

FDIAI



NEWS

Quarterly Issue

Oct - Dec 2019

Since October 1961

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OF ALL PHASES OF IDENTIFICATION

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION * LATENT PRINT IDENTIFICATION
BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION * GENERAL FORENSICS
BLOODSTAIN PATTERN IDENTIFICATION * FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY
ELECTRONIC IMAGING * FOOTWEAR AND TIRE TRACK IDENTIFICATION

Fort LAUDERDALE



***Florida Division of the International Association for Identification
Educational Conference
Weston, Florida
October 20-24, 2019***

FDIAI

Dear FDIAI Members and Friends,

I am honored to be the 60th president of the FDIAI. Although I am grateful to be president I am even more indebted to all the members that make the FDIAI the strongest division. In terms of educating its members about the most up to date information and research in forensic science and affiliating individuals who are actively engaged in the profession of forensic science. The strength of this organization comes from its large and diverse group of active members.



The new electronic format of the quarterly newsletter will keep our organization ahead of the curve in quality and promptness of the information that can be distributed. I look forward to this upcoming year's articles submitted by the membership. This organization has and will continue to be prodigious because of its dynamic membership. I encourage all members to submit an article to our new editor Ron Mueller.

Just as Forensic Science is a constantly growing and evolving field. The FDIAI is progressing to meet the needs of its members. The updates to the website www.FDIAI.com make it easier to navigate and locate free regional training, update and renew memberships and read the current and past newsletters. This enhanced website is more functional for all its member's needs.

As you are experiencing the improved website I encourage all members to examine the Frank A. Reinhart section. Any member or dependent of a member attending college or university as a full time student may be eligible to receive a \$500 scholarship. If you or your family do not desire to apply, there is a link where you can contribute and assist the scholarship to grow and further service others.

Organizations are great because of two reasons. First, they make their members better people. The FDIAI does this by having vibrant members that are always willing to spread their experience and knowledge. Second, they make their members happy. The FDIAI accomplishes this by creating a professional community where all are welcome to share and experience our enthusiasm and passion for Forensic Science.

I am very enthusiastic to share this 60th year of education and networking with all FDIAI members. I encourage all members to share their knowledge or experience by writing an article, lecturing or teaching a workshop. Thank you for contributing and continuing to grow this association.

Sincerely,

J.P. Rodriguez
2019-20 FDIAI President
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Seeking Articles...

If you would like to submit an article for the next Newsletter, please e-mail the Editor at ronangmueller@gmail.com by

December 15, 2019

The Florida Division Newsletter is the official publication of the Florida Division of the International Association for Identification. The views expressed in the articles contained in the FDIAI Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the FDIAI or its Editor. The Division neither guarantees, warrants, nor endorses the views or techniques presented, but offers the information to the membership. Some articles may contain processes utilizing chemicals, or combinations of chemicals which may be hazardous or potentially hazardous to the user's health. It is strongly recommended that the appropriate precautions be exercised when using such chemicals. The FDIAI assumes no responsibility for the use of procedures, chemicals, or combinations of chemicals as set forth in any article.

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Past Presidents in bold are members w/voting rights



FDIAI Membership Matters

Being a member of a professional forensic organization is a very important part of one's career. Its more than just having something that can be presented during voir dire in court. It's a chance to network with professionals in one's field of study that can lead to increased knowledge and many other career opportunities. The FDIAI is a prime example of this. The FDIAI is the largest state division of the IAI and one of the largest forensic associations in the world. Through the FDIAI, many practitioners and students have found the necessary resources to be successful. This was never more evident than in a recent note that the FDIAI received from one of its members. Please enjoy the great thank you note and success story below. Congratulations Madai! May you have an exciting and successful career.

Good Afternoon,

I would like to thank the organization for helping me get to where I am today. 3 years ago I met who today is my supervisor at an FDIAI training. Also, through the various conferences and trainings that I've taken, many of which were hosted by FDIAI, helped me get the job I have. I'm a crime scene investigator for city of Miami police department. I started working with this department three weeks ago on September 30, 2019.

Sincerely,

Madai Batista

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division of the IAI

Dedicated, Innovative, & Professional

- ◇ Free technical assistance from the FDIAI Science and Practices Committee
- ◇ Discounts on the FDIAI annual educational conference that meets certification requirements
- ◇ Quarterly Newsletter to keep members informed on the latest forensic news
- ◇ Creditability and networking

Membership in a professional forensic organization is important for continued career development and for qualification in court. Everyone needs to take a proactive approach to their own careers. It's an opportunity for new people to learn from experienced professionals and a way that experienced professionals can give back to the field by sharing their knowledge with others.

