Rob Robinson, F-ABMDI - Supervisor of Investigations, Tidewater District. VA Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Lecture – A Tale of Two Tragedies - Va Tech Massacre and Va Beach Mass Shooting

Abstract:

The State of Virginia unfortunately has now been the site of two mass shootings; one of the few states in the US that has had two incidents. The VA Tech. massacre in 2007 and the VA Beach mass shooting in 2019. The VA Office of the Chief Medical Examiner responded to both incidents and worked closely with law enforcement. This 90 minute presentation focuses on both tragedies - similarities, differences, what worked, what didn't work, and lessons learned. Topics covered include the handling of the deceased, the identification of the deceased, the notifications of the next-of-kin, and the Family Assistance Center.

Biography:

Rob Robinson has worked in the field for 17 years. He studied at Christopher Newport University and then worked as a crime scene investigator with the Newport News Police Department for 2 years. Has been employed with the VA Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for 15 years and responded to the VA Tech massacre and the VA Beach mass shooting. He is currently the Supervisor of the Investigations unit at the Tidewater District. He is board certified with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and a member of the VCU Dept. of Legal Medicine faculty at VCU (Virginia Commonwealth University).

Kenneth B. Zercie, MSFS, President, IAI (2019-2020)

Lecture **"What Happened to Annie Le."**

Abstract:

The murder of Annie Le occurred September 8, 2009, on the campus of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, United States. Annie Marie Le (July 3, 1985 – September 8, 2009) was a 24-year-old doctoral student at the Yale School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology. She was last seen in a research building on the New Haven campus on September 8. On September 13, the day she was to be married, she was found dead inside the building.

Biography:

Mr. Kenneth B. Zercie has more than forty-five years' experience in the criminal justice system. First as a Police Officer and Detective with the City of New Haven, retiring in July of 1984 and for the next twenty – nine years with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) (aka The Department of Public Safety - DPS) – Division of Scientific Services – Forensic Science Laboratory, retiring as it's Director in October 2012. His formal education includes numerous specialized training programs in the Identification and Criminalist Sciences, as well as an A.S in Criminal Justice Administration, B.S. in Police Science and an M.S. in Forensic Science all from the University of New Haven, West Haven, CT as well as post graduate work in Education at the University of Hartford. Mr. Zercie also served as adjunct faculty at Western Connecticut State University, Middlesex Community College. He currently is a "Practitioner in Residence" at the University of New Haven – Henry C. Lee School of Criminal Justice, Special Instructor for the Henry C. Lee Institute, adjunct faculty at Southern Connecticut State University, Instructor for the University of Rhode Island Detective Training Program (State Forensic Laboratory) and has guest lectured for Yale University, Quinnipiac University and The University of Connecticut Law Schools, and a P.O.S.T Certified Instructor as well as numerous professional societies and organizations.

He also continues to support the Forensic Science Community as the President of the International Association for Identification (2019-2020), Assessor for ANAB ISO 17025 Accreditation Program, and is a member of fifteen Professional Organizations and I.A.I. Regional Divisions. Furthermore, Mr. Zercie continues work within the field of Forensic Science by teaching and as a private consultant. In addition, he is the proud father of three adult children and their spouses, and five grandchildren that he shares with his wife and partner.

Peter E. Peterson Supervisory Physical Scientist/Forensic Examiner

Lecture: Expanding Our Understanding of Exclusions in Latent Print Examinations – A Step Toward Improving Examiner Accuracy and Efficiency

Abstract:

While the Latent Print community has spent decades discussion, and arguing over, the execution, accuracy, and articulation of the identification decision, relatively little attention has been given to the other categorical conclusion in latent print examinations, the exclusion decision. However, recent research into latent print examiner accuracy and how examiners arrive at their decisions has sparked a new interest in this topic. This presentation will seek to introduce the audience to several topics and issues associated with the exclusion decision including the historical articulation of exclusion in the ACE-V methodology, cognitive differences between the identification and exclusion processes, recent research into examiner accuracy and sources of error, and potential paths forward. This presentation is intended to provide background for the development of updated technical practices for latent print examinations with the goal of improving both exclusion accuracy and efficiency.

