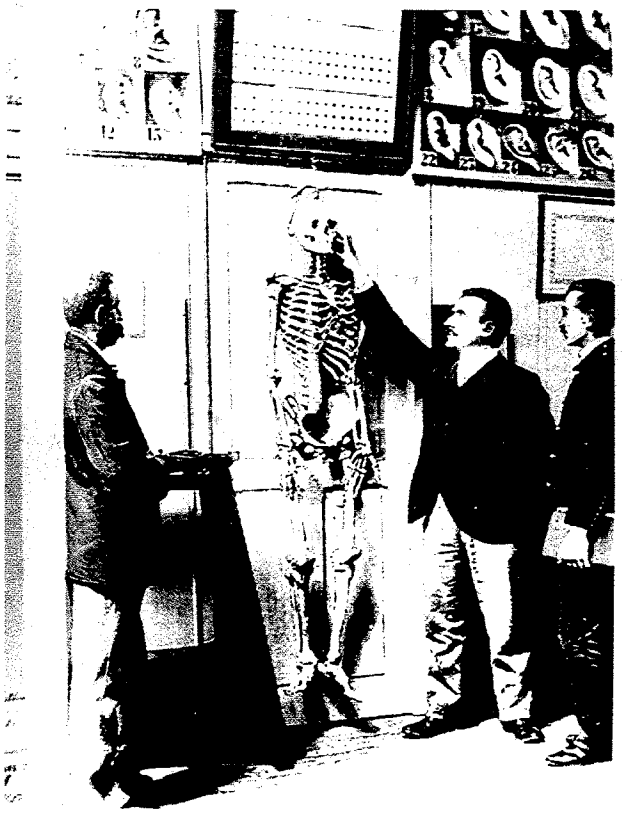
## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Host Committee is developing training sessions on the following:

- ABC Test (*scientists only*)
- Audio Recording
- Casting Snow Impressions
- Crime Scene Reconstruction
- DNA for Cops
- Officer Survival
- Scientific Papers
- STR Workshop (*scientists only*)
- Traveling Sex Offender (*restricted access*)
- FTIR Forensic Applications (*scientists only*)

A Practical Approach to Leadership
Clandestine Laboratories
Courtroom Demeanor & Testimony
Digital Imaging
Forensic Art/Facial Reconstruction
Red Flags
Successfully Managing Your Career
Supervising a Surveillance Unit
Unsolved Homicides (*restricted access*)
And more....

# CAPTION THIS !



Win a pound of Starbucks Premium Coffee!!

...Provide a caption for the picture to the left (it happens to be Professor Alphonse Bertillion) and e-mail witty, clever or otherwise amusing captions to:
mnoedel@wsp.wa.gov

Decision by the editor is final.

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About the Newsletter...

The Newsletter is the official publication of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists. It is published 4 times a year in the months of January, April, July, and October. The Newsletter welcomes submissions from its membership such as technical tips, case studies, literature compilations, workshop or training notifications, reference citations, commentary, historical accounts, and other topics of interest to the membership. While not currently required, please submit material for publication in Microsoft Word for Windows format as an e-mail attachment or on a 3.5" floppy disk. For more information regarding the Newsletter contact

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Meetings and Job Announcements

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### MICROANALYSIS/TRACE EVIDENCE

Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory has the Forensic Scientist 2 and 3 registers open with an anticipated position in Seattle, Wa. for experienced individuals in Microanalysis. Duties will include trace evidence examination including glass, hair and fiber, and general microscopic identification.

FS2 range: $2646 to $3387 (month)
FS3 range: $3225 to $4126. (month)

CONTACT: Kevin E. Jones (e-mail kejones@wsp.wa.gov)
Quality Assurance Manager
Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division
Phone: 360-438-5852 FAX : 360-407-0175

### CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

The King County Medical Examiner's Office is seeking applicants for the position of Chief Medical Examiner. Qualifications include board certification in anatomic and forensic pathology and eligibility for medical licensure in Washington state. Must have a minimum of five years of experience as Chief or Deputy Chief Medical Examiner or equivalent and proven experience in forensic autopsies and management or government agency. Application deadline: April 1, 1999.

CONTACT: Donald T. Reay, MD—Chief Medical Examiner
King County Medical Examiner's Office
325 9th Avenue
Box 359792
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 731-2884 Fax: (206) 731-8555
E-mail: donald.reay@metrokc.gov

### FORENSIC SCIENTIST I (Questioned Documents Examiner)

The Forensic Services Division of the Oregon State Police, is recruiting to fill two vacant Forensic Scientist I (Questioned Document Examiner) positions in Salem, OR. Qualifications include two years of experience and a bachelor's degree in a natural/physical science or a closely related field. Applicants also must have certification as a questioned document examiner and two years of fulltime experience as a questioned document technician in a professionally recognized identification organization within a criminal justice agency. Salary: $39,000 - $57,492/annual.

