



PNWD-IAI

The Examiner

From the desk of PNWD-IAI's President Megan Anderson 2018-2019

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who attended the first Western States Joint Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The success of this huge undertaking between the PNWD, the California State Division, the Rocky Mountain Division, and the Tri-Division, was only possible thanks to participation from our wonderful membership, our well-versed speakers and presenters, our supportive vendors, and our hard-working board of directors. Over 400 attendees participated in the Joint conference, with the PNWD showing the second highest division representation. The presentations and workshops were well-received, many of which required a game of musical chairs (overflow seating). Even those members who explored Vegas till the wee hours or snuck into the Billiard and Darts competitions, eventually returned to the sound of enticing stories on The JFK Assassination, Jeffery Dahmer and the Golden State Killer. The workshops and presentations covered a wealth of subjects to include latent and 10-print topics, chemical enhancement of bloodstains, bullet impact examination, and forensic technology for scene documentation. The opportunity to learn from and network with fellow forensic personnel from other divisions was invaluable, providing insight into new trainers and classes for future PNWD conferences.

During the 2017 conference in Bend, the seed was planted to pursue a joint conference with the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists (NWAFS) in 2019. This is a great opportunity to work jointly with a division located in our own region, a division of which some of you may already be members. For those not familiar with the NWAFS, please feel free to explore their website at: <http://nwafs.org/>. While the PNWD conferences are typically held in the spring/early summer, the NWAFS conferences usually occur in the fall. As a compromise, we are meeting in the middle for 2019. The joint PNWD-IAI / NWAFS Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon August 26-30th, 2019. We have chosen a lovely destination hotel right on the Columbia River, surrounded by boat docks, scenic mountain vistas, and river views. There are many amenities at this location, both on-site and within walking distance. The weather should be perfect in August, so come join us for some fun in the sun along the water. Please see the 'Save the Date' flyer included in this newsletter for more details.

Over the next year, the PNWD Board hopes to improve communication with our membership by enriching the substance of our website and increasing the content value of our newsletter; to invest in technology that will help reduce future conference costs; and to prepare for E-voting. As a member, your opinion is truly valued. Any thoughts, ideas, or feedback you have that could help better our organization is appreciated and encouraged. Please share your ideas with any member of the board, or submit them online at: <http://www.pnwdiai.org/contact/>.

It is a true honor to represent the PNWD in 2018-2019. I look forward to meeting and/or hearing from each and every one of you.

Regards,

Megan B. Anderson



Western States Joint Conference
April 30 - May 4, 2018
Westgate Hotel Resort and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada



Above: Attendees of the Western States joint Conference



Above and Right: Conference Attendees at two great Workshops

Introducing our 2018/2019 Board Of Directors

Megan Anderson (Washington County Sheriff's Office)	President
Cheri Mahar (King County Regional AFIS)	Past President
Heather VanDeGrift (Seattle Police Department)	1 st Vice President
Nikki Wagar (Washington County Sheriff's Office)	2 nd Vice President
Lisa Haakenstad (Seattle Police Department)	Secretary
Theresa Kemmerer (Washington State Patrol)	Treasurer
Jeremy Phillips (Washington State Patrol)	Sergeant-at-Arms
George Abed (Seattle Police Department)	Board Member
Walker Berg (Portland Police Bureau)	Board Member
Nicolas Craven (Idaho State Police)	Board Member
Angela Hilliard (Washington State Patrol)	Board Member
Alexandra Matt (Seattle Police Department)	Board Member
Jeff Morris (Portland Police Bureau)	Board Member

Welcome New PNWD-IAI Board Members 2018 - 2019



Nicolas Craven is a Forensic Scientist with the Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) in the Latent Print Unit where he has been employed since December of 2014. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and Spanish & Portuguese Studies from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Science degree in Forensic Science from the University of Florida. He is a Fellow to the American Board of Criminalistics in Comprehensive Criminalistics. He was a Regional Vice President (Idaho) to the Pacific Northwest Division of the International Association for Identification from 2016-2018. Nicolas processes evidence for latent prints, performs latent print comparisons, and responds to crime scenes throughout the state of Idaho. Prior to starting his career in forensic science, Nicolas served six years in the United States Air Force deploying three times; Iraq, Afghanistan, and Qatar.



