



ABFDE News

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>The Gavel</i>	1
<i>New Diplomates</i>	3
<i>From the Editor</i>	5
<i>ASQDE Trainee Workshops</i>	4
<i>Continuing Education</i>	6
	7

THE GAVEL *ROSALIND SPENCER, PRESIDENT*

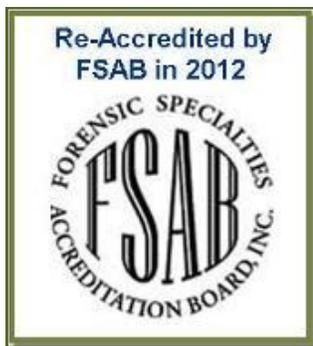


Dear Diplomates

I am immensely proud to address you as your incoming President, but I also feel most humble in succeeding Kirsten Singer, who did an exceptional job as President, in addition to her preceding years as a Director. Kirsten worked most diligently on the Diplomates' behalf, and was a lexicon of knowledge, steering the Directors through some exacting times. She nurtured a very harmonious, cohesive and responsive Board of Directors, with whom I am truly grateful to be working. I shall rely on their collective expertise to guide me in the years ahead. I may not be able to fill Kirsten's shoes in quite the same way, but you have my assurance that I will dedicate as much time and energy as I am able to my term as 'Pres'. On behalf of every one of the Diplomates, I wish Kirsten success in her future endeavours, and thank her for her outstanding commitment to the ABFDE.

In addition to offering our sincere thanks to Kirsten, I am also delighted to welcome new Directors Ted Burkes and Linda Mitchell to the Board. They combine extensive knowledge with keen energy, and will be a great asset to our various committees. Linda has graciously volunteered to be the new editor of *The Gavel*, and we thank Diane Tolliver profusely for producing such a professional, colourful, easy-to-read newsletter in recent years.

Continued on Page 2



THE GAVEL

It is my great pleasure to welcome two new Diplomates, Michelle Novotny and Kevin Kulbacki, into the fold. You will find further information about them inside this edition. Michelle is our second Australian Diplomat and we look forward to other applications from the Land Down Under!

It would be remiss of me not to thank, on behalf of the Board and the Diplomates, our outgoing Director Bill Riordan, who worked tirelessly on his respective committees, and whose wit at the AGM we shall miss! We wish him well in his retirement.

Last but not least, I am fortunate to have an extremely dedicated Executive Board who have now been in post for multiple years and who are the powerhouse of this organization. Bonnie, Lisa and Jim, together with Anne in the corporate office, deserve our appreciation for the hard work they put into keeping us running smoothly.

This newsletter is a team effort and I encourage all Diplomates to contribute copy or photos. Anything that has held interest for you is very likely to be of interest to others as well. Don't be shy... recent events, visits, news from abroad, equipment conundrums...they all have value.

On a personal note, last year I retired from the Canada Border Services Agency to concentrate on my musical interests. I play first violin in a symphony orchestra and chamber ensemble in Ottawa. I play fiddle in a local Celtic band, and each March I team up with an Irish band in the UK for a series of St Patrick's Day gigs. I sing in three choirs, and am Director of my local classical music festival. I find music a perfect counterpoint to forensic science!



Rosalind J. Spence

KEVIN P. KULBACKI, D-ABFDE NEW DIPLOMATE

Kevin Kulbacki is a Senior Criminalist in the Questioned Document Section of the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division. He received his Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science from the University of Central Florida in 2011 and his Master of Science in Forensic Science from the University of Florida in 2014.

Kevin's first exposure to Forensic Document Examination was an introduction to the discipline by none other than Diplomat Tom Vastrick in 2007. His decision to pursue a career in Forensic Document Examination stemmed from a Trace Evidence course during his undergraduate career. During a laboratory class on the examination of paper, he noticed several security features and proceeded to document them all in detail beyond the scope of the assignment. In 2011, Kevin served as a Research Team Leader under Tom at the National Center for Forensic Science and worked on several projects funded by the National Institute of Justice.

Upon graduating, Kevin returned to New Jersey and completed a two-year apprenticeship under Diplomat John Paul Osborn. In September 2015, Kevin began working as a Senior Criminalist in the Questioned Document Section of the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division.



Kevin is currently a Trainee Affiliate of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and an Affiliate Member of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners and has actively participated in the meetings of both organizations since 2012. He has also attended numerous other Forensic Document Examination professional meetings over his career.

Kevin Kulbacki has published in the Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners. His primary research interest is in determining how recent advancements in technology will impact the field of Forensic Document Examination.

