# NEAFS Newsletter

Volume 50, Issue 3 Fall 2025

2025

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2025

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2025

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# Make a Difference, Become a Forensic Scientist!

At Towson University you can turn your passion into a profession by earning a Master of Science in Forensic Science degree. The Master of Science in Forensic Science program is fully accredited by the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). The program has an application-focused, hands-on curriculum that provides students with an educational background and development of forensic science laboratory skills. Students can choose either the DNA track with a focus on genetic analysis or the Forensic Chemistry track with a focus on drug analysis, trace analysis, and toxicology. All students must complete a forensic research project or a capstone course.

On-campus research facilities house state-of-the-art equipment including DNA Extraction Robots, Rotorgene Real-Time PCR, Qiacube Liquid Handler, Thermocyclers, ABI 3500 Genetic Analyzer, MiSeq Next Generation Sequencer, and Pyrosequencers for forensic biological research. Forensic chemistry research instruments include Gas Chromatographs, Mass Spectrometers, Liquid Chromatographs, Infra-red Spectrophotometers, Ultraviolet-Visible Light Spectrophotometers and Polarizing Light, Compound, Comparison and Ballistic Microscopes.

For additional information see https://www.towson.edu/fcsm/departments/chemistry/grad/forensic/ or contact mprofili@towson.edu

FORENSIC SCIENCE-IT'S MORE THAN A DEGREE; IT'S A CALLING!

# MEET THE 2025 BOD

## Alanna Laureano – President

Westchester County Department of Labs & Research, Division of Forensic Sciences Since 2007
Senior Forensic Scientist and DNA Technical Leader
BS in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry- University at Albany, SUNY
MS in Forensic Biology- University at Albany, SUNY

## Matthew Marino – President-elect

New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences, East Regional Laboratory Since 11/2011
Forensic Scientist 3, Drug Unit Technical Leader, and Fire Debris Analyst
Forensic Technician, Westchester County, NY Forensic Laboratory from 07/2007 to 09/2011
BS in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Chemistry-St. Thomas Aquinas College

## Anisha Paul M.S.F.S, D-ABFT-FT - Treasurer

Vermont Forensic Laboratory, Department of Public Safety - Forensic Chemist Toxicology division since 2017
Adjunct professor at Champlain College since 2017
Masters of Science in Forensic Science from Arcadia University
Certified as a Diplomate by the ABFT in the field of Forensic Toxicology

## Amanda White - Secretary

New York State Police Crime Laboratory, FS III- Controlled Substance Analysis from 2019-Present
Westchester County Department of Labs & Research, Controlled Substance Analysis 2016-2019
NYPD Police Laboratory, Controlled Substance Analysis/Latent Print Development 2011-2016
MS Biomedical Forensic Science, Boston University
BS Biology & Anthropology, SUNY Oneonta

## Danielle Malone - Director

NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Department of Forensic Biology from 2004- Present
BS Forensic Science with a concentration in Criminalistics, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice

## Sarah Roseman - Director

Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Services, Controlled Substance Analysis, 2015-present
BS in Biology, Binghamton University
MS in Forensics, Pace University

## Keri LaBelle - Director

Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory, 2013-Present
Drug Unit, Crime Scene Response Unit, Clandestine Laboratory Response Unit, Quality Assurance Management Section
M.S. Biomedical Forensic Sciences - Boston University 2012
B.S. Biochemistry - Suffolk University 2010

Cayman CHEMICAL

ACCREDITED
ISO/IEC 17025 #AT-1773
ISO 17034 #AR-1774

# NPS Pose Several Challenges to the Analytical Scientist

## Cayman is your ally.

At Cayman, our understanding of the challenges faced by forensic labs drives us to be knowledgeable of current trends in novel psychoactive substances (NPS).

To support analysts, we have developed an **NPS Analytical Standards Dashboard** to help easily find Cayman reference standards aligned with the CFSRE's quarterly NPS scope recommendations.

Access our NPS Dashboard below and bookmark it for quarterly updates.

**Scan to Explore Our NPS Dashboard**

www.caymanchem.com/NPS-dashboard

# Alanna Laureano
# NEAFS 2025 President

**Greetings NEAFS Members!**

As we move into the fall, I hope this message finds you well and looking forward to **the 51st Annual Meeting in Lancaster**! I am excited to see so many of you in person to connect, learn, and celebrate the incredible work of our forensic science community.

While workshops, networking, and programs often take the spotlight, I want to highlight **NEAFS' financial health**. A strong financial foundation allows us to provide valuable resources—discounted training and certification, student outreach, scientific literature subscriptions, and more—while ensuring sustainable programming year after year.

In response to evolving economic conditions, NEAFS is preparing an **updated financial evaluation** to ensure transparency, sound planning, and alignment with member needs as we move into the future. It has been over five years since a comprehensive review was presented to the membership, and an updated evaluation is planned for the upcoming Annual Meeting. Importantly, this review demonstrates how member dues and meeting registration support scholarships, programming, student initiatives, and other opportunities, while balancing costs responsibly.

Beyond finances, careful planning enables us to provide free or reduced-cost training, secure relevant presenters and speakers, and ensure adequate venue space for all participants—maximizing value while advancing forensic science.

NEAFS thrives because of engaged members like you. I encourage you to take full advantage of all that membership offers. While fees may adjust to meet the costs of high-quality programming, these investments support experiences and resources that enrich both professional growth and our community.

# Alanna Laureano
# NEAFS 2025 President

Looking ahead, I am especially excited about our **2026 Joint Meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS)**—the first in nearly 15 years! This milestone reflects our commitment to partnerships that expand the reach and impact of NEAFS programs, providing even greater value to members.

Thank you for your continued commitment to NEAFS. I look forward to seeing many of you in Lancaster this October!

Warmly,

*Alanna Laureano*

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# Ultrafast Track to Your Success

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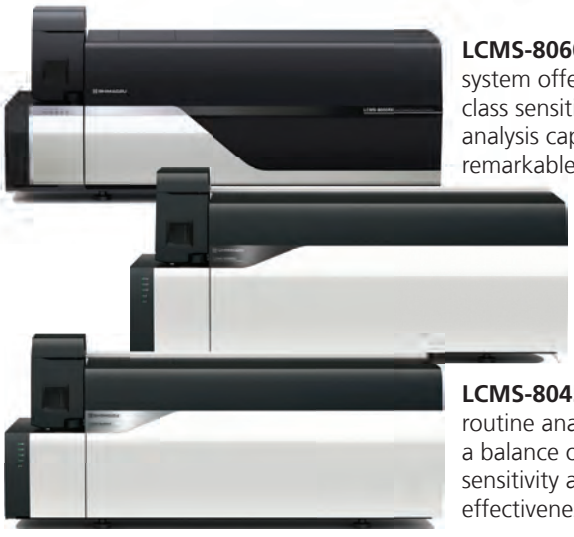

**LCMS-8060RX**: premier system offers world-class sensitivity, rapid analysis capabilities and remarkable robustness

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FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF NEAFS

ALANNA LAUREANO | MATTHEW MARINO | AMANDA WHITE | ANISHA PAUL

"BEST MEETING OF THE YEAR"

"BEST PROGRAM CHAIR"

# 51st Annual Meeting

## OCTOBER 20 - 24, 2025

*Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square*
*in* **LANCASTER, PA**

★★★★★

"IT IS GOING TO BE EPIC"
- *Random NEAFS Member*

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

EMAIL PRESIDENTELECT@NEAFS.ORG

**NEAFS** PRODUCTION

ONLY AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

# Matthew Marino
## President-Elect and 2025 Program Chair

Dear NEAFS Members and Colleagues,

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I invite you to join us for the **51st Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists**, taking place **October 20th–24th, 2025**, at the **Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square** in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. If you didn't get a chance to register before online registration closed, you can still register on site at the Lancaster Marriott.

This year's meeting is built around an important theme: **the human factor in forensic science**. Our work profoundly impacts society, and in turn, the cases we encounter can deeply affect us as practitioners. As we navigate the evolving intersection of human judgment, ethics, and rapidly advancing technology—including the growing role of artificial intelligence—our responsibility to remain unbiased, ethical, and scientifically rigorous is more important than ever.

We are fortunate to have an outstanding slate of workshops, speakers, and sessions that will engage these topics from multiple perspectives.

On Tuesday, October 21st, we will host the Student and Educators' Forums, along with a dynamic lineup of Workshops, including:

**Full-Day Workshops:**

- *Is Gasoline Present?* (Brenda Christy) – Introduces the application of statistical methods to gas chromatograph data to generate objective sufficiency graphs, reducing subjectivity in fire debris analysis.
- *Blood and Firearm Traces in Event Reconstruction* (Ralph R. Ristenbatt III & Dr. Peter Pizzola) – Covers deposition mechanisms, projectile analysis, and integrating blood traces in reconstruction through lectures, exercises, and demonstrations.
- *Gunshot Residue* (Pete Diaczuk & Angela Hui) – Focuses on residue patterns and distance interpretation, including hands-on microscopy exercises (with microscopes provided).
- *GCMS Troubleshooting & Maintenance* (Agilent – Dr. Kirk Lokits & Alexis Willey) – Explores GCMS theory, maintenance, source cleaning, tuning, and includes hands-on disassembly and reassembly of MS sources.

# Matthew Marino
## President-Elect and 2025 Program Chair

**Half-Day Workshops:**

- *Ethics for the Forensic Analyst* (Jerome F. Buting) – Examines ethical dilemmas in forensic science through real-world, high-profile, and hypothetical cases.
- *DNA Rapid Technology* (Thermo Fisher Scientific – Jon Lucyshyn & Eric Ramirez) – Reviews FBI multilab study results, new QAS standards, and implementation insights for rapid DNA programs.
- *Toxicology Tetris* (Jolene Bierly, Ande Gonzalez, Graham Hetrick, & Dave Andrascik) – Highlights collaboration across disciplines in human performance and death investigations, emphasizing context-driven interpretation and communication strategies.
- *Full Spectrum Light Theory & ALS Techniques* (Foster + Freeman – Nate Weston) – Explores UV/visible/IR evidence detection and includes an engaging scenario-based team challenge to identify a perpetrator using evidence visualization techniques.
- *Mastering DNA Testimony: Preparing for the Courtroom* (ExpertDNA Solutions – Maria Tsocanos & Jaime Rodrigues) – Equips DNA analysts with courtroom preparation, communication strategies, and tips for presenting scientific findings confidently.
- *Understanding Measurement Uncertainty for Forensic Scientists* (NIST – Dr. Jack Prothero) – Teaches the principles of uncertainty, statistical distributions, confidence intervals, and hands-on budgeting for uncertainty in forensic reporting.

On **Wednesday, October 22nd**, the program includes the **Scientific Sessions, Annual Business Meeting, Exhibits, Poster Session, and Welcome Reception**. Our remarkable group of session chairs have been working diligently to fill their sessions with exceptional research, presentations, and case studies designed to sharpen our skills, expand our knowledge, and spark meaningful discussions. Be sure to check out the digital program on our Meeting Mobile App to plan your schedule throughout the day.

The **Evening Session** on Wednesday will feature a Lancaster County case presentation that shocked the local community in the early 1990's. Detective Christopher Erb and Detective Larry Martin will share the story of Christy Mirack and the role that technological advances and dedicated Cold Case investigators played in obtaining the evidence that led to a conviction nearly 30 years later.

On **Thursday, October 23rd**, we will feature our remaining Keynote and Plenary Session

# Matthew Marino
## President-Elect and 2025 Program Chair

presentations. During the **morning Plenary Session**, titled *You are the Judge: Challenges for Expert Witnesses and the Courts*, Senior Judge Stephanie Domitrovich, PhD, and former Judge W. Milton Nuzum will provide attendees with an exciting, interactive presentation where the audience will act as the judge and consider admissibility of expert testimony using actual case examples.

During the **Awards Luncheon**, Jeffrey Deskovic, Esq., will share his story of arrest, conviction, time in prison, exoneration, and reintegration, which all lead to his inspiring advocacy work with the Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice.

We are honored to host an **afternoon Plenary Session** on the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence in forensic analyses. Dr. Marcus K. Rogers' *Artificial Intelligence in Forensic Science: Promise, Pitfalls, and the Path Forward* and Mitha Nandagopalan's *When AI Goes Wrong: Bias, Error, and Human Factors in the Development and Deployment of AI Tools in Forensics* presentations will both explore the current landscape of AI applications in forensic disciplines, while considering future implications, and ultimately, how to integrate such technology ethically and without bias.