Angela Hilliard is a Forensic Scientist 3, Latent Print Examiner with the Washington State Patrol in Olympia. She has been employed with the WSP since March of 2016. Angela's previous forensic experience includes both a Forensic Specialist and Latent Print Examiner with the Glendale Police Department in Southern California, an Adjunct Professor at Glendale Community College, and a Fingerprint Specialist for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in San Francisco. She obtained her Master's Degree in Forensic Science from National University and her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Washington State University. Throughout her 12 year career, she has investigated crimes such as burglary, robbery, arson, traffic collisions, suspicious deaths and homicides. She is a court qualified friction ridge impression and crime scene expert. Angela is a Certified Latent Print Examiner through the International Association for Identification. In her free time Angela spends as much of her time as she can exploring the great outdoors through kayaking, biking, hiking, and snowshoeing.



Alexandra Matt is a Latent Print Examiner with the Seattle Police Department and has been employed with the department since 2016. She is currently in the process of becoming certified as both a Latent Print Examiner and a Crime Scene Investigator. Alexandra graduated from Washington State University with a B.S. in Biology. In her spare time, Alexandra loves to volunteer, travel, and enjoys spending time outdoors. When you can't find her at her desk, Alexandra is likely to have snuck away to go pet one of the K9s.



George Abed has worked for the Seattle Police Department for 20 years. Since 2014, he has been a detective with the Seattle Police Department Crime Scene Investigations Unit. He is an IAI certified Crime Scene Analyst. Outside of work he enjoys amateur photography and traveling with his family.



Save the Date!!

August 26-30, 2019

PNWD-IAI & NWAFS

Joint Conference

Red Lion Hotel on the River

Portland, Oregon

Breathtaking river views greet you upon arrival at Red Lion Hotel on the River – Jantzen Beach. This Portland hotel provides comfortable accommodations in a rustic setting along the Columbia River just outside downtown. The hotel features the Jantzen Beach Bar & Grill, JB's Night Club, a tennis court, a crystal clear pool, a well-equipped fitness center, and much, much more.

Check out the website at:

<https://www.redlion.com/jantzen-beach>

Hope to see you there!



Beautiful cond. 70K orig.
mi. \$10,500. More in stock!

WANTED:

**SPEAKERS, PRESENTERS, and
WORKSHOP SUGGESTIONS for
the 2019 PNWDIAI and NWAFS
Joint Conference**

Contact:

**Nikki Wagar & Alexandra Matt
(email: speakers@pnwdiai.org)
with the following info:**

- A. Synopsis of presentation**
- B. Length of presentation**
- C. Any A/V needs**
- D. Speaker contact name,
phone#, email**

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A special thanks to...

Cheri Mahar (2017-2018 Division President) and last year's Board Members for their dedication and commitment to make the 2018 Western States Joint Conference in Las Vegas a great success! Your work behind the scenes is the driving force of this organization and we wish you the best in the year to come.

For our retiring board members, Tom Jones (2016-2017 Division President), Lisa Pope (Board Member), Melissa Whipple (Board Member), and Cindy Fangour (Board Member), your enthusiastic personalities and commitment to this organization will be sorely missed.

The PNWDIAI is forever in your debt!

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Pacific Northwest Division of the International Association for Identification's Board of Directors has established an Outstanding Achievement Award to present to an individual who has been an active member for a minimum 2-years.

The award will go to the nominee who, in the Board's opinion and judgment, has made a significant and valuable contribution in the area of Forensic Science and has provided outstanding service to the PNWD-IAI.

Nominations may be submitted to the PNWD-IAI Past-President, Cheri Mahar at:

Cheri.Mahar@KingCounty.gov

Please refer to page 10 of this newsletter for the nomination form.

NEW PNWD-IAI MERCHANDISE

Now Available for Purchase

PNWD-IAI Coin (1.5 inches) \$10.00



PNWD-IAI T-shirt (gray only for now) \$20.00



\$5.00 S/H fee will be added to any item requiring shipment.

Online Sales AVAILABLE NOW!

Visit the PNWD-IAI Website for purchases.

2018-2019 Committee and Special Assignment Members

Regional Vice Presidents:

British Columbia Canada – **Unfilled** (no current members-see below)

Alaska – Lesley Hammer

Alberta Canada – Malcolm (Mac) May

Idaho – Katie Hosteny

Montana – Kaitlin Moe

Oregon – Tori Dickerson

Washington – Jim Luthy

Scholarship Committee:

Tara Martinez

Lacey Miller

Natalie Ruckenbrod

IAI Regional Representative:

Cheri Mahar

Newsletter Publisher:

Pamela Lyne

Do you know someone in the Identification Field in British Columbia, Canada? Please refer them to the PNWD-IAI for membership and the vacant Regional VP Position.

