



ABFDE News

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Newsletter of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc. Accredited by FSAB

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NIJ Grant for Mara Merlino, Ph. D.	4
<i>New Diplomate</i>	5
McClary—AAFS VP Nominee	6
<i>Recertification</i>	7
<i>Determining the Source of a Word Document</i>	8
<i>Training Outline & Bibliography</i>	9
Continuing Ed	10
<i>Nominees for Board of Directors</i>	11
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	14
<i>Obituary</i>	15
<i>Job Opportunity</i>	18

THE GAVEL OF PRESIDENT ROSALIND SPENCER



Dear Diplomates



I have decided to step down from the Board of Directors, since personal circumstances have necessitated me being overseas for a considerable length of time. Now, perhaps more than ever, the ABFDE needs a strong helm to steer us through stormy issues, which is difficult to do from a distance. Jim Josey has courageously accepted to take over as President, and I extend to him my sincere gratitude. I also extend my thanks to the Board, to you the Diplomates, and to colleagues around the world, for huge support over the years.

I have enjoyed immensely my years as a Director, and it was a great honour to be elected as your President. The Board is a small but wonderful body of volunteers who devote countless hours to its service. They are a very special group of professionals at the top of their career, who care very deeply about the future of FDE.

The ABFDE is so important in upholding our profession and values, and tackling challenges. Its role continues to evolve. I urge Diplomates to give the ABFDE their full support, and actively contribute to its success, to ensure that, always, the 'good guys' of FDE win the day.

With every good wish to you all,



THE GAVEL OF INCOMING PRESIDENT JIM JOSEY



Dear Diplomates,

Aloha!

I hope everyone is well.

I am writing this letter for the Gavel as the newly elected President of ABFDE. Let me share with you how this came about.

During this year's ABFDE Board of Director's meeting in Houston, we received word that Ms. Rosalind Spencer was requesting to step down as President immediately, in order to handle some pressing family matters. Though we were all very disappointed to learn Rosalind would not finish her term as President, the remaining members of the Board accepted her resignation.

Our current By-Laws call for the Vice President to step in as President. Although the position was offered to the current Vice President, Lisa Hanson, she deferred due to her large work load involved with the VP's position which also includes being the Chair of the Testing Committee (presently 11 Candidates in the pool with 4 additional on the way). In addition to this, Lisa recently retired unexpectedly from the Minnesota state crime lab and had family matters requiring her attention. Out of respect for Lisa's situation and the need for consistency for the Candidates during their testing, the Board decided to nominate and elect a President to serve out Rosalind's term. As a result, I was nominated and elected to serve the remaining year of the two year term as President. This course of action was taken, because, currently, there is no provision in the ABFDE By-Laws for electing a new President should the Vice President be unable or unwilling to assume the office.

Article IX, paragraph 3 of the ABFDE By-Laws reads:

3. *Vacancies Among Officers*



The Vice President shall fill a vacancy in the office of President occurring during his/her term of office as Vice President. Other vacancies among officers shall be filled by election by the Board of Directors from its membership. Such election may be conducted by mail or electronic mail ballot.

However, upon returning home and spending time reading the By-Laws further, the question was raised if we, as a Board, needed to take steps to avoid any possible conflicts with the ABFDE By-

Laws. I decided I should step aside and that the position of President would be once again considered vacant. I asked the Executive Committee to decide on a proper solution to fill the position.

A solution that could have happened in Houston was to have Lisa resign her VP post, elect a new VP so that the new VP could move up to the vacated President's position, and then elect a new VP to fill the vacant VP position. This would then be in accordance with our current By-Laws.

This is the course of action that the EC and other Directors followed to be in accordance with the By-Laws. Lisa resigned her position as Vice President and Testing Chair. I was nominated as Vice President and elected. After assuming the office of Vice President, I automatically filled the vacant position of President. Lisa was then nominated and elected as Vice President, a position she is familiar with and happy to serve in.

While I don't think it is unreasonable to expect the Vice President to step up to the President's position on a temporary basis,

THE GAVEL

Continues on page 3

THE GAVEL

Continued from page 2

to require them to assume the duties long term can create hardship for both the Vice President and the plans, programs and jobs the VP has in motion, associated with that position.

It is clear that the Board needs to review and modify the bylaws to make it simpler to deal with this type of problem in the future and the BOARD'S current Rules and Procedures Committee will be doing just that in the very near future.

Challenges Facing the Profession

As some of you may be aware if you have been following the activities of the National Commission on Forensic Science, the Commission has been discussing requiring certification for any expert who testifies for any component of the US Department of Justice (DOJ). This would apply to all criminal trials and any civil trial in which DOJ is involved. While this requirement should not take affect for five years after the Commission passes it, we will need to be ready for new applicants for certification. This will require the generation of new written and practical tests. Because of this, the Board of Directors has decided to increase the Board from 13 to 15 Directors to handle this additional workload (generating tests, grading tests, sitting on Oral Panels, etc.).

