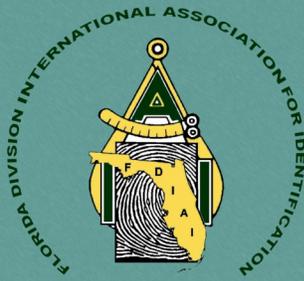


# FDIAI NEWS



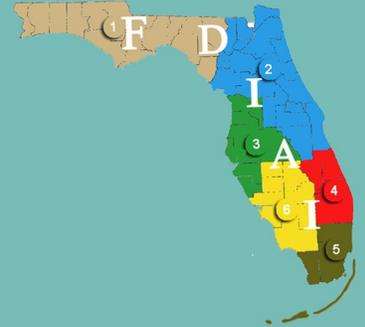
January - March 2023

Since October 1961



## Quarterly Newsletter

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Florida Division  
International Association  
for Identification



**Crime Scene Investigation - Latent Print Identification**  
**Biometric Identification - General Forensics**  
**Bloodstain Pattern Identification - Forensic Photography**  
**Electronic Imaging - Footwear and Tire Track Identification**



# FDIAI

Dear FDIAI Members,

Happy New Year! I am honored to be serving as your 62nd President of the Florida Division of the International Association for Identification (FDIAI). The FDIAI continues to grow even with the setbacks that have come from the pandemic. Our membership has reached a milestone with over 1200 members. Our Regional Directors and others are doing a great job promoting our organization.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Annual Training Conference in October, you can see all the amazing photographs on the website [www.fdiai.org](http://www.fdiai.org) under conference pictures. I would like to give a special thank you to King Brown and Dawn Watkins for all of their hard work taking the great photographs and preserving our memories for years to come. They also host many training classes at the conference and are always ready to give assistance when needed or asked.

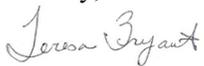
Please take the time to promote the Frank A. Reinhart Scholarship Fund and, if possible, make a tax deductible contribution. To the professors, encourage your students to become members of the FDIAI and apply for this scholarship if they are eligible. To the students, the Reinhart Scholarship Fund was established to award scholarships to members of the FDIAI and dependents who are attending college full time. If you are entering your sophomore, junior or senior year at an accredited college or university and you or a family member are a member of the FDIAI you qualify to apply. This past year we awarded two scholarships.

I want to recognize all of the regional directors, past and present. The training each of you provide is the core mission of the FDIAI; and is presented at no cost to attendees. In the past year, the regional directors have provided free training, both in-person and via computer, to those in the field and students learning the trade. The topics have ranged from shooting reconstruction, forensic photography, Alternate Light Sources and so much more! The regional directors have all created Facebook pages for each region to advise of upcoming training and job openings.

Thank you to all of those who serve on the Science and Practices committees. The committee members continue to provide information for their specialties via articles, training and research. These committee members help set the standards for the disciplines we specialize in.

I hope each and every one of you have a fantastic year and find 2023 to be better than ever. I am always open to hear your thoughts and ideas. Please reach out to me if you wish to become more involved with the FDIAI. Thank you again for the opportunity and support to serve as your president.

Sincerely,



Teresa Bryant, CCSI, MS, MPA  
FDIAI President

Email: [president@fdiai.org](mailto:president@fdiai.org) Phone: 561-741-2359





# January - March 2023



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### Seeking Articles...

If you would like to submit an article for the next Newsletter, please e-mail the editor, Ron Mueller at [ronangmueller@gmail.com](mailto:ronangmueller@gmail.com) by

**March 15, 2023**

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

Year	Name	Year	Name
1959-1961	John W. Tyler	1992	Kathleen L. Taft
1962	Tom W. Boen	1993	Glen Calhoun
1963	John F. Timmes	1994	Julie Shoff
1964	Alex Russak	1995	M. Frank Shonberger
1965	William Knight	1996	Thomas Fadul
1966	Patrick Hickey	1997	Debbie Fischer
1967	William H. Scott, Jr.	1998	Jay Mullins
1968	Thomas J. Spurlock	1999	<b>James Kammerer</b>
1969	Charles W. Gilbert	2000	Vincent Chew
1970	Douglas Monsoor	2001	<b>William Schade</b>
1971	Jim Wingate	2002	Harold Ruslander
1972	Fredrick A. Emrich	2003	Bud Haemmerle
1973	<b>Robert Grant</b>	2004	<b>Philip Sanfilippo</b>
1974	Charles Jacobs	2005	Daneale Gomer
1975	William Leonard	2006	Michael E. Berkland
1976	Thurman R. Ray	2007	<b>Janice Johnson</b>
1977	Richard Snowberger	2008	Gary Brannen
1978	Ronald Boswell	2009	Koren Colbert
1979	Jim Murray	2010	Erica Lawton
1980	Edgar T. Pickett Jr.	2011	<b>King Brown</b>
1981	Richard Hall	2012	<b>Haria Haught</b>
1982	Martin McLeod	2013	Joel Smith
1983	Francis Hitchew	2014	Igor Pacheco
1984	Frank A. Reinhart	2015	Morgan Hays
1985	William McQuay	2016	<b>Lawrence Stringham</b>
1986	Charles W. Miller	2017	Brian Cerchiai
1987	Walter J. Steeb	2018	<b>Christine Snyder</b>
1988	James B. Gettemy	2019	<b>Ron Mueller</b>
1989	<b>John Lazzaretto</b>	2020/21	<b>JP Rodriguez</b>
1990	Samuel McMullin	2022	<b>Jessica Meade-Matias</b>
1991	Herman Moulden		

*Past Presidents in bold are members w/voting rights*



January - March 2023



## Secretary/Treasurer Update—William Schade

Happy New Year from the Secretary Treasurers Office. As we close the books on 2022, over half of the electronic invoices sent out in October have been returned and processed. Thank you to those members who were able to respond quickly. A reminder email was just sent to those who still owe 2023 dues and it is hoped that most members will respond now that the new year is here. Digital invoices are the most cost-effective way to operate the association but paper invoices will be mailed to members who were unable to work with the digital copies they received. We realize that emails can be lost, overlooked or go to a spam folder, and we would hate to lose you through a simple oversight.

If you are not receiving any emails from the Florida Division please let me know! I'm aware of a few agencies that block our broadcast messages and I will work to get that problem resolved if I'm aware of it. The FDI AI tries hard to limit the amount of email we send, but announcements of training and copies of the newsletter as well as invoices are sent throughout the year. We want you to reap the benefits of your membership in the Florida Division and that begins with staying in touch. Please keep your contact information up to date in the members area of the association website and consider using a personal email as your point of contact.

As we see our membership grow to record numbers we look to the future with anticipation. The number of FREE regional training classes has increased over the last few years and is one of the biggest benefits of FDI AI membership. I want to recognize our regional directors for the outstanding job they do in making the Florida Division the largest and most active state division of the IAI. As a member, have you considered conducting a training class for others? We all have experience we can share and it doesn't have to be an eight-hour presentation or workshop. Giving training to others is a great way to earn points needed for certification and recertification as well as improving your CV. Reach out to your regional director and ask them how to accomplish this and get more involved in the association.

