

NEAFS Newsletter



Volume 39, Issue 2

Summer 2014

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Announcing the NEAFS Shop

A New Tip of the Trade

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President's Message

After a winter that would never end, it's hard to believe that June is a memory as we head into the dog days of summer. As summer charges on, I hope you are able to spend time with family and friends and recharge your batteries. Before we know it, the 2014 NEAFS Annual Meeting will be upon us.

As I write this, Larry Quarino, our President-Elect, is working hard to put together the 2014 Annual Meeting program. Plenty of information about the meeting can be found in his letter to the membership, which is published in this newsletter. Also, be sure to check the NEAFS website over the coming weeks to get more details on what's in store for members attending the meeting.

If you are considering submitting an abstract and presenting a paper, keep in mind that the rest of this summer will fly by in no time. Abstract submission forms as well as Session Chair contact information is currently available on the NEAFS website.

The first off-site workshop of 2014, Autosomal STR & Y-STR Mixture Statistics Workshop, was extremely successful. I would like to give a special thank you to Alanna Laureano and Maria Tsocanos for all their hard work with organizing the workshop. We had 27 members attend the workshop, which was a great turnout. The workshop was free for current members only, although I was contacted by many other non members wishing to attend for free. It truly bothered me to say no to these requests, but I hope that this will encourage people in the forensic field to join NEAFS in order to take advantage of member benefits.

This brings me to a trend that I have noticed over the past few years: our membership has been declining. The membership is the backbone of the organization as dues collected from members help fund workshops, the annual meeting and other operating expenses. We will begin to explore ideas on how to reverse this trend and grow our membership by attracting and retaining new members. All of us should be active members of our profession, and we should especially be making sure employees, new and old, are aware of the benefits NEAFS has to offer. I am hoping that if NEAFS keeps providing its membership high quality educational opportunities at a reasonable price, we can attract new members or maybe bring back some that have left the organization.

In an effort to increase the amount of funding for the Carol De Forest Research Grant and provide a 24 / 7 way to purchase NEAFS merchandise, we have opened the new online NEAFS Merchandise Shop. All income generated by the sale of these products helps fund the Carol De Forest Forensic Science Research Grant. We have great new merchandise emblazoned with the NEAFS logo - t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, tote bags, and so much more. We also have new section specific logos which include Biology/DNA, Drug Chemistry, Toxicology, and Trace Evidence. Please check out the store at www.NEAFS.org. Please enjoy the rest of the summer. As always, feel free to contact me at kam4@westchestergov.com with your ideas and suggestions for the organization.

Sincerely,

Kevin MacLaren, President

TRANSCEND

SAMPLE COMPLEXITIES WITH SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE



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The Measure of Confidence

2014 Annual NEAFS Meeting Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA

Perhaps there has never been a more exciting time to be a forensic scientist. With the development of the National Commission on Forensic Science change is upon us and it is important for us as a professional community to come together and share ideas and continue to move the needle on innovation, scientific competency, and professionalism. From November 3-6, NEAFS will provide this forum for the 40th time, this time in beautiful Hershey,

PA. This is the farthest west a NEAFS meeting has ever been held and it is symbolic of the growth of our organization over the years. The meeting will be held at the Hershey Lodge which is in close proximity to Hershey Park and other attractions. The weekend just prior to the meeting (which begins on Monday, November 3) is the last weekend the park will be open for the season giving attendees the opportunity to attend one of the finest amusement parks in the nation.



The program for the meeting is beginning to come together. Three full-day workshops (topics include future trends in forensic DNA testing provided by Life Technologies, trace evidence examination on bullets, and chemometrics without equations) and four half-day workshops are planned for Monday, November 3rd. Half-day workshops offer the attendee the opportunity to take two workshops in one day. Topics for half-day workshops include structure elucidation from mass spectral data (afternoon), pattern matching in unknown shoe prints (afternoon), ethics (morning), and alternative matrices in toxicological analysis (morning).



