

President's Message

Paige E. Doherty

The Holiday Season is rapidly approaching as I sit before the computer to write this President's Message. It is the time of year when many of us, myself included, reflect on our values, desires, goals, accomplishments, and traditions, both in a personal and professional sense. When contemplating our profession, I think about the importance of these factors when directors are elected and how the composition of the Board of Directors is designed to represent the Diplomates.

The directors are your voice. It is through them that your concerns and recommendations are heard, which can lead to making procedural changes where necessary. The Board strives to keep you current on our activities and proposals through the newsletter by publishing annual minutes and committee updates or progress reports. Whether you agree or disagree with the direction of the Board's actions, we need to hear from you. For example, in the two previous newsletters director Derek Hammond published articles on the Board of Directors' review of validation testing. Only one Diplomate responded to this information by submitting an editorial. You can read his letter, along with responses to his concerns in the next issue of the newsletter. The decisions the Board makes on this issue could be pivotal to the direction of testing in the forensic document community, but only one Diplomate raised questions.

It's easy to forget about professional organizations when faced with the demands of our day-to-day routines. I'm just as guilty of getting caught up in my daily responsibilities, and I need to remind myself that professional organizations are not just a social club or academic exercise. They strengthen our livelihood. The directors and committee members of this Board donate countless hours behind the scenes to ensure the committee responsibilities defined in the Rules

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Deadline for the next issue is:

March 20th

Advertising matter that appears in the ABFDE News implies neither endorsement nor recommendation by The American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc.

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*Roy Arnold Huber
(1921 - 2005)*

by Dan C. Purdy

Roy Arnold Huber was born in Ottawa, Ontario on July 7, 1921. After suffering a long battle with diabetes and two heart attacks, Roy passed away quietly at home on September 28, 2005, with family members at his side. He is survived by Phyllis, his wife of 58 years; sons Jim and Kevin; daughter Heather; and several grandchildren.

Initially, Roy wanted to join the Canadian Air Force but found their application process too slow. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) was actively recruiting new members so he submitted his application in 1940 and was immediately accepted. Following recruit training in Regina, Roy worked as a police officer in Vancouver, New Denver, Weyburn, Swift Current, and Winnipeg. While stationed at Swift Current, he met Phyllis; and they married on October 4, 1947.

During these early years, Roy developed an interest in photography and fingerprinting. Document examiners from the Regina Crime Detection Laboratory would occasionally visit his detachment. They eventually convinced him laboratory work would be more interesting and rewarding. Roy was transferred to the RCMP's Ottawa Laboratory in 1949 and completed his understudy training in questioned documents two years later.

Once he qualified as an expert, Roy decided to pursue a university education. During the day he examined cases in the lab and attend lectures or work on his course assignments in the evenings. This arduous routine continued until he graduated from Carleton University in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

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Continuing Education

Allen Southmayd
Forest Park, GA

“...workshops must include a “hands-on” component, whereas seminars only require attendance.”

What is the difference between workshop credits and seminar credits?

This question gets asked almost every year by various Diplomates. So what is the difference between the two?

The ABFDE Recertification Points Scoring Table, available at the Board website (www.ABFDE.org), provides a summary of all of the various categories through which ABFDE Diplomates may claim recertification credits. The table also lists the number of points awarded for each activity. Of particular note are: 1) Attending conferences of professional organizations and 2) Attending a course or workshop recognized by the Board.

“Attending conferences of professional organizations” equates to attendance at a seminar. The Board awards “1 point per half-day of technical session” (2 points/day). Diplomates are limited to accumulating a maximum of 30 points per 5 years for this category.

In contrast, Diplomates “attending a course of workshop recognized by the Board” are awarded “2 points per half day of training.” In addition, there is no limit on the number of recertification points Diplomates can receive from this type of activity.

What distinguishes a seminar from a workshop?

The simplest answer is that workshops must include a “hands-on” component, whereas seminars only require attendance.

Many national and regional organizations conduct annual conferences which often include workshops. The ABFDE *Rules and Procedures Guide* states, “When a workshop is held in conjunction with a meeting of a professional organization, the workshop should require registration separate from that of the organization’s meeting.”

Who determines if an activity is categorized as a course/workshop or a seminar/conference?

This determination is the responsibility of the ABFDE’s Continuing Education Committee and/or the Recertification Committee.

Typically, the ABFDE prefers that an organization’s Program Chairman or Workshop Chairman submit **in advance** an *Application for Workshop Approval* to the Chairman of the ABFDE Continuing Education Committee. The *Application for Workshop Approval* form is also available on the website.