On **Friday, October 24th**, we will conclude with an **Outreach Event and College Fair**. This closing event will feature engagement with students and educational institutions, spotlighting forensic science careers and fostering the next generation of scientists.

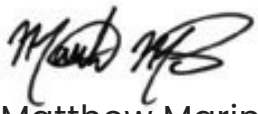
Of course, NEAFS is more than a professional conference, it is a community. One of the greatest strengths of our Association is the chance to reconnect with colleagues, exchange ideas, and share experiences that enrich both our careers and our lives. From the Student and Educators' Forums to the always-spirited George W. Chin Cup Competition, to the bustling Exhibit Hall, this week offers countless opportunities to learn, engage, and celebrate the unique camaraderie that defines NEAFS. Please take part in as many of the events as you can and engage with our amazing vendors for information on exciting products and fun giveaways!

And speaking of celebration, I am especially excited for this year's **Hollywood Halloween President's Reception** on Thursday evening. Be sure to bring your creativity (and your costumes) for what is sure to be a memorable evening!

# Matthew Marino
## President-Elect and 2025 Program Chair

I am truly honored to serve as your 2025 Program Chair and deeply grateful for the opportunity to help bring this program to life along with our dedicated planning team. I look forward to welcoming each of you in Lancaster this October as we continue to advance the science we practice, support one another, and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

With appreciation and anticipation,



Matthew Marino
President-Elect and 2025 Program Chair

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# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

**3:30pm - 5:30pm**
Board of Directors and Staff Outing
**6:00pm - 9:00pm**
Board of Directors and Staff Dinner

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

**7:30am - 9:15am**
Registration
**7:30am - 9:00am**
Light Breakfast
**9:00am - 5:00pm**
Full Day Workshops
**9:00am - 12:15pm**
Half Day AM Workshops
**10:30am - 10:45am**
Morning Coffee and Snack Break
**12:30pm - 1:45pm**
Registration
**12:30pm - 1:45pm**
Lunch on your own
**1:45pm - 5:00pm**
Half Day PM Workshops
**3:00pm - 3:15pm**
Afternoon Coffee Break
**5:00pm - 8:00pm**
Exhibits Set-Up
**5:00pm - 6:00pm**
Registration
**6:00pm - 8:00pm**
Student Forum
**6:00pm - 8:00pm**
Educators' Forum

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

**7:30am - 9:30am**
Registration
**7:30am - 9:00am**
Continental Breakfast & Breakfast Sandwiches
**7:30am - 8:00pm**
Exhibits
**9:00am - 5:00pm**
Scientific Sessions
**10:15am - 10:45am**
Morning Coffee Break
**12:30pm - 2:00pm**
Annual Business Lunch
**3:15pm - 3:45pm**
Afternoon Coffee Break
**5:00pm - 7:30pm**
Welcome Reception & Poster Session
**6:30pm - 7:30pm**
Registration
**7:30pm - 10:00pm**
Evening Plenary Session
**8:30pm - 8:45pm**
Dessert Break

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

**7:30am - 9:15am**
Registration
**7:30am - 9:00am**
Hot Breakfast Buffett
**7:30am - 11:30am**
Exhibits
**9:00am - 11:30am**
Morning Plenary Session
**10:15am - 10:30am**
Morning Coffee Break
**11:30am - 1:30pm**
Exhibits Break-Down
**11:30pm - 2:00pm**
Annual President's Award Luncheon
**2:30pm - 5:00pm**
Afternoon Plenary Session
**3:30pm - 3:45pm**
Afternoon Coffee Break
**5:30pm - 6:30pm**
George W. Chin Cup Competition
**7:00pm - 12:00am**
President's Reception

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

**7:30am - 9:00am**
Light Breakfast
**9:00am - 1:00pm**
Outreach Event & College Fair
**11:00am - 11:15am**
Morning Snack Break

www.neafs.org/preliminary-schedule

subject to change

# HOTEL INFORMATION

Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square
Lancaster, PA
OCTOBER 20 - 24, 2025

ROOM RATE: $169/NIGHT + APPLICABLE TAXES (INCLUDES PARKING)
BOOK BY SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2025 FOR GROUP RATE

BOOK NOW

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BOOK IN THE BLOCK? NEAFS HAS SECURED A ROOM BLOCK AND IS PROVIDING DISCOUNTED RATES TO NEAFS 2023 ATTENDEES BASED ON A GUARANTEED PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDEES STAYING IN THE OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HOTEL. BOOKING A HOTEL ROOM OUTSIDE OF NEAFS'S BLOCK IMPACTS NEAFS MEETING SPACE, DATES AND RATES IN FUTURE YEARS. GUARANTEEING ROOM BLOCKS GIVES ASSOCIATIONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE CONCESSIONS, SUCH AS BETTER ROOM RATES, FREE INTERNET, LESS EXPENSIVE FOOD AND BEVERAGE, NUMBER OF MEETING ROOMS, AFFILIATE MEETING SPACE, GYM ACCESS, ETC. HOUSING IS A KEY COMPONENT IN HOW THIS LEVERAGE IS MEASURED, AND BOOKING OUTSIDE OF THE CONTRACTED BLOCK DECREASES NEAFS'S NEGOTIATING POWER–ULTIMATELY MAKING THE MEETING MORE EXPENSIVE AND FORCING FUTURE REGISTRATION AND HOTEL PRICES TO INCREASE! WE KNOW NONE OF US WANTS TO SEE HIGHER ATTENDANCE COSTS.

# 2025 NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING

REGULAR REGISTRATION CLOSES ON OCTOBER 1ST, 2025, BUT YOU CAN STILL

# REGISTER ON-SITE

Member: $300
Non-Member: $425
Student Members: $225
Student Non-Members: $280
Guest*: $250
Daily Member: $150
Daily Non-Member: $210
Student Daily Member: $125
Student Daily Non-Member: $150
Guest* Daily: $ 125

*SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ON GUEST REGISTRATION

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU REGISTER ON-SITE, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A MEETING BOOKLET, MEAL OR DRINK TICKETS AND REGISTRATION IS ONLY PAYABLE WITH CREDIT CARD, CASH OR MONEY ORDER. NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.


THE
PRESIDENTS
RECEPTION
presents
Hollywood
Halloween
Walk the red carpet
dressed as your
favorite character or
celebrity.
Oct
23
7PM-
12AM
Live
music
Drinks
Food


# GET INVOLVED

Are you ready to jump right in and get involved on a NEAFS committee?

**Exhibits Committee, Registration Committee, Education Committee, Outreach Committee, Social Media/Merchandise Committee, Awards Committee, or anyway you would like to get involved.**

Want to learn more about the volunteer opportunities for this year's meeting or maybe next year's?

**Exhibits, Registration, Poster Session, Workshops, Scientific Sessions, Education, Outreach, Social Media, Merchandise, Awards Committee (be a Judge), Photographer, or any other way you would like to help.**

Sign up today!

NEAFS 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

# SPEAKERS

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

7:30PM - 10:00PM

**Evening Session** : Detective Christopher Erb and Detective Larry Martin (Lancaster County Office of the District Attorney) - Christy Mirack: Cold Case Investigation

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

9:00AM - 11:30AM

**AM Plenary** : Sr Judge Stephanie Domitrovich, PhD and Former Judge, W. Milton Nuzum - You Are the Judge: Challenges for Expert Witnesses and the Courts

12:00PM - 2:00PM

**Luncheon** : Jeffrey Deskovic - Mr. Deskovic will share his remarkable story and subsequent work with the Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice

2:30PM - 5:00PM

**PM Plenary** : Marcus Rogers, PhD (Purdue University) - Artificial Intelligence in Forensic Science: Promise, Pitfalls, and the Path Forward Mitha Nandagopalan (Innocence Project) - When AI Goes Wrong: Bias, Error, and Human Factors in the Development and Deployment of AI Tools in Forensics

Subject to change.

**DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER ERB AND DETECTIVE LARRY MARTIN**

# CHRISTY MIRACK: COLD CASE INVESTIGATION

STAY TUNED

## 22.10.2025

EVENING SESSION
7:30PM-10:00PM

In 1992, Christy Mirack, a 25-year-old schoolteacher, was raped and murdered. Physical and biological evidence collected at the crime scene, and at her autopsy, revealed an unknown male DNA profile, which was eventually uploaded into the CODIS database. Over the course of the next couple of decades, investigators interviewed, and DNA tested multiple persons of interest and witnesses to no avail. Due to years of hard work and advances in modern technology with DNA, phenotyping, and genetic genealogy, an arrest was made in 2018.

Detective Christopher Erb and Detective Larry Martin will share the story that led to the arrest. In doing so, they will emphasize the importance of a thorough and complete case review of all reports, evidence, and how to develop a strategy to continue with a cold case investigation as well as locating and re-interviewing the initial responding law enforcement, investigative personnel and civilian witnesses. They will discuss incorporating the use of modern technology concepts and practices with traditional investigative methods and the potential investigative and legal challenges with cold cases.

# DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER ERB
# EVENING SESSION

10/22
7:30 PM
TO
10:00PM

Detective Christopher Erb is a County Detective with the Office of the District Attorney of Lancaster County (PA). He has 35 years of police experience and is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit and the Unsolved Homicide Unit. Chris worked in the Patrol Division for 10 years and 11 years in the Criminal Investigative Division with the Lancaster City Bureau of Police. Upon his retirement from Lancaster City, Chris was a County Detective with the Berks County (PA) District Attorney's Office, where he was assigned to the Forensic Services Unit and was a Computer Forensics Examiner. While in his current position, Chris has been the affiant for two cold case investigations. The first was the 1992 homicide of Christy Mirack, and the second is the 1975 homicide of Lindy Sue Biechler. Both cases Genetic Genealogy was instrumental in bringing successful prosecutions resulting in guilty pleas. Chris developed and presented a detailed case study of Mirack homicide to share and instruct teach law enforcement investigators and prosecutors implementing the latest technologies with traditional investigative methods and challenges cold cases may have. Over the years, courses were presented to the Delaware State Police, New Jersey State Police, PA State Police, PA District Attorney's Association, PA Governor's Office of General Counsel, and the Harris County (TX) Forensic Institute.

# DETECTIVE LARRY MARTIN

## EVENING SESSION

10/22
7:30 PM
TO
10:00PM

Detective Larry Martin has 37 years of police experience. He was employed by the East Cocalico Township Police Department in Lancaster County from January 1987 until January 2013. During his tenure there, he was promoted to sergeant supervising the Criminal Investigation Unit from January 1998 until January 2013. Larry has served as a County Detective with the Office of the District Attorney of Lancaster County (PA) since 2013. Currently he is assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit and the Unsolved Homicide Unit. While in his current position, Larry has been involved in clearing two major cold case investigations: the 1992 homicide of Christy Mirack, and the 1975 homicide of Lindy Sue Biechler. During the past five years, Larry has been one of the presenters in a case study of the Mirack homicide, teaching law enforcement investigators and prosecutors for the Delaware State Police, the New Jersey State Police, the PA State Police, the PA District Attorney's Association, and the Harris County (TX) Forensic Institute.

**SR JUDGE STEPHANIE DOMITROVICH, PHD AND FORMER JUDGE, W. MILTON NUZUM**

# YOU ARE THE JUDGE: CHALLENGES FOR EXPERT WITNESSES AND THE COURTS

STAY TUNED

## 23.10.2025

AM PLENARY SESSION
9:00AM-11:30AM

As forensic science evolves with new technology and advances in research, the admission of testimony by forensic scientists in courts across the nation becomes increasingly challenging for both the forensic experts and the judges who serve as the gatekeepers of admissibility of their potential expert testimony. In this interactive session, Judges Domitrovich and Nuzum will present recent cases involving admissibility of expert testimony. Attendees will "Become the Judge" to assess the facts presented in actual cases to determine how attendees would decide admissibility of the expert testimony if they were the judge. After thoughtful interactive discussion, the presenters will reveal the rationale and actual decision in each case. The cases will address reliability and accuracy of testing methodology, ethical issues for the forensic practitioners, and other emerging issues related to advances in technology and science.

# DR. STEPHANIE DOMITROVICH

## AM PLENARY SESSION

10/23
9:00 AM
TO
11:30AM

Dr. Stephanie Domitrovich is a senior general jurisdiction state trial judge in PA having served as an elected judge for over 32 years and being elected four times in Erie, PA. She currently serves as Senior Judge for the last several years, working across the Commonwealth of PA as a trial judge. In May of 2006, she also became the first graduate to earn a PhD, degree of Doctor in Philosophy in Judicial Studies, from University of Nevada, Reno, in cooperation with The National Judicial College.