We have also increased our social media presence and continue to look for ways to make your membership in the FDI AI more beneficial to you both professionally and socially. If you have any suggestions on how we can make the association more fraternal, please pass those ideas on to an officer of the FDI AI.

One of my New Year resolutions this year is something I heard Larry King say "I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So, if I'm going to learn, I must do it by Listening".



William Schade

## The 2022 FDIAI Conference at a glance....



Photography by: King Brown and Dawn Watkins  
 To view more conference photos, go to the member area of the FDIAI website.



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## Region Update - Region 1 Director Lacey Oden

Welcome to the first quarter of 2023! Happy New Year, and I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season. I am Lacey Oden, your new Region 1 Director. I am excited to step into this position and hope to make a difference in our region and bring forth some amazing career and training opportunities. If you haven't joined me, please join my Facebook FDIAI Region 1. This will give you first-hand access to all the events we have scheduled and allows you to socialize with other professionals in the field. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/492546159457115/>

Region 1 has hit the ground running this quarter with some excellent free training courses. The County Sheriff's Office has been gracious in hosting training for FDIAI. Emily Speed conducted a fantastic training course on identifying human remains. We had a whopping 65 attendees, with a mix of forensic professionals, students, and sworn officers.



If you need free training, the following training courses will be offered during this quarter:

Basic Bloodstain Pattern Documentation ( In Person) – January 24th, 2023, from 1200-1600 CST

Courtroom Testimony and Etiquette ( In Person) – March 7th, 2023, from 1000-1400 CST

For more information, please join us on Facebook at FDIAI Region 1; keep your eyes peeled for FDIAI emails with course details! We will have even more training scheduled for the next quarter.

It's been a fantastic quarter, and the best is yet to come! Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Lacey Oden

## Region 1 - Member Spotlight

Region 1 has several new members this quarter. Here is a spotlight on one new member:

Lawrence Misita works for Escambia County Sheriff's Office as a Crime Scene Technician II. He has been employed with the agency for over 12 years. He is married (Sha), has two kids (Neysa, 17, Mannix, 12), and was born and raised in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada (oh yeah, EH!) He studied at the University of Prince Edward Island (Major: Psychology, Minor: Sociology), and he was a Semi Professional Hockey Player from 2004-2011 at Columbus Cottonmouths (GA), Pensacola Ice Flyers (FL), and had three knocked-out teeth from his hockey career. Here is Lawrence's biography in his own words:

I have wanted to be in law enforcement since I was young. Always saw myself becoming an Investigator/detective after my hockey career was finished. I was extremely fortunate to be hired by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office in 2011, with an educational background in Psychology.

Honestly, I feel the most important reason I was hired and have succeeded these 11.5 years was my upbringing and a lifetime of playing hockey. I constantly challenged myself to be the most complex working person on the ice, whether in practice or games. The outcome may not have been ideal, and many mistakes were made, but the next day was a new day with an effort to give up and mistakes to learn from. Along with action, being a coachable player was a key to progressing in this field. I have been extremely fortunate to have had many outstanding supervisors over the years, ranging from Colonels, Lieutenants, Sergeants, and Crime Scene Supervisor, all of whom had different and new knowledge to learn from and absorb.

Whether starting out in this field with no experience, educational background, or even many years of experience, you have to be a sponge. There will always be a different type of call you have never seen or a unique way of approaching a situation you had never thought of or shown.

For many years, I have been aiding our unit's crime scene training program for our new hires or transfers. It is gratifying, to say the least, as you see our technicians grow and be successful. I always tell my trainees that you will learn from me, and I will learn from you, as you may articulate something in your report in a way that I never even thought of or even approach something on the scene in a different way, where I will tell them I like how you worded that or did that. This field is constantly evolving, what is through science or technology, even in how people live their lives in our ever so changing society; we must grow with it, even if the change is difficult.

I have incredible co-workers in my unit and our agency, all of whom are hard-working, and I appreciate them very much. With everything we experience and see daily, I can always count on my partner Brittany, other technicians, a Deputy, Investigator, or even my Supervisor, Lacey, to make me laugh and brighten my mood before heading home to be with my wife and kids. I enjoy going to work every day, which is not something everyone can say. The job is very fulfilling and personally rewarding, and with a crime scene, the evidence never lies, and it's unbiased, and I love that about it.



## Region 1 - Member Spotlight

The District One Medical Examiner's Office officially has its first credentialed Chief investigator. Please congratulate Chrissy Nieten on her promotion. Currently, Chrissy Nieten is the Chief Medicolegal Death Investigator for the District One Medical Examiner's Office in Pensacola, Florida (which serves Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties and a population of approximately 800,000). Ms. Nieten graduated from the University of West Florida in 2016, following four years of active duty in the United States Navy, where she served as a Gunner's Mate. During her last semester of undergraduate, Ms. Nieten interned at the District One Medical Examiner's Office. She discovered her love for the job and was hired as an investigator immediately after graduation.

As a medicolegal death investigator, Ms. Nieten follows the medical examiner statute (Florida Statute 406.11) to determine jurisdiction. If a death is determined to be within the medical examiner's jurisdiction, then a formal death investigation is performed, which includes but is not limited to scene response, photographic documentation of the scene, initial examination of the body, interviews, review of medical and mental health records, written documentation of investigative findings, calling family members, and performing all other duties required to assist the medical examiner in determining cause and manner of death. The medicolegal death investigator acts as the medical examiner's eyes at the scene and summarizes an end for the medical examiner before their examination.



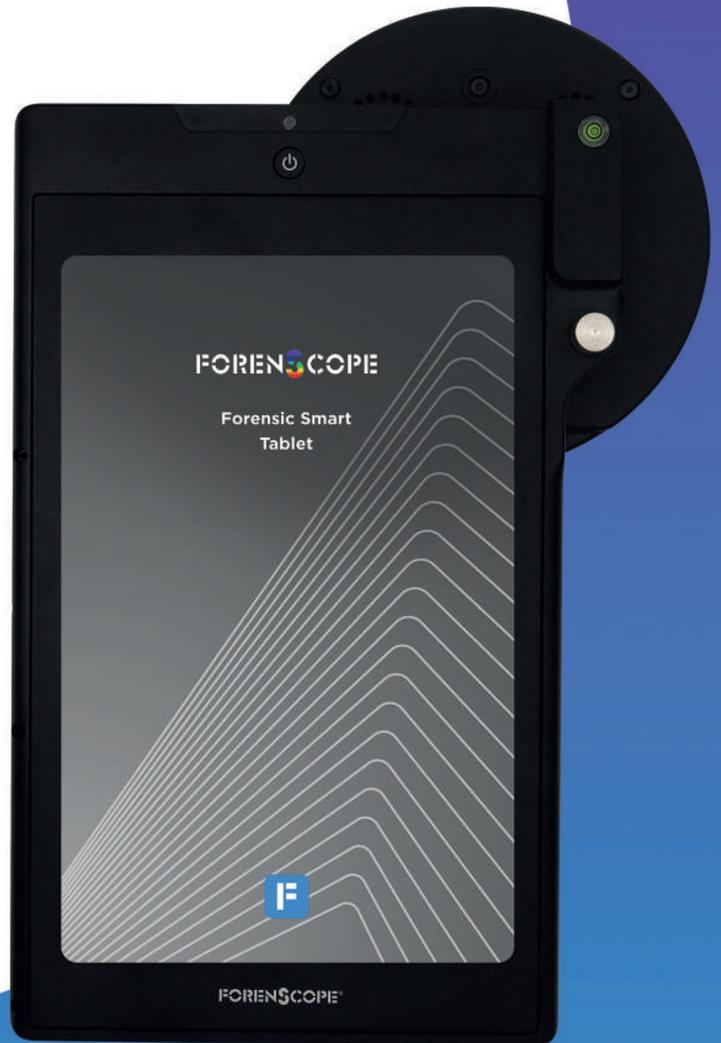
In 2018, following a rigorous national examination, including a portfolio submission of the work and scenes she performed, Ms. Nieten became a certified diplomat of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI). Only 2,220 people in the country hold this certificate verifying competency and excellence in a medicolegal death investigation. In 2019 she began working as an Investigator at the Utah State Medical Examiner's Office. Ms. Nieten overhauled, restarted, and managed the investigations internship program during her time there. She also volunteered her time to conduct in-depth next-of-kin interviews for a state research program to identify trends in adult and child suicide deaths to implement preventative efforts, as well as assisted with organizing and training for a state-wide conference held by the Utah Office of the Medical Examiner to train law enforcement, crime scene, and medical examiner employees in an effective death investigation.