If a workshop is pre-approved by the Continuing Education Committee, attendees can then be provided with a *Workshop Attendance Record* to document the continuing education activity. If a workshop is not pre-approved this does not mean that credit will not be awarded later by the ABFDE Recertification Committee. However, in the absence of pre-approval, Diplomates will be required to submit more extensive paperwork to their recertification manager documenting the nature of the activity. 



2006 ABFDE Workshop and Daubert Seminar

by Jan Seaman Kelly

ABFDE proudly announces that the 2006 Workshop and Daubert Seminar is scheduled for November 6 through 10 here in Las Vegas at the Orleans Hotel and Casino.

The 2006 ABFDE training opportunity includes three days of FDE workshops followed by a two-day multi-discipline Daubert Seminar. The hands-on workshop sessions will kick off the training week with a full-day workshop on the Dating of Documents, followed by a one- or two-day workshop on the Examination of Natural, Simulated, and Disguised Writings. Instruction includes discussion of examination methodologies and the results of the practical problems that will be distributed and worked by the registrant prior to the workshops. The exact time frame of the second workshop has not been finalized. If the writing workshop is limited to one day, a third workshop topic will be announced at a later date.

The multi-discipline Daubert Seminar follows the workshop sessions. Past Daubert Seminars have been quite successful due to the registrants coming from all areas of the forensic sciences: QD, latent prints, firearms, and DNA. The critics' activities, recent court decisions, and each forensic science's response to the challenges will be discussed on November 9 and 10. So far this year, two decisions have been handed down excluding and limiting firearms testimony as well as the limitation of latent print testimony. Confirmed speakers include Dr. Thomas Busey, who will discuss his

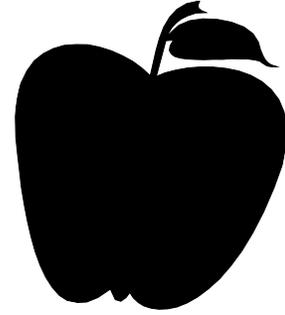
research regarding initial recognition stages of experts and non-experts; Dr. Itiel Dror of England will discuss his research on the cognitive aspects of the decision making process; defense attorney Lisa Steele will discuss in her first presentation, firearms court challenges, and in a second presentation, explain the mechanisms of the appellate process; former prosecuting attorney Liz Bauer will discuss the prosecutor's role in a Daubert or critic challenge; and the Honorable Judge Stephanie Domitrovich will discuss the Daubert Trilogy and how contemporary courts are applying it. The following presentations are tentatively scheduled: a presentation from a professor who will discuss the phenomena of academia testifying in court to exclude forensic experts; a professor who published an article on an unexpected negative effect of Daubert: the exclusion of legitimate experts while allowing pseudo-scientists and academics to testify. And, of course, there will be presentations from practitioners from each of the traditional forensic disciplines who are knowledgeable about Daubert and the critics.

ABFDE has a reputation for sponsoring quality workshops and seminars that are second to none. This year's workshop and two-day Daubert Seminar will surpass the quality of past ABFDE training sessions. Plan on joining me November 6 through the 10 for a week of learning and professional growth.

For more information, call Jan Kelly at 702-229-3963.

Continuing Education Meetings, Seminars and Workshops

Allen Southmayd
Forest Park, GA



February 2006

- 20-25 **58th Annual Meeting of the AAFS**
Washington State Convention & Trade Center,
Seattle
- QD Section Program Co-Chair: David L. Oleksow
1901 First Avenue, 1st Floor
San Diego, California 92101
(619) 595-7099 / Fax: (619) 238-6122
doleksow@att.net
- QD Section Program Co-Chair: James A. Tarver
Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division
2203 Airport Way South, Suite 250
Seattle, Washington 98134-2028
(206) 262-6050 / Fax: (206) 262-6033
james.tarver@wsp.wa.gov

April 2006

- 13-16 **Southeastern Association of Forensic Document
Examiners (SAFDE) Annual**
Century Center Marriott
- Dr. Bryan Fount, Senior Forensic Officer, Victoria
Police Forensic Services Senior Research Fellow, LaTrobe
University, has agreed to return to SAFDE in 2006 and
will conduct a 2-day hands-on workshop on Disguised/
Simulated Writing.*
- Program Chair: B. Gaile Heath
B. Gaile Heath
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
Post Office Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1398
(803) 896-7298 / Fax: (803) 896-7351
gheath@sled.sc.gov
- Workshop Chair: Marvin H. "Mickey" Dawson, Jr.
P. O. Box 5066
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304
(864) 439-1610
Fax: (864) 439-2312
DawsonMH@aol.com