**Members who sign up 5 new people get their
years membership for free**



Editor Update

Dear FDIAI members:

I hope this message finds everyone well. At the most recent BOD meeting in October, I was selected as the new FDIAI Editor. This is a huge responsibility that I do not take lightly. It will be my primary goal to bring you high quality and relevant material. While this is my goal, I cannot do this alone. It is a team effort. I will rely on the officers and membership to provide material for the newsletter. I have already reached out to the Science and Practice Committees and the Region Directors to touch base with you to obtain material for the upcoming newsletters. Please consider submitting an article.



The articles do not have to be an extensive peer reviewed research study. One can submit a case study on a interesting case that was worked. The membership will benefit greatly from reading about the circumstance and how the case was worked. Tips and tricks are always a great thing to share. Many of you have found simple ways to do some of the necessary but mundane tasks of a forensic scientist. Consider writing something up to share what you have found. If you feel that you have something that you would like to publish in the newsletter, please contact me. I am easily reached at the contact information below. I look forward to working with everyone and am excited for this opportunity to provide a beneficial newsletter.

Sincerely,

Ron Mueller
Editor
(941) 268-1847





Secretary/Treasurer Update

Greeting from the Office of Secretary/Treasurer. We have just moved our website and membership database to a new, more robust platform which will provide a better user experience for Florida Division members. If you are reading this message then you received the email announcement of that change along with a username and password for access. **Please check over your profile information and confirm that all information is correct.** Especially check your mailing address preference and the email address we have on file. These are our primary method of keeping in touch with you. We hope to conduct most business on line in the future and having accurate contact information on our members is the first step in that process.



It would be a big help if you would also check with other FDI AI members in your office and confirm that they also received our notifications. If not, they can contact me at fdiai@fdiai.org and I will get them access to the members area of the website.

Dues renewal notices and invoices were emailed to all Active members in October. Your invoice is also available in the members area of the website. This will allow members to print invoices for their agency when needed as well as pay by credit card when that is more convenient. Remember that renewals can be paid in groups without logging into the members area. Instructions for that are on the invoice, please advise your Fiscal Department if they pay your dues.

I will also be mailing a hard copy of unpaid dues invoices later this year to ease the transition to the new online system of renewal. The mailed copy will be a duplicate of what is available on line but we realize that change is difficult and many members (and agencies) are used to receiving their dues invoice in the mail.

If you have any questions at all about the Florida Division of the IAI, reach out and I will get you the information you need. My contact information is posted on the website and I am committed to providing superior member service.

Thank you for your support of the largest (and best) state division of the International Association for Identification.

William Schade
Secretary/Treasurer

FDIAI Website Update

Jim Kammerer, Webmaster

November 2019

By the time you read this we will have switched to our new website. Our goal was to make the site as user friendly as possible, very easy to login, read the newsletter and find the latest training and job opportunities out there.

If you're familiar with the IAI website, our site is similar in many respects, especially the database which operates in the same manner. Once you are logged in you can update your membership information as well as renew your membership, print your membership card and see all of the FDIAI conference photographs. You can also access and network with other members in your discipline.

We have just added search capabilities so you can now search by different parameters including area, agency and discipline.

If you let your membership expire, you will have the ability to bring it up to date and be well on your way to becoming a life member.

Renewal notices have been sent out via email. It has never been easier to renew your membership with invoices attached to the email and direct links to your renewal page.

Agencies that pay the due for their members can renew up to (10) members at one time without having to log into the website. Your finance people will be happy with that.

The conference is now over but, with a record attendance, it was a complete success. Thanks to everyone involved that helped make it possible.

By the time you read this, conference photos will have been uploaded to the website in the members only section so you will have to log in to view them. We have added many new features to the member section so log in to familiarize yourselves with these new features. We aim to make this a very informative and user friendly site for our members with the latest training and job openings posted on a regular basis in addition to the latest news articles in forensics.

For our members having access issues to the website, please contact either the [Webmaster](#) or the [Secretary/Treasurer](#).



Search

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Florida Division of the International Association for Identification

The Florida Division of the International Association for Identification is a non-profit professional association for forensic scientists, crime scene technicians, evidence technicians, latent print examiners and all other law enforcement employees who are interested in the scientific investigation of crime. The FDIAI is the largest state chartered division of the International Association for Identification and hosts one of the largest annual educational training conferences available in the country.