In 2020, Ms. Nieten achieved the highest level of certification offered by the ABMDI, which may take the examination, but few pass – and attained the status of ABMDI board-certified Fellow. Less than 11% of all medicolegal death investigators achieve this status of board-certified fellow by the ABMDI. There are only 25 board-certified Fellows in Florida and 287 in the country. Shortly after this significant career achievement, Ms. Nieten returned home to Florida and District One, where she was rehired as a Senior Investigator. As the Senior Investigator, she revamped the entire investigations division, including accountability, formal feedback, and training sessions.

In 2022, following her many successes in creating a positive and effective work environment within the investigations division, Ms. Nieten was promoted to Chief Investigator. Ms. Nieten is District One's first Chief Investigator to be fully credentialed as a board-certified fellow (ABMDI-F). Ms. Nieten has worked with the Healthy Start Program to ensure that pertinent information is relayed regarding infant and child deaths and that families who have suffered the loss of a child are educated on available resources. Ms. Nieten is working on finding ways to facilitate further research within the district regarding active duty and veteran suicides toward preventative measures.

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## Region Update - Region 2 Director Erin West

Hi all!

Happy New Year! I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and are gearing up for a fabulous 2023. What a perfect time to let go of everything that happened in 2022 and start 2023 completely fresh. Many people start the year by making a New Year's resolution, but quickly fall off of their goals. So this year, let's do it right by setting SMART goals for ourselves this year!

What is a SMART goal? "S" stands for specific, as in get super detailed on what your goal entails. "M" stands for measurable, meaning that progress towards your goal is something you can actually measure. "A" stands for achievable, which means that you choose a goal you can actually accomplish this year. "R" stands for relevant, which means you pick a goal for the right reasons and because it is something that really matters to YOU! And "T" stands for time-bound, as if you have a set amount of time to complete your goal. After all, they do say a goal without a timeline is just a dream! Want to take it a step further? People that share their goals with others are more likely to stick to them, so head over to our Region 2 Facebook group and share your goals with us! Whether they be personal or professional, we would love to cheer you on and hold you accountable if you have the courage to share!

The FDIAI conference was amazing and it was so great to meet so many of you there! Thanks to everyone that showed their support by attending the courses offered by the Region 2 instructors! We hope to see you again next year! In the past quarter, we have had 6 new members join Region 2 from various agencies! Welcome to the FDIAI, we are so excited to have you! Region 2 has offered two training courses this quarter and trained a total of 64 students. We offered the Whitey Bulger Case Study in a webinar format and offered Narcotics 101 in an in-person format. Here are a few photos from the Narcotics 101 course!

We have three training courses scheduled for next quarter, and they are as follows:

Webinar – The Sworn/Civilian Divide – date pending  
 In-person Course – Shooting Reconstruction – date pending

Webinar – Rating the Complexity of Fingerprint Comparisons – January 4th, 2023 from 1000-1200 hours

In-person Course – Bloodstain Pattern Identification and Interpretation – February 1st, 2023 from 0900-1600 hours

As always, seats are limited so grab your spots right away!  
 See you all soon!

Sincerely,

Erin West





**January - March 2023**



## Region 3 Update — Region 3 Director Candace Matthews

Greetings Region 3 members!

Please join me in welcoming Mariko Fujimura, Makeda Simmonds, Nikki Webster, Karlee Scott, Kimberly Winant, Christina Cronin, Elizabeth Zatalava, Anagloria Quintana, Edgardo Betancourt, Michelle Burke, and Griffen Scott, all to the FDIAI! Region 3 is hosting a free Fire Scene Evidence: Detection, Documentation, & Processing Workshop presented by Roberta Case on 05/09/2023! Hurry up to get one of the last remaining seats.

SCSO has an 8-hour Forensic Chemical Validation of Merbromin course that is approved for the IAI Crime Scene and Latent Certification/Recertification that we are interested in delivering to other agencies inside and outside of Region 3. This hands-on course in forensic chemical validation will bring you through what a validation study is, the participant will complete an actual chemical validation in the lab, and will write their own study. Contact me to discuss possible deliveries.

A few New Year's considerations:

Forensic Drug Chemists in Region 3 have been continuing to identify counterfeit tablets containing Fentanyl and analogs that are intended to look like prescribed medications. For your safety, please handle all drug(s) and related materials as though they are, or are contaminated with, Fentanyl or another deadly analog.

If you are a civilian crime scene responder, is your agency addressing or supporting your inclusion in the PTSD Bill that has been drafted? As you complete your end of the year reports, do the stats for your unit fully document and communicate the work your unit does to justify future personnel or equipment needs? If not, it is a great time to re-vamp them, so you capture that information moving forward.

If you are a student member, have you applied for the Frank A. Reinhart Scholarship? The FDIAI awarded this to two students in 2022, so apply now!

Here are some tips from experienced practitioners to help you work more efficiently:

When working in the lab, sit down with your evidence in front of you and write out a processing plan. Create necessary packaging, labels, and property receipts before you begin so you do not forget any steps when you inevitably get disrupted.

Make a personal stats spreadsheet to document supplemental information your unit stats do not capture – how many blood scenes you have worked, how many and what kind of cases or specialties you have been court qualified as an expert in, how many identifications and of what kind you have made, how many times you have been a trainer and of what, how many classes and of what kind you have attended, etc. You can use this for your CV for court or for applying to jobs.

When making latent print lifts on a windy day, leave a small portion of your tape attached to the surface you are lifting from, slide your card under the lifted portion to the edge attached to the surface. Then lay your tape on the card so the tape does not fly away and is stable while you are completing your lift.

Do you have new hires, accomplishments, or job openings? Tell me about it! You work hard; let's recognize and celebrate your achievements and opportunities. Do you have a class you would like to host or an article you would like published for possible IAI certification credit, reach out and let me help!