Biography:

Dr. Pete Peterson has been a latent print examiner with the FBI Laboratory's Latent Print Operations Unit since 2005. He was the primary author of the FBI's publication "Latent Prints: A Perspective on the State of the Science" (2009) and co-author of "Perspective on Errors, Bias, and Interpretation in the Forensic Sciences and Direction for Continuing Advancement" (2009). He was the executive secretary of the Education, Ethics, and Terminology Interagency Working Group under Office of Science and Technology Policy and is currently a voting member on the Friction Ridge Consensus Body of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board.

Shelly Brazelle, Document Analyst, USSS

Lecture: "Someone Thought that was Genuine!"

Abstract:

Did you hear about the guy that passed a golden $100 note at the Walmart? Come and see an image of the golden $100 and some of the current trends in counterfeit US currency. This presentation will briefly cover the security features in US currency, counterfeit statistics within the US and what you should do if you find a counterfeit note.

Biography:

Shelly Brazelle is a Document Analyst with the US Secret Service Counterfeit Forensic Section in Washington, DC. She holds a Master's of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Her current duties include the evaluation of authenticity of US Treasury obligations and other financial documents through physical, optical and chemical examinations.

Justin P. Schorr, Ph.D., Principal Collision Reconstruction Engineer

Lecture: "Technology as Applied to the Investigation and Reconstruction of Vehicle Collisions"

Abstract:

Technology is expanding exponentially in all areas of our everyday lives from being able to "speak commands" to units that unlock our doors; create shopping lists; and actually order goods and services for us; to units that provide diagnostics to keep our house, office and vehicles properly serviced. The wave of new technology will not be dissipating anytime soon. Even in the world of forensic engineering, every year things progress. This seminar will provide an overview of some of the newer technologies that have been, and/or are just being used to help evaluate vehicular collisions and other failure events. Topics like 3D demonstrative evidence; Event Data Recorders, Telematics and Infotainment; the Epidemic of Distracted Driving; Autonomous and/or Driver Assisted Vehicles; Drones; 3D Laser Scanners; and the engineering analysis of surveillance video are just some of the topics covered in this fast moving, dynamic presentation. Real word case examples will provide a context of how this technology is properly applied so it can be accepted into evidence.

Biography:

Dr. Schorr earned his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University in 2008. He continued his education for his Master's and Doctorate degrees from The George Washington University (GW) in Washington, DC. Dr. Schorr has also completed specialized training in Collision Reconstruction from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, Event Data Recorders (EDR), and he is a certified drone pilot licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Dr. Schorr's most valuable training, however, comes from a lifetime of education provided by his father and grandfather – both of whom are Collision Reconstruction Professionals.

Casson Reynolds, NCJA Instructor/Developer

Workshop: The Science of Crime Scene Reconstruction, (max 30) $20

Abstract:

This workshop will examine how scientific principles assist with crime scene reconstruction and highlight shooting evidence, witness vantage points, and comparing the scene to statements. The workshop will cover scenario testing and provide attendees with tools to analyze a scene to assist in the overall investigation. Attendees should have a thorough understanding of crime scene investigations (photography, documentation, and evidence collection).

Biography:

Casson Reynolds is an Instructor and Content Developer in Forensic Analysis for the North Carolina Justice Academy under the North Carolina Department of Justice. He has over 16 years of experience in the criminal justice field with 13 of those years as a Forensic Detective or Crime Scene Investigator. He has been recognized as a Subject Matter Expert in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Shooting Incident Reconstruction, Crime Scene Reconstruction, and Crime Scene Investigations. He is a Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst with the IAI, the Co-Chair of the Training Committee of the NCIAI, and on the board of the Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Consensus Body of the Academy Standards Board. He has a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice from Boston
University and teaches in the Crime Scene Investigations Post- baccalaureate Program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Dani O'Neill Fingerprint Specialist, TIGTA

Workshop: Courtroom Testimony – "Not a Nightmare If You Are Prepared", (max 30)

Abstract:

Students will understand the difference between Frye Std and Daubert. How to prepare for voir dire without overstating. Contextual v. Conformational Bias and how to testify to it. The importance of Pre-trial Conference and testifying to a jury in a manner they can understand. What are the current challenges in the courtroom, and what cautions should be taken against overstatements.