Exciting News about the PNWDIAI Training Scholarship Program

Since its establishment in 2015, the Training Scholarship program continues to be a huge success! Through private monetary donations, as well as item donations toward the silent auction, a total of \$3,243.01 was raised during the fall 2017-2018 time periods. The 2018 conference in Vegas brought the highest number of applicants for the scholarship program since the inception. Seven applications were received, all from non-student applicants. Two scholarships were awarded to Malcom May of the Calgary Policy Service and Mindy McGuire of the Eugene Police Department. Congratulations to both members.

Thanks to an exciting silent auction held during the 2018 Vegas conference, and wine stopper sales, the PNWDIAI raised a total of \$1,668.01 at the conference.

We would like to recognize the following individuals and businesses for their generosity and support toward the silent auction:

- Mel Moore
- Angela Hilliard
- Betty and Jerry Wagar
- Randy Weaver
- Brian Orr – Go Evidence
- Sandra’s Linea Your Choice Jewelry
- Jason Yazzolino – Cowboy Leather LLC
- Dana Shaver – DanaKarin Jewels
- Chester Wallace
- Columbia Sportswear Company
- Luke Krieger Photography
- McMenamins
- Vortex Optics
- Wisdom Panel
- Ron Smith & Associates, Inc.
- Mount Shasta Resort

Additionally, six private donations were received, totaling \$1,575.00.

Our sincerest thanks to the following persons for their contributions:

- Washington County Police Officers Association
- Portland Police Association
- Andrew Caspar
- Ai-Lien Ton
- Darla Shaver
- Brian Kerns

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who made monetary donations, contributed auction items, and who bid on auction items at this year’s conference! The generosity of our community is overwhelming.

Additional thanks go out to the 2018 Scholarship Committee; Natalie Ruckenbrod, Lacey Miller, and Katie Hosteny! Your hard work and dedication is continually demonstrated through the growth of the program, and we greatly appreciate your service. Please also welcome our newest Scholarship Committee member, Tara Martinez, who will be replacing Katie Hosteny.

The scholarship committee, along with the board members, is finalizing details for the total scholarship amount to be awarded for the 2019 conference. The scholarship application will become available in the fall of 2018...so stay tuned for details! At a minimum, one full scholarship will be offered annually, so we encourage you to apply.

To make donations toward the scholarship program, please visit the scholarship link on the home page of the PNWDIAI.ORG website. Additional questions may be addressed to the Scholarship Committee at scholarships@pnwdiai.org.



The “Members Only” page of our Website is currently being updated...

Although the site is currently under development, continue to check as we will be adding more information regularly!



You will soon be able to find all sorts of interesting things there...



The Great Print Hunt

Can you locate the area of friction ridge detail in the exemplar?

The first person to find the print will receive a PNWD-IAI goodie.
Email Pamela Lyne (pamela.lyne@kingcounty.gov) with the answer.



SUBMISSIONS

If you come across any 10-prints or latent prints you feel would make a nice addition to this game, please forward submissions to pamela.lyne@kingcounty.gov

Answer will be published in the Fall newsletter.

**CONGRATULATIONS to all who have earned
recent Certification or Recertification!**

Crime Scene Analyst:

Daniel Kraus Jesus Valenzuela

Crime Scene Investigator:

Jennifer Ayers Heather Conway
Aleah Moe Ross Nakamura
Rachel Lange-Karyakos

Forensic Photography:

Michael Sage

Latent Print:

Steven Everist Cynthia Zeller

Best Practices When Processing Deceased Individuals for Friction Ridge Detail

Friction ridge skin is used to compare unknown prints to known standards for the purpose of making an identification. The use of friction ridge skin for identifications relies not only on its uniqueness, but also its permanence. Ridges begin to form in utero and once an individual is born, their unique friction ridge detail is considered permanent throughout life. Post mortem, however, the skin on the human body is effected by the process of decomposition, compromising the skin and making the friction ridge detail harder to visualize or recover.