Be safe and Happy New Year to everyone,

Candace Matthews  
Region 3 Director



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# January - March 2023



## Region 4 Update - Region 4 Director Rebecca Hickey

Hello all! I am Rebecca Hickey, I would like to introduce myself as the new Region 4 Director. I am a Certified Latent Print Examiner and a Certified Crime Scene Analyst with Martin County Sheriff's Office where I've been employed since 2016. I earned a Bachelor's of Science in Forensic Investigations from Keiser University. I am also a graduate of the International Latent Print Examiner Training Academy held by Ron Smith & Associates. As Region 4 Director I am very excited to help this organization grow and bring new trainings opportunities to our area.



### Upcoming Trainings:

Digital Imaging for Latent Print Examiner-- 01/18/2023—9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm—Keiser University 9400 SW Discovery Way, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987

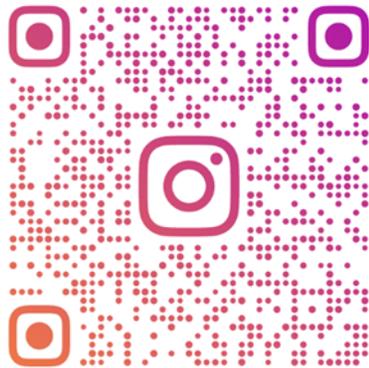
Indian River Crime Lab Training—02/23/2023—9am-12pm-- Martin County Sheriff's Office 800 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34994

Firearms Knowledge & Shooting Reconstruction—03/14/2023-03/16/2023—Gary Morales Training Complex 2191 Coolidge Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming trainings. We are seeing an increase in members and that is amazing. If you have any friends or colleagues that would like to be members head over to the FDIAI website at <https://www.fdiai.org/membership.php>. Region 4 also has a new Facebook group (FDIAI Region 4) and a new Instagram page (region\_4\_fdiai\_).

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hickey



REGION\_4\_FDIAI\_



## Region 5 Update - Region 5 Director Roberto Caceres

Greetings FDI AI Region 5 members! I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday! As your new Region 5 Director, I would love to take this opportunity to introduce myself! I was hired by the Broward Sheriff Office in November 2002 as a Deputy Sheriff and transferred to Forensics Division in May 2008 as a Crime Scene Detective. In May 2021, I joined Gap Science as an Instructor teaching a Forensic FTO course as well as webinars and E-courses. In February 2022, I was hired by Broward College - Institute of Public Safety as an Adjunct Instructor where I teach the crime scene portion of the state curriculum. One of my passions in this field is training... whether its providing or receiving instruction. When I accepted the position of Region Director, I was excited to bring free training opportunities not only throughout the tri-county (Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe) but also collaborate and have contributions from members of various agencies, including college Forensic Science programs. I find it so rewarding when investigators network and find so many commonalities and differences in the way they approach scenes and processing methods. I plan to promote learning, teaching and growth from so many other contributors in this field!



During our Region's first free training class, held in November 2022, Margate PD Crime Scene Technician Ali DeVito gave a wonderful presentation titled "The Kaleidoscope System Trajectory Kit". There was a total of 36 students that were present and were amazed of the new technology that's available for shooting reconstruction. A BIG thank you to City of Miami Police Department for providing their facility to host this class.



Another class that is scheduled for January 2023, titled "How to Use FBI - Universal Latent Workstation Software" will be taught by our former FDI AI President and Broward Sheriff's Office Latent Print Examiner J.P. Rodriguez. This class not only covers the history and creation of the AFIS system, but also the knowledge and operation when conducting searches using the FBI's ULW software.

Additionally, Region 5 also went onto social media for the first time! A Facebook (FDIAI Region 5) and an Instagram (FDIAI\_Regions\_5) group were created in order for members to network and interact, with not only each other, but other forensic investigators from other regions as well as various departments, including the medical examiner's office, and students and professors from local universities/colleges. Within two months since the creation of the social media accounts, the Facebook page has 114 members, and the Instagram group has 70 members!



Thank you so much and stay tuned for so many more free training opportunities in Region 5!!

Sincerely,

Rob Caceres  
Region 5 Director

## Region 5 Spotlight - Brian Turner

And now I would like to introduce everyone to a forensic investigator that is not only dedicated to this field but also loves teaching others in order for them to be successful. Broward Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Technician Brian Turner was born and raised in New Jersey just outside of New York City. Brian attended Bergen Community College and received his Associates of Science Degree in Biological Sciences and continued his education at Ramapo College of New Jersey, majoring in Biology and Secondary Education. Brian had an interest in forensics since his high school forensics class and decided to apply for master's programs in forensics to which he was accepted and attended the University of New Haven and obtained his Master of Science in Forensic Science.

While attending the University of New Haven, Brian became the Graduate Forensic Science Club President where he helped raise funding for members of the Graduate Forensic Science Club to attend the American Academy of Forensic Science Conference in Seattle, Washington. During graduate school, Brian also interned with the West Haven Police Department in their Crime Scene and Identification Unit. Upon graduating, Brian worked tirelessly to achieve his goals of becoming a crime scene investigator by applying and interviewing for positions all around the country. In August 2015, Brian was offered a position as a Fingerprint Analyst (Tenprint Examiner) in BSO's Biometric Identification Unit. He uprooted his whole life to move to Florida to follow his passion for forensics.

While in the Biometric Identification Unit, Brian continued to excel and after two years, he passed the International Association for Identification's Tenprint Examiner Certification. After becoming a Certified Tenprint Examiner, Brian became the primary trainer in the Biometric Unit for incoming Fingerprint Analysts and interns. Not only did he revamp the unit's training program, develop an internship program, but he would also frequently be called upon to teach new Department of Detention Cadets on the basics of fingerprints and how to properly roll fingerprint standards. Brian would regularly attend IAI and FDIAI annual conferences, eventually becoming a member of the IAI Tenprint Science and Practice Subcommittee Member and frequent instructor at the conferences.



In September of 2019, Brian finally achieved his dream job in the Crime Scene Unit at the Broward Sheriff's Office. As one of the first newly classified civilian positions in the crime scene unit, Brian continued to grow professionally and has become an integral part of the FTO training program as a trainer with incoming investigators. After just one short year, Brian took and passed the IAI Crime Scene Investigator Certification Test. At the time of this publication, Brian has attended over 700 hours of professional Forensic Trainings and continues to learn and share his knowledge with others.

Brian can also be found sharing his knowledge in crime scene and fingerprints at Broward College teaching the "Introduction to Criminalistics and Advanced Forensic Investigations" courses. He is also a lecturer for Trittech Forensics teaching multiple tenprint related courses. Brian continues to strive to learn more each and every day and to keep sharing that knowledge on with others. In 2022, Brian became a member of the Crime Scene Committee for the FDIAI. He strives to one day become FDIAI President.



January - March 2023



## Region 6 Update - Region 6 Director Kasey Buckner Brager

As 2022 ends and 2023 begins, several of us in Region 6 are still recovering from Hurricane Ian. The hurricane impacted us greatly in our region and many of us lost a lot! I am impressed with how we have all come together to help each other with the clean-up and recovery. This togetherness is what being a part of the FDIAI is all about. Thank you all for being there for each other and making our region feel like a family instead of colleagues.