In addition to this, the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB), of which the ABFDE is accredited, has levied a new

requirement. That requirement is a site visit to each Board that it accredits every five years (to be paid for by the Board it is visiting). This will involve paying for two individuals from FSAB to travel to and visit our administrative offices in Houston, as well as a Director or two who will need to be in Houston to address any issues or questioned that are raised.

As a result of these expected and anticipated changes, the Board of Directors discussed a dues increase for ABFDE Diplomates at the recent meeting, but decided to wait another year before raising the dues. But the increase in dues is inevitable with these upcoming changes. The Directors know that purse strings are tight for everyone, and will make every effort to minimize the amount that the dues will be raised.

*"you can
count on me!"*

In other news, I would like to welcome Ted Burkes as our new Secretary, replacing Bonnie Beal, who had to step down from the position because of personal commitments. We are glad to say that Bonnie will be staying on and serving the remainder of her term on the Board as a Director. I also would like to welcome Linda Mitchell, to the Board as a Director where she will be

assuming . my duties as a Certification Manager for our Diplomates with last names beginning with the letters A through F. The Board, along with our discipline, will be facing some challenges in the coming year. During my term as your president, you can count o me to provide the leadership towards meeting those challenges.

We have a great group of Directors who are very dedicated and will work hard serving on your Board. However, as their terms begin to expire the Board will need all of our Diplomates to step up and help us meet the various challenges we will be facing in the future. After almost eight years, I found my time and service on the Board to be both enlightening and rewarding.

In the coming weeks you may be contacted to consider serving on the Board. If you are motivated and would like help find ways to meet the challenges facing our discipline, I encourage you to step up and agree to serve.

I am honored and looking forward to serving you as your President.

Cheers,

Jim Josey

NIJ GRANT AWARDED TO MARA MERLINO, PH. D.

The Forensic Science Committee of the National Academy of Sciences (“Committee”) wrote that the admissibility of forensic expert testimony should rest on the extent to which the discipline is based upon reliable scientific methodology which results in accurate analysis and reporting of findings, and the extent to which the discipline relies on subjective interpretation of evidence, which may be subject to bias or error, rather than sound operational procedures and robust performance standards. In response to the needs identified by the 2009 NAS report, Dr. Mara Merlino of Kentucky State University has been awarded a research grant titled *Cognitive Human Factors and Forensic Document Examiner Methods and Procedures* (NIJ Award #2015-90606-KY-DN) to continue research on the reliability and validity of forensic document examination methods. The interdisciplinary research team for this project includes Roni Dahir, University of Nevada, Reno; Derek Hammond, USACIL; Bryan Found, Victoria Police Forensic Services Department; and Adrian Dyer, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.



This series of three experiments, conducted collaboratively over 24 months with the University of Nevada, Reno, will expand research that empirically explores the methods and procedures of established forensic document examination practices in handwritten signature identification. Specifically, the project will investigate the relationship among visual context, semantic content, attentional resources, salience, bottom-up/top-down processing, perception, and feature matching in FDE decision making; investigate the measurement properties of the nine-point opinion continuum and the utility of fuzzy set theory in quantifying continuum values; and investigate the amount of writing that constitutes “sufficient” information upon which to base an opinion.

Eighty government lab affiliated and independent examiners who are members of ASQDE, AAFS, ABFDE, or other mainstream professional organizations will participate. Study information will be presented at professional meetings and via the FDE listserv. Participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We will recruit 80 lay participants as a comparison group using a temporary staffing agency. Data collection will begin in August, 2016.

Expert consultants will select signatures from among approximately 100 writers that represent the typical signature types that a FDE might encounter in casework. Digitizing tablets will be used to record the handwriting dynamics of the signature writers. Tobii X2-60 binocular eye-tracking systems will be used in all experiments to record participant eye movements during three signature examination protocols in which the presentation order of questioned and known signatures and the number of known signatures for the comparisons is varied. An online/phone survey will gather participant training and experience information. A semi-structured qualitative interview will be conducted to elicit the cognitive steps participants employ when making signature authenticity decisions.

MERLINO

Continues on page 5

“research that empirically explores the methods and procedures of established forensic document examination practices...”