The scientific sessions in toxicology, drug chemistry, trace evidence and pattern evidence, and forensic biology are planned for Tuesday, November 4th. In addition to a half-day of talks, both toxicology and drug chemistry will offer a short session on the comparison of legal statutes that affect these disciplines between states in the NEAFS geographical region. Brian Gestring will give a presentation on the history of forensic science during the Tuesday evening session.

Both the Plenary and General Session will be held on Wednesday, November 5. Dr. John Butler will be one of the featured speakers during the morning Plenary Session which will deal with the potential impact that the National Commission of Forensic Science (NCFS) and the Organization of Scientific Areas will have on the practice of forensic science. Dr. Butler is a co-chair of the NCFS. The afternoon General Session will deal with an often overlooked topic, namely handling stress in a forensic science environment. Dr. Scott Shappell who has provided training to ASCLD and Dr. Robin Grant-Hall who is a licensed clinical psychologist who works with the Connecticut State Police will be the featured speakers.

The program on Thursday will include both the Educator's and Student Forums. Chris Chany and George Chin are organizing a forensic science college bowl as part of the Student Forum where students representing both undergraduate and graduate forensic science program will compete by testing their forensic science knowledge in a game-show format. Any academic program in forensic science can be part

of the college bowl. An outreach event to the famed Hershey School is also being planned for Thursday. NEAFS members will be providing hands-on instruction in forensic science to high school students from the school. I am hoping that this will start a new NEAFS tradition, whereby an outreach event to a local school is planned at all future NEAFS meetings.

Registration and abstract forms (abstract deadline is October 1) are now available on the NEAFS website as well as information regarding room reservations at the Hershey Lodge. More specifics about the NEAFS meeting will be sent to members by email in the coming weeks. If you would like to be part of the outreach effort or have any questions about the 2014 meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me at presidentelect@neafs.org.

I look forward to seeing you in Hershey, PA this November.

Larry Quarino
President-Elect





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- Front-access source for easy maintenance



**Northeastern Association
of
Forensic Scientists**

2014 NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



NOVEMBER 3RD, 2014 - NOVEMBER 6TH, 2014

LOCATION:



325 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
HERSHEY, PA 17033

RESERVE YOUR ROOM BY CALLING (717) 533-3311 OR 1-800-533-3131 AND MENTIONING YOU ARE WITH THE NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS CONFERENCE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT

LARRY QUARINO AT PRESIDENTELECT@NEAFS.ORG

**2014 Northeastern Association of
Forensic Scientists Annual Meeting
November 3rd – 6th, 2014**



HERSHEY Hershey, PA
Lodge 

**Workshop Offerings
November 3, 2014**

Full-Day Workshops

Chemometrics Without Equations for Forensic Scientists

Trace Evidence on Bullets

Applied Biosystems HID University: *2014 Future Trends in Forensic DNA
Technology Seminar Series*

Half-Day Workshops

Ethics in Forensic Science

Use of Pattern Matching Technology to Aid in the Identification of Questioned
Shoe Print Impressions

A Survey of Structure Elucidation from GCMS and LCMS Data

Alternative Matrices in Forensic Toxicology

If you have any questions, please contact President-Elect Larry Quarino at: presidentelect@neafs.org.



NEAFS 40th Annual Meeting

November 3rd – 6th, 2014

CALL FOR PAPERS – ABSTRACT FORM

DEADLINE: October 1, 2014

Title:

Presenting Author:

Affiliation:

Phone Number:

Email:

Co-Authors and Affiliation:

Scientific Session: Biology Trace and Pattern Evidence Drug Chemistry
 Toxicology Poster Educator's Forum

Audio-Visual equipment needed:

PowerPoint Version _____ Other (please specify) _____

Time needed for presentation: 10 min 20 min 30 min

Instructions: Complete this form and email to the Program Chair and appropriate Session Chair. Also, if this is an abstract for a student in the Collegiate Competition, please email a copy of the abstract to the Chair of the Collegiate Competition.

You will be notified prior to the deadline whether your abstract is approved as is, approved with suggested modifications, or rejected. It is recommended that abstracts be from 150 to 250 words and must accurately reflect the content of the presentation.