Exciting and new trainings are planned for the upcoming year. Keep an eye out for the flyers and RSVP quickly as the classes will fill up in record time. I look forward to seeing all of you at one or more of these amazing classes!



### Upcoming Trainings

Upcoming training classes for Region 6 will be:

Fire Scene Evidence: Detection, Documentation, and Processing Workshop Presented by Detective Roberta Case – January 13, 2023, at Cape Coral Police Department

Hazardous Crime Scenes and Roundtable Discussion – Spring 2023

All The Way to The Top: Case Study for Latent Examiners – Summer 2022

### Membership

I have visited with several student at Florida Southwestern College and Keiser University and several have achieved membership. Several student members are looking for internship opportunities. If your agency is looking for interns or offers internship opportunities, please reach out to me and I will assist in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

Kasey Buckner Brager  
Region 6 Director



## Region 6 Spotlight - Stephanie Arbogast

I would like to introduce you to our fellow member: Stephanie Arbogast. I met Stephanie years ago and her motivation and achievements never cease to amaze me!

Hello!

My name is Stephanie Arbogast. After almost six years in the field of Forensic Biology, my true passion is to share the knowledge I've gained through academics and field experience to those who also wish to enter the field of forensics. After obtaining my Masters of Science in Forensic Science from the University of Central Florida, I decided to make a full career change into academia full time as I love to teach and train others in all forensic disciplines.

From 2016 – 2021, I was a Crime Laboratory Analyst in the DNA/Biology Section for FDLE and have worked on over 350 independent criminal cases including sexual assaults, death investigations, robberies, burglaries, assaults, attempted poisonings, etc. and had part in thousands of additional cases through a team approach with my coworkers at FDLE. I have testified numerous times in both depositions and jury trials throughout the state of Florida.

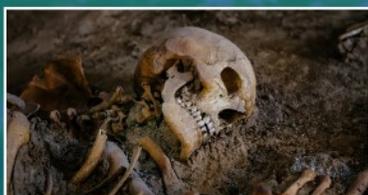
I am currently living out my dream of being the Program Director of the Crime Scene Technology & Forensic Investigations Programs at Keiser University in Fort Myers. In the classroom, students learn hands on seized drug and blood presumptive testing, fingerprint dusting, lifting and chemical processing methods, crime scene systematic searches, photography, evidence packaging, chain of custody procedures, and even testify in mock trials involving local licensed attorneys. In the program, the students are introduced to forensic professional guest speakers and field trips to local police departments/crime laboratories.

I am also grateful to be an adjunct professor for Grand Canyon University's Master's of Forensic Science Program online. I am an associate member of the FDI AI and the COFSE as well as Keiser University's Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society Advisor.



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- **Fingerprint Photography**  
January 19 - 20, 2023 | Ocala, FL | \$299
- **Courtroom Testimony for the Forensic Science Professional**  
January 23 - 25, 2023 | Kissimmee, FL | \$459
- **Ritualistic and Occult Crime Scene Investigations**  
February 14 - 17, 2023 | Boynton Beach, FL | \$555
- **Courtroom Testimony for Fingerprint Examiners**  
February 20 - 22, 2023 | Fort Lauderdale, FL | \$359 (\$100 OFF!)
- **Fundamentals of Crime Scene Photography**  
March 6 - 10, 2023 | Plantation, FL | \$585
- **Child Death Investigations**  
March 13 - 14, 2023 | Coral Springs, FL | \$365
- **Basic Crime Scene Photography**  
March 27 - 31, 2023 | Sarasota, FL | \$598
- **Palm Print Comparisons**  
April 3 - 5, 2023 | Lauderhill, FL | \$498
- **Supervision of Forensic Units**  
April 3 - 6, 2023 | Plantation, FL | \$589

## WEBINARS

- **Collecting & Preserving Entomological Evidence at a Death Scene**  
January 18, 2023 | \$79
- **Bone or Stone? Human or Nonhuman?**  
January 26, 2023 | \$79
- **First 48: Research-Based Forensic Victimology for Death Investigation**  
February 2, 2023 | \$79
- **Introduction to Pettler's Staging Taxonomy for Staged Murders**  
February 9, 2023 | \$79
- **Introduction to The Murder Room Death Investigation Method**  
February 16, 2023 | \$79



**January - March 2023**



## **The CSI Effect**

**By: CSI Angela Weissman**

On October 6, 2000, the very first CSI Las Vegas episode aired on CBS. A group of forensic investigators at the Las Vegas Crime Lab worked to solve grisly murder scenes within the hour time slot. As the show became popular, a 2006 weekly Nielsen rating reported that 30 million people watched the CSI show on one night and 70 million people watched at least one of the three popular CSI shows. (nij.gov). As the forensic media and entertainment grew more and more popular, the viewers became jurors for criminal trials. Many attorneys, judges, and journalists claimed that watching the television programs like CSI, caused jurors to wrongfully acquit defendants when no scientific evidence had been presented. This effect was dubbed the “CSI Effect”. (nij.gov)

The CSI Effect had perhaps rewritten the standard of proof in the criminal context from “beyond a reasonable doubt” to “beyond any doubt”. (americanbar.org).

The CSI Effect applies to all forensic disciplines and within the local and federal juries.

While discussing this topic with State Attorneys at the Palm Beach County State Attorney’s Office, the following information was gathered. The state of Florida is a Daubert state, and they limit “junk science” being admitted into the court because it tends to confuse the jurors. The State Attorneys began using more visual presentations, Power Point presentations and other demonstratives so juries can visualize and focus on what’s being presented.

While discussing this topic with a representative from each forensic discipline at the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Crime Lab, it was found that the overall trends being observed include the jury wants a more definitive answer and the jury wanting more physical evidence.

While interviewing an FBI Special Agent in reference to the CSI Effect in federal court, his opinion was that the FBI Forensics team works less cases than local law enforcement, so they have the time to be extremely detailed and they have a larger budget to put on more of a demonstration for the court. The FBI Special Agent also concurred that the jurors want more physical evidence.

According to Judge Donald Shelton, a survey conducted in 2008 showed the following statistics (nij.gov)

Juror Expectations for Forensic Evidence:

46% expected to see some kind of scientific evidence in every criminal case

22% expected to see DNA evidence in every criminal case

36% expected to see fingerprint evidence in every criminal case

32% expected to see ballistic or other firearms laboratory evidence in every criminal case

With the advancements in technology, older cases are being overturned because the DNA is no longer blood typing and is now actual genetic profiles. Innocent people have been exonerated because the DNA has proven that they did not commit the crime.

## The CSI Effect (Cont.)

In 1992, the Innocence Project was founded by Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University. To date, 375 people in the United States have been exonerated by DNA testing, including 21 who served time on death row (Exonerate - Innocence Project). This could lead to why jurors are more reluctant to convict with lesser evidence.

The CSI Effect significantly increases the prosecution's burden. It is no longer "beyond a reasonable doubt" and it is now "without any doubt".

In hindsight, as a Crime Scene Investigator, how many times do you get approached while in uniform and are asked the following question: Is your job like CSI on TV? Investigations are not solved within an hour, nor do we get a written screenplay.