WELCOME OUR NEWEST DIPLOMATE, GEORGE VIRGIN

George Virgin is employed as a forensic document examiner with the Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Forensic Laboratory in McLean, Virginia, where he successfully completed a two-year comprehensive training program in forensic document examination. During his apprentice training program in forensic document examination, he attended classroom lectures, read books and technical writings on forensic document examination, and completed casework under the supervision of qualified forensic document examiners. His duties include examinations of travel and identity documents, examinations of printing processes, examinations of document security features, examinations of wet and dry seals, forensic comparative handwriting examinations, and examinations of torn and shredded documents. He also provides testimony as a government expert in the field of forensic document examination in American criminal and immigration courts of law.



George is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists. He holds a Master of Forensic Sciences degree from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Rensselaer

Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Statistical Science from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Prior to entering the questioned document field, he worked as a quality control Chemist with the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C., where

he completed physical and chemical testing of ink, paper, and other graphic arts materials used in the print production of documents, and where he learned of the Homeland Security Investigations Forensic Laboratory (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service Forensic Document Laboratory). He enjoys outdoor activities such as bicycling and jogging and spends time with his family who also live in Virginia.

*George holds a
Master's Degree
in Statistical
Science from
George Mason
University*

MERLINO, CONTINUED

Quantitative eye tracking data including gaze sequence, number and duration of gaze fixations on signature features, and the length of the examination will be compared across participant type and signature style, complexity, and number and order of known specimens. Qualitative data will be check-coded and check-verified to increase reliability.

All participant information will be confidential. Findings will be disseminated at national/international interdisciplinary venues and in legal, scientific, and professional journals. For information about the project or to make arrangements to participate in the study, please contact Mara Merlino at mara.merlino@kysu.edu.

CARL MCCLARY NOMINATED AS AAFS VP



Carl McClary, Senior Forensic Document Examiner at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives – Atlanta, Georgia has been nominated as a Vice President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. This position is among the rest of the slate of officers being recommended by the Nominating Committee for consideration by the membership at the annual business meeting of the AAFS in New Orleans, LA in February, 2017. The VP position to which Carl has been nominated is one of advancement to the position of President by 2021.

Carl began his forensic career at the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's Crime Laboratory in 1991, under the tutelage of Lt. Gaile Heath and Special Agent Joseph Vaught.

After completing his training in 1993, Carl pursued memberships in various organizations, becoming a Trainee Affiliate of the AAFS that year and member in 1996. Since then he has held the positions of QD Section Secretary and Chair 2008 - 2010, Breakfast Seminar Chair 2007, Continuing Education Committee 2008-2012, Student Academy 2011, Nominating Committee 2012 - 2016, Forensic Sciences Foundation Board of Trustees 2016, and Board of Directors 2015 - Present. In 2006, Carl was honored with the AAFS QD Section's Ordway Hilton Award for contributions to the Forensic Document Examination field.

He has been active in the field professionally, especially in the area of standardization, beginning with participation in SWGDOC, then TWGDOC, in the early 2000s. From 2003 to 2007 he chaired the E30.02 subcommittee of the American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM, and has continued to be active in other areas of standardization to include the Organization of Scientific Areas Committee, OSAC. A proponent of the AAFS's new standardization initiative, Carl will continue promoting the Academy's Standards Development Organization, SDO, which is recognized by the OSAC. This will ensure that we continue developing nationally recognized standards through accepted processes.

Carl was the recipient of the Ordway Hilton Award in 2006

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to this edition of the ABFDE time capsule, providing our legacy for those to come after us.

Due to some procedural changes, this issue was a little late. The Board has decided that we will now offer this newsletter twice yearly and suggested that we provide a more timely way of sending out announcements to our Diplomates (à la AAFS). By now you will have received your invitation to accept these alerts. If not, you can participate by signing up at <http://eepurl.com/b6qXVr>. Your first alert will be a copy of the BOD minutes of 2016

Thanks to the contributors to this edition of the ABFDE News. Everyone's experiences and

service are of utmost importance to the future of our usefulness in the justice system and to the court's understanding of our field.

I look forward to continued participation and would love to include your observations and informative articles in our next edition.

Linda Mitchell



RECERTIFICATION COMMITTEE NOTES

RICK HORTON, CHAIRMAN

Hello Diplomates!

This year's annual meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) resulted in some clarification and tweaking of points available to you this year. Please take a minute to read this article and insure you get all the points you have earned.

Hopefully, you remember that we are now giving points for *Webinars and other approved Alternative Training* (keyword: approved)- ½ point per hour, 2 points per half day, 4 points per day. For larger Webinars, such as NIST, your manager will likely have a list of attendees to make it easy for you to receive points. But in cases of smaller Webinars or other Alternative Training that you locate on the internet and decide to attend, it is still your responsibility to contact your Recertification Manager for verification and pre-approval of points. A new form, similar to the Workshop Attendance Record, will need to be filled out and submitted with your annual request for points listing the name, internet address, date & time, etc. to allow consideration for points to be allowed. (The form should be posted on the ABFDE website by the time you read this.) There are also venues for you to notify other Document Examiners who might like to attend training you have discovered, including an ABFDE-wide email from you or by contacting a member of the BOD. But in either case, remember it is ultimately your responsibility to verify and justify points for training that you have attended. By contacting your manager early you will insure that you get approved points!