Senior Judge Domitrovich is an Executive Committee Board member on the National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ) as well as Program Chair. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Technology in the Courts Committee of Judicial Division/American Bar Assoc. She is past Co-Chair of The Judges' Journal Editorial Board and currently serves as Special Issues Editor. She is Past Chair of the Forensic Science Committee of ABA's Judicial Division. She is a life member of the National Association of Women Judges, having served in the past as an officer. She served as Treasurer as well as a Board member for Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) for Pennsylvania. She is currently the Chair for the PA Bar Assoc. Civil Litigation Section and Council. She also recently served as Treasurer and Board member of the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board, Inc. (FSAB) and now is an Affiliate.

# DR. STEPHANIE DOMITROVICH
## AM PLENARY SESSION

She is Past Chair of National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ) of Judicial Division of ABA (2010-11), and Past President of PA Conference of State Trial Judges.

Dr. Domitrovich is a Fellow with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and past Chair of Jurisprudence Section of AAFS (2016-2018). In 1996, she participated for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to educate judges in former Soviet Republic nations of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in developing their judicial systems.

She currently teaches and lectures at several universities such as The University of Nevada at Reno, the National Judicial College, Michigan University and Gannon University. She has written and orally presented forensic science papers to American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, SWGSTAIN as Member of Scientific Working Group on Bloodstain Pattern Evidence, the Law and Society, the American Psychology-Law Society, the University of Michigan Department of Pathology Forensic and Autopsy Services, the American Bar's Judicial Division as well as the Appellate Court Section, the PA Bar Assoc.'s Civil Litigation Section and the Family Court Section, the Jurisprudence Section of American Academy of Forensic Sciences as well she has presented her Ph.D. dissertation for Law & Society at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany in 2007. Her topic area was on Court-Appointed Experts in the state courts.

# W. MILT NUZUM

## AM PLENARY SESSION

10/23
9:00 AM
TO
11:30AM

Former Judge Milt Nuzum, J.D., B.S. Pharmacy, retired in 2023 from the Supreme Court of Ohio as Director of the Judicial College and Education Services Division. Nuzum continues to present at local, state, and national professional education seminars.

Nuzum graduated with a B.S. in Pharmacy from The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. He was a member of the Rho Chi National Pharmacy Honorary Society and is a recipient of the College's Distinguished Alumni Award. Upon graduation, Nuzum was employed by Mead Johnson & Co. as a pharmaceutical process engineer. His primary responsibility was to design manufacturing processes for parenteral and oral dosage forms of administration for new drugs developed by the research and development staff of his employer. He left that employment to attend Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana. While attending law school, Nuzum practiced pharmacy at various pharmacies in Ohio, Indiana, and West Virginia. He graduated from Indiana University with his Juris Doctorate degree and passed the Ohio Bar exam.

# W. MILT NUZUM
# AM PLENARY SESSION

Nuzum has been a frequent presenter at local, state, and national organizations on legal and judicial topics. He has presented seminars on many legal topics to judicial and court administrator associations in Ohio. He has also presented to the University of Michigan's Forensic Pathology Conferences, the American Academy of Forensic Science Conferences, and the International Organization for Judicial Training Conferences in Sydney Australia and Bordeaux, France.

Nuzum was a 2023 recipient of the American Bar Association's, Judicial Division, National Conference of Specialized Court Judges, William R. McMahon Award, "For Significant Implementation of Development in the Use of Technological Advances in a Court of Limited or Special Jurisdiction." This award recognized Nuzum's longstanding interest in science and technology both as implementing new technology in his role as a judicial officer and as addressing issues presented to courts by new developments in science and technology in his role as a legal and judicial educator.

# JEFFREY DESKOVIC, ESQ., M.A.

STAY TUNED

## 23.10.2025

ANNUAL LUNCHEON
11:30AM-2:00PM

Jeffrey Deskovic, Esq., M.A., will discuss his arrest and conviction, time in prison, appeals and exoneration, reintegration- difficulties and successes; The Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice; becoming an attorney; and his inspiring advocacy work since he last spoke at NEAFS back in 2007.

# JEFFREY DESKOVIC, ESQ., M.A.
# ANNUAL LUNCHEON


10/23
11:30 AM
TO
2:00PM

Jeffrey Deskovic, Esq., M.A., is an internationally recognized wrongful conviction expert and the founder of The Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice (www.Deskovic.org) , which has freed 15 wrongfully convicted people and helped pass nine laws, including: video-taping interrogations; identification reform; the Commission On Prosecutor Conduct, and Discovery Reform. They currently have 13 active cases, while pursuing policy initiatives in NY, PA, and CA. His body of work includes delivering hundreds of presentations; authoring several hundred articles while being published in nine different publications; giving uncountable interviews; twice adjunct teaching a wrongful conviction college course; co-teaching ethics twice a year for ten years at a police academy; serving on a Police Task Force Reform Group and a Transition Team of an incoming District Attorney. Jeff has taught Continued Legal Education classes in front of judicial gatherings, prosecutorial groups, and public defenders. Jeff is part of the, “It Could Happen To You” coalition, serves on the Global Advisory Council of Restorative Justice International, and co-owns the reintegration game, “Recharge Beyond The Bars Re-Entry Game.” He has endorsed in twelve political races across the US. The motivation for his advocacy work is that he was wrongfully imprisoned for sixteen years- from age 17 to 32- despite a negative DNA Test, based upon a coerced, false confession, prosecutorial misconduct, fraud by the medical examiner, and an inept public defender before being exonerated via the DNA Database. A documentary short about his life post-exoneration and advocacy work, “Conviction”, is available on Amazon Prime.

**DR. MARCUS K. ROGERS**

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN FORENSIC SCIENCE: PROMISE, PITFALLS, AND THE PATH FORWARD

STAY TUNED

## 23.10.2025

PM PLENARY SESSION
2:30PM - 5:00PM

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the forensic sciences, presenting novel opportunities to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and scalability of investigative processes. From image and video analysis to voice recognition, behavioral prediction, and more, AI tools are becoming integral to how forensic professionals collect, interpret, and present evidence. However, the growing integration of AI also presents significant technical, ethical, and legal challenges, including algorithmic bias and transparency concerns, evidentiary admissibility, and chain of custody issues.

This session will explore the current landscape of AI applications across forensic disciplines, showcasing both emerging tools and real-world case examples. It will critically examine the limitations of current systems and highlight areas where oversight, interdisciplinary collaboration, and standard-setting are urgently needed. Special attention will be given to the importance of explainable AI (XAI), validation frameworks, and the role of forensic scientists in shaping responsible innovation.

The objective of this session is to equip attendees with a comprehensive understanding of AI's capabilities and limitations, providing practical insights into how forensic professionals can engage with AI technologies in a manner that upholds scientific integrity and public trust.

# DR. MARCUS K. ROGERS

## PM PLENARY SESSION

10/23
2:30 PM
TO
5:00PM

Dr. Marcus K. Rogers is the Associate Dean for Faculty/Professor at Purdue University and a recognized expert in the field of digital forensics and cybersecurity. He serves as Director of Purdue's Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics programs and is a Fellow of the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS), Fellow of the AAFS and Chief Scientist Tippecanoe-Purdue High Tech Crime Unit (HTCU). With over 25 years of experience, Dr. Rogers has worked extensively with law enforcement, military, and government agencies worldwide. His research focuses on digital forensics, cyber behavior, and the application of artificial intelligence in security and forensic contexts. He has published widely, served as an expert witness in numerous legal proceedings, and continues to play a leading role in shaping the future of forensic science in the digital age.

MITHA NANDAGOPALAN,
INNOCENCE PROJECT

# WHEN AI GOES WRONG: BIAS, ERROR, AND HUMAN FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF AI TOOLS IN FORENSICS

STAY TUNED

23.10.2025

PM PLENARY SESSION
3:30PM-5:00PM

Artificial intelligence has proliferated in the forensic sciences, police investigations, and the criminal legal system writ large. Yet the influx of AI models in applications as diverse as voiceprint analysis, facial recognition, gunshot detection, and pattern-matching disciplines has not eliminated the role of subjective human judgment. Nor has it obviated the risk of cognitive bias, data bias, and hard-to-detect errors in AI models.

Forensic practitioners have a key role to play in preventing and mitigating these risks. Building on the previous session, this session will delve into the specifics of how bias and error can infect AI tools at various points in their development and deployment, examining real-world examples where skewed training data, incomplete evaluation criteria, and human factors like automation bias contributed to flawed results and miscarriages of justice. This session will also examine how even models that appear to perform well at the outset can degrade over time, and why this degradation can be difficult to predict, prevent, or even detect in real time, especially in applications where ground truth is not known.

Finally, this session will discuss the practical, legal, and ethical questions forensic practitioners and labs should consider when contemplating adopting an AI tool. Forensic practitioners can and should insist on transparency from AI developers as to how their models were trained, tested, and validated, both prior to procuring an AI tool and during court proceedings and discovery. The goal of this session is to leave practitioners with a foundational understanding of: (1) what information to seek from AI developers, (2) what questions to ask before adopting and deploying an AI-based product, and (3) how to reduce the risk that AI tools will improperly bias human decisions.

# MITHA NANDAGOPALAN

## PM PLENARY SESSION

10/23
3:30 PM
TO
5:00PM

Mitha Nandagopalan is a Staff Attorney in the Innocence Project's Strategic Litigation Department. Their litigation focuses on emerging surveillance and forensic technologies, particularly those incorporating AI and machine learning. They lead the Neighborhood Project, which works with local communities and attorneys to investigate and combat the community impacts of discriminatory policing and the racialized deployment of surveillance technology. They have presented nationwide on the challenges AI and emerging technologies pose to courts and the criminal legal system in particular, and regularly train other attorneys and legal system stakeholders. Before joining the Innocence Project, Mitha was an assistant public defender in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Prior to that, they clerked for Justice Susan Carney on the Alaska Supreme Court in Fairbanks. They hold a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

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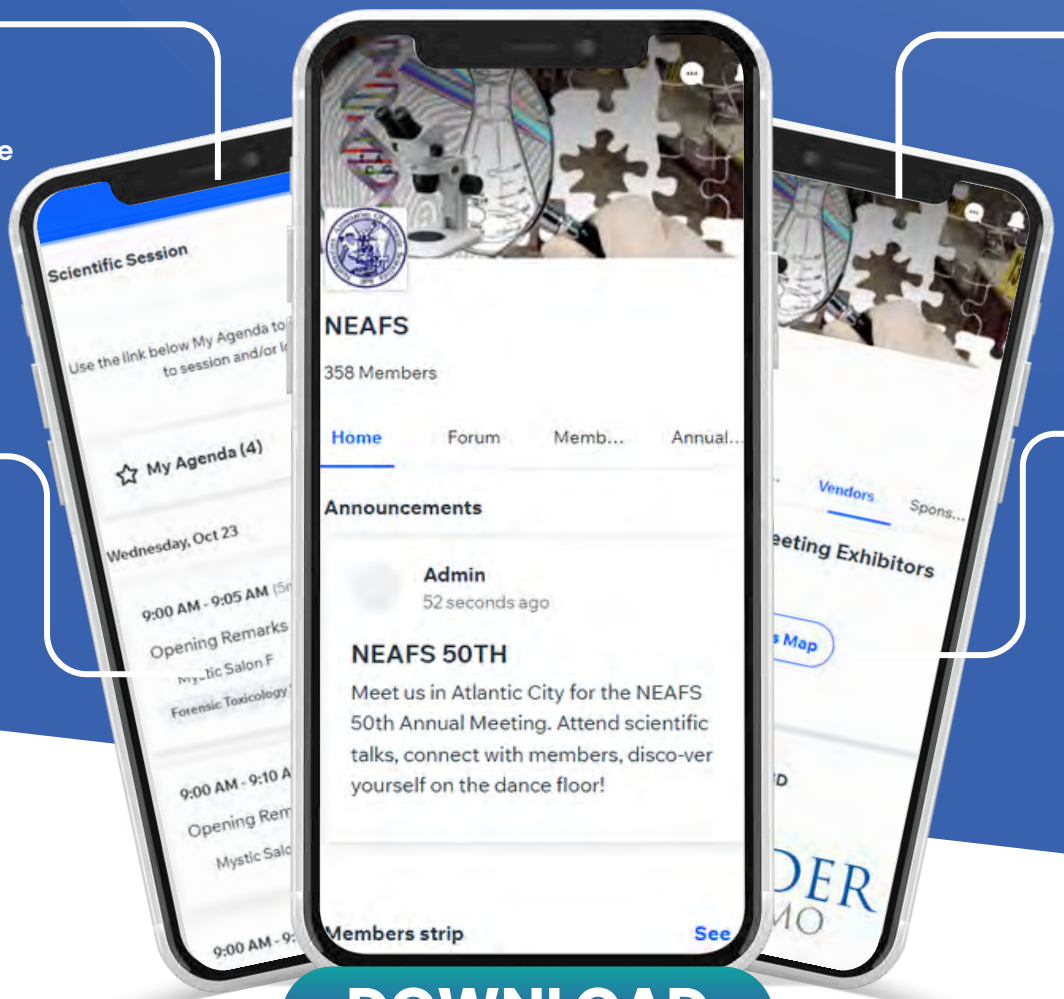