### References

[www.nij.gov/journals/259/pages/csi-effect.aspx](http://www.nij.gov/journals/259/pages/csi-effect.aspx)

The CSI Effect: Does it Really Exist? Archived | The 'CSI Effect': Does It Really Exist? | National Institute of Justice (ojp.gov). NIJ Journal Issue 259, March 2008.

<http://apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/trialevidence/articles/winterspring2012-0512-csi-effect-jurors.html>

Innocence Project. Exonerate - Innocence Project

### About the Author:

Angela Weissman began her career at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in June 2000 as a clerical specialist. She soon knew that she wanted to expand her career in law enforcement and in investigations. Angela enrolled in college courses at Broward Community College and Palm Beach Community College. Angela later received her Bachelors of Business Administration. Angela received her CCSI Certification from the International Association for Identification and is a member of the Gold Coast Forensics Association.

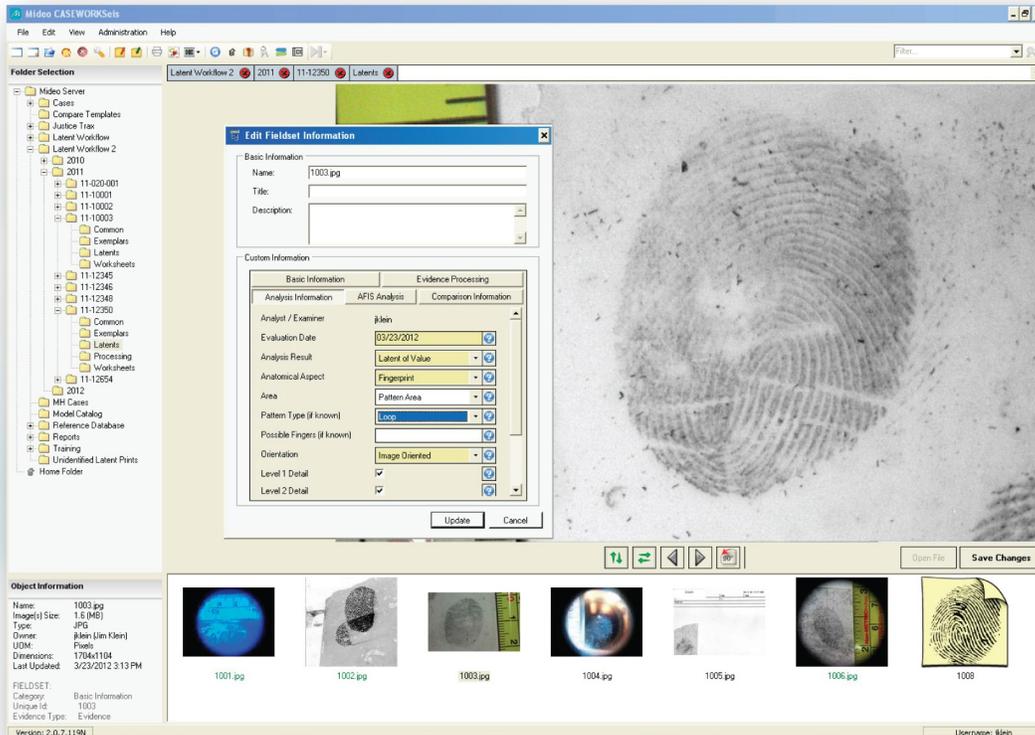
In 2003, Angela transferred to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit as a Crime Scene Investigator. Over the years, she has investigated thousands of crime scenes across Palm Beach County and has testified in several court hearings. Angela has also conducted career fairs and other crime scene related presentations in several communities in the county and continues to assist with training new Crime Scene Investigators.



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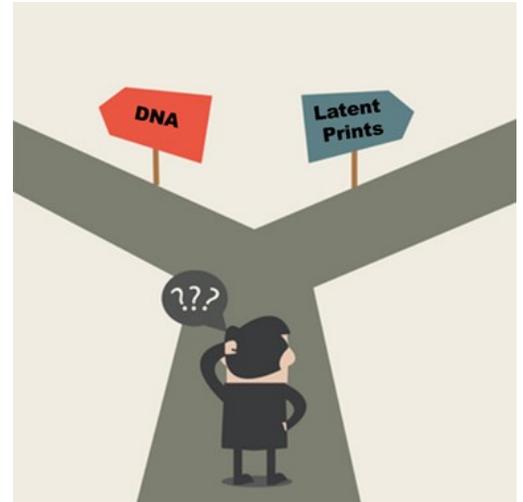
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## Latents or DNA? That was the question....:

### A methodology for the recovery of DNA and latent prints from fired cartridge casings. By Brian Turner, CCSI & CTPE

A Crime Scene Investigator is often faced with the dilemma of choosing whether to process an item for latent prints or DNA. In the case of fired casings, processing for either has been rather limited. The traditional method of DNA collection of fired casings, swabbing, typically yielded a less than 1.0% chance of recovery of a full DNA profile. While traditional methods of processing for fingerprints, including cyanoacrylate fuming followed by laser grade dye stains or powders and, even more recent methods such as the Vacuum Metal Deposition, have also yielded limited results.

Why are the chances of recovering DNA and latent prints so limited on fired casings? There are numerous factors that affect the chances of recovering either DNA or latent prints from fired casings. Some of the factors are:



- The limited surface area that is being touched on the cartridge casing while it is being loaded into a firearm or magazine.
- The duration the cartridge was handled prior to being loaded into a firearm or magazine.
- The amount of heat that is produced during the firing process.
- When the fired cartridge casings are ejected from a firearm, they land on a variety of surfaces, both indoors and outdoors, and as a result these surfaces can affect the recovery of DNA and fingerprints. Fired casings found on outdoor scenes are affected by bacteria and microbes from the environment as well as other environmental factors such as heat, humidity, and rain. These bacteria, microbes, and environmental factors can destroy DNA and remove fingerprint residue.
- The time period from when the fired casings are fired to the time it is processed, will also affect the chances of DNA and / or latent print recovery. Over time DNA degrades and fingerprint residue can easily wipe away from such surfaces.
- Collection and packaging materials. Paper envelopes and paper boxes can actually absorb DNA and wipe away fingerprint residue.

With the advancement of technology and continued research, the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Crime Scene Unit in conjunction with the Crime Lab DNA Section. has developed a protocol for processing fired casings for both DNA and latent prints. Using the Microbial Vacuum (M-Vac) System and enhanced collection/packaging methods, the new methodologies have greatly increased the chances of recovering DNA profiles from fired casings which can then be processed for latent prints using the Foster and Freeman Recover LFT system, which has yielded AFIS quality fingerprints.

## Latents or DNA? (Cont.)

Step one of the BSO Crime Scene Unit's processing methodology for fired casings begins at the crime scene. As mentioned earlier, paper envelopes/boxes can absorb DNA from the fired casings and as a result, glassine envelopes are now utilized agency wide to collect them. The waxy surface of the glassine envelopes block any of the DNA from being absorbed from the fired casings. In addition, the fired casings are also no longer collected with gloved hands because of the sensitivity of the M-VAC system. Instead, investigators, while wearing a mask and gloves, will utilize the wooden end of sterile cotton swab or sterilized tweezers to pick up fired casings and place them inside the glassine envelopes. This method will minimize any possible contamination on the fired casings from the investigator. Each fired casing is placed separately in a glassine envelope.