We also increased the points allowed for *Conducting or Teaching a Portion of a Workshop or Seminar for Document Examiners* from 5 points per half day to 10 points per Workshop or Seminar, regardless of length. There is still no limit for how many points you can get for different workshops or seminars, but only 10 points regardless of how many times you conduct or teach the same workshop or seminar.

Lastly, please note that 5 points are awarded for *Preparing an Accepted ABFDE Practical Test* and 1 point is awarded for *Preparing an Accepted ABFDE Written Test Question*. Currently there is a need for both, but especially for the Practical Tests. If you have worked a case you believe is suitable for a Practical Test or believe you have a good idea for one, please contact Vice President Lisa Hanson at stillwaterfde@gmail.com for guidance.

As always, your first contact for questions or clarification should be your Recertification Manager. But please feel free to contact me, too. The current managers are as follows:

A-F	Linda Mitchell	forensicqde@gmail.com	(760-310-1279)
G-L	Sean Espley	seanep@hotmail.com	(916-300-3445)
M-R	Tom Riley	tomriley57@gmail.com	(517-204-4290)
S-Z	Andy Szymanski	andy.szymanski@wsp.wa.gov	(509-625-5412)

"...we are now giving points for Webinars and other approved Alternative Training..."

There is still no limit for how many points you can get for different workshops or seminars

DETERMINING THE SOURCE OF A WORD DOCUMENT BY AN EXAMINATION OF ITS STYLES

William J. Flynn, D-ABFDE

What are Styles:

Microsoft Word has had the ability to apply “styles” to its documents for more than 20 years. Styles are a powerful feature that, for the most part, seem to be underutilized in ordinary business documents, but are quite often found in more complex texts such as legal documents and research papers.

Even in more mundane documents, however, styles can be found in the form of numbered and bulleted lists and various outline formats. These special formats are often applied without realizing that we are actually using styles to make complex formatting in our document fast and consistent. Any complex formatting you can apply manually, you can save as a style to be reused in the same document or future similar documents. These formatting choices can be such things as the font choice (Times New Roman) with its size (12 point), attributes (bold, italic, underlined), line spacing, justification, color, margins, etc. But styles can be more complicated than that – *much* more complicated.

Styles can actually function much like short computer programs embedded within your document. For instance, even simple styles like a numbered list must contain a variable that is incremented by 1 each time you hit the Return key. An outline that has a variety of sections, sub-sections and sub, sub-sections, must all be tracked so that the next appropriate offset-identifier (1.1.(b) for example) is used. Styles can also automatically generate a Table of Contents based on what pages all of these outline offsets appear – and this is true even if you later add or delete text so that these sub-sections move from their original pages, to another.

Within Word documents, Styles perform in much the same way as macros. They can be programmed to take actions on a single click (when you apply the style) that would have required many separate steps on your part. Like macros they can be edited, modified to suite your particular needs, and then saved with a unique name so they can be used over and over again. It is this last feature, the ability to assign unique names to styles embedded in a document, that can provide powerful evidence that they originated not only in a particular office, but potentially from a particular typists.

Examining the Styles Embedded in a Document:

Every modern version of Word allows you to inspect the styles that are embedded in a particular document. In some versions of Word you access the style palette from the “Tools” menu – in other versions they are accessed from the “View” menu. In this illustration, the boxes “*Show Styles Guides*” and “*Show Direct Formatting Guides*” are checked. These display the names of the styles in use, where the styles change



STYLES

Continues on page 14

THE ABFDE TRAINING OUTLINE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gary Licht, D-ABFDE

As you know, there has been an ABFDE *Objectives for Training* in place for some time now. It was published as a reference for setting up or revising training programs for forensic document examination. In 2009, the *Objectives for Training* was reviewed with assistance from the critical eyes of ACT (American College Testing). This resulted in a validated list of knowledge skills and abilities that was further consolidated into a “blueprint” of training areas. This “blueprint” provides a guide to the process of deciding on subject matters of test questions and practical tests. It is written in general terms, such that changes do not need to be made as technology progresses.