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FULL DAY WORKSHOPS

# Full Day Workshops

2025 NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING, LANCASTER, PA

21 | OCTOBER
9AM - 5PM

- Is Gasoline Present? - Using a statistically based method to graphically display the support for gasoline in an unknown sample (Brenda Christy)
- Blood and Firearm Traces in Event Reconstruction (Ralph R. Ristenbatt III and Dr. Peter Pizzola)
- Gun Shot Residue (Pete Diaczuk)
- Fundamentals and Theories of GCMS Troubleshooting and Maintenance (Agilent)

AM HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

# Half-Day AM Workshops

2025 NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING, LANCASTER, PA

21 | OCTOBER
9AM - 12:15PM

- Ethics for the Forensic Analyst: Protecting Your Reputation and Credibility for Court (Jerry Buting)
- DNA Rapid Technology Allows Law Enforcement and Crime Labs to Partner on Solving Crime Faster (Thermo Fisher Scientific)
- Toxicology Tetris: Fitting Toxicology into the Forensic Investigation (Jolene Bierly)

PM HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

# Half-Day PM Workshops

2025 NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING, LANCASTER, PA

21 | OCTOBER
1:45PM - 5PM

- Full Spectrum Light Theory and ALS Techniques (Foster + Freeman)
- Mastering DNA Testimony: Preparing for the Courtroom (ExpertDNA Solutions - Maria Tsocanos and Jaime Rodrigues)
- Understanding Measurement Uncertainty for Forensic Scientists (NIST - Jack Prothero)

Subject to Change

# IS GASOLINE PRESENT?

## A NEAFS WORKSHOP

BRENDA CHRISTY

FULL DAY WORKSHOP 9 AM - 5 PM

# IS GASOLINE PRESENT? - USING A STATISTICALLY BASED METHOD TO GRAPHICALLY DISPLAY THE SUPPORT FOR GASOLINE IN AN UNKNOWN SAMPLE

The analytical process for identifying ignitable liquids is based on fundamental chemical properties; however, the current interpretation of these properties as chromatographic data relies on subjective pattern recognition techniques. The subjectivity of these pattern recognition techniques increases with the presence of complex matrix contribution. To make the fire debris interpretation process more standardized and objective, a novel method is proposed for analyzing fire debris Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) data using quantitative measures of chromatographic features of interest. These features are represented by peak height ratios observed in the Total Ion Chromatograph and Extracted Ion Profiles.

This workshop focuses on applying the results of a study which included the chromatographic features of interest in 150 gasoline samples and 64 chromatographic peak height ratios. Statistical analysis was conducted to determine the variation observed for each of these ratios in the gasoline samples and to determine the frequency of these features in negative matrix samples. This information was evaluated to determine relative significance, as represented by the assigned points for each of these features. When summed and used as plot values, these cumulative scores graphically display the totality of data supporting a potential gasoline identification. The graphical display, referred to as a sufficiency graph, also identifies the “gray” area where analysts are more likely to form differing opinions.

The methodologies introduced are a step toward a documentation process that ensures greater transparency in fire debris examinations and comparisons. The methods generate a quantitative sufficiency graph for consistent data interpretation and documentation.

Attendees at this workshop will gain an understanding of the study conducted to establish these statistical features and will be introduced to the processes of applying these to case samples. As much as possible, each attendee should bring a laptop computer with Microsoft Excel, Agilent Chemstation or other GC-MS data processing software, hardcopies and electronic datafiles from known gasoline samples acquired using existing laboratory methodologies, and electronic datafiles from samples containing gasoline and matrix mixtures.

**BRENDA CHRISTY - BIOGRAPHY**

OCT 21, 2025

"CAN BLOOD AND BALLISTICS TELL THE STORY?"

# BLOOD & FIREARM TRACES IN EVENT RECONSTRUCTION

RALPH R. RISTENBATT III

PETER A. PIZZOLA

ATTEND AT

NEAFS

**FULL DAY WORKSHOP** 9 AM - 5 PM

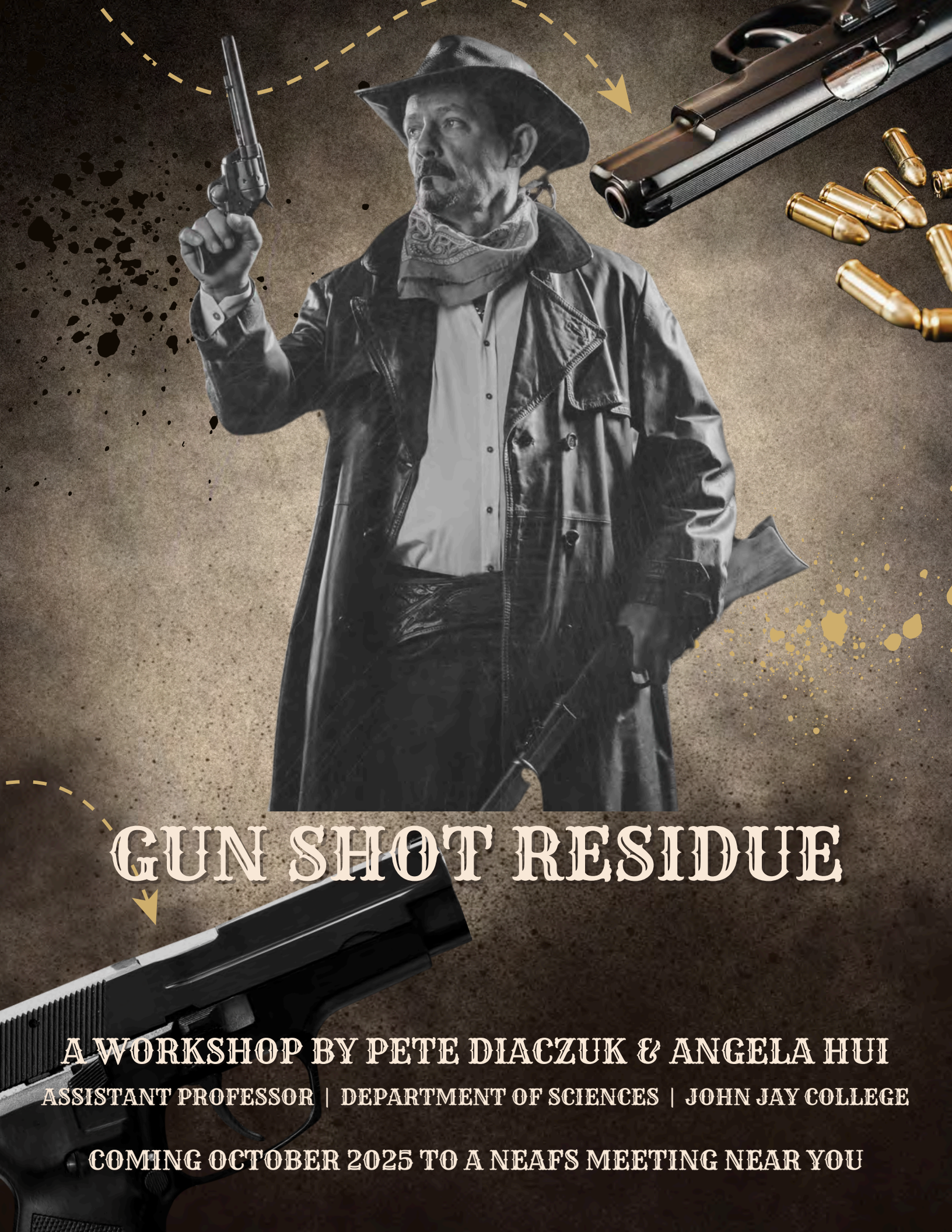
# BLOOD & FIREARM TRACES IN EVENT RECONSTRUCTION

THIS FULL-DAY WORKSHOP WILL INTRODUCE PARTICIPANTS TO BASIC CONCEPTS IN THE EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS OF BLOOD AND FIREARM TRACES. TERMINOLOGY, DEPOSITION MECHANISMS, AND THE UTILITY AND LIMITATIONS OF BLOOD DEPOSITS AND CONFIGURATIONS IN CASEWORK WILL BE DISCUSSED. PROJECTILE DEFECTS, PROJECTILE TRAJECTORIES, GUNSHOT RESIDUE PATTERNS, SHOTGUN PELLET PATTERNS, AND OTHER ASPECTS OF SHOOTING EVENTS WILL BE PRESENTED. INTEGRATION OF BLOOD AND FIREARM TRACES INTO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS WILL BE ALSO BE EXPLORED. THE INSTRUCTORS WILL UTILIZE A BLEND OF LECTURES, CASEWORK, EXERCISES, AND PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS TO FACILITATE CONCEPTS AND PROBLEM-SOLVING TECHNIQUES FOR PARTICIPANTS

**RALPH R. RISTENBATT III,** MS, CEO (JMR FORENSICS INC.), ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR (PENNSTATE)

**PETER A. PIZZOLA,** PHD, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR (PACE UNIVERSITY).

**BIOGRAPHIES**



# GUN SHOT RESIDUE

## A WORKSHOP BY PETE DIACZUK & ANGELA HUI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCES | JOHN JAY COLLEGE

COMING OCTOBER 2025 TO A NEAFS MEETING NEAR YOU

**FULL DAY WORKSHOP 9 AM - 5 PM**

# GUN SHOT RESIDUE

This full day workshop will focus on gunpowder residue patterns on garments. This can be very useful in determining the distance from the muzzle of the firearm to the target. Sometimes the winner of a gunfight will claim that the decedent was so close when the shot was fired that there was no choice but to shoot. Meanwhile (in this hypothetical), there appears to be no evidence of propellant on the garment, suggesting there was more distance between the two people than was claimed by victor.

There will be practical exercises interspersed among the lecture material during this workshop so attendees can experience first-hand how patterns are visualized and interpreted.

I. Miller & Son has generously agreed to loan microscopes for attendees to use.

## PETE DIACZUK & ANGELA HUI

## BIOGRAPHIES

A WORKSHOP BROUGHT TO YOU BY AGILENT

GC troubleshooting & Mass Spec Acquisition
Parameter Optimization, Source Cleaning Tips, and