Quick Links

- [Member Log-in](#)
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- [Renew](#)

GLScan[®] SP

High quality imaging of marks on Gellifters made easy

The GLScan[®] SP imaging system is our most versatile imaging system for Gellifters. The system allows for scanning Gellifters as small as 5x5 cm up to full size Gellifters of 18x36 cm intended for lifting of footwear marks. This system is the ideal choice for footwear examiners and imaging departments providing their services to both the fingerprint and trace evidence departments.

New features:

- Auto Exposure
- On screen comparison of images
- Image enhancement and annotation
- 2 LED light sources with variable light intensity
- Instant re-scanning of images increases efficiency
- Third LED light source for near oblique illumination
- Real time adjustment of exposure and illumination settings
- Settings Wizard and Assistant to provide the right image in only one scan



CAMERA

The scanning unit is fitted with a highly sensitive CMOS camera. The camera scans the Gellifters at a resolution of over 1000 ppi. This resolution makes 3rd level detail examination of finger marks possible and clearly shows the even finer detail in footwear marks.

LIGHT SOURCES

For the GLScan[®] FP and SP imaging systems a new light source is developed to illuminate the Gellifter during scanning. This LED light source provides for an even illumination of the entire surface of the Gellifter. The system contains two light sources almost coaxially illuminating the surface. Depending on the kind of mark lifted, this can be a very faint dust mark or a highly reflective fingerprint powder, one or two lamps can be used. In addition the intensity of both lamps is fully adjustable.

The high intensity light enables the camera to work with shorter exposure times while delivering an excellent image within less than a minute.

A third lamp is available providing near to oblique illumination. This lamp is intended to be used when scanning marks on Gellifters of which most of the reflective black gelatin surface is covered with dust.

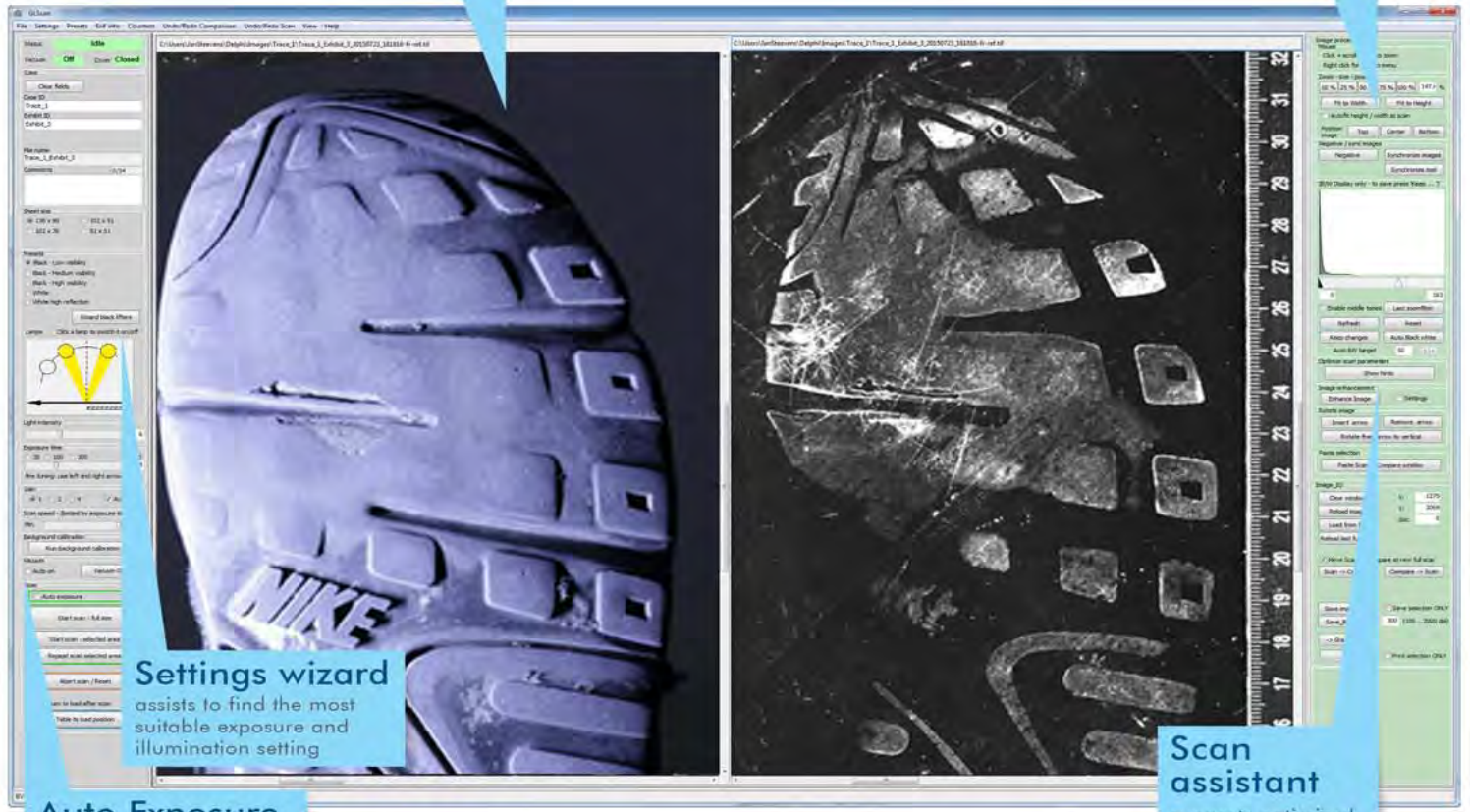
The variable exposure time and adjustable light intensity allows for imaging of nearly invisible to highly contrasting prints on the black Gellifters: from faint dust marks or direct lifts of latent marks, to those developed with cyanoacrylate, to prints developed with silver coloured fingerprint powders.