In addition, the ABFDE compiled the *Syllabus/Bibliography* which lists publications in general categories according to the training areas of the *Objectives for Training*. Thereafter, it became more accessible as a searchable database Bibliography in Access®. There are several other databases, but the task of the ABFDE is to provide a training guideline and to support that guide with a bibliography which must be kept up-

to-date. Updating the Bibliography involves the addition of pertinent articles, classifying articles with keywords and training objective identifiers, and adding updated search parameters. The task is not easy. Currently, Bibliographies are maintained at individual labs and modified as each individual training program progresses.

So, it appears that the ABFDE is behind in maintaining a training bibliography that is complete, up-to-date and generally accessible. To make our database user-friendly, the path forward will be to add new search parameters and output products. Currently, the database and the searching thereof is a “many to many” relationship. The current training objective search parameters will not be discarded, however the “blueprint” and KSA’s (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities) list will serve as the basis for adding new search parameters. The output processes are planned to work with the variety of splitting and lumping procedures that occur in individual lab training programs, thus providing a more versatile means to find data for a given segment of training.

Ongoing work is being

accomplished on three fronts; 1) A training manual shell being compiled by SWGDOC which is compliant with, 2) the “blueprint” and supplemented with, 3) the Bibliography—the dynamic element of this trio being the Bibliography. With the assistance of the Diplomates and other professionals, the Bibliography will be constantly updated using free or inexpensive software that provides a front end, AKA user interface that is suited to our needs, at no cost to the ABFDE.

Once the database is ready, it will eventually need a home. That home will require the presence of document examiners into perpetuity (as we know it), assistance with data entry, security of the system on which it resides, and the ability to allow free access to legitimate forensic document examiners and their trainees. These are all hurdles we will surmount when the time comes, but must consider as we progress onward with this project.



Continuing Education

2016

AUGUST

- 20-25 **ASQDE 74th Annual General Meeting**
 Pensacola, FL, USA
APPROVED WORKSHOPS FOR RECERT POINTS
 “Measuring Frequency Occurrence in Handwriting and Hand Printing Characteristics”
 Two half days approved for 6 CE points
 “Sequence of Entries Determination – New Approach to Additional Print”
 One half day approved for 3 CE points

SEPTEMBER

- 18-23 **The Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS)**
 23rd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences
 Auckland, New Zealand
www.anzfss2016.org

OCTOBER

- 2-7 **The Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS)**
 Branson, MO
THREE QDE WORKSHOPS—RECERT POINTS PENDING APPROVAL
 “Fundamentals of Printing/Graphic Arts Examination” “Fracture Matching” and “Signatures”
- 7-9 **SWAFDE 35th Anniversary Conference**
 Phoenix, AZ
RECERT POINTS PENDING APPROVAL
 “PhotoShop Techniques for Forensic Document Examiners.” Half-day by Bill Flynn
 “Formal v. Informal Signatures.” 5-hours by Lloyd Cunningham
- 18-21 **Rochester Institute of Technology**
 Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners

ONGOING

- Center for Health Sciences—Oklahoma State University**
 Master of Science in Forensic Science—FDE
 Online courses - <http://bit.ly/1LwK7pl>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES AND BALLOTING INFORMATION

ABFDE nominations assembled by Bonnie L. Beal

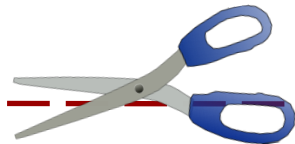
Instructions: Using the mailer form below or the ABFDE website, you may vote for three candidates or write in one to three Diplomates not listed. Any ballot with more than three names selected will not be counted

Mail in Ballot instructions: Clearly mark your choices and include your certificate number. Inclusion of your certificate number is a control for the ballots submitted, and is mandatory for your vote to be counted. Mail the completed ballot to:

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners
7887 San Felipe, Suite 122
Houston, Texas 77063

Online Voting: Sign in to the ABFDE website using the Members Only link from the home page (<http://www.abfde.org/>). From there, click on the link for the 2016 election ballot. Follow the instructions on the page, and click submit. Ballots submitted online are automatically directed to the Administrative Office.

Please submit your ballot only once, either by mail or from the ABFDE website. Ballots must be completed by July 22, 2016. Online ballots must be submitted, or paper ballots must bear a postmark, no later than July 22. Ballots not in compliance will not be counted.



VOTE FOR THREE

- Miriam Angel
- Alan Kreitl
- Katherine Schoenberger
- Todd Welch
- _____
- _____

Certificate Number

Mail to: ABFDE
7887 San Felipe, Suite 122
Houston, Texas 77063

ABFDE BOARD NOMINEES

See *PAGE 11* for voting information



Miriam Angel has been a forensic document examiner since 1994 with the LAPD, except for a short six-month period at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department in 1997. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from UCLA and a Master of Science degree in Computer Science from USC.