# WHAT REALLY *happens when* YOU TUNE


ALEXIS WILLEY
**GCMS APPLICATIONS SCIENTIST**

KIRK LOKITS
**GCMS APPLICATIONS SCIENTIST**


## COMING SOON ON OCTOBER 21

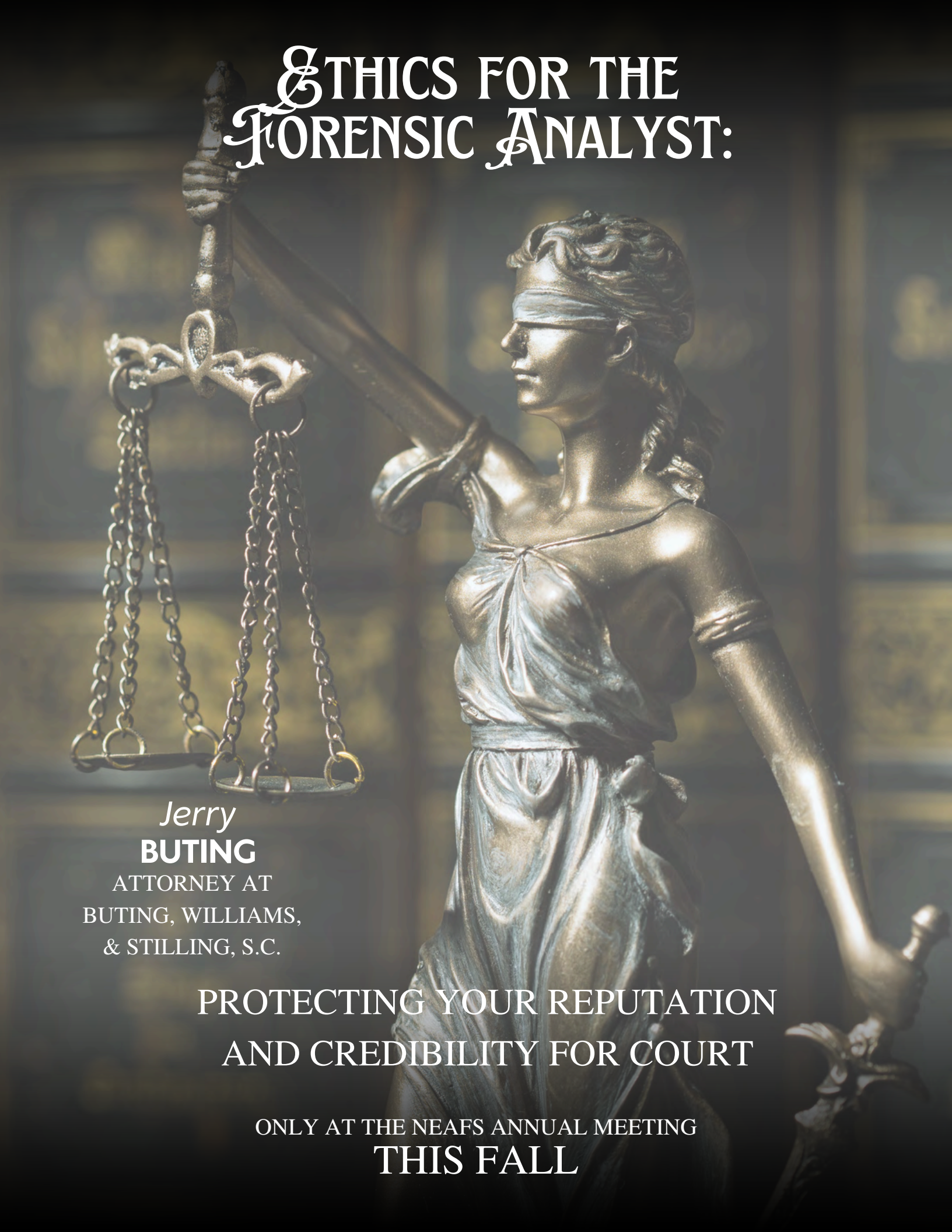
**FULL DAY WORKSHOP 9 AM - 5 PM**

# Fundamentals and Theories of GCMS Troubleshooting and Maintenance

The GCMS workshop will focus on the fundamental aspects of operational theory, troubleshooting, and maintenance of GC (Split/Splitless) inlets and MS EI sources. Column selection and inlet and flow path troubleshooting, and maintenance will be discussed. The workshop format will be PowerPoint based but will have hands on labs involving split/splitless inlet modules and MS EI sources. The MS workshop will also cover the fundamental aspects of MS operational theory, optimizing acquisition parameters for spectral fidelity and method stability. Attendees will have the opportunity to perform hands-on dis-assembly and reassembly of an EI source, discuss best practices for cleaning the source, and logical troubleshooting and maintenance of MS and vacuum system. An in-depth discussion of the tuning process and what's occurring during the tuning process will be presented. Initial plans are to have a standalone MS system in the room for discussion and troubleshooting tips. The amount of individual hands-on participation will depend on the size of the class.

**AGILENT**
**INSTRUCTORS BIOGRAPHIES**

# Ethics for the Forensic Analyst:



*Jerry*
**BUTING**
ATTORNEY AT
BUTING, WILLIAMS,
& STILLING, S.C.

## PROTECTING YOUR REPUTATION AND CREDIBILITY FOR COURT

ONLY AT THE NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING
THIS FALL

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS 9 AM - 12:15 PM

# Ethics for the Forensic Analyst:

## PROTECTING YOUR REPUTATION AND CREDIBILITY FOR COURT

A forensic analyst's reputation and credibility are as important over the course of a career as their scientific expertise. In any profession a damaged reputation is very difficult to repair, particularly if it concerns one's character and credibility for court. Analysts perform thousands of examinations on items submitted to them but never know which handful of cases will require courtroom testimony. Therefore, the analyst must assume that any test performed could end up in court and be prepared to confront and address ethical issues they encounter or observe so as not to damage their credibility in court and the scientific community. The workshop presenter, Jerome Buting, is a criminal defense attorney with more than 40 years of experience in many high-profile cases, including the Steven Avery case as depicted in the Netflix docuseries "Making a Murderer." He has lectured worldwide to the public, lawyers and forensic scientists about the criminal legal system, particularly the use of science in the courtroom.

This workshop will present ethical issues in forensic science that analysts may encounter, drawing from Attorney Buting's experience and perspective. It will feature real-world examples from the Steven Avery case and others, along with hypothetical scenarios that present serious ethical challenges—ones that could impact the administration of justice and potentially undermine the credibility of forensic analysts. Attendees will learn to avoid damage to their reputation and credibility by honestly confronting ethical problems as they arise, rather than having them exposed in court during trial or on post-conviction. Some of the hypothetical situations may allow more than one ethical response and these possible scenarios will be addressed and evaluated. The workshop will provide ample time for Q&A and small group discussions to explore various ways to address dilemmas that may be presented to an analyst or their supervisor.

## INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY


A WORKSHOP BY THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC

# DNA RAPID TECHNOLOGY

## ALLOWS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME LABS TO PARTNER ON SOLVING CRIME FASTER

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS 9 AM - 12:15 PM

# DNA RAPID TECHNOLOGY

## ALLOWS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME LABS TO PARTNER ON SOLVING CRIME FASTER

RAPID IS RAPIDLY CHANGING. OUR PRESENTATION WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE LATEST REGARDING RAPID TECHNOLOGY. FIRSTLY, WE WILL PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE FBI MULTILAB STUDY THAT COMPARES THE TWO AVAILABLE RAPID INSTRUMENTS BASED ON THE PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS FROM THIS STUDY. SECONDLY, WE WILL REVIEW THE NEW QAS STANDARDS AND THEIR IMPACT ON RAPID INVESTIGATIVE LEAD PROGRAMS. ADDITIONALLY, WE WILL DISCUSS THE DIFFERENCES IN CODIS V. NON-CODIS PROGRAMS INCLUDING WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR EACH TYPE OF PROGRAM. LASTLY, WE WILL HAVE CAROL MCCANDLESS FROM CUMBERLAND COUNTY WHO BRINGS THREE DECADES OF FORENSIC EXPERIENCE IN CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION DISCUSS THEIR USE OF INSTRUMENTS, HOW THEIR PROGRAM HAS EVOLVED, HIGH “HIT” SUCCESS RATES AND HOW THEY ENGAGE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT INCLUDING PARTNERSHIP WITH THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC AND LESSONS LEARNED.

INSTRUCTORS BIOGRAPHIES

# TOXICOLOGY TETRIS:

## FITTING TOXICOLOGY INTO THE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

A WORKSHOP BY JOLENE BIERLY,
ANDE GONZALEZ, GRAHAM HETRICK,
AND DAVE ANDRASCIK

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP 9 AM - 12:15 PM

# TOXICOLOGY TETRIS:

## FITTING TOXICOLOGY INTO THE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS ARE HIGHLY COMPLEX AND INTERCONNECTED, BRINGING MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES AND AGENCIES TOGETHER LIKE THE PIECES OF A PUZZLE. FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY WORKS IN COLLABORATION WITH ALL PARTIES TO PERFORM APPROPRIATE ANALYTICAL TESTING AND REPORT AND INTERPRET TEST RESULTS. HUMAN PERFORMANCE INVESTIGATIONS CONNECT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS, AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL IMPAIRMENT OR EXPOSURE. IN CONTRAST, DEATH INVESTIGATIONS CONNECT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, DEATH INVESTIGATORS, AND FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS TO ASCERTAIN CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH. RESULT INTERPRETATION DEPENDS LARGELY ON SCENE FINDINGS, BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS, MEDICAL RECORDS, AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS. OPEN COMMUNICATION IS VITAL TO ACCURATELY CONVEY TOXICOLOGICAL RESULTS, LIMITATIONS, AND OPINIONS IN THE COURTROOM.

THE ROLES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATOR, FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST, AND ATTORNEY WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED BY EXPERTS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS. ATTENDEES WILL LEARN WHAT INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS SUPPORT DRUG INTOXICATION, THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERPRETING TOXICOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN THE CONTEXT OF CASE HISTORY AND SCENE INVESTIGATION, AND HOW THESE CASES ARE HANDLED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

INSTRUCTORS BIOGRAPHIES

A WORKSHOP BY FOSTER & FREEMAN'S NATE WESTON

# BLACKOUT AT RELEAF:

SCENE DO NOT

A FORENSIC MURDER MYSTERY


AT NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 21

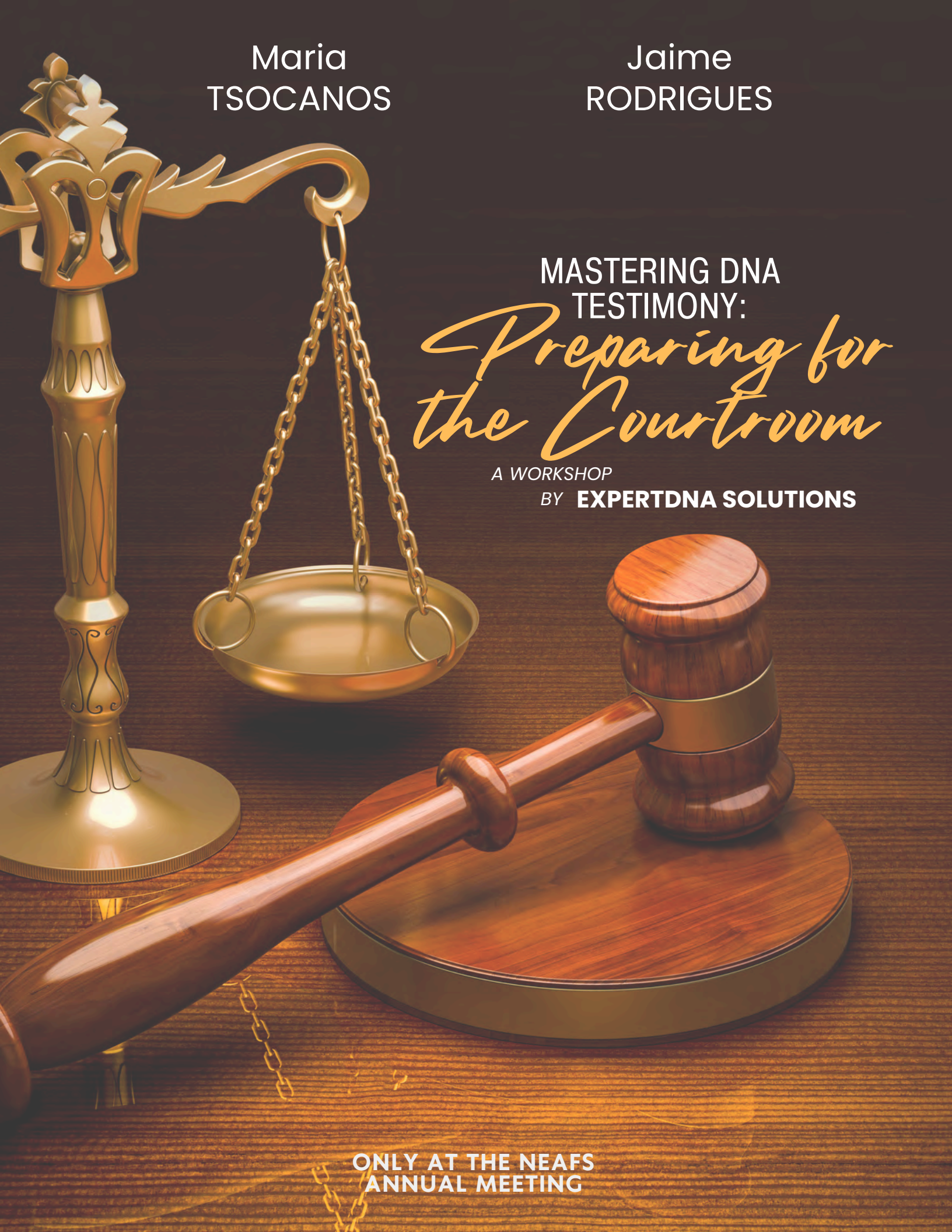
HALF-DAY WORKSHOP 1:45 PM - 5 PM

# FULL SPECTRUM LIGHT THEORY AND ALS TECHNIQUES

CRIME SCENES HOLD HIDDEN TRUTHS—BUT WITH THE RIGHT TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES, EVEN THE MOST CONCEALED EVIDENCE CAN BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT. THIS WORKSHOP BEGINS WITH AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF ADVANCED EVIDENCE DETECTION METHODS USING ULTRAVIOLET (UV), VISIBLE, AND INFRARED (IR) LIGHT. ATTENDEES WILL LEARN PRACTICAL APPROACHES FOR VISUALIZING BIOLOGICAL FLUIDS, LATENT FINGERPRINTS, GUNSHOT RESIDUE, BLOOD, AND TRACE EVIDENCE—EVEN ON CHALLENGING SURFACES. PARTICIPANTS WILL THEN TRANSITION INTO A COLLABORATIVE, SCENARIO-BASED CHALLENGE—WORKING TOGETHER TO PROCESS MOCK EVIDENCE, INTERPRET FINDINGS, AND RECONSTRUCT THE EVENTS LEADING TO A HOMICIDE. THE OBJECTIVE: IDENTIFY THE PERPETRATOR BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT. DESIGNED TO BE BOTH EDUCATIONAL AND ENGAGING FOR FORENSIC PROFESSIONALS, THIS SESSION BLENDS HANDS-ON APPLICATION WITH REAL-WORLD COMPLEXITY IN A FUN, FAST-PACED ENVIRONMENT.