Biography:

Danielle, originally from Staten Island, NY graduated with a Bachelors' degree in Forensic Science from John Jay College and a Masters' of Science in Forensic Science from Pace University. Danielle worked at the NYPD Laboratory from 2008-2012 in controlled substance analysis and latent print development sections. In 2012 Danielle began working at the Nassau County Medical Examiners' office and advanced her latent print experience to include latent comparisons and helped get the laboratory accredited for processing evidence through ASCLD Lab now ANAB. Danielle is IAI certified in latent prints and is currently working as a Fingerprint Specialist at TIGTA laboratory in Beltsville, MD and is an adjunct professor for Science of Fingerprints at the George Washington University.

Carol Schweitzer, Supervisor, Forensic Services Unit, NCMEC

Lecture: Missing and Unidentified Children: "Utilizing Forensics to Recover Missing Children"

Abstract:

This session will provide the audience innovative ways to reinvigorate and resolve long term missing and unidentified child investigations. Learn how the latest forensic technologies, such as forensic genealogy, forensic imaging, and pollen analysis, can lead to a successful resolution to these challenging investigations. Through case examples the audience will see how NCMEC's own tools and strategies, with critical support of external forensic partners, are leading to successful identifications and recoveries of long-term cases.

Biography:

Carol Schweitzer is the Supervisor of the Forensic Services Unit at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. She has over twelve years of experience in long term investigations and has been supervising the unit since 2016. Carol specializes in applying biometrics and forensics to long term missing and unidentified child investigations, working closely with law enforcement and medical examiners. Carol also manages partnerships with external forensic partners that provide critical resources.

Carlos Guerra, Forensic Photographer, USSS

Lecture: "Doors Opened… Customer Service and Morale in Forensics"

Abstract:

The scope of forensic photography is clearly understood. It's standards and expectations are clearly set by groups like the IAI. One aspect of the forensic mission that often goes overlooked is customer service. This presentation will look into the effects of above average customer service in forensics, how it affects morale, and the doors opened by it.

Biography:

Carlos has been a forensic photographer with the US Secret Service since 2017. His previous positions include serving as a civilian Combat Camera Chief for the US Marines in California, commercial photographer, and Marine infantryman. He has been a member of the IAI since 2018. His formal photographic education was at the former Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA, where he earned a B.A. in commercial photography.

Irina Geiman, Document Analyst, USSS

Student Lunch Session: Forensic science careers, "How Not to Be a Forensic Scientist"

Abstract:

Forensic science students have many specialization options to consider and choosing one may be difficult. However, no matter which path one selects, the destination might end up surprising you. Being open to possibilities and knowing your strengths could result in a very interesting career.

Biography:

Irina Geiman has been a Document Analyst with the United States Secret Service in Washington, DC for over eight years. Ms. Geiman specializes in chemical analysis of questioned documents and conducts examinations of Treasury obligations including suspect counterfeit currency. She also travels worldwide to train employees of financial institutions and law enforcement agencies on recognition of genuine and analysis of counterfeit U.S. currency.

Ms. Geiman holds Bachelor of Science degrees in chemistry and forensic science from University of New Haven and Master of Science in forensic science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is certified by the American Board of Criminalistics in general criminalistics.

Rebecca Wood, Lead Forensic Investigator, DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Lecture: Interagency Cooperation in the Recovery of Human Cremains and Human Remains

Abstract:
The Washington, DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner partnered with the DC Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the U.S. Marshals Service in a small scale operation involving the recovery of over one hundred cremains and several non-cremated human remains from a Funeral Home that was closing in Washington, DC. The operation was conducted over the course of two days, one day in November and one day in December of the 2017 calendar year. There was intensive preparation prior to the recovery and this presentation will highlight the preparation, logistics, and field cataloging process. This presentation will also provide an overview of the way the DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner identified, notified and interacted with next of kin as well as assisted with the reunification of families. After attending this presentation, attendees will understand what encompasses an incident action plan, how decedents are most commonly identified at the DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the challenges faced when a Funeral Home closes. This presentation will include an overview of the method the DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner used to identify cremains and the limitations this process exposed. This presentation will highlight challenges faced in an effort to assist other Medical Examiner/Coroner offices who may encounter similar situations.