When attempting to obtain useable friction ridge skin from a deceased individual, generally accepted techniques for obtaining inked prints can yield satisfactory results. Prior to processing the skin for ridge detail, examine the skin visually and obtain comparison quality photographs of any friction ridges that are present. Obtaining photographs of any usable skin prior to processing is always recommended, as some of the techniques described below can destroy the fragile skin while attempting to obtain prints. When the deceased individual has clear and visible ridge detail, use printing techniques as you would for obtaining exemplars from a living person. To prepare the skin, dry any wet skin with alcohol or a towel, or use lotion on dry skin to rehydrate and soften. Regular printers ink or an ink pad should yield good results, as will using regular fingerprint powder to process the friction ridges prior to lifting with fingerprint tape. The powder technique is especially useful for obtaining full coverage of the friction ridge surface, from nail bed to nail bed and down to the second joint. The fingerprint tape allows for more coverage over the pliable and rounded surface of the skin versus regular inking onto cardstock. If the skin needs more processing than just using ink, powder, or photographs, some of the more specialized techniques described below can be used. Often times, the techniques for obtaining deceased prints are better practiced in a laboratory setting with no time restraints. When needed, seek permission from the medical examiner to remove and collect the hands from the body for processing back at the laboratory.

The body of the deceased individual should be examined for conditions that can create obstacles for obtaining visible prints. One condition would be rigormortis, where the body becomes rigid and fairly inflexible, which creates difficulty in maneuvering the deceased hand when printing. There are two techniques to employ when working with rigor mortis. One is to try massaging the hand and finger joints in order to soften them up, making them more pliable and manageable when attempting to obtain prints. The other way to work around rigor mortis is to cut the tendons in the fingers, wrists, or joints, which then loosens the tightness of rigor and allows for more movement during printing.

Another condition affecting usable friction ridge skin is maceration, or wet and wrinkled skin. Allow the hands to dry sufficiently before working with macerated friction ridge skin. Air drying as well as using a solvent such as methanol, acetone, or even alcohol wipes will aid in drying the skin. If drying releases many of the wrinkles, obtaining a cast of the friction ridge with a casting material such as Mikrosil is an option for friction ridge preservation. If the skin is still wrinkly after drying, and casting isn't a viable option, plumping the skin up to reverse the effect of the wrinkled skin is beneficial. Injecting tissue builder or a liquid soap and water mixture just underneath the epidermal layer of the skin can build up the wrinkled skin enough to have a more rounded finger to print. A boiling method can also be used to plump wrinkled skin. Using a hot plate and pot, boil enough water for the friction ridge skin to be fully submerged. Once the water is boiling, remove the pot from the heat and submerge the macerated skin for approximately ten seconds. If sufficient results aren't received on the first attempt, massage the second joint and re-submerge for another ten seconds. Eventually the skin should begin to plump, becoming more elastic, and allowing the skin to be printed as normal.

“Slippage” is another obstacle one might encounter when obtaining deceased prints. In these circumstances, seek permission to obtain the entire hand for processing at the laboratory. Slippage causes the outer layer of the skin to slip off the fingers like a glove, and this glove can be removed. The skin glove can either be simply separated or pulled off if not still attached to the body, or can be cut with a scalpel around the areas that are still attached

in order to fully release the skin glove from the body. Once the skin glove is removed, the examiner can wear the skin like a glove and ink the print as if they were obtaining prints of their own fingers. If the friction ridge skin is deteriorated past the point of recovery, the glove can be turned inside out, or cut to expose the underside of the skin. The underside of the glove can then be photographed or printed. Additionally, the remaining skin left on the finger after the removal of the epidermal glove could have friction ridge detail present. After using alcohol to dry the finger, the dermal layer of the friction ridges can be printed as normal.

Desiccation happens when the body mummifies and the skin becomes very dry, wrinkled, and hard. Casting the friction ridge detail with Mikrosil can be attempted if the desiccation isn't severe. When casting does not yield good results, rehydration of the friction ridge skin should be attempted. Soaking the hands in a solution such as sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide should rehydrate the skin enough to then towel dry and print as normal. Take note that this process can take days or weeks to rehydrate the skin well enough to obtain prints.

Charred or burned bodies are very fragile, and often times require extensive care to recover usable friction ridge skin. Thoroughly examine the skin in an attempt to visualize any remaining friction ridges. Cleaning the skin with a water rinse might yield good enough results to be able to ink the prints normally. If the water rinse technique does not clean the skin well enough for friction ridge visualization, attempt to carefully clean the skin by removing charred material and exposing areas of the skin where ridges remain. Caution; the charred skin is fragile and destruction of the friction ridge skin under the burn layer is possible. Slippage can also occur to hands exposed to extreme heat or charring. Should this occur, refer to the best practices when dealing with slipped (detached) skin.