April 2006

- 28-30 **SWAFDE Spring Meeting**
Courtyard by Marriott, Pasadena, CA
- Wesley P. Grose
Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department
2020 W. Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90057
(213) 989-5170 / Fax: (323) 415-7104
wpgrose@lasd.org

May 2006

- 3-5 **MAAFS 2006 Annual Meeting**
Omni Richmond Hotel, Richmond, Virginia.
- Point of Contact: Debra F. Campbell
www.MAAFS.org
- Questioned Documents Printing Workshop**
Point of Contact: Troy Eberhardt.
DHS/ICE/FDL
8000 Westpark Drive
McClean, VA 22102
- 8-12 **MAFS Spring 2½-Day Workshop on the
Preservation of Deteriorating Documents**
Ankeny, Iowa.
- Point of Contact: Gary Licht
Iowa DCI Laboratory
2240 S. Ankeny Boulevard
(515) 725-1500
licht@dps.state.ia.us

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New Diplomat



David L. Sexton retired from the Maryland State Police (MSP) in 1994 as a first lieutenant after serving over 25 years. As he traveled through the ranks, he was assigned to the Field Operations Bureau, the Investigation and Identification

Division, the Training Division, the Criminal Investigation Division, and the Crime Laboratory Division. He initiated his forensic document examiner training in 1978 under first lieutenant Gary Girton, Diplomat of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, and concluded his 2-year apprenticeship-training program in 1980. While assigned to the Maryland State Police, David practiced forensic document examination from 1980–1994. He continued his forensic document examination career, after retirement from the MSP, as president of the Ran-Ton International Corporation from 1994 to 1997 and returned to the Maryland State Police as their civilian chief forensic document examiner in 1997. He accepted a job offer from Gideon Epstein, chief forensic document examiner for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, as a senior forensic document examiner in 2000 and worked his way up and currently serves as chief forensic document examiner of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Forensic Document Laboratory.

David attended the University of Maryland, the University of Baltimore, and graduated from Loyola College of Baltimore with a bachelor's degree in sociology/criminal justice. He is a life active member of the IAI, Chesapeake Bay Division; active member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists; served as a subject matter expert for SWGDOC; is an active member of ASTM E30 and E30-02; and serves as an ISO assessor through the Standards Council of Canada.

David has been married to his wife, Lynn, for over 38 years. Their two sons, David and Todd, are following in their father's footsteps as Maryland State Troopers. He is not sure what career his six grandchildren will pursue.

Continuing Education

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August 2006

- 19-24 ASQDE 64th Annual Conference**
 Portland Double Tree Hotel, Portland, Oregon.
- Program Chair: Linton Mohammed
 San Diego Sheriffs Crime Laboratory
 5255 MT. Etna Drive
 San Diego, California 92117
 (858) 467-4592 / Fax: (858) 467-4650
 Linton.Mohammed@sdsheeriff.org
- Site Chair: James A. Green
 P. O. Box 5379
 Eugene, Oregon 97405
 (541) 485-0832 / Fax: (541) 485-0832
 Qdman777@aol.com

Fall 2006

- 28-30 SWAFDE) 25th Anniversary Meeting**
 Arizona
- Point of Contact: Miriam Angel
 Los Angeles Police Department
 150 N. Los Angeles Street
 Los Angeles, California 90012
 (213) 485-2976 / Fax: (213) 485-2985
 G9784@lapd.lacity.org

This list of opportunities available to Diplomates seeking recertification credits may not be all inclusive. Provide details of upcoming meetings or workshops you want included in this newsletter to:

*Allen L. Southmayd
 US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory
 4930 N. 31st Street
 Forest Park, Georgia 30297-5205
 (404) 469-7042/Fax: (404) 469-7112
 allen.southmayd@usacil.army.mil*

Huber

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Roy occupied many positions while with the RCMP Crime Detection Laboratories. Even while fulfilling the responsibilities of a senior manager, he was keenly interested in document examination and found time to write scientific papers or attend conferences. In 1975, he left the RCMP to work as a security printing advisor for Canadian Bank Note Company. Ten years later, Roy started a private consulting practice in Ottawa, which he operated until 1996.