NATE WESTON FOSTER & FREEMAN

BIOGRAPHY


Maria
TSOCANOS
Jaime
RODRIGUES
MASTERING DNA
TESTIMONY:
Preparing for
the Courtroom
A WORKSHOP
BY EXPERTDNA SOLUTIONS
ONLY AT THE NEAFS
ANNUAL MEETING

**HALF DAY WORKSHOP 1:45 PM - 5 PM**

# MASTERING DNA TESTIMONY: *Preparing for the Courtroom*

"MASTERING DNA TESTIMONY: PREPARING FOR THE COURTROOM" IS DESIGNED TO EQUIP DNA ANALYSTS WITH THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO DELIVER CLEAR, CONFIDENT, AND CREDIBLE TESTIMONY. PARTICIPANTS WILL GAIN A BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE SURROUNDING DNA EVIDENCE, WITH INSIGHTS INTO CURRENT TRENDS, ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY, AND KEY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PRESENTING SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS IN COURT. THE SESSION WILL COVER BEST PRACTICES FOR PREPARING TESTIMONY, COMMUNICATING SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS EFFECTIVELY TO JUDGES AND JURIES, AND COLLABORATING WITH LEGAL TEAMS. ANALYSTS WILL ALSO EXPLORE COMMON PITFALLS, CHALLENGES DURING TESTIMONY, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY UNDER PRESSURE. WHETHER TESTIFYING FOR THE PROSECUTION OR DEFENSE, THIS PRESENTATION WILL PROVIDE VALUABLE INSIGHTS TO ENSURE DNA ANALYSTS ARE PREPARED TO PRESENT THEIR FINDINGS WITH CONFIDENCE AND CLARITY IN THE COURTROOM.

Maria TSOCANOS

Jaime RODRIGUES

BIOGRAPHIES


# UNDERSTANDING MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

FOR FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

***A workshop presented by NEAFS***

Starring
Jack Prothero, PhD - NIST

**10.21.2025**

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP 1:45 PM - 5 PM

# UNDERSTANDING MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

FOR FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

LEARNING OVERVIEW/EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- COMPREHEND THE GENERAL IDEA OF MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE LARGER CONCEPTS OF EPISTEMIC AND ALEATORIC UNCERTAINTY
- IDENTIFY COMMONLY MISUSED TERMS LIKE UNCERTAINTY, ERROR, DOUBT, CONFIDENCE
- KNOW HOW ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY ARE RELATED TO MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY
- RECOGNIZE STATISTICAL DISTRIBUTIONS THAT ARE COMMON IN MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY DETERMINATIONS
- APPRECIATE THE INGREDIENTS AND IMPORTANCE OF A CONFIDENCE INTERVAL AND HOW IT IS USED TO COMMUNICATE MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY
- BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE KEY DOCUMENTS (E.G., GUM, ISO 17025, GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE NO. 11) THAT GOVERN TREATMENT OF MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY IN A FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY SETTING
- UNDERSTAND THE TYPE A AND TYPE B APPROACHES TO MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY DETERMINATIONS
- KNOW HOW TO HANDLE DISCRETE (I.E., COUNTED) AND CONTINUOUS (I.E., MEASURED) DATA
- KNOW HOW TO DEVELOP A MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY BUDGET WITH CALCULATIONS USING MULTIPLE VARIABLES WITH DIFFERENT MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY VALUES

IMPACT STATEMENT: PARTICIPANTS WILL GAIN THE ABILITY TO DETERMINE THE MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY FOR THEIR METHODS, CALCULATE CONFIDENCE INTERVALS, AND COMMUNICATE THE STRENGTH OF THEIR RESULTS. THIS EXPERTISE WILL LEAD TO A RANGE OF BENEFITS INCLUDING IMPROVED EXAMINATION METHODS, A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIMITS OF A METHOD, AND MORE TRUTHFUL REPORTING. FINALLY, OUR CUSTOMERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WILL ULTIMATELY GAIN AN APPRECIATION FOR HOW TO APPROPRIATELY USE OUR RESULTS.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THE WORKSHOP WILL COMBINE VISUAL AIDS, IN-CLASS EXERCISES, AND REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES FROM SEVERAL FORENSIC SCIENCE DISCIPLINES. PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO PERFORM CALCULATIONS, AND DEVELOP REPORTING LANGUAGE. DURING THE WORKSHOP, INFORMAL QUIZZES WILL ALLOW PARTICIPANTS TO ASSESS THEIR MASTERY OF THE MATERIAL AND IDENTIFY AREAS OF CONFUSION.

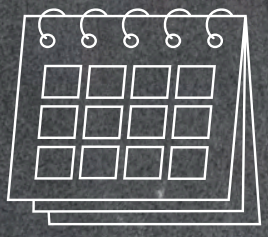
SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: FORENSIC SCIENCE EXAMINERS, TECHNICAL LEADERS, QUALITY MANAGERS

RECOMMENDED KNOWLEDGE LEVEL: BASIC TO INTERMEDIATE

SESSION FORMAT: INTERACTIVE LECTURE AND HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION

BIOGRAPHY

# EDUCATORS FORUM



**21 OCT,2025**

**6:00-8:00 PM**

- A fingerprint is found on a weapon. Gunshot residue is found on someone's hands.
    - What does this evidence mean? Who's fingerprint/DNA is it? Is the gunshot residue there because someone fired a gun, or because they were near someone else who fired a gun?

    - What do YOU know about the Hierarchy of Propositions?

- The Spector in the Shadows or the Guiding Light? AI and Education
    - Attend a presentation on examples of AI in the classroom

    - Bring your own examples, questions, fears and triumphs to share with other educators in the forum.


THINGS TO DO
NEAFS STUDENT FORUM
OCT 21, 2025
6-8 PM


THURSDAY

# OCTOBER 23RD

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR TEAM**

and then celebrate at the President's Reception!

# HELP SUPPORT THE

# Chin Cup Competition

- New Forensic Science Questions are Needed
- Help Keep the Competition Fresh
- With New and Up to Date Questions
- How Can You Help?
- Click & Submit Your Question & Answers
  Question with correct answer and 3 incorrect answers - please include source
- Please Feel Free to Submit More Than One


# 2025 NEAFS OUTREACH & COLLEGE FAIR

- HEAR THEIR STORIES.
- NETWORK WITH REAL SCIENTISTS.
- LEARN WHAT IT TAKES.
- ASK YOUR QUESTIONS.
- GET YOUR ANSWERS.
- COLLEGE FAIR TO FOLLOW.


See what some of last year's attendees had to say.

"My experience at NEAFS was a one of a kind experience. I thought all of the speakers seemed to love what they do and were excited to share their experiences." 11th grader, Middletown High School

"This conference enticed me to possibly further my education in forensics. One day I would like to be a forensic scientist. I hope my high school will continue to allow us as scholars to attend more things like this." 12th grader, Middletown High School

"Having the college booths that offered these degrees was helpful. We got to learn about the programs each school had. It was really exciting. I really enjoyed being able to talk to the forensic scientists." 12th grader, Middletown High School

"My students had a great time, and there is strong interest from them in coming back next year, even if that means traveling to Lancaster, PA. They only had positive feedback for all of the speakers. Some of the things they appreciated the most was the varied presentation styles, and that even though the subject matter didn't overlap, the general message was more or less the same from every expert." High School Science Teacher, NJ

October 24, 2025
9AM - 1PM

Email outreach@neafs.org with questions

# 2025 NEAFS OUTREACH & COLLEGE FAIR

Experts needed to present on their chosen field(s) with Q&A to follow.

Colleges and universities may participate and reserve a table to interact with students after the presentations.

**REGISTER COLLEGE**

Alanna Laureano
president@neafs.org

**VOLUNTEER AS AN EXPERT**

Scott Rubins
outreach@neafs.org

October 24, 2025
9AM - 1PM

Email outreach@neafs.org with questions

# 2ND ANNUAL
## OUTREACH AND COLLEGE FAIR
Friday 9am-1pm

FORENSICS UNLEASHED

NEAFS OUTREACH

**Attention NEAFS Members**

Please come join us and help make this a great event. Meet over 100 high school students. Share your expertise, your excitement and inspire the next generation of forensic scientists.

### Featured Speakers

**Joe Treviño**
Latent Prints/Crime Scene

**Krista Lundgren**
**Alanna Laureano**
Biology/DNA

**Peter Diaczuk**
Firearms/Ballistics

**Stephanie Minero**
Chemistry

**Alyssa Berthiaume**
Crim/Crime Scene

**Peter Valentin**
**Carol Ritter**
BPA

**Scott Rubins**
Moderator/Emcee

### Featured Colleges

ARCADIA UNIVERSITY
FORENSIC SCIENCE PROGRAM

BAY PATH UNIVERSITY

CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

LASELL UNIVERSITY

NJIT New Jersey Institute of Technology

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
FORENSIC & NATIONAL SECURITY SCIENCE INSTITUTE
The College of Arts and Sciences

TOWSON UNIVERSITY

University of New Haven
Forensic Science

# Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientist
# Membership Committee
# Colin Upton, Chair

**NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS TO BE VOTED ON AT 2025 ANNUAL MEETING***

| STATUS | FULL NAME | AFFILIATION |
|---|---|---|
| Regular | Luz Stevens | New York State Police |
| Regular | Dustin Abbott | New York State Police |
| Regular | Nicholas Laraia | NMS Labs |
| Regular | Heather Keith | DEA New England Laboratory |
| Regular | Sarah Kase | Pennsylvania State Police |
| Regular | Sean Ball | New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences |
| Regular | Leah Thomas | New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences |
| Regular | Therese Mayer | Westchester County Forensics Laboratory |
| Regular | Hannah Yarosz | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| Regular | Dr. Joshua DeBord | CFSRE |
| Associate | Sydney Thompson | Maine State Police Crime Lab |
| Student | Alyssa Rica | Cedar Crest College |
| Student | Tabitha Hammond | Cedar Crest College |
| Student | Taylor Walther | Syracuse University |
| Student | Kevin Early | Syracuse University |
| Student | Allison Martinez | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| Student | Layla Cesar | St. Thomas Aquinas College |
| Student | Anu Khandelwal | Rutgers University, Camden |

**REINSTATEMENTS TO BE VOTED ON AT 2025 ANNUAL MEETING ***

| STATUS | FULL NAME | AFFILIATION |
|---|---|---|
| Regular | Kelsey Medeiros | Drug Enforcement Administration |

**UPGRADES TO BE VOTED ON AT 2025 ANNUAL MEETING ***

| UPGRADE TO | FULL NAME | AFFILIATION |
|---|---|---|
| Regular | Cameron Filipe | Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab |

**MEMBERS TO BE DROPPED***

As of September 25, 2025, the members listed below still have not paid their 2025 NEAFS Dues.

We recently learned that some dues reminder emails (sent from dues@neafs.org) were blocked by employer email systems. If this applies to you, please contact your agency's IT department to request that dues@neafs.org be unblocked. You may also email us at membership@neafs.org so we can add an alternate email address to your account.

If you know someone listed below, please consider reaching out to them to let them know their dues remain unpaid.