Biography:

Rebecca Wood completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with a minor in Chemistry from The George Washington University. During undergrad Ms. Wood interned for Congressmen Steve Israel on Capitol Hill as well as with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service for two semesters. Her intrigue for forensic science and investigations was reinforced through the internship with NCIS and after graduation she continued at GW and completed her Master of Forensic Sciences in Crime Scene Investigation. After receiving her Masters she interned for both the Alexandria Police Department as a Civilian Fingerprint Technician and the Prince George's County Crime Scene Unit before beginning with the Virginia OCME in 2012. She spent a little over two years in Northern Virginia before starting at the Washington, DC OCME where she is currently employed as the Lead Forensic Investigator.
Ms. Wood is a Past President of the Chesapeake Bay Division of the International Association for Identification and a certified diplomat through the Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

Jessica M. Shaffer, Laboratory Dirctor/Forensic Scientist, Western Maryland Regional Crime Laboratory

Lecture: "When Theories Fly: A Case Review "

Abstract**:**

The role of the Maryland Regional Crime Laboratory in a recently adjudicated criminal case. Topics include the role of the laboratory in analysis of evidence and interagancy cooperation.

Biography**:**

Jessica Shaffer is the current laboratory director of the Western Maryland Regional Crime Laboratory in Hagerstown, MD. As a practicing Forensic Scientist in a small region, she is responsible for major crime scene processing in Washington County, Maryland. She has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2013 and a member of the CBDIAI since 2008.

David Rivers, Professor of Biology and Director of Forensic Studies, Loyola University, Maryland

Lecture: Undergraduate and Graduate Education in Comparative Sciences: Feedback from the Comparative Sciences Community on Educational Needs of the Next Generation.

Abstract**:**

Forensic Science has exploded in popularity over the last two decades with no signs of a slowdown in the foreseeable future. Colleges and universities across the United States have been responsive to increased student interest and heightened job growth in this discipline by creation of forensic sciences programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Many of these programs have been designed with the intent of placement of graduates into accredited laboratories or agencies. Others were developed to meet market demand. Regardless of intent, the vast majority provide training and coursework focused broadly on criminalistics and specifically on either crime scene investigation or forensic biology and chemistry. At present, no undergraduate or graduate programs exist in Maryland or the region that focuses primarily on the comparative sciences. To overcome this perceived deficiency, Loyola University Maryland has developed a Masters of Science degree in Forensic Pattern Analysis. During the course of curriculum design, numerous forensic science practitioners at state, local and federal agencies were consulted on the needs for current and future scientists engaged in latent prints casework. This talk will discuss
the feedback received and attempt to place the identified needs and recommendations into the context of a graduate curriculum focused on forensic pattern evidence analyses.

Biography**:**

David Rivers is Professor of Biology and Director of Forensic Studies at Loyola University Maryland. He received his B.S. in Biology from Ball State University, a Ph.D. in Entomology with a concentration in Insect Physiology from the Ohio State University, and was a NIH post-doctoral fellow in Cellular and Molecular Parasitology at the University of Wisconsin. He is a member of the North American Forensic Entomology Association, Entomological Society of America, and American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He also is co-author of the critically acclaimed textbook *The Science of Forensic Entomology* and conducts research in several areas involving necrophagous flies and parasitic wasps as they relate to legal investigations.

Mack Brazelle, Lead Fingerprint Specialist, TIGTA

Lecture: Rule of Thumb

Abstract**:**

The differences between thumb friction skin and finger friction skin is dramatic. This lecture with review a practical application for distinguishing latent thumb prints from latent fingerprints. Understanding and applying these analysis techniques correctly can dramatically reduce the searchable area, increase efficacy, and improve examiner confidence. Latent print practitioner of any experience level should attend this lecture.

Biography**:**

Mack Brazelle currently serves as the Lead Fingerprint Specialist working in the Forensic Science Laboratory of the United States Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. He holds a Bachelor degree from Mount Olive College and is recognized by the IAI as both a Certified Latent Print Examiner and Certified Crime Scene Investigator. As an active member of the IAI he serves as the Chair of the Latent Print Identification Science and Practice committee.