Roy's reputation for putting critical thought into words has long been recognized. During his career, he wrote and presented more than 30 papers with such titles as "Typist Identification" (1955), "Modern Trends in Counterfeiting" (1959), "The Production and Identification of Embossing Seals" (1964), "The Philosophy of Identification—Damn Liars and Experts" (1972), "The Quandary of 'Qualified' Opinions" (1979), "A Systemic Approach to Questioned Document Examination" (1984), "The Uniqueness of Writing" (1990), "Professionalism for the Document Examiner—Part III" (1995), and "The Heterogeneity of Handwriting" (2000). In 1999, he published a book, *Handwriting Identification—Facts and Fundamentals*, a topic often described as the core of forensic document examination. These numerous works reflected Roy's desire to advance his profession and encourage discourse in a wide variety of subjects.

Roy was also largely responsible for organizing two seminars hosted by the RCMP during the 1950's. Seminar No. 4, simply titled, "The Examination of Questioned Documents," was held in Ottawa during May of 1956. Seminar No. 5, "Questioned Documents in Crime Detection," followed two years later. The proceedings of these seminars were eventually published and made available to the forensic community through Roy's persistent efforts.

Roy Huber also felt examiners can give back to their profession by supporting and actively participating in forensic organizations. He joined the Canadian Society of Forensic Science in 1954—almost early enough to qualify as a

charter member. He served on its Board of Directors for many years, as president from 1967 to 1968, and as journal editor from 1976-1981. From 1979 to 1985, he served two consecutive terms on the ABFDE, the first as treasurer and the second as vice president. Roy was also a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and a Life Member of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners. In 2003, the ASQDE presented him with the *Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence* for significant contributions he made to our profession.

While undergoing my own understudy training, I often heard stories about the "good old days" when trainees were expected to study long into the evening and spend most weekends completing training assignments. I learned this disciplined approach to learning must have appealed to Roy....the story is worth repeating.

In the spring of 1971, I was completing my training program at the RCMP's Vancouver laboratory along with Don Gamble, another understudy. Our lab manager asked if we wanted to attend the ASQDE meeting which would be held in Seattle later that year. Roy, the director of Laboratories and Identification Services, was willing to support our attendance and authorize the necessary funding.

The plan seemed simple. Roy would fly to Vancouver and accompany us on the short drive to Seattle. We would get an opportunity to attend our first forensic conference and, at the same time, obtain some relief from the daily grind of studying, writing essays, and examining cases under the supervision of our trainers.

On the day of departure, Roy showed up at the lab and, after some brief introductions, the bags were loaded into the car. Roy took his place in the back seat, with Don at the wheel and me riding "shotgun" in the front seat. We had only driven a few blocks when Roy casually asked Don how long he had been working in the lab. This was the first and last *easy* question Roy asked during the two-hour trip!

Roy was seated directly behind me and we could not make direct eye contact. This proved

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Huber

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to be a tremendous advantage for me. Don was less fortunate. Whenever he glanced at the rear-view mirror, Don would see Roy looking back and found himself on the receiving end of a question. No sooner was one question answered but another would follow. The extent of Roy's knowledge and the complexity of his probing questions amazed both of us.

I recall enjoying the spectacle of poor Don nervously attempting to answer Roy's multifaceted questions while maneuvering the car through heavy traffic. Any pleasure derived from his misfortune quickly ended after we stopped for coffee and Roy suggested I drive to the hotel. Avoiding an accident, finding the hotel, and responding to questions that required narrative rather than simple "yes" or "no" answers proved near impossible. The lights of Seattle never looked so good as they signaled an end to a long journey and the start of an interesting conference.

Roy and I met on numerous occasions during the next 35 years. Occasionally, I would call him to arrange a tour of Canadian Bank Note and he always obliged. He was also a frequent visitor to the RCMP's Scientific Information Center while researching and writing his book.

Those who attended the ASQDE's 2005 conference in Montreal may recall seeing Roy and Phyllis. Roy called me a few days before the meeting to ask if he could purchase two banquet tickets. He wanted to be present when Jane Doud received the ASO Award of Excellence on behalf of her husband, Don. Roy wasn't feeling well, but he wanted to witness the same honor bestowed on him two years earlier. He passed away just six weeks later.

Roy won't attend any more meetings; but perhaps he, Don Doud, Lucille Lacy, Jim Conway, and other document examiners who went before him will get a chance to discuss challenging cases or argue controversial issues in the Hereafter. One thing is certain, the likes of Roy Huber will not pass this way again soon.



Editor

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President

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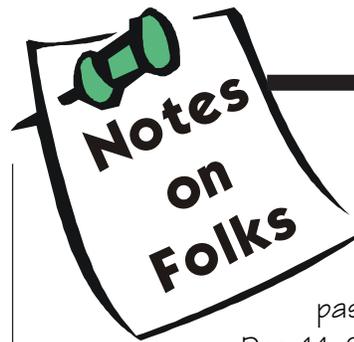
and Procedures Guide are fulfilled and to hear your ideas. So please, voice them. The Board can't grow without them.