Program Chair:

Trace/Pattern Evidence Session Chair:

Drug Chemistry Session Chair:

Forensic Biology Session Chair:

Toxicology Session Chair:

Poster Session Co-Chairs:

Educator's Forum Chair:

Collegiate Competition Chair:

Larry Quarino

Brooke Kamrath

Tom Brettell

David Fisher

Karen Scott

Dan Nemeth

Donna Nemeth

John Drewac

Ed Bernstine

laquarin@cedarcrest.edu

bkamrath@newhaven.edu

tabrette@cedarcrest.edu

davidfisher100@gmail.com

scottk@arcadia.edu

dnemeth@monroecounty.gov

donnaemeth@monroecounty.gov

jdrawec@wne.edu

ebornstine@baypath.edu

All presenters must register for the meeting.

ABSTRACT



NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

ANNUAL MEETING - November 3-6, 2014

See additional page for informational details. To qualify for Early Registration, a completed registration form and full payment must be postmarked no later than September 15, 2014. After this date, ALL registrations will be considered Regular Registrations.

I. REGISTRATION INFORMATION (Please print or type all information)

Mail your completed form and registration fee to:

NEAFS Registration
P.O. Box 36

Fairfield, CT 06824

Email Questions:

registration@neafs.org

First Name:
Last Name:
Member Number:
Organization/Agency:
City:
Street:
State: Zip Code:
Phone: Fax:
Email:

ABC Status:

- Diplomat
- Fellow
- Technical Specialist
- Affiliate
- Exam Committee
- Board Member

II. SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS - REGISTRATION FEES: November 4-6, 2014, Tuesday - Thursday Sessions

Please note that there will be a \$20 surcharge for all on-site registrations.

<u>Full Meeting Registration</u>	<u>Early Registration</u> Postmarked by 09/15/2014	<u>Regular Registration</u> Postmarked on/after 09/16/14
Member / Active Applicant	\$130.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$180.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
MAAFS Member	\$130.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$180.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Member	\$180.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$230.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
Student Member*	\$ 85.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 110.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
Student Non-Member*	\$135.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$160.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
Spouse of Member / Non-Member	\$120.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$125.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>

Spouse name:

<u>Daily Registration</u>	<u>Tuesday Only</u>	<u>Wednesday Only</u>	<u>Thursday Only</u>
Member / Active Applicant	\$ 75.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 75.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 35.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
MAAFS Member	\$ 75.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 75.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 35.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Member	\$125.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$125.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 75.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
Student Member	\$ 48.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 48.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 25.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
Student Non-Member	\$ 73.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 73.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 50.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>
Spouse of Member / Non-Member	\$ 73.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 73.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 50.00 - <input type="checkbox"/>

Spouse name:

SECTION II TOTAL: \$

**For student reduced rate registration, a copy of your FALL 2014 course schedule must be submitted.*

III. LUNCHEONS: Luncheon tickets for Tuesday and Wednesday are included with **full registration** and for each daily registration day. Additional luncheon tickets can be purchased below. Continental breakfasts are included for each day of registration. The reduced student rates DO NOT include luncheon tickets for the meeting. **NOTE: If you have a food allergy, inform the hotel staff directly.** Please choose a lunch option for the days you will be receiving a luncheon ticket.

Tuesday lunch selection: Ham Turkey Vegetarian
 Wednesday lunch selection: Vegetarian Chicken

ADDITIONAL PURCHASE of Luncheon Ticket

of Tickets: X \$50.00 =

SECTION III TOTAL: \$

IV. WORKSHOP SESSION FEES

Workshops are filled on a first-come-first-served basis. Continental breakfast will be provided for the workshops. Workshops are subject to cancellation. Workshops will be on **Monday, November 3rd**. Check www.neafs.org for updates on dates and times. Any NEAFS Member that completes a workshop will be reimbursed the workshop fee.