On-screen comparison

View one or two different images side-by-side

Image enhancement tools

directly available within the GLS^{can} software



Settings wizard

assists to find the most suitable exposure and illumination setting

Scan assistant

suggests optimized settings after initial scan

Auto Exposure

determines the optimum exposure and illumination setting and provides best image

SOFTWARE FEATURES

The control software for the GLS^{can} SP is still as easy to use as the acclaimed software used to control the original model. The new GLS^{can} SP software now comes with a boost of new features like:

- Bi-directional scanning for instant re-scanning of the Gellifter at optimal exposure and illumination settings suggested by the system.
- Real time adjustment of illumination and exposure settings. These parameters can be adjusted during scanning while the image builds up on screen. Finding the right settings is made easy in this way, subsequent use of the bi-directional scanning facility shortens the time needed to get the best final image.
- Image enhancement features such as invert, rotate, flip, histogram and brightness and contrast adjustment.
- Image comparison tool which allows the operator to compare two images side by side and to make annotations on the images.

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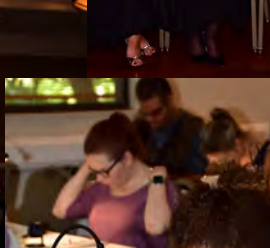
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October - December 2019



60th Annual Education Conference Fort Lauderdale, Florida





Opening Ceremonies



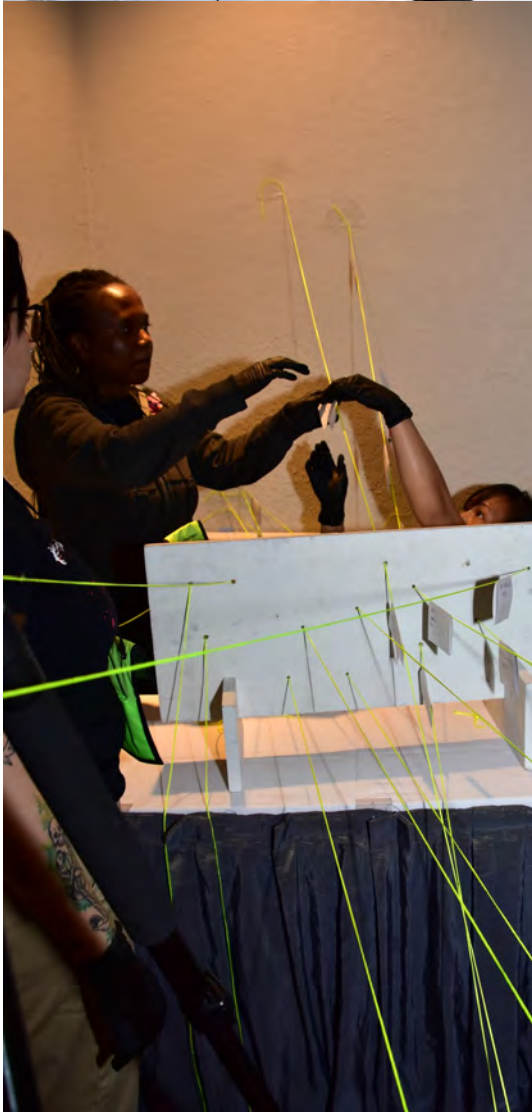


The Exhibitors





The Classroom





The Staff





Disco Night





The Banquet

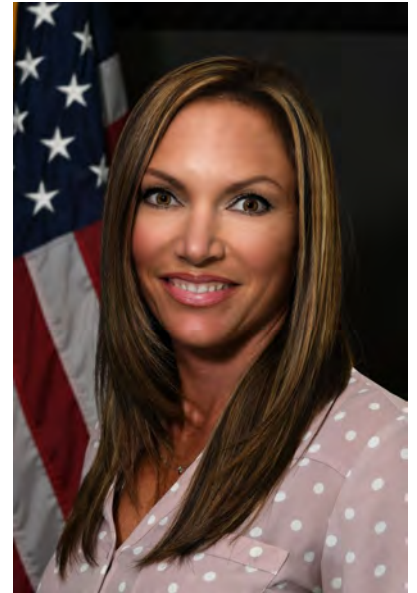




Region Director Spotlight

Nancy Sulinski-Steffens
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Nancy Sulinski-Steffens is the Criminal Investigations and Forensic Science Training Coordinator for the Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM). IPTM utilizes subject matter experts who provide their specialized knowledge and CID experience with fellow law enforcement professionals in dynamic teaching environments. Nancy specializes in teaching a variety of forensic related topics to law enforcement professionals across the country. With a nearly 20 year career with the Pasco Sheriff's Office in the Tampa Bay area in Florida, Nancy responded to thousands of crime scenes ranging from property crimes to all manner of violent crimes against persons. As the Forensic Supervisor, Nancy was responsible for the daily supervisory administrative operations of the Forensic Investigators, Latent Print Examiners, Forensic Volunteers, Internships and all forensic