Miriam has been a Diplomate of the ABFDE since 2002. She is also a member of the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examination (SWAFDE) and has been their website administrator since 1998.

She has recently started a research project involving signature complexity with Mel Cavanaugh and Linton Mohammed and is very excited about it. She is interested in helping provide evidence of a scientific basis for the methods used in Forensic Document Examination and increase the understanding of the reliability and limitations of the field.



Alan Kreitl graduated from Michigan State in 1993 with a BS in forensic science. He was immediately hired on at the Arizona DPS crime lab as a drug analyst. He began his training in QD in 1998 at DPS with Howard Birnbaum. Alan was signed off to begin performing independent casework in July of 2000. He has been actively working criminal cases at DPS since 2000 and serves as the Technical Lead in questioned documents. Alan has also worked civil cases part-time at Affiliated Forensic Laboratory since 2006 with Bill Flynn and Kathy Annunziata-Nicholaides. He is a member of SWAFDE (2000) and has served as a board member (regional representative) since 2006. Alan finally obtained ABFDE certification in February of 2014.

His biggest challenge/accomplishment so far in his QD career (other than certification) has been a successful defense of handwriting examination in a Daubert challenge with Michael Saks as a witness for the defense.

ABFDE BOARD NOMINEES

See *PAGE 11* for voting information



Katherine Schoenberger started her Forensic Document Examination career in 1999 at the Mississippi Crime Laboratory under the training of then-ABFDE President A. Frank Hicks. It wasn't until his tour was over and the phone stopped ringing that she and fellow trainee Rigo Vargas realized how much time was devoted to the Board. Katherine is fully aware that being a director for the ABFDE will require some time and effort, but thankfully not as much as president...phew!

Katherine earned her Bachelor of Science in Physiology and a Master of Science in Forensic Science both from Michigan State University. She is a member of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners and SWGDOC, as that group hasn't been formally dissolved.

In 2003, right after being certified by the Board, Katherine, her husband Robert, and their newborn daughter Sarah moved to Kentucky where Katherine started in private practice.

In 2007, the trek farther north brought them to Strongsville, Ohio, where Katherine is currently in private practice. Her daughter Sarah is now a teenager (13), which prompts Katherine to seek out additional activities so she can avoid the angst that plagues that age group.



Todd W. Welch is a Forensic Document Examiner with over 23 years' experience in the field of Forensic Document Examinations. He is currently a Forensic Document Examiner with the Michigan State Police and is likewise co-founder of Riley, Welch, LaPorte and Associates Forensic Laboratories.

Todd has actively pursued and been involved within the forensic science community and more specifically the forensic document field for over 2 decades. In 1996, he was invited and participated for nearly 5 years on the Main Committee of the Technical Working Group for Document Examiners (TWGDOC) which is now called the Scientific Working Group for Document Examination (SWGDOC). In addition, Todd currently serves on the National Institute of Justice Forensic Science Technology Working Group.

In 2012, Todd was elected by his peers as the 40th President of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) which is the largest regional forensic science organization in the country. He is also a member of other professional organizations including the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE), American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) QD Section, the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), and is a provisional member of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science (CSFS).

In 2001, Todd received his board certification from the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE). He has put on workshops and provided training to numerous law enforcement agencies over the years concerning all aspects of forensic document examination and has been a guest speaker on several occasions at Cooley Law School. In addition, he has peer-reviewed publications in the International Journal of Forensic Document Examiners and was published in the Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners regarding the results of a 5 year joint research project with Ferris State University.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Filing of IRS 990-EZ form:

Income and expense information was provided to the Hobbs Group to facilitate the preparation of the 2014 "Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax" form. (The form covers the time period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.) The accounting firm Hobbs Group, filed the form on the ABFDE's behalf in December, 2015. There were no tax liabilities with the filing.

Payment in the amount of \$100 was made to the Hobbs Group for completing and submitting the form on behalf of the Board.

Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA):

Form 'BRA-25' was filed on 8/3/15 with payment in the amount of \$210.00.

B of D Liability Insurance – CNA Insurance Company:

The company contracted to provide liability insurance for the Board of Directors was changed from CFM Insurance Company to the CNA Insurance Company. The prior annual cost for the insurance was \$3,960.00. The recent invoice from the CNA Insurance Company was \$2,839.00, providing a savings of \$1,121.00

Ames Fund:

During the past year, interest earned from our CD in the amount of \$3.35 was added to the prior balance, for a current total of \$4,603.20. As a reminder, the Ames account is not a separate fund; it is simply a dedicated balance that currently exists in the regular checking account. The fund will be used for special needs, such as the development of practical examinations for applicants.