Step two of the BSO Crime Scene Unit's processing methodology is to process for DNA. The M-Vac system is wet-vacuum DNA collection system. Typical processing of evidentiary items utilizing the M-Vac system requires spraying the DNA Free Butterfield's solution onto the item to "free" DNA from its substrate, and simultaneously vacuums the solution possible DNA. Since fired casings are too small of a substrate to utilize this traditional method with the M-Vac system, as a result a modified process was developed. The process is outline below:

### Supplies Needed:

- MVAC with hose, nozzle head, buffer solution
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Tyvek/Apron, Gloves and Mask)
- Vortexer
- 2 Grams of Chelex Beads in a 50 mL conical tube
- Pre-filter/pre-filter shield
- Nalgene filter
- Sterile funnel
- Sterile swab/sterile plastic tweezers
- Sterile scalpel
- Sterile petri dish



### Procedure:

- 1- Put on proper PPE, prepare a sterilized area for processing, and set out all necessary supplies.



## Latents or DNA? (Cont.)

- 2- Fill conical test tube with 2 grams of Chelex beads and add 25 mL of buffer solution and vortex until dissolved. (Chelex beads are utilized to bind to metal particles and thus help free DNA from fired casings.)
- 3- Open glassine envelope and use a sterile swab to pick up the casing. Drop casing in the conical test tube.
- 4- Vortex for 30-45 seconds. Adjust speed accordingly to ensure casing is properly vortexed.
- 5- Using sterile tweezers or the wooden end of a swab, remove the casing from the tube. Empty the casing to ensure there is no residual liquid in the casing.
- 6- Repeat steps #3-5 until all casings of the same caliber have been vortexed.
- 7- Vortex solution at top speed for 10-15 seconds to mix.
- 8- Attach the pre-filter to the conical test tube. Attach the pre-filter to the pre-filter shield. Attach both to M-Vac vacuum hose.
- 9- Turn on the vacuum and flip the tubes to filter the solution through. (This will removed the Chelex beads and other debris that may have been in the solution from the fired casings. Potential DNA is left in the solution.)
- 10- Turn off vacuum and unscrew tube with solution.
- 11- Place the sterilized funnel onto the Nalgene filter. (A funnel is used to decrease the surface area where potential DNA will be captured on the Nalgene filter.)
- 12- Press the funnel down firmly onto the filter to create a seal. Turn on the vacuum.
- 13- Pour solution into the funnel and allow the solution to drain through the filter completely.
- 14- Place lid back on to the Nalgene Filter. Let filter dry completely (typically a day or so). (The lid is designed to allow air in so it will dry.)
- 15- Consult with your DNA lab policy to determine if they prefer the entire filter submitted, or a cutting.
- 16- If a cutting is required, use a sterile scalpel to cut around the perimeter of the saturated spot.
- 17- Place in a sterile petri dish and seal with evidence tape.
- 18- Label petri dish accordingly.

## Latents or DNA? (Cont.)

Step three of the BSO Crime Scene Unit processing methodology is to process for latent prints. This is done utilizing the Foster and Freeman Recover LFT system. The Recover LFT system utilizes a proprietary chemical vapor fuming process to develop fingerprints on a range of metal surfaces including those that have been exposed to extreme heat and items that have been washed ‘clean’. The Recover LFT system can develop fingerprint corrosion signatures and does not need the presence of traditional residues to still be present on a surface as do other methods of latent print development. As the friction ridge skin comes into contact with the metal surface of the fired casing, the residue from the fingerprint leaves the impression of the friction ridge as it would on any other surface. However, due to the chemicals present in fingerprint residue, they begin to create a corrosion signature into the metal. The Recover LFT system’s chemicals develop this corrosion. Since the fingerprint residues are no longer needed to develop latent prints, the Recover LFT system can be utilized after the DNA processing methodology in which the casings were vortexed in the solution. The DNA method also washes away residual gunshot residue and other containments on the fired casings that might inhibit development of latent prints.



### Recover LFT Procedure:

- 1- Fired Casings are placed into the glass chamber.
- 2- The premeasured vial of proprietary chemical (“R1” for brass type metals; “R2” for silver type metals) is placed into the chemical well.
- 3- The lid of the chamber is lowered, and the chamber is put under a slight vacuum.
- 4- The chemical is heated to create a vapor. The vapors from the chemical will adhere and develop the corrosion signature on the surface of the metals.

Although this not the only method, at the Broward Sheriff’s Office we have found that following the M-Vac System/Recover LFT system methodology has allowed for the recovery of both DNA and latent prints from the fired casings. It is important to note that with any field, especially forensics, there is constant advancements in technology and new research being conducted. As such methods of recovering DNA and latent prints will only continue to improve.

### References:

- <https://www.m-vac.com/>
- <https://fosterfreeman.com/recover-lft/>



Images of friction ridge skin recovered from fired casings. (Images captured by BSO Crime Scene Technician C. Bayne and BSO Crime Scene Detective E. Cieza-Aguilar.)

## Latents or DNA? (Cont.)

### About the Author

Brian Turner is currently employed by the Broward County Sheriff's Office as a Crime Scene Technician II. Brian is both IAI Certified Crime Scene Investigator and IAI Certified Tenprint Examiner. He holds a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Biology from Ramapo College of New Jersey and a Master's Degree of Science in Forensic Science from the University of New Haven.

In addition to being a Crime Scene Technician, he is an Adjunct Professor at Broward College, teaching both the Introduction to Criminalistics and the Advanced Forensic Investigations course, and an instructor with Tritech Forensics teaching a variety of classes and webinars in the areas of Tenprints.

Brian began his career as Tenprint Examiner for Broward County Sheriff's Office in the Biometric Identification Unit. In 2018, Brian Turner was promoted to Fingerprint Analyst III after successful passing the IAI Tenprint Certification. As a Fingerprint Analyst III, Brian's duties included training all incoming fingerprint analysts, interns and detention deputies in the science of friction ridge skin.

In 2019, Brian became a member of the IAI Tenprint Identification Science and Practice Subcommittee. He assists with the planning and execution of Tenprint Courses offered at the Educational Conferences of the International Association for Identification. In 2022, Brian was nominated and joined the FDI AI Crime Scene Subcommittee.

Recently, Brian has taught a variety of workshops and lectures at both the International Association for Identification Annual Conferences as well as the Florida Division of the IAI conferences and regional trainings.





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# FRANK A. REINHART

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## F O U N D A T I O N

# SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Frank A. Reinhart Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Frank Reinhart, a very active member of this association. The purpose of this fund is to award a scholarship to members of the FDIAI as well as to their dependents who are attending full time at a college or university pursuing any course major. Individuals eligible are those who are full time students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year at an accredited college or university. Applications for the scholarship can be obtained from any of the trustees listed below.