based public relations. Nancy's teaching background encompasses training sworn and civilian agency personnel, law enforcement academy recruits, academia presentations for the University of South Florida, Saint Leo University and Keiser University. Nancy is professionally credentialed as a Crime Scene Analyst: International Association for Identification (IAI); CJSTC Certified General Instructor; CSI Proficiency Certificate: IPTM; Crime Scene Certificate & Bachelor of Applied Science Public Safety Administration: St. Petersburg College; and Master of Arts Criminal Justice Administration: University of South Florida.



Region 3 Highlights:

Sarasota and Hernando Counties:

Forensic Genetic Genealogy (GG) has been a hot topic in the news. GG is the use of DNA profiling/testing combined with traditional genealogy methods to infer biological relationships between individuals. Law enforcement has successfully utilized GG to generate leads to cold cases, the most publicized being the Golden State Killer in 2018.

Region 3 has also had some less publicized but equally significant cases solved utilizing Forensic Genetic Genealogy. In September 2018, Sarasota Sheriff's Office made an arrest in the 1999 rape and murder of Deborah Dalzell. In January 2019, Hernando County Sheriff's Office announced that a violent rapist of a 12 year old girl was identified for their 1983 case. A fantastic collaborative effort from a variety of organizations with the ultimate of goal of justice for the victims and their families. Congratulations to these agencies and partners for the successful outcomes of these cold cases.

Pinellas County:

Congratulations to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PSCO) Forensic Sciences & AFIS Divisions for achieving ANAB accreditation! This accomplishment reinforces the reputation of this agency as leaders in their field, as well as professionals that uphold the highest standards of law enforcement. Well done PCSO!



Region 3 Member Spotlight

Cherie Johnson, CSCSA
Forensic Science Specialist
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
16 years experience as a Crime Scene Investigator
By: Nancy Sulinski-Steffens
FDIAI Region 3 Director

Case synopsis:

A convicted felon fires a weapon outside a vehicle. The fired casings and other items of evidence were collected from the crime scene. A firearm was later collected. All viable evidence was processed and a latent print was recovered. The latent print was recovered on the cartridge from the chamber of the weapon and subsequently identified to the suspect by Latent Print Examiner, Duane Bunker. This latent print was a crucial piece of evidence in the successful prosecution of this case.