FACTOID:

Kevin was introduced to the profession by Tom Vastrick



Have you neglected to submit your recent points?

Contact your Manager

- A-F Jim Josey
- G-L Sean Espley
- M-R Tom Riley
- S-Z Andy Szymanski

2015 ASQDE TRAINEE WORKSHOP REVIEW

Tobin Tanaka
Ottawa ON

The ASQDE trainee workshop returned after a year break at the 2015 meeting in Toronto. In keeping with the theme “QD Around the World” examiners from Pakistan, UK, US, Canada and Switzerland were at the workshop. The trainee problem itself was designed as a moot interna-

tional criminal investigation requiring a multi-faceted examination approach to address the questions about the documents.

In my opinion, such training sessions are crucial to the profession in bringing together trainees to see different approaches to note taking, interpretation

of findings, expression of conclusions and report writing. It can also foster camaraderie among trainees that potentially leads to closer professional affiliations in the years ahead. With that in mind I encourage colleagues to be actively involved in the training of new document examiners to the extent possible.

FROM THE EDITOR

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to be your newsletter editor. As one of the newer Diplomates, I know that by being involved, I will gain a better understanding of our purpose meanwhile providing the membership with a useful means of communication.

Thanks goes out to Diane Tolliver who has done such a nice job updating and organizing this newsletter. She has made the transition very comfortable.

As I put my personal touch on the contents, I hope to provide more than just a little bedtime reading. I would like this newsletter to be a reference source for the members and also a means to represent the ABFDE in its best light. This is especially important as we encourage our colleagues to experience the process of certification.

To me, content matters. So, here's my pitch...



Short and sweet or long and wordy...how do you like your newsletters? I want to provide the Diplomates with useful information and interesting content that has eye appeal. But there is one problem. **I need everyone's contributions to make that happen.**

- If you find something that interests you as an FDE, it will likely interest the rest of us. Why not forward it on to share with all of us?
- Does your regional organization have a conference or workshop coming up that is of interest? Please send me the info.
- How about personal news about yourself or another Diplomate?

Please drop me an email at -

ForensicQDE@gmail.com

And be sure to list your reference source. Also, please note that I entertain *any and all* suggestions.

“Pictures!!!

Send me photos.”

MICHELLE NOVATNY, D-ABFDE NEW DIPLOMATE

A little bit about me and QD...

Right through high school I had a very strong interest in forensic science – from there it has very much been a case of being in the right place at the right time. Fortuitously, as I was graduating high school, the first undergraduate degree in forensic science in the southern hemisphere (a Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Applied Chemistry and Forensic Science) commenced at the University of Technology, in none other than my home city of Sydney. I applied and was successful, and so began the study for my career. There was little coverage of QD in the program but enough to catch my interest and it was the discipline I chose for my fourth year honors research and thesis which focused on the discrimination of ballpoint pen inks available in Australia.

At the start of my honors research year, I made contact with Paul Westwood at Forensic Document Services Pty Ltd and ended up working with the firm on a casual basis throughout that year, as needed in both their Canberra and Sydney laboratories. Before the year was out, I was asked to come on board as a trainee. Eighteen years later (almost to the day), I am still working with Paul and am very passionate about the promotion and advance-



ment of our field, with a keen interest for unity at an international level. I have been a business partner now for eight years and our team has grown into a strong and dynamic group of examiners.

What do I like best about QD? There is a little bit of lab coat but not too much, we get to deal with real people (which develops a whole other skill set!), and the nature of our work is so varied from case to case.

I would like to say a huge “thank you” to the ABFDE for allowing Australian QD examiners the opportunity to participate in the certification program, and my younger colleagues here in the lab are looking forward to going through the process also.

FACTOID:

Michelle achieved the first forensic Bachelor's Degree offered in the Southern Hemisphere



Music professor sheds light on Mozart mystery

07-Sep-2015

Q Charles Darwin University academic believes he has helped solve a 250-year-old classical music mystery involving the sister of genius composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Professor Martin Jarvis and a team of forensic analysts say they have uncovered the musical handwriting of Marie Anne Mozart, elder sibling of her famous brother.

“We have discovered the piece of handwriting DNA, so to speak, that has enabled us for the first time in about 250 years to pinpoint Marie Anne Mozart’s music handwriting,” Professor Jarvis said.

“This will give Mozart scholars a new lens through which to look at other manuscripts.”

Professor Jarvis has led the search with the help of East Tennessee State University Affiliate Professor Heidi Harralson and Victoria Police Chief Forensic Scientist Dr Bryan Found.

“We have spent five years searching hundreds of letters, facsimile manuscripts and associated documents held in various museums and collections in Europe,” he said.