Income from dues:

The 2015-2016 dues payments totaled \$26,330.66. Because of retirements, the amount received decreased \$1,670 from two years ago.

Hilton 2nd Edition Sales:

The last royalty income, in the amount of \$248.06, was received on April 6, 2015.

District of Columbia representation:

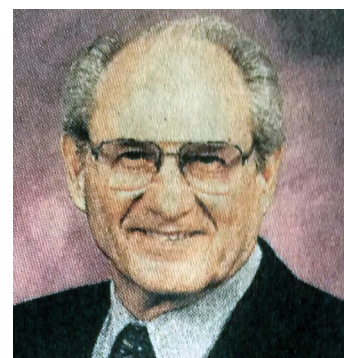
Payment in the amount of \$106.64 was made to the Corporate Service Company on February 22, 2016 to maintain statutory representation in D.C. (Our corporation documents were initially filed in D.C.)

FSAB Accreditation:

A dues payment was made to FSAB in the amount of \$833.00 on 2/4/16.

OBITUARY

David Preston Grimes passed away at Mt. Vernon Hospital surrounded by his loving wife and family. Born in Altavista, VA in 1932, he is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Helen, his two daughters and son. David enlisted in the Navy in 1952 and served aboard the USS Robert H. McCard. He graduated from George Washington University in 1961 and achieved his Masters there in 1974.



Thereafter, he began a long, rewarding career in the FBI as a Special Agent and Forensic Scientist.

Dave was a member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. His family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations may

be made to: Foundation of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI—
www.socxfbi.org/page/assistance.

TREASURER REPORT

CONTINUED from page 12

Anticipated Dues Increase:

The last increase in dues was more than eight years ago. Many factors are contributing to the need to increase the dues; an increase last year in the fees charged by our Administrative Assistant at Corporate Assets in Houston, an increase in postal and shipping charges, increases in the travel, hotel and meal expenses related to the annual Board of Directors meeting, the retirement trend of Diplomates and, less royalties received from the Hilton book, increased government filing fees and FSAB requirements.

An undetermined increase in dues, and late dues, will become effective in 2017, after further discussion by the Directors at their annual meeting next spring.

Bank Account balances (6/1/16):

CD:	\$ 7,585.47 (Currently earning .04% interest. Expires 11/14/16.)
Savings:	\$ 324.43 (Interest accumulates at .01 per month.)
<u>Regular Checking:</u>	<u>\$ 17,624.30</u>
Total:	\$ 25,534.20

Respectfully submitted,
 James A. Green, Treasurer

“The last increase in dues was more than eight years ago.”

STYLES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Custom Styles May Point to the Source:

If a particularly complex formatting style is used repeatedly in a business document, a savvy typist might create their own custom style to reduce the number of keystrokes and ensure uniform formatting. For example, individual sections of a document might begin with the word “Whereas:” This word may be bolded italicized and followed by a tab space or two, and a dash at the start of each new section. All of these options can be saved as a style and applied with one click. Custom styles are typically saved with unique names – in this case perhaps, “*Whereas Section Start WJF*” where WJF are the initials of typist.

I have seen such custom style markers embedded in a questioned document and, in my opinion they can provide, strong evidence that the document originated from a particular source.

Other Indications that Styles are Being Used:

Unusual formatting and loss of text can occur when a style becomes corrupted. This can also occur when a version of Word different than the one that created the document is used to open it or when a supposed Microsoft Word “compatible” program attempts to open a document with complex styles. As of the writing date of this paper, a Google search on the words, “MS Word” “Styles” and “Corrupt” resulted in more than a half million hits. So if there are unusual formatting errors in the document you are examining, it would probably be worthwhile to determine if it was created in Word and if styles were used in its formatting. Even better, of course, would be to acquire a copy of the .doc or .docx file itself and do your own examination.

Styles can also enter their own typing into a document. Common examples are the “1.” “2.” “3.” etc. that are auto-entered in a numbered list. As mentioned above, much more complex text can also be entered by a style such as “Section ~” “(a), (b), (c)” and your own custom text. When style corruption occurs, it may appear that text has been deleted, when in fact, the style interpreter broke down at that point in the document and the auto text from that style got deleted. If you believe that this may have occurred, one quick check you can make is to select all text in the document (Command-A or Control-A) then click on the “Clear Formatting” option in the Styles Palette, (see above). When that option is clicked, only the human-entered text will display and all custom formatting and auto-entered text will disappear. As an example:

1. This is the first entry of a numbered list.
2. This is the second entry of a numbered list.
3. This is the third entry.

The numbered list reverts to this when “Clear Formatting” is applied:

This is the first entry of a numbered list.

This is the second entry of a numbered list

This is the third entry.