Processing technique: Swab of the cartridge headstamp; light fuming with a cyanoacrylate fuming wand, followed by MStar dye stain and photographed. The image was enhanced in Photoshop.

Takeaways:

Oxford dictionary defines persistence as, “the firm or obstinate in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition”. We all know of the frustration of actually retrieving latents on difficult surfaces, or more accurately, the lack thereof is common stance.

Cherie Johnson displays the epitome of persistence. Johnson states, “that when we usually “never” get positive results on difficult evidence, do we eventually cease our attempts in recovering latents? Absolutely not. We should never say never. The level of service that is expected from every one of us is to look at every item of evidence and try to deduce every type of evidence it’s potentially able to provide us. I can’t walk away from any of my cases without being able to say that I’ve done all I can for these victims and try to make my community a safer place. And it’s my absolute honor to have the opportunity to play a part in that.” Cherie Johnson continues to set the standard for professionalism in forensics and sets an example we should strive to emulate. This is a great reminder of why forensics plays such a critical role in investigations and helps provide closure for the victims and their families.

I believe that in order to achieve personal and professional excellence you must have undeniable integrity in believing in something that is greater than you and something that defines what a higher purpose is. We have chosen this career path to serve others and make a difference in the lives of our community. I thank each and every one of you for your commitment to excellence and the hard work you do each day.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Region Director and I look forward to continuing in this role to administer the organization’s affairs, provide progressive training opportunities and disseminate updates for all disciplines of forensic science. If you have any notable cases or experiences that you would like to share with your fellow region members, please forward the information to me. As always, stay safe out there and do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way.





New Region 5 Director

Sharon Plotkin

The FDI AI Board of Directors gives a warm welcome to Sharon Plotkin. Sharon has been a faithful member of the FDI AI for several years. She is best recognized for all of the work and resources her and her husband put into the comprehensive crime scene workshops they teach at the conference.

Sharon L. Plotkin is a native Floridian.

Sharon obtained her Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology from Florida International University. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work, also from Florida International University and an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology from Broward Community College. She is currently seeking a doctoral degree in education.

Sharon Plotkin received her certification in crime scene investigations through the International Association for Identification in 2006 and has been doing crime scene work for almost 20 years. She has handled thousands of cases ranging from burglaries to homicides and suspicious death cases.

Sharon has received specialized training in various fields of crime scene investigations, including, bloodstain reconstruction, photography, crime scene reconstruction, fingerprinting, shoe wear casting and other various topics. She has traveled throughout the United States and Taiwan attending crime scene conferences taught by experts such as Dr. Henry Lee, Dr. Michael Baden, Dr. Vincent DiMaio, Vernon Geberth, Dr. Bill Bass, Paul Kish, Richard Saferstein and other highly notable crime scene experts.

Sharon taught courses for Dr Henry Lee as well as throughout Florida, the United States and in the Cayman Islands and China. She has been a lecturer at several mystery writers conferences all over the country assisting them “to keep it real”

Sharon published a crime scene reconstruction textbook with author Robert Ogle Jr. and is currently working on a second textbook.

Sharon is also a member of DMORT (Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team) and FEMORS (Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response System response.

Sharon has utilized her resources in law enforcement by hosting several important programs and summits with her colleagues in disseminating critical issues that impact students and the community in areas of distracted driving, wrongful convictions courtroom testimony and gun violence.





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Solve more Crimes by Putting an Emphasis on Collecting Footwear Impressions

By: Ron Mueller

There has been an age-old problem with U.S. law enforcement agencies not putting an emphasis on the detection and collection of footwear impression evidence. This is evidenced by how few footwear examiners there are. For instance, two of the largest forensic laboratory systems in the United States have only seven trained footwear examiners total; the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) currently has three trained examiners and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) has four trained examiners. In addition, when comparing the number of certified footwear examiners to the number of certified latent print examiners we also see a major difference. The United States currently has only 88 IAI certified footwear examiners in contrast to the near 1000 IAI certified latent print examiners. Obviously, the low number of examiners is because the demand for examination is so low. In fact, many footwear examiners are also cross trained in other disciplines due to the lack of consistent footwear casework. One might think that the low number of cases is because the evidence is not as prevalent as other types of evidence such as latent prints or DNA. However, my experience has shown that footwear impression evidence is more prevalent than the other types of evidence due to many factors.