Many times, these jobs of Directors and Committee members can be rewarding, even fun. For example, Jan Kelly organized an excellent workshop held the first week in November in Las Vegas. The program consisted of Gerry LaPorte and Scott Walters from the U.S. Secret Service discussing printing processes examination; Gerry Richards covering infrared examinations; Foster and Freeman speaking about spectral examinations; Bonnie Beal and Brian Carney demonstrating line intersection techniques; and Brian Carney, Derek Hammond, and Jan Kelly discussing Rules 16 and 26A. The speakers did an outstanding job of presenting theoretical and practical materials to the 34 paid attendees. Jan deserves much credit for the success of this meeting, but that level of quality wouldn't have been achieved without her listening to the Diplomates and other members of the document community who volunteered their training needs.

Other times, a director's job isn't so easy. Enforcing the guidelines and rules of the Board can be tough. It takes a lot of courage to inform a testing candidate that they failed. Emotions run high, and a person's livelihood may be at risk. The same goes for enforcing the Code of Ethics and Competency. In these situations, there are mechanisms in place to appeal decisions of the Testing Committee or file complaints against Diplomates. These rules ensure testing candidates and Diplomates are treated fairly, while giving them a forum to be heard. Major Taylor, a bicycle racer in the late 1800s, said, "These rules may seem simple enough, but it will require great moral and physical courage to adhere to them. But if carried out in the strict sense of the word, it will surely lead to a greater success than could otherwise be attained." Without rules to give us a common ground, we would return to the cowboy justice of the old west. As Butch Cassidy said, "Well, if there ain't

going to be any rules, let's get the fight started. Someone count. 1, 2, 3,...go."

While the Directors strive to fulfill the duties of the committees to which they are assigned, they are also here to serve as the Diplomates' voice on the Board. In 2006, do your utmost to communicate with them. It only helps us grow.



I had a note from Maureen McCarthy with some sad news. Anne, Jack's widow, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 14, 2005. Maureen has moved into her parents' house so you can use that address, if you want to send her a card. Those of us who knew Anne had the privilege of knowing a lovely, gracious lady.

Maureen also passed along some happier news. Cindy Dick, Ron's daughter, has just been named the first female Fire Chief of Tallahassee. Ron must have moved up from Cloud 9 to Cloud 10. I hope you all join me in saying, "You go, Girl!"

Don Moryan has a new job and contact information:
 US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory
 4930 N. 31st Street
 Forest Park, GA 30297-5205
 (404) 469-7045
 Fax (404) 469-3489
 Don.Moryan@usacil.army.mil

Workshop Review

by **Richard T. Picciochi**

The ABFDE recently offered a series of workshops in various aspects of forensic document examination. This four-day conference was held at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas on November 7 through 10, 2005, and was attended by over 40 participants, including students, trainees, examiners, and Diplomates.

For those who were unable to be present, the program consisted of lectures, practical exercises, and discussions. The topics included: Printing Process Examinations (Scott Walters & Gerry LaPorte, USSS); Visual Examinations of Documents (Jerry Richards); Holograms, Security Features, Nano-printing and Laminates in Credit Cards (Mike Banaham, American Bank Note Hologram); Line Intersections and Alterations (Bonnie Beal); ESDA Theory and IR-Visible-UV Examinations (Kristina Kovarik, Foster & Freeman); Federal Rules in Criminal and Civil Proceedings, Daubert, Recent Research on

Reliability Issues and Proficiency Testing (Derek Hammond); Provisions of Rule 16, Preparation and Report Writing (Jan Kelly); and Provisions of Rule 26, Preparation and Report Writing (Brian Carney).

The scientific portion of the program not only provided examination techniques and a hands-on practical component, but also furnished educational material that stressed the theories, principles, and science that may sometimes be less well understood. Timely and relevant topics that affect the future of our field were also discussed. The focus being Daubert, the anticipated direction of the courts and our critics, research results on handwriting reliability, error rates for the discipline, establishment of individual practitioner reliability error rates, and future ABFDE administered blind trial examinations.

The program's overall success was due to the generous contribution of time, effort, and equipment provided by the speakers as well as to the comprehensive education material and resources that were made available.



Icy Aussies



Neil Holland (right) and his brother Robert partaking of the delights of the Yukon Territory. Apparently Australians get bored with all that balmy weather they have to endure Down Under so they go afield to seek snowy adventures. Well, I guess I can't throw any snowballs at them after my trek from California to Antarctica! Ed.

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