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Full Day Workshops		
Trace Evidence on Bullets	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$80 <input type="checkbox"/>
Chemometrics without Equations	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$80 <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Life Technologies</i> – Future Trends in Forensic DNA Technology	\$0 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Half Day Workshops – Morning		
Alternative Matrices in Toxicological Analysis (morning)	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ethics and the Practice of Forensic Science	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Half Day Workshops – Afternoon		
<i>Agilent</i> - Survey of Structure Elucidation from GCMS and LCMS Data	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Foster and Freeman</i> – Use of Pattern Matching to Aid in the Identification of Unknown Shoe Prints	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION IV TOTAL: \$

PAYMENT: Check - Money Order - PAYPAL -

Check # _____ **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Sum of II, III and IV) \$** _____

PLEASE check boxes of events you are considering. This is for estimation purposes only and in no way binding.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ABC Exam (Monday, November 3) | <input type="checkbox"/> President's Reception (Wednesday, November 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Forum (Thursday, November 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Reception (Tuesday, November 4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forensic Science Educator's Forum (Thursday, November 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon/Business Meeting (Tuesday, November 4) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon (Wednesday, November 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast (Monday, November 3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Forensic Biology Session |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast (Tuesday, November 4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Session |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast (Wednesday, November 5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxicology Session |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast (Thursday, November 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trace and Pattern Evidence Session |

Please indicate the T-shirt size you prefer:

Please choose a size category:

- Men
 Women

Please choose a size:

- X-Small Large
 Small X-Large
 Medium XX-Large

The exhibitors and sponsors you meet at the NEAFS Annual Meeting play a vital role in keeping meeting costs reasonable while still enabling us to improve session and workshop quality. Simply put, without Corporate Sponsors the NEAFS Annual Meeting would be too cost prohibitive to convene. Every year we field requests for an Attendee List to allow exhibiting companies to forward marketing and new product information. NEAFS is one of the only organizations that does not automatically provide this information. We would like to offer this information to our valued (and valuable) sponsors this year. Please sign/print your name if you *refuse* to release this information. _____.

Please check boxes for any of the following that you would be interested in participating in Sunday (11/2) or Monday (11/3).

- Golf Outing Hershey Trolley Tour Brewery Tour Hershey School Outreach (11/6)



INFORMATION ABOUT HERSHEY, PA

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists room block at Hershey Lodge is from 11/2-11/6 for \$149/night.

Staying at the Lodge entitles you to a ticket to the Hershey Gardens and the Hershey Story Museum (and a Hershey Chocolate Bar!)

Anyone that books a room 3 days before or 3 days after will be granted our room rate based on availability.

There are many additional attractions in and around Hershey including:

Hersheypark - open on Saturday and Sunday (11/1-11/2) - <http://www.hersheypark.com/>

Hershey Car Museum - <http://www.aacamuseum.org/>

Hershey Chocolate Spa - <http://www.chocolatespa.com/index.php>

Giant Center - Hershey Bears games/shows/concerts - <http://www.giantcenter.com/>

Chocolate world – <http://www.hersheys.com/chocolateworld/>

Chocolate world ride, store/food court, Build Your Own Candy Bar, 4D movie, Chocolate Tasting Adventure

Troegs Brewery – Brewery tours available - <http://www.troegs.com/>

Golf (multiple courses in the area) - <http://www.hersheycountryclub.com/index.php>

Tanger Outlets - <http://www.tangeroutlet.com/hershey/>

Zoo America - <http://www.zooamerica.com/>

Dutch Wonderland (happy hauntings days) - <https://www.dutchwonderland.com/>

Harrisburg, Lancaster and Gettysburg - all within driving distance (1 hr or less)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT HERSHEY, PA GO TO:
[HTTP://WWW.HERSHEYPA.COM/THINGS_TO_DO/INDEX.PHP](http://www.hersheypa.com/things_to_do/index.php)

If you have any questions or concerns please email the NEAFS Site Chair at sitechair@neafs.org.

HELPFUL REGISTRATION TIPS
WWW.NEAFS.ORG

NEAFS REGISTRATION MAILING ADDRESS: NEAFS Registration, P.O. Box 36 Fairfield, CT 06824

WE MAY NEED TO CONTACT YOU, THEREFORE, PRINT LEGIBLY AND INCLUDE AN EMAIL ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER.