One of the main factors of footwear impression prevalence is that the perpetrator maintains more contact with floor surfaces in a crime scene with the outsoles of their shoes than any other part of their person. Another factor is that most suspects tend to worry about leaving fingerprints or DNA, so they wear gloves or wipe down surfaces. Rarely do suspects attempt to conceal their footwear impressions. In addition, floor surface characteristics tend to favor footwear impressions, especially in Florida with the predominant use of ceramic tile. Even laminate and vinyl floors tend to be great surfaces for detecting and collecting footwear impression evidence.

So why is footwear impression evidence not collected to the level of other types of evidence? There are several reasons that footwear impressions are not collected as they should be. One main reason is that crime scenes are not secured with the thought of protecting potential latent shoe impressions. When a footwear impression is visible, personnel are keen to protect it. However, when the impressions are latent, they are out of site and out of mind. The result is that the impressions are either destroyed or the area is considered contaminated and not worthy of processing. Even though an area has been walked on by victims and first responders, there is still a good chance of recovering useable footwear impressions. Footwear examiners can work with partial impressions and do not need a toe to heel impression to do a comparison to a known shoe. This author has made many comparisons and associations to impressions that have been walked on by officers. This is usually evidenced by the all too familiar tactical boot impression overlapping the questioned impression.

Figure 1 is an Illustration of an electrostatic dust lift of a tire impression that had been walked on by three people; the responding officer who was wearing the boot, the victim who was wearing a Sperry boat shoe and the victim's son who was barefoot. Despite the contamination, notice the incredible amount of detail present. A meaningful comparison could be conducted to any one of the impressions.



Figure 1

Figure 2 illustrates an extremely small area of the shoe outsole used for comparison. In this case, a combination of the rubber feathering (Schallmach pattern) and very small randomly acquired characteristics led to an identification of this shoe. The Schallmach pattern is highly individual due to the random nature of how rubber feathers as it is scuffed on abrasive surfaces. It is essentially compared like friction ridge skin. This impression was developed on a light colored tile and was not visible prior to development. The impression was developed with latent



Figure 2



The reason there is a missed opportunity to detect and collect footwear impressions is primarily due to lack of training, lack of equipment and a mindset that does not recognize the value of this type of evidence. Crime scene investigators, detectives and road patrol are not receiving proper training on how to detect and collect footwear evidence. Forensic training provided to scene investigators is primarily focused on other facets of forensic evidence such as latent prints, DNA, blood spatter, and shooting reconstruction; training in the collection of footwear impression evidence is lacking. This is evidenced by how few training classes are available at any given time. When there is training, it is usually part of an all-encompassing crime scene investigation course that is limited to three dimensional casting or blood enhancement of footwear impressions. However, these are visible impressions, and as mentioned previously, scene investigators are adept at preserving and collecting these. It is the more prevalent latent impressions that are not being collected. One of the best places for personnel to get training is at the IAI and FDI AI conferences. There is usually a block on detection and collection of footwear impression evidence at every conference. In addition, detectives and road patrol should be trained during agency block training sessions on proper preservation and collection methods.

The lack of proper equipment also hinders the detection and collection of footwear evidence. All personnel should have access to digital SLR cameras, tripods, sync cords, a strong white light (for oblique illumination), gel lifters, casting material, blood enhancement chemicals and devices such as the electrostatic dust lifter (ESDL). Having and utilizing this equipment will greatly increase the amount of footwear impressions collected.

An agency should also raise its expectations for the collection of this type of evidence. This mindset needs to change from the top down. Commanders need to provide funds for training and equipment and hold their detectives accountable to having this evidence collected. Detectives need to ensure that the scene investigators or themselves search and collect footwear evidence. The scene should be secured appropriately, and first responders need to be made aware of the potentiality of this evidence. Detectives need to be proactive in obtaining the footwear from suspects when footwear impressions are collected. It is an all-around team effort. This author has seen this mindset-change in action. At a mid-size law enforcement agency that serves about 180,000 residents, the agency went from not collecting this evidence to searching for footwear impressions at every scene. In addition, the agency proactively began photographing the outsoles of all in-mates shoes as they were booked in the jail. Those images of shoes were used for intelligence gathering and information sharing. The agency would hold weekly intelligence meetings that would include the current cases being worked and a picture of any footwear impressions found to help link scenes. Footwear information was added to the field investigation forms for road patrol to collect intelligence on subjects that they would conduct field investigations on. Each crime scene vehicle was outfitted with the required footwear detection and collection equipment. Detectives always attempted to collect the shoes of suspects; there was an expectation that this evidence would be collected. In addition, the agency paid to have two crime scene personnel cross trained in footwear examination to include paying for their IAI certifications. In one year, associations were made in approximately 30 cases in which latent print and DNA evidence was not found.