Dr. Lauren N. Huddle, Forensic Pathologist, ForensicDX

Breakout Session: The inner working of a private autopsy facility

Abstract**:**

Dr. Huddle will compare and contrast a forensic pathologists role in coroner versus medical examiner versus private autopsies. She will review ForensicDXs'advanaced technology capabilities such as LODOX full body X-ray, CT and 3D print and their impact upon medical investigations.

Biography**:**

Dr. Lauren Huddle is a Native of Virginia. She was an Assitant Chief Medical Examiner at the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Richmond for several years. She has performed over 1000 autopsies. She is very passionate about teaching other fields such as Law Enforcement and Attorneys about the discipline of Forensic Pathology.

Andy McNeill, LTron Corp.

Workshop: Intro to Forensic Photography Course, Manual Operation. (max 20)
Students Must Bring DSLR camera. (approved for IAI CEUs) – 5 hours

Abstract:

Photography is typically your primary forensic documentation tool. It requires the "fair and accurate" depiction of scenes and evidence. Unfortunately, many photographers rely heavily on auto mode to accomplish this. This workshop – an abbreviated version of L-Tron's full day forensic photography refresher course – will give you the confidence to escape auto mode and get your crime scene photos right the first time. Covered topics include exposure values, camera settings, crime scene procedures, and evidence photography. Training will conclude with an introduction to the benefits of using spherical imaging to integrate, organize, and relate traditional photography and other digital evidence for investigations and courtroom presentation.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own DSLR cameras so they can familiarize themselves with adjusting settings during the presentation.

This course is approved for IAI initial certification credits and CEUs as well as ACTAR CEUs

Casson Reynolds, NCJA Instructor/Developer

Workshop: Bloodstain Patterns and What they Can Prove, (max 30) $20

Abstract:

This workshop will cover the changes and clarifications to bloodstain pattern analysis from the Academy Standards Board and the Organization of Scientific Area Committees. To include terms and definitions, limitations, methodology, training and mentorships.

Additionally, the attendees will work through examining the intricate and minute details of pattern recognition and stain analysis.

Attendees should have a thorough understanding of crime scene investigations (photography, documentation, and evidence collection).

Biography:

Casson Reynolds is an Instructor and Content Developer in Forensic Analysis for the North Carolina Justice Academy under the North Carolina Department of Justice. He has over 16 years of experience in the criminal justice field with 13 of those years as a Forensic Detective or Crime Scene Investigator. He has been recognized as a Subject Matter Expert in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Shooting Incident Reconstruction, Crime Scene Reconstruction, and Crime Scene Investigations. He is a Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst with the IAI, the Co-Chair of the Training Committee of the NCIAI, and on the board of the Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Consensus Body of the Academy Standards Board. He has a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice from Boston
University and teaches in the Crime Scene Investigations Post- baccalaureate Program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Workshop: A New ACE-V Fillable PDF Form for Documenting Fingerprint Comparison

Synopsis: A new ACE-V form has been developed by the RCMP. Attendees will learn how to complete the fillable pdf form while documenting an actual fingerprint comparison. The ACE-V form is available free of charge and is currently in use by police agencies within Canada. The form and images can be copied onto the laptops of attendees at the workshop so they can follow along.

Workshop: Software-Assisted Matching for Quality Control of Fingerprint/Palm Print Comparison

Synopsis: A number of agencies have implemented software-assisted fingerprint matching for quality control as a means of reducing erroneous exclusions and missed identifications. Attendees will learn to use 1:1 and 1:N automated Matcher/AFIS searches to help find matching fingerprint and palm print minutia patterns for challenging latent prints. Attendees will also learn to use software to quickly turn search results into a court chart. The CSIpix Matcher software is available as a free download at www.csipix.com so attendees are encouraged to install the Matcher on a laptop prior to the workshop to follow along. The Matcher software and images will also be available at the workshop.

Bio/Experience:

John Guzzwell (M.Sc., MBA, P.Eng) is an engineer with over 30 years of experience in technology development and the commercialization of software for fingerprint enhancement, comparison, and identification. He has also provided training sessions in the use of fingerprint software and presented lectures and workshops at various conferences on topics related to software-assisted fingerprint analysis and matching. He is a member of the IAI and is co-founder and VP of Business Development with CSIpix. He has been fortunate to receive advice and mentorship from numerous generous fingerprint examiners and other forensic experts over the years.