Since one of the tasks we are often asked to perform is to try to source a document, and often these items are prepared in law offices, (that may utilize complex or even custom-made legal styles) it may well be worth your while to add a “style” examination to your repertoire if you have access to the electronic versions of the questioned documents.

“...acquire a copy of the .doc or .docx file itself and do your own examination....”

JOB OPPORTUNITY

7he City of Fort Worth currently stands as the 16th largest city in the U.S. and the fastest growing among large cities. Fort Worth has received multiple accolades, including number one Downtown (Livability), top five commercial real estate markets (Urban Land Institute), and the second-best City in the nation for Job Seekers (Forbes). Our employees serve the needs of over 800,000 City residents. We are seeking individuals that reflect our values of exceptional customer service, mutual respect, embracing the diversity of our communities, continuous improvement, ethical behavior, and accountability.

Job Description

The Forensics Division provides crime lab services to the FWPD in controlled substance analyses, blood alcohol level determinations, biology, latent prints and firearms and is comprised of 27 positions of which 21 are analysts and technicians. The lab publishes over 8000 case reports with respect to 25000 items analyzed each year. The Crime Lab is fully accredited by ASCLD/LAB and the Texas Forensic Science Commission until May 2020. The Forensics Division Manager reports to the Police Department Investigative and Support Command Deputy Chief.

This position manages, directs, supervises and coordinates the activities of the Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory. It oversees the examination of various types of evidence and crime lab quality program; coordinates assigned activities with other divisions, departments and outside agencies; provides forensic

training to members of the department and outside agencies; and provides administrative support to assigned Police Deputy Chief.

The Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD) has an authorized strength of 1,599, civil service (sworn) and 461 civilian staff members.

Key initiatives:

- Preparation of Crime Lab scientists and technicians to be eligible to be licensed in the state of Texas by January 2019 (Management will need to secure funding for employee training, license application and testing);
- Capital equipment replacement plan to ensure the lab utilizes state of the art reliable testing equipment and instrumentation;
- Lean 6 Sigma efficiency study of Biology operations to reduce turnaround time and backlogs;
- Training technical assessors to conduct external ISO 17025 lab assessments;
- Implementation of a quality assurance software to enhance quality programs within the crime lab.

The successful candidate should:

- Possess excellent communication skills;
- Possess highly developed interpersonal skills to relate customers, executive staff in the department, representatives of the Tarrant County district attorney office and employees within the crime lab;
- Have an ability to think about and understand the interests of all stakeholders involved with the forensic division;



- Must be a problem solver capable of thinking "out of the box."

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with major course work natural science, criminalistics, forensic science or a closely related field, ten (10) years forensic experience including two (2) years recent experience managing a multi-disciplinary forensic laboratory performing forensic analyses or four (4) years' experience as a technical lead in a recognized forensic discipline, or five (5) years of performing casework or management responsibilities in at least one (1) discipline accredited to the ISO 17025 International standard by a recognized accrediting agency.

Job Preferences

Preference may be given to higher levels of education, experience and certifications as related to the vacancy including Master of Science in Forensic Science; Bachelor or Master's degree in Business Administration; and, certification in one or more recognized forensic science categories of testing from a recognized certification board.

Preference will also be given for experience in a crime lab accredited under ISO 17025 standards.

To apply please view job opportunities for the City of Fort Worth:

<http://fortworthtexas.gov/hr/>

WWW.ABFDE.org

7887 San Felipe
Suite #122
Houston, TX 77063
(713) 784-9537

2015-2016 Board Officers

PRESIDENT	Jim Josey
VICE PRESIDENT	Lisa M. Hanson
SECRETARY	Ted Burkes
TREASURER	Jim Green

2014-2015 Committee Chairs

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CREDENTIALS	Ted Burkes
HISTORIAN	Ted Burkes
NOMINATIONS	Bonnie Beal
PUBLIC RELATIONS.	Gary Licht
RECERTIFICATION	Richard A. Horton
RULES & PROCEDURES	Farrell Shiver
TEST PREP & VALIDATION	Lisa M. Hanson
TESTING	Lisa M. Hanson
WORKSHOP COORDINATOR	Sean A. Espley



Webmasters:
Bill & Lauren Leaver

CERTIFICATION COURSE

*Do you have colleagues who want to become certified,
but don't know what to expect?*

*Why not suggest that they come to the
101 Basics of Certification course.
For the next location and date, contact:*

*Lisa M. Hanson,
ABFDE Vice President
Testing Committee Chair
stillwaterfde@gmail.com*

**SEND CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEWSLETTER
to:**

**Linda Mitchell, Editor
ABFDE News**

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**Deadline for the next
issue:**

December 15, 2016