The intelligence aspect of collecting footwear impressions is also overlooked in this country. In one case at the same agency mentioned above, the photographing of outsoles at the time of booking at the jail assisted with solving a burglary spree of over 30 residences and 10 vehicles. The scenes were linked together by one type of outsole that was being recovered at each scene.



Detectives looked through past booking photos of shoes of potential suspects. The list was narrowed down to one individual that had the same footwear outsole design as the crime scene impressions. The detectives concentrated their investigative resources on that individual and eventually made an arrest.

There is no doubt that an agency can solve more crimes by collecting footwear impression evidence. However, law enforcement agencies need to put an emphasis on its detection and collection. For personnel that process crime scenes, the following is a protocol that will assist in increasing the detection and collection of footwear impressions:

- Areas that are suspected of being traveled by the perpetrator should be secured with no further traffic allowed after the crime scene is cleared. Use alternate routes if possible, or walk around the area.

- If areas are contaminated by foot traffic there is still the possibility of useable footwear impressions.

- Concentrate on processing for footwear impressions first, so to allow for foot traffic while conducting other processes.

- Every scene should be processed aggressively for footwear impressions, including latent impressions.

- Floors must be searched with powerful white oblique light.

- All visible impressions should be marked with photo markers and photographed. Utilize overall, medium and closeup photography to orient the impressions in the scene. Ensure that the photo marker letter or number used for the overall and midrange photographs is used in the closeup photograph. You can use a small label with the letter or number written on it and then place it on the scale. An arrow to orient directionality can also help with showing direction of travel (see Figure 3).



Figure 3



-Visible impressions then can be lifted with the ESDL or black gel lifters (see explanation below on gel lifters).

-On light colored surfaces where impressions are not seen, a large sheet or roll of ESDL mylar film should be placed on the suspected traffic area to lift latent dust impressions. This is considered a blind lift. The back of the mylar film should be documented prior to lifting to indicate how the film was oriented. Any lifted impressions must be photographed at the scene or at the crime laboratory. ESDL can be conducted on many types of hard and soft surfaces including concrete, carpets and paper; do not eliminate the possibility of using this tool. Papers strewn on the floor are great for containing/holding latent footwear impressions and can be lifted with the ESDL in situ.

-On hard surfaces latent print powders (Black, grey, silver, white) should be used to develop impressions. Brushes or mitts can be used. Photograph any developed impressions utilizing the same protocol mentioned above.

-White or black gel lifters can be used to lift the developed impressions after photography. It is important to determine the laboratory's preference that will be conducting the comparison. If submitting to the FDLE, a black gel lifter is preferred with any type of powder because of the type of equipment that is used (GLScan®). If another laboratory or in-house examiner is conducting the examination that does not have access to a GLScan®, it may be their preference to use white gel lifters with black powder and black gel lifters with silver and white powders.

-When taking off the clear cover from the gel lifter, let it rest 30 - 60 seconds prior to applying. This is due to stretch that occurs when pulling off the cover. The resting period allows for it to come back to its original size. A stretched gel lifter that is applied to an impression will shrink the impression and therefore show a difference in size.

When applying gel lifters, let them stay on the surface for a few minutes before lifting. Allow the gel material to activate on the surface.

-After lifting, it is best to not cover gel lifters until after they have been photographed. Detail could be lost.

-Chemicals such as Amido Black and Leucocrystal Violet should be used where blood was suspected. All powders and chemicals must be used last due to their invasive nature.

This protocol is a basic guide and does not encompass every possible technique available to investigators. However, if this suggested protocol is implemented it will increase the number of footwear impressions recovered at the crime scene. The recovery of more footwear impressions will directly relate to solving more crimes.

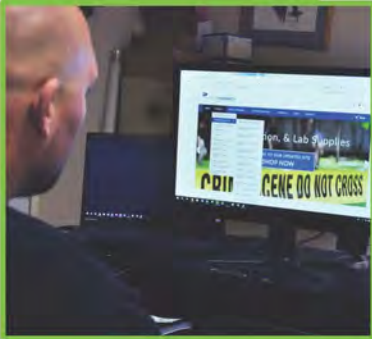


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