Please note that appearing on this list does **not** mean your membership has lapsed**.** Online payments are still being accepted at www.neafs.org/membership until October 10, 2025. After that date, the list of unpaid members will be sent to the Board of Directors, and any discontinuations will be voted on and formalized at this year's meeting.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact us at membership@neafs.org and we will be glad to assist you.

| MEMBER # | FULL NAME | AFFILIATION |
|---|---|---|
| 235 | Karen Ziccardi | |
| 1930 | Laura Cannon | |
| 2078 | Jessica Enos | Arcadia University |
| 2169 | Sarah McCollum | Bay Path University |
| 2044 | Megan Foley | CFSRE |
| 2066 | Qing Zhu | Division of Scientific Services, CT |
| 2121 | Kara Kovach | Erie County Central Police Services |
| 2195 | Christy Girard | Greenwich Police |
| 410 | Francis Sheehan | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| 2137 | Perla Torres | Maine DHHS-CDC |
| 1720 | Alanna Frederick | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1681 | Andrea Margareci | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 2056 | Betsy Rabel | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1628 | Christina Owen | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1431 | Christine Lemire | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1827 | Christine Ordyna | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1680 | Elizabeth Duval | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 2193 | Elsbeth Murata | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 2200 | Gabriella Ruocco | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1981 | Jennifer Cravo | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1471 | Jessica Brown | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 2161 | Karla Velázquez | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1438 | Laura Bryant | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1928 | Laurie L. Murphy | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 2055 | Madeline Richardson | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1982 | Matthew Amann | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1873 | Michelle Levasseur | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 2080 | Miranda Shaine | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1919 | Monique A. Oles | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 2199 | Oshane Gayle | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1780 | Rebecca Pontes | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1199 | Sharon Convery | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1445 | Stefany Harman | Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory |
| 1987 | Rebecca Boyea | Michigan State University Department of Chemistry |
| 1660 | Jack Hietpas | Microtrace |
| 1864 | Andrew J. Winter | Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office |
| 1794 | Anthula Vandoros | New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center |
| 2048 | Brittany Antonucci | New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center |
| 2065 | Erik Onessimo | New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center |
| 2143 | Arul Veerappan | New York University School of Medicine |
| 1666 | Bridget Verdino | NJ State Police office of Forensic Sciences |
| 2086 | Jessica Isnardi | NJ State Police office of Forensic Sciences |
| 919 | Joseph Messana | NJ State Police office of Forensic Sciences |
| 1852 | Melissa A. Johns | NJ State Police office of Forensic Sciences |
| 1455 | Stacey Allen | NJ State Police office of Forensic Sciences |
| 851 | Maribel Sansone | NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner |
| 2183 | Michael McCasland | NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner |
| 1885 | Patrick D. Carney | NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner |
| 2025 | Season Seferyn | Onondaga County center of Forensic Sciences |
| 2127 | Rachel Alibozek | Rhode Island Department of Health |
| 1752 | Shawna Bradshaw | Rhode Island Department of Health |
| 2194 | Qhawe Bhembe | Rutgers University - Camden (Department of Chemistry) |
| 1960 | Chloé Kumpel | SNA International |
| 2043 | Ashley Mascaro | Suffolk County Crime Laboratory |
| 2114 | Elise McInnis | Syracuse University (Student) |
| 1229 | Robert Helman | U.S. Customs Service Laboratory |
| 935 | Cheryl Kestlinger | Union County Forensic Laboratory |
| 2119 | Grace Cheong | United States Customs and Border Protection |
| 1915 | Rabi Ann Musah | University of Albany - SUNY |
| 1958 | Alyssa Marsico | University of New Haven |
| 1697 | Jason Kochis | University of New Haven |
| 1716 | Joann Lami (wolwowicz) | University of New Haven |
| 2133 | Lucie Cusack | University of New Haven |
| 1493 | Maria L. Torre | University of New Haven |
| 1450 | Timothy Starn | West Chester University of PA |
| 1763 | Bryn Jones | York County Sheriff’s Office Forensic Laboratory Services |

***subject to change**

A Message from

SWGDRUG

Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs

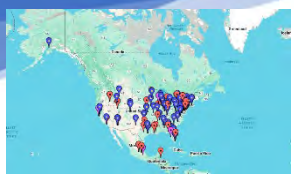
A 60-day public comment period for the revision to the SWGDRUG Recommendations, addition of Part IIIE – Methods of Analysis/Stop Testing Procedures and Negative/Indicative Results, is open until November 3, 2025.

To view, click link below.

https://www.swgdrug.org/pending.htm

# ASCLD

# FORENSIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE



NORTH AMERICAN PARTNERS

GLOBAL PARTNERS
Armenia, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the USA.

## LABORATORIES AND EDUCATORS ALLIANCE PROGRAM (LEAP)

LEAP facilitates collaborative research between forensic science laboratories, academia, and industry partners by providing a platform for laboratories, researchers, and students to seek projects aligning with their mutual research interests and capabilities.

169 LEAP partners worldwide willing to collaborate on forensic science research, development, testing & evaluation
*(as of September 2025)*

LEAP
Bridging the gap

Click or scan to see a short video to learn more about LEAP.

LEAP Sign Up Form

**108 UNIVERSITIES ←→ 54 LABORATORIES ←→ 7 INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

## FRC COLLABORATION HUB

The hub hosts the Researcher-Practitioner Collaboration Directory. This is the palce for you whether you are a researcher looking for practitioners to participate in your study or if you are a practitioner looking to become involved in research opportunities. Click or scan to view current projects or use the button to submit your research to

PROJECT FORM

### FRC INITIATIVES SUPPORT AND ENABLE

- Research Projects
- Information Sharing
- Research Collaborations
- Evaluations/Validations
- Future forensic capabilities
- Professional Development

## FRC INFORMATION SHARING INITIATIVES

### VALIDATION & EVALUATION REPOSITORY

Are you conducting an evaluation or a validation?

Click or scan to search the 60+ evaluations and validations in the repository, freely available to use for your reference and build on the work of your colleagues – after completion – don't forget to add your own!

### LIGHTNING TALKS

Follow new and emerging research in all areas of forensic science.

Click or scan to see previous episodes featuring short talks from practitioners, researchers, and/or students engaged in innovative forensic science research.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORAOTRY DIRECTORS
FORENSIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**SIGN-UP TO PARTICIPATE!**

HTTPS://WWW.ASCLD.ORG/FORENSIC-RESEARCH-COMMITTEE

# Call For MENTORS

NEAFS's mission has always been to exchange ideas and information within the field of Forensic Science, to promote recognition of Forensic Science as an important component of the criminal justice system, and to stimulate increased implementation of existing techniques, along with research and development of new techniques within the field.


**BECOME A MENTOR**

**MORE INFO**

NEAFS would like to call on their members to help maintain and enhance the quality of forensic science education through mentoring. It is through mentoring that we can encourage a strong interest in the science fields among college and high school students alike. Mentoring helps develop leadership skills such as public speaking, communication, and teamwork.

In addition, individuals new to the field of Forensic Science can be mentored to advise them on professional development and counsel them on career opportunities. In this way, NEAFS members can use their knowledge and experience to mentor young professionals and foster friendships and cooperation among laboratory personnel.

Opportunities for mentoring can include providing lectures to students, interacting with newer forensic scientists, having meaningful interactions and discussions with students (ie employment requirements, discussion of daily tasks and duties, college preparation and course selection), or research and project development.

https://form.123formbuilder.com/6773464/mentor-form

# Need A MENTOR

NEAFS's mission has always been to exchange ideas and information within the field of Forensic Science, to promote recognition of Forensic Science as an important component of the criminal justice system, and to stimulate increased implementation of existing techniques, along with research and development of new techniques within the field.


**FIND A MENTOR**

**MORE INFO**

If you are interested in being partnered with a more seasoned colleague who can advise you in your career progression, help you network, guide you learning new skills please click on find a mentor to get connect. If you are a student that needs to interview a forensic scientist, needs help with or review of a project please click on find a mentor. NEAFS will make every effort to answer requests but there is no guarantee of availability.

https://form.123formbuilder.com/6777712/request-for-mentor-form

# VOLUNTEER

## Corporate Liaison Committee

NEAFS is looking for committee members to join our 2025 Corporate Liaison.

Duties may include

- updating the annual Exhibitor's Prospectus
- generating eye catching email blasts
- maintaining the finances of Exhibitor Booths and Sponsorships
- assisting with the leads retrieval program
- various on-site tasks during the Annual Meeting

If you are interested please reach out to the Corporate Liaison Team at exhibits@neafs.org for more information!

NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

# Certification Reimbursement

The NEAFS Board of Directors has voted to reimburse exam sitting fees for five NEAFS members (regular or associate) in good standing who pass the ABC, IAI, ABFT or the NFSA Certified Forensic Manager Series exam. This offer is for any exam completed during the current year. After passing the examination, please fill out the Certification Reimbursement Form (https://www.neafs.org/certification). The reimbursement is based on a first come first served basis. Remember you must pass the ABC, IAI, ABFT or NFSA Certified Forensic Manager Series exam to be considered for reimbursement.

For more information about the examination sitting, please contact...

The Certification Chair at certification@neafs.org

For more information about certification with the ABC, please visit...

American Board of Criminalistics
http://www.criminalistics.com

For more information about certification with the IAI, please visit...

The International Association for Identification
https://www.theiai.org/certifications.php

For more information about certification with the ABFT, please visit...

The American Board of Forensic Toxicology
https://www.abft.org/certification/

For more information about certification with the NFSA, please visit...

The National Forensic Science Academy
https://thenfsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/CFM-Certification-FAQ.pdf


# NEAFS
MERCHANDISE

CHOOSE BETWEEN
# EMBROIDERY
AND
# SCREEN PRINTING

CHOOSE YOUR LOGO STYLE (ADDITIONAL LOGOS AVAILABLE)

**Proceeds go to the Carol De Forest Research Grant Fund**

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**YOUR OFFICE**

**YOUR HOME**

**YOURSELF**

Embroidery
https://neafs.qbstores.com/

Screen Printing
https://www.cafepress.com/neafs

>>> NOW ACTIVE <<<

# SCIENCE DIRECT SUBSCRIPTION


## INFORMATION

>>> READ MORE

Our organizational subscription to Science Direct is now active, and we are thrilled to announce that all members may now submit a request to receive their login credentials. The subscription covers almost 800 scientific journals (list attached) in the Physical Sciences category – one which we felt covered as much of the diverse and technical disciplines within our organization as possible while also maintaining a financially responsible commitment.

## HOW TO ACCESS

READ MORE <<<

In order to request your credentials, you must log in to the Member Area of the NEAFS website by navigating to www.neafs.org and selecting “Member Area” under the “Membership” header on the main page. There you will be prompted to enter your name, preferred e-mail address, and member number. In return, you will receive an e-mail from a member of our board and staff with your registration ID and password. Instructions on how to activate will be attached to the email.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

>>> READ MORE

By requesting your Science Direct credentials, you agree to the following terms and conditions listed on the NEAFS website. All of this information will also be hosted on the Member Area of the website for future reference along with a listing of journals that can be accessed with the subscription. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Minero (presidentelect@neafs.org).

THE

# NORTHEASTERN & MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATIONS OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

INVITE YOU TO THE

# 2026 JOINT MEETING

Kalahari®

RESORTS & CONVENTIONS

POCONO MOUNTAINS, PA

# OCTOBER 5TH–9TH

WWW.NEAFS.ORG WWW.MAAFS.ORG

# NEAFS has partnered with

## SPEAKHIRE

*Developing Tomorrow's Leaders*

SPEAKHIRE develops the social and cultural capital of individuals from immigrant families to become leaders in the workforce.

**Spanish-speaking Champions needed**

# Become a Champion

SPEAKHIRE ensures diverse individuals get a fair chance of pursuing colleges and careers of their choice. We envision a future workforce with more professionals of color of all backgrounds in positions of power across a variety of careers.

If you're looking for an opportunity to empower the next generation of leaders, join SPEAKHIRE as a Career Pathways Champion. Deliver a Seminar about a career skill, coach a young person through the Foundational Year, or share your school to career pathway through Pathways Days or SPEAKHIRE Series. As a Champion, you help young people explore careers and learn early career skills, supporting them as they pursue a career pathway, preparing them for future careers, and empowering them toward life success.