An applicant who has received a scholarship award shall be entitled to reapply for a scholarship award for the next school year, provided, however, that the applicant must have maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or better (based on a scale of 4.0) during the school year for which the award was granted and further provided that the applicant completed the school year.

August 15th each year is the deadline for submitting an application for consideration.

Donations forms are also available online at [www.fdiai.org](http://www.fdiai.org). All donations are tax deductible.

Application forms to apply for the Scholarship are available on our website at [www.fdiai.org](http://www.fdiai.org).



## Pulling Fingerprints from Social Media Photographs

By: Alexandria McDonald

Some images posted to social media sites can be used to retrieve fingerprints from individuals if their hand is a short distance away from the cellphone that took the photo. I used 3 different cellphones for this experiment, a Samsung 21+, an iPhone 12 Max Pro, and a One Plus 8T. This was to show the difference in camera quality with modern cellphones and to see which phone would produce the clearest possible print in a staged scenario. Smartphones are beginning to have very impressive camera qualities, the Samsung S21+ has a 64 Megapixel camera, comparable to a DSLR camera that averages 30 Megapixels. I also posted the original images to Facebook and Instagram to determine whether social media platforms affect the clarity when the photo is re-saved. Using Adobe Photoshop, I enhanced all 9 images to compare the clarity of the fingerprint against each other and a known inked print.

To take the pictures, I used a tripod to stabilize the phones, resulting in more consistency. A prop weapon was used to have a focal point in the image. The prop weapon and hand were approximately 18 inches away from the tripod. I kept the fluorescent lighting and a contrasting background the same on all three images. Each image was taken with the phone's back camera on their automatic setting. The camera quality of each phone is as follows: Samsung 21+ had a 64 Megapixel camera, iPhone 12 Max Pro had a 12 Megapixel camera, and the One Plus 8T had a 48 Megapixel camera. The images were taken off the phone and saved to a computer via USB. Without any enhancement, the iPhone image had the clearest ridge detail present, and the OnePlus had the poorest amount of detail.

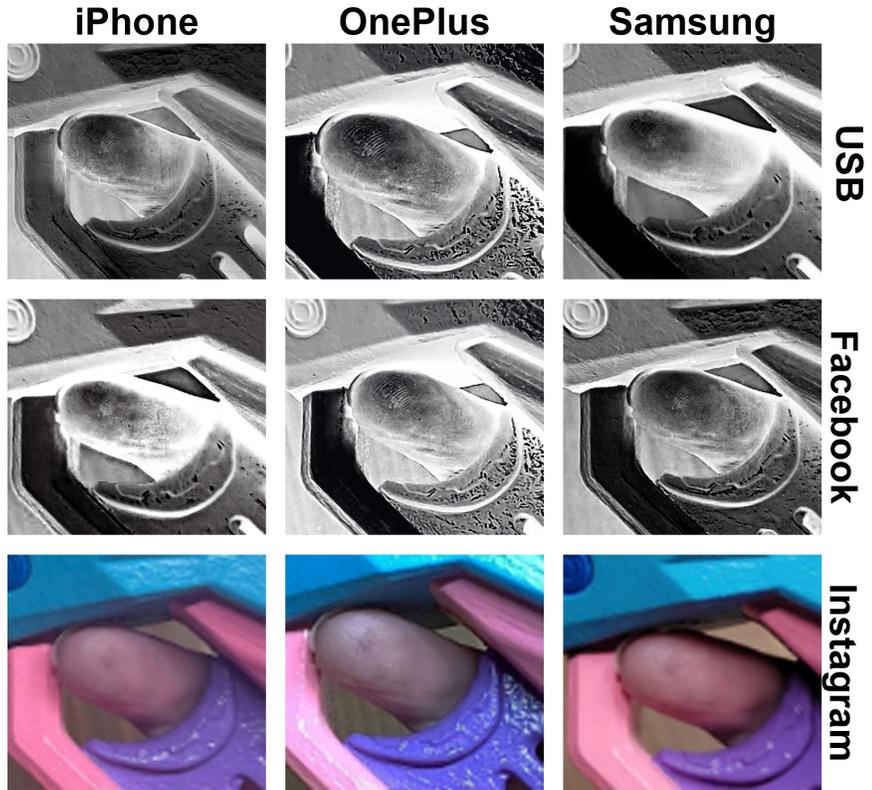
The photos were duplicated and only the copies were worked with. Each copied picture was renamed to the associated phone they were taken on. All images were enhanced on Adobe Photoshop CS6 and the same few tools/techniques. The lasso tool was used to select the right index finger and levels were used to enhance the contrast as well as darken some areas to bring out some additional detail. To turn the images grayscale, the black and white filter and a gradient map were used. There were minor differences in the amount of adjustments between the different images with the Samsung needing slightly less and the iPhone needing the most. The images were saved as jpegs labeled Samsung-edited, iPhone-edited, and OnePlus-edited.

All three original images were posted to a Facebook account, downloaded, and named SamsungFB/iPhoneFB/OneplusFB respectively. When comparing the file size from the original images and the downloaded files, the downloaded files were approximately 75% smaller. The same Photoshop tools/techniques used on the original images were used on these files. When zoomed into the finger, the clarity of the images is much more pixelated than the originals, but detail is still present. Each image is saved as a jpeg and named SamsungFB-edited, iPhoneFB-edited, OnePlusFB-edited respectively. The original files were also uploaded to an Instagram account and then screenshotted. The screenshotted images were significantly compressed, up to 80% smaller, by Instagram's file size requirement and cropping. When zoomed in, even slightly, they were heavily pixelated and would not be worthwhile to attempt enhancing.

Out of the three phones used, a Samsung, iPhone, and OnePlus, the iPhone camera provided the clearest image. Although it did not have the strongest camera, it provided the most ridge detail in the images. Facebook and Instagram significantly influenced the photo's clarity. Facebook lowered the quality of the images, and this was very apparent when observing the images side-by-side. Instagram compressed the images so much they lost all clarity and detail on the fingers. (See images on the next page)

With smartphones and social media continuing to become more and more integrated into our society, digital imaging will be an ever-growing importance in forensics. More crimes will be documented by the perpetrator themselves or eyewitnesses and obtaining fingerprints from these files could be the most important piece of evidence available.

## Pulling Fingerprints from Social Media Photographs (Cont.)



**About the Author:**

Alexandra McDonald is 28 years old studying for her Bachelors of Science in Forensic Investigations at Keiser University in Port Saint Lucie, Florida. She will be graduating early 2024. She has over ten years of experience using Photoshop. She is very interested in digital imaging and cyber forensics and hopes to specialize in digital forensics. Alexandra is an active FDIAI member.





January - March 2023



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*As a member of the Florida Division of the International Association for Identification, and being actively engaged in the profession of Scientific Identification and Investigation, I dedicate myself to the efficient and scientific administration thereof in the interest of Justice and the betterment of Law Enforcement.*

*To cooperate with others of the profession, promote improvement through research, and disseminate such advancement in my effort to make more effective the analysis of the expert. To employ my technical knowledge factually, with zeal and determination, to protect the ethical standards of the profession of Scientific Identification and Investigation. I humbly accept my responsibility to Public Trust and seek Divine guidance that I may keep inviolate the Profession of Law Enforcement.*