“Great work carried out by researchers associated with the Mozarteum in Salzburg allowed us to view the family letters through an online portal, instead of having to go to Salzburg, and to many other places where some of the letters are held in private collections.

“And a few months ago we finally discovered what we had been looking for.”



“We will present evidence tomorrow (Tuesday September 8) at the European Academy of the Forensic Sciences conference in Prague, one of Europe’s most renowned ‘Mozart cities’.”

Professor Jarvis said scholars knew that Marie Anne had composed music because letters between Wolfgang Amadeus and his sister said as much.

“But it seemed odd that we only had compositions by Amadeus,” he said.

“Part of the difficulty related to the times; being female in the 18th Century meant it was highly unlikely Marie Anne was ever going to put her name on anything.

“Amadeus’ father Leopold also would have had strong financial incentives to ensure his son, rather than his daughter, was recognised for his genius.

“It was this mysterious silence around the musical voice of Marie Anne that prompted our research,” he said.

“We hope to find more.”

It is Professor Jarvis’s second startling discovery of this nature in the past decade. In 2006 he published research suggesting the Six Cello Suites were more likely to have been composed by Anna Magdalena Bach, second wife of Johannes Sebastian Bach, the traditionally accepted author of the works.

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/newsroom/mozartmyster>

Continuing Education

2016

FEBRUARY

22-27 American Academy of Forensic Sciences
68th Annual Scientific Meeting
Las Vegas, NV
<http://bit.ly/1FdR69J>

MAY

17-20 The Canadian Society of Forensic Science
2016 Conference
Montreal, QC Canada
<http://www.csfs.ca/index.html>

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

15 The Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS)
Branson, MO

ONGOING

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

A look at Mackinaw Island and MAFS 2015





A look at Mackinaw Island and MAFS 2015



The Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) meeting was a success! MAFS and the Michigan State Police did a fantastic job of hosting the event on Mackinac Island. Lauren Logan and Todd Welch kept the meeting moving as the moderators for the week. Mark Goff was a dynamic Site Chair and AV coordinator (even though everyone needed a sweater). Bill Flynn and Kathleen Nicolaides started off Monday morning with plans for a full day workshop on digital signatures, but the day would turn into disproving the theory that no motorized vehicles were allowed on the island. The local fire engines arrived on scene for a funny smell and the meeting was halted for two hours! Apparently emergency vehicles are allowed to have engines! This was to David Tobin's dismay, as the VSC 6000 had to be delivered to the conference center on horse and buggy. The horses did their job, though, because on Tuesday morning David and Michael Zontini worked their magic demonstrating the latest advancements and upgrades to the VSC 6000. Brian Lindblom closed out Tuesday, as one of his last presentations of his stellar career! Our community will be forever changed by Brian's contributions: helping to develop Write-ON, editing and authorship in the second edition of the Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents, updating the FAXFONT database multiple times, presenting numerous workshops, and so much more. I truly hope that Brian knows how much respect and admiration we have for him and wish him all the best in retirement. Wednesday was also a success thanks to Frank Hicks starting the day with challenging, thought provoking signature comparisons packed full of lively discussions. Pete Belcastro and Gregg Mokrzycki closed out the workshops on Wednesday discussing signature comparisons on sports memorabilia, artwork, and much more.



The meeting didn't stop there! Gerry LaPorte was one of the keynote speakers on Thursday morning. Tom Vastrick presented on his results in the afternoon from his years of work regarding the frequency occurrence of handwriting and hand printing characteristics. Additional paper presentations and a round table discussion closed out the meeting on Friday Morning.

Now if you have ever been at a MAFS meeting, you will know what I mean with this statement: Work hard, play hard! Daytime was full of business, but the evening offered time for fun and relaxation. There was a pub crawl (need I say more), a lovely sunset cruise on the lake, and bike rides to see the lovely flowers and colors of fall. The week was closed out with the gala full of costumes, dancing, and laughter! Those in attendance included prisoners from Alcatraz, pirates, islanders, the crew from Neverland, a beautiful mermaid, Sloth from Goonies, and many, many other exciting guests!

If you think this meeting was amazing, mark your calendars for next year! The MAFS 2016 Fall Meeting will be held October 3 - 7, 2016 in Branson, Missouri. The line-up for this meeting is already shaping up! Linton Mohammed has already signed on for a full day workshop! Stay tuned for more information in the coming months...

If you are interested in presenting a workshop or a paper at the next meeting, please let me know.

Happy Fall Everyone!
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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:

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Testing Committee Chair
lisa.hanson@state.mn.us*

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