CONTACT: Arthur L. Fennell (e-mail: Art.FENNELL@state.or.us)
400 Public Service Building; Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-3720, ext. 4707 Fax: (503) 378-2360

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## CRIMINALIST LABORATORY SUPERVISOR, DNA

The Idaho Department of Law Enforcement, Bureau of Forensic Services, is seeking applicants for the position of Criminalist Laboratory Supervisor, DNA. Qualifications include a master's degree in subjects which provide a basic understanding of forensic DNA analysis. Responsibilities include the implementation of CODIS, ensuring laboratory testing, analysis, quality control and certification requirements are in compliance with national standards and legal requirements, operation of the DNA laboratory, testifying in court as an expert witness in criminal cases. Salary: $41,759 - $61,424/annual.

CONTACT: R. Dan Charboneau, Bureau Chief
Idaho Bureau of Forensic Services
PO Box 700
Meridian, ID 83680-0700
(208) 884-7171 Fax: (208) 884-7197
E-mail: DCHARBON@DLE.STATE.ID.US

# Meetings and Job Announcements

**MEETINGS and TRAINING:**

The Carleton University Summer Institute of Forensic Sciences 1999 Courses are available through the following:

http://temagami.carleton.ca/cu/programs/sifs.html

Summer Institute of Forensic Sciences 1999 Courses Include

•Introduction to Forensic Sciences (June 14-18) •Forensic Aspects of Alcohol Use and Abuse (June 21-24) •Applications of DNA STR Analysis in Forensic Science (June 21-25) •Forensic Hair Examination (June 14-18) •Internal Auditing for Forensic Laboratories (June 28-30) •Forensic Anthropology (July 12-16) •Facial Identification (July 5-9) •Basic Bloodstain Pattern Recognition (June 7-11) •Math, Physics and Computers in Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (June 7-11) •Identification and Preservation of Tool Marks on the Human Body (July 8-9) •Metal Detection the Crime Scene's Best Kept Secret (July 7-8) •Methods in Forensic Geology (June 21-24) •Exploring the Principles of Toolmark Examination (July 5-7)

**For a detailed brochure contact the School of Continuing Education in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada@ Tel: (613) 520-3500 Fax: (613) 520-4456**

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ACSR 9th INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE (Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction)

Date: September 10-12, 1999 Place: Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas City, Kansas, USA

Individuals who desire to participate in making conference presentations should contact:
**Ross Gardner—Conference Chairman 404-285-0217**

# NORTHWEST NOTES

## Words to live by....

"Wherever he steps, whatever he touches, whatever he leaves, even unconsciously, will serve as a silent witness against him".

Not only his fingerprints or his footprints, but his hair,the fibers from his clothes, the glass he breaks, the toolmark he leaves, the paint he scratches, the blood or semen he deposits or collects...All of these and more, bear mute witness against him.

This is evidence that does not forget. It is not confused by the excitement of the moment. It is not absent because human witnesses are. It is factual evidence. Physical evidence cannot be wrong, it cannot perjure itself, it cannot be wholly absent.

Only its interpretation can err. Only human failure to find it, study and understand it, can diminish its value.....1928

*Edmond Locard (1877-1966)*

## Upcoming Meetings:

Anchorage, Alaska—
April 19th to 23rd 1999.

Cheyenne, Wyoming—
September 27-October 1, 1999.

Sacramento, California—
May 15th - 19th, 2000.

## CORRECTION FOR SPOUSE REGISTRATION COSTS FOR THE ANCHORAGE MEETING!

The correct "Spouse/Guest" registration for the Alaska meeting is $125 (not $100). Please make arrangements accordingly—Thanks

NWAFS Homepage-Check out links to other members, abstracts, and exciting meeting information—

***http://users.aol.com/lctox/nwafshome.htm***

## The Newsletter needs your contribution!

Got an interesting technical note, new procedure, or research project? Send an article in and you could win *FREE REGISTRATION* to an upcoming NWAFS meeting. (That can save you $200-$250 or more!!!

The officers vote for the best independent Newsletter submission once a year and award a **FREE REGISTRATION** to the winner. Help keep the Newsletter interesting and informative by sending technical notes, research, or interesting cases to:

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