ANNUAL MEETING / WORKSHOP REGISTRATION:

Early Registration: completed registration form and full payment postmarked no later than September 15, 2014. After this date, ALL registrations will be regular registrations. Registration is not accepted via email or fax, *unless* PayPal is utilized as form of payment. You will not receive confirmation of your registration status.

PAYPAL Payments: PAYMENT and COMPLETED registration form MUST BE SENT to: registration@neafs.org. A Paypal account is not necessary to use this feature. You can make a one-time credit card payment. The paypal receipt is the only confirmation of payment that you will receive if paying electronically, and handwritten receipts will be generated for those paying by check or PO only.

WORKSHOPS: Workshop attendance requires an additional fee. Workshop(s) are *not* included with Annual Meeting Registration. Workshops are filled on a first-come-first-served basis. The Program Chair reserves the right to cancel any workshop if timely registrations are not received for the minimum number of participants. If a workshop is cancelled, notification and full refunds will be made. You may not register for more than one workshop if the workshops are held during the same time frame.

NEAFS MEMBERS PAYMENT INFORMATION (*in U.S. dollars*): NEAFS Tax ID # 51-0213291

Purchase Orders or Vouchers are **NOT** accepted unless accompanied by full payment. Accepted forms of payment, during Early Registration only, are via PayPal, check, or money order. (<http://www.neafs.org/index.php/annual-meeting>)

CANCELLATION / REFUNDS: If you cancel your Workshop or Meeting Registration, your written, signed, and dated request must be mailed to the NEAFS Registration Chairperson at the mailing address provided above. If you cancel, your registration fees will be refunded, as follows: postmarked no later than September 15th, 2014, full refund, less \$20 processing fee; postmarked between September 16th - September 30th, 2014, 75% refund; postmarked between October 1th - October 15th, 2014, 50% refund. No refund requests will be honored if postmarked after October 15th, 2014.

SPOUSE: Reduced rate registration is available to a spouse (lay person) only with a fully paid registered attendee. The reduced rate (spousal) registration permits attendance during scientific sessions, all breaks, and receptions.

CERTIFICATES: Certificates are generated by the workshop instructors for workshop completion only, not for attendance of the general sessions.

LUNCHEON: Tickets for attendance at the luncheons are included with FULL MEETING REGISTRATION AND DAILY REGISTRATION ONLY. Please indicate on your registration form if you will or will not be attending. If attending the luncheons, your registration packet will include luncheon tickets that must be presented to the Officials at the door for entry to the luncheon. If you have a food allergy, please inform the hotel staff directly. If needed, additional luncheon tickets may be purchased separately.

OTHER INFORMATION: All fees are the responsibility of the registrant. Registrations are non-transferable.

If you have any questions or concerns please email the NEAFS Registration Chairperson at: registration@neafs.org





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The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists

is pleased to announce the

Grand Opening

of

The NEAFS Merchandise Shop

at

cafepress.com/NEAFS

* * * * *

The new NEAFS Merchandise Shop at cafepress.com makes it easier than ever before to show your pride as a NEAFS member! We have great new merchandise emblazoned with the NEAFS logo ~ t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, tote bags, and so much more. We also have new section specific logos, to give a shout out to Biology/DNA, Drug Chemistry, Toxicology, and Trace Evidence.

You can feel good about your purchase, knowing that all income generated by the sale of these products funds the Carol De Forest Forensic Science Research Grant.

Support your organization and its good works by shopping the NEAFS store today! Cafepress.com/NEAFS is open 24/7. Orders are processed and shipped quickly, and have a 30 day money back guarantee.

Visit the NEAFS Merchandise Shop at www.NEAFS.org and click on the NEAFS Merchandise tab or by going directly to www.cafepress.com/neafs

Have feedback on our new venture? Contact merchandise@neafs.org. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and will do our best to accommodate special requests!

NEAFS Merchandise Report

by Peter Diaczuk

The NEAFS merchandise on-line store is