Putrefied, or severely decomposed skin, is very fragile and consideration must be given to processing these bodies as soon as possible. The skin should be cleaned before printing occurs, using a paper towel with water or alcohol. If no usable friction ridge detail is visualized, carefully clean the outer layer of the skin with swabs or a scalpel to wipe the putrefied surface enough to expose

usable friction ridges. This detail oriented task can be time consuming and destruction of the friction ridges can occur if not taking caution.

Processing deceased skin can take days of hard work exhausting all the relevant techniques towards the recovery of ridge detail, however, knowing that friction ridge skin is durable and can withstand even the most extreme conditions such as purification or combustion makes obtaining deceased prints a skill worth practicing and mastering.

Lisa Pope, MFS, CCSA
Eugene Police Department

Resources:

The Eugene Police Department Forensic Evidence Unit collective; best practices and methods.

References:

National Institute of Justice and Cutro, B. *The Fingerprint Sourcebook*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Washington DC, Chapter 4, p 10-17

Cowger, J. *Friction Ridge Skin*. Elsevier Science Publishing Co., Inc. New York, 1983, p 28-33

Moenssens, A. *Fingerprint Techniques*. Chilton Book Co., Philadelphia, 1971, p 145-150

Uhle and Leans. *The Boiling Technique: A Method for Obtaining Quality Postmortem Impressions from Deteriorating Friction Ridge Skin*. *Journal of Forensic Identification*, 2007, 57 (3), 358-369

Saviano, J.D. *Obtaining Identifiable Fingerprints from Mummified Hands: Two Quick and Accurate Methods*. *Journal of Forensic Identification*, 2000, 50 (1), 13-19

Wilson, R.J. *Reproduced Impressed Markings For Comparison By Casting with Mikrosil*. *Association of Firearms and Tool Mark Examiners Journal*, 1994, 26 (3), 181-184

TRAINING:

CSI Certification Test Preparation, CCSI & CCSA only

September 24-27, 2018 Mesa, AZ Tuition: \$375.00

Contact for Availability:

Robyn Trivisano, (480) 644-4847, robyn.tavisano@mesaaz.gov

or, Kristal Kolhepp, (480) 644-2048, kristal.kolhepp@mesaaz.gov

Forensic Examination of Violent Crime Scenes

September 24-26, 2018 Great Falls, MT Tuition: \$400.00

Contact for Availability:

Detective Derek Mahlum (406) 455-8525 drmahlum@greatfallosmt.net

Shooting Reconstruction

October 1-5, 2018 Salt Lake City, UT Tuition: \$595.00

Contact for Availability: Derek Mears (801) 798-3133, derek.mears@slcgov.com

Essentials of Latent Print Examination

October 1-5, 2018 Newman Lake, WA (Spokane County Sheriff's Office)

Tuition: \$675.00

Contact for Availability: Brian Moen (509) 477-3211 bmoen@spokanesherriff.org

Fundamentals of Crime Scene Examination and Evidence Collection

October 22-26, 2018 Great Falls, MT Tuition: \$600.00

Contact for Availability:

Detective Derek Mahlum (406) 455-8525 drmahlum@greatfallsmt.net

Advanced Footwear Impression Examination Class

December 3-7, 2018 Mesa, AZ Tuition: \$850.00

Contact for Availability: William Bodziak wbodziak@earthlink.net

Or, Lesley Hammer hammer.forensics@gmail.com

Advanced Crime Scene Documentation with Gary Graff & Iris Dalley Graff

March 11-15, 2019 Hillsboro, Or Tuition: \$739.00

Registration: tritechtraining.com

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

I do apologize for the “Summer Edition of the Examiner” being sent out so late that it almost isn’t Summer anymore! I had some unexpected, extended leave and was not able to work on the Newsletter from home. Stuff happens...

Check out our Website for Conference Info, Training, Membership Info, and NEW PNWD-IAI Merchandise!!!

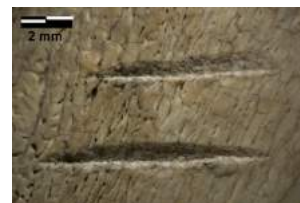
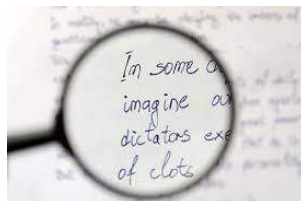
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Seattle, Washington 98104-2312
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FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.pnwdiai.org

<http://www.pnwdiai.org/membership.php>



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