LEARN MORE AT HTTPS://WWW.NEAFS.ORG/SPEAKHIRE

NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

# TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD
JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st
OF THE CURRENT YEAR

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists(NEAFS) is proud to offer its members a Training Scholarship Fund (TSF). Members in good standing are eligible to receive up to $400 towards training, workshop or non-NEAFS meeting registration and travel expenses. Individuals will only be allowed reimbursement once per application period. Any NEAFS Annual Meeting expenses are ineligible to receive funding. Reimbursement will occur upon receipt of a certificate showing successful attendance and completion of the course along with an article summarizing the course for the NEAFS newsletter.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit a Pre-Approval Application prior to attending the training for which they wish to obtain funding. For additional instructions, requirements and forms visit the NEAFS website.

https://www.neafs.org/trainingscholarshipfund

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

## National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB) Annual Conference
## University of New Haven
## Oct 20-21, 2025

We're pleased to introduce the National Association of Forensic Science Boards (NAFSB) — www.nafsb.org. Our mission is to foster the exchange of best practices, research, data, and expertise among state-level forensic science boards and commissions that guide the forensic science community nationwide.

We're excited to announce our upcoming conference, taking place October 20–21, 2025, in New Haven, Connecticut. We invite the NEAFS board and members to join us, along with the general public, for two days of meaningful dialogue on the future of forensic science. We have a stellar line-up of topics and experts from the forensic science and justice community.

Registration fee is $200.00 for non-members

Registration: NASFB 2025 Conference — National Association of Forensic Science Boards

Agenda: 2025 Conference Agenda — National Association of Forensic Science Boards

We look forward to welcoming you to New Haven this October.

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

# Expert Witness Testimony Center & Crime Scene Laboratory
## Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA


## Reconstructing Scenes Involving Bloodshed 1-Day Training
(Wed, Oct 29, 2025, 9am – 4pm, No Cost!)

The best approach to understanding events that did or did not occur at a scene involving bloodshed is to process every scene with a bottom-up mindset rather than a top-down approach where only one theory is pursued (e.g. a particular weapon was used, events occurred a certain way, scene is a suicide, etc.). In other words, initial focus should be on proper documentation, collection, being open-minded to multiple theories, and eventually allowing evidence to test the theories to determine the best explanation of events. To ensure we provide our best for every case, it is essential that all involved from the initial scene processing through to the courtroom understand what is needed by each person in the entire investigation process to best perform their task. For example, when those involved in initially processing scenes have an understanding of what, when, and how information is used by bloodstain pattern analysts, more information regarding the reconstruction of events during bloodshed is often possible.

This 1-day workshop will provide attendees with information on best practices for responding/ processing/ investigating scenes involving blood and what/how information is utilized by bloodstain pattern analysts to reconstruct bloodshedding scenes. Attendees will gain an understanding of the what, who, when, and how of bloodstain pattern analysis (BPA), the assumptions and limitations of BPA, and receive introductory training in BPA to better understand what to collect at scenes/when to contact a bloodstain pattern expert. Multiple case studies (homicides, suicides, staged scenes, etc.) will be examined from the perspective of initial processing/investigation through to the resulting bloodstain pattern reconstruction. Attorneys will benefit from this training as they will gain a better understanding of the best practice methodology used by bloodstain pattern analysts, how bloodstain patterns are used to understand bloodshedding events, and the limitations that can occur when reconstructing bloodshedding scenes.

***Who Should Attend:*** Law Enforcement (all ranks), Coroners/Medical Examiners, Attorneys, Death Investigators, Forensic Pathologists, Forensic Nurses, EMTs, Corrections Officers, Forensic Scientists
***Where***: Expert Witness Testimony Center & Crime Scene Lab
Cedar Crest College, Curtis Hall, 100 College Drive, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 18104
***FEE***: There is no charge for this workshop!
***CEU Approval:*** Currently seeking CEU approval from various certifying bodies.
***Registration Process***: Email Dr. Joseph Cordoma, EWTC & CSL Manager
Joseph.Cordoma@cedarcrest.edu
***Lodging***: Holiday Inn Allentown – Bethlehem by IHG, 4325 Hamilton Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103
866-994-7255
***Course Agenda (Wed, Oct 29, 2025):***

| | |
|---|---|
| 9am – 11:30am | Reconstructing Scenes Involving Bloodshed |
| 11:30am – 12:30pm | *Lunch Break* |
| 12:30pm – 2pm | Processing/Investigating Scenes Involving Bloodshed |
| 2pm – 4pm | Bloodstain Pattern Reconstruction Case Studies |

# Expert Witness Testimony Center & Crime Scene Laboratory
## Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA

***Course Objectives:***

1. Understand what bloodstain pattern analysis is and how it is used.
2. Understand assumptions and limitations of reconstructing scenes involving bloodshed.
3. Receive introductory bloodstain pattern training to better understand when to contact a BPA practitioner.
4. Understand best practices (order of obtained information) of a BPA practitioner to mitigate bias when reconstructing scenes.
5. Understand how autopsy, crime laboratory, and investigator reports are utilized by BPA practitioners.
6. Recognize that early investigation theories can limit bloodstain pattern reconstruction.
7. Learn ways to mitigate early investigation theory bias.
8. Receive recommendations for best practices for both LE and coroners/medical examiners when processing bloodshedding scenes resulting in less reconstruction limitations.
9. Recognize that additional experts (e.g. forensic engineers) may be needed to better understand bloodshedding events.

***Instructor Bio:***

Carol J. Ritter, M.S., ABC-GKE
Senior Instructor, Cedar Crest College, Department of Forensic Science & Justice Studies
Assistant Director, Expert Witness Testimony Center & Crime Scene Laboratory
Forensic Consultant, Ritter Forensic Consulting

Carol Ritter began her career in 1997 as a forensic scientist with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Crime Laboratory, where she analyzed controlled drug substances, burglary, sexual assault, and homicide cases and utilized bloodstain patterns to reconstruct crime scenes both on scene and from photographs. She is certified by the American Board of Criminalistics, a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and court qualified greater than 50 times at both the state and federal levels in areas of bloodstain pattern reconstruction, drug analysis, body fluid identification, and hair identification. She also served for 4 years as the technical coordinator for the PSP lab serology section, where she annually audited 6 state labs, trained new forensic scientists, and provided training to local and state law enforcement agencies in evidence collection and bloodstain pattern reconstruction. In 2017, she retired with 20 years of service to PSP and joined Cedar Crest College where she currently mentors research students and teaches undergraduate and graduate forensic science courses/laboratories in forensic pattern analysis, crime scene reconstruction, and DNA analysis. Ms. Ritter's research focuses on forensic pattern analysis including bloodstain patterns, firearm related patterns, as well as DNA analysis.

In 2020, Ms. Ritter established a consulting practice where she currently analyzes cases nationwide involving bloodshed for the purposes of crime scene reconstruction.

Contact the course instructor (cjritter@cedarcrest.edu) with any course-related questions.

## AFQAM Cooperative Training Program

The AFQAM Executive Board is pleased to announce the release of the AFQAM Cooperative Training Program! This training program is designed for those new to forensic quality assurance and will provide a key steppingstone to achieving success in the position and with the responsibilities. The training program was developed by experienced forensic quality assurance experts and is broken up into courses that focus on key topics in quality assurance. The first two courses available are 'Introduction to ISO' and 'Accreditation – What Is It Good For?'.

The AFQAM Cooperative Training Program is open to everyone, and you do not need to be an AFQAM member to participate. Each course can be purchased individually, and a certificate of completion will be given to the student at the successful completion of the course. The interactive training will keep you engaged, motivated, and eager to learn as you progress through the course.

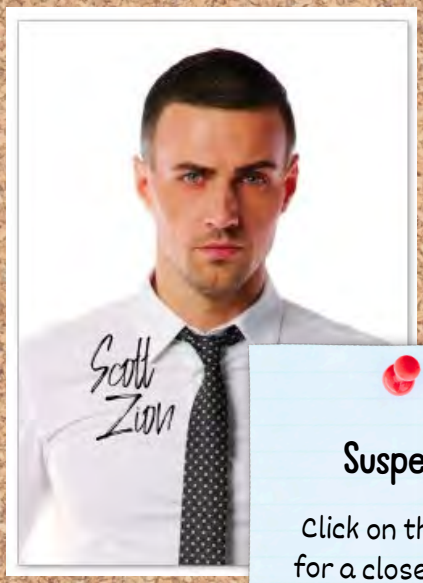
This training program is ideal for those new to quality assurance or interested in quality assurance such as new Quality Manager's, Technical Leader's, new hires, or other roles that assist with quality assurance in the laboratory. Whether you are simply seeking to learn more about what the job entails, or seeking tools to help you succeed in your job, this is for you!

To review the available courses and register please follow this link: https://afqam.org/cooperative/. Additional courses will be released in the near future. For questions, please email contact@afqam.org.

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES


CLICK HERE

FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

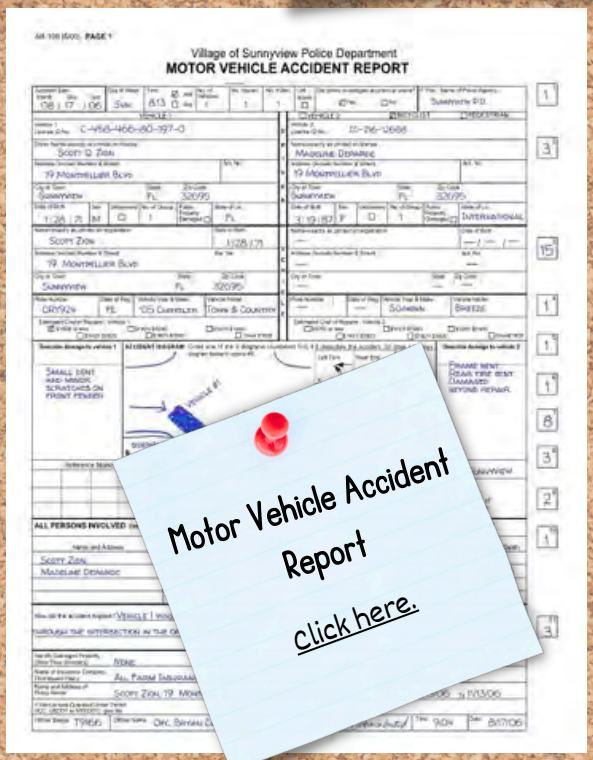



## Suspect

Click on the image for a close up view.

## Victim

Click on the image for a close up view.


Village of Sunnyview Police Department
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORT

## Motor Vehicle Accident Report

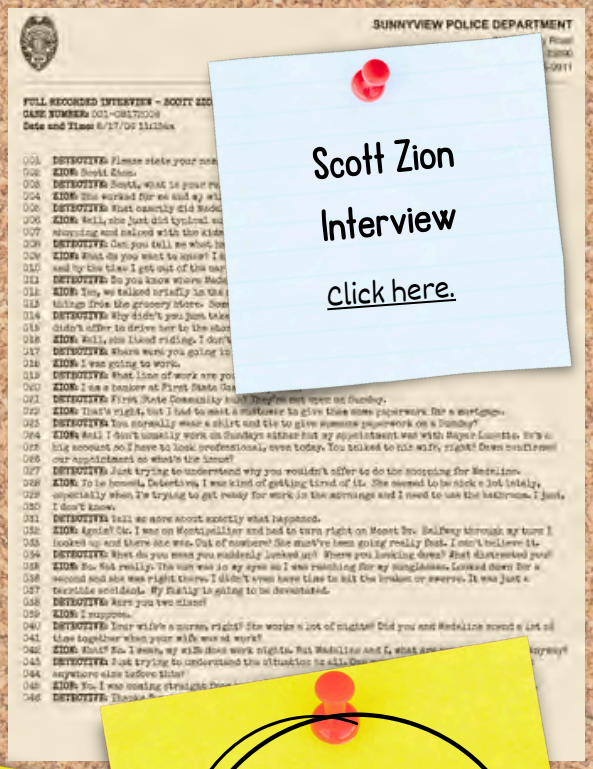
Click here.


Prosecutors Planning to Drop Vehicular Manslaughter Case Against Sunnyview Man

By Mark Solell
*Sunnyview Press Staff Writer*

## Newspaper Article

Click here.


SUNNYVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Scott Zion Interview

Click here.

VICTIM: Madeline Deparde
Case #001-08262006

Au pair, 19 year-old Madeline Deparde, died following a crash with her bicycle on August 17th.

Prosecutors Plan to Drop Vehicular Manslaughter Case Against Scott Zion.

Your job is to prove that Scott lied and Madeline's death was not an accident.

Like This Case? you can purchase more involved cases at https://www.unsolvedcasefiles.com/

Want to see if you solved the case? Visit https://www.unsolvedcasefiles.com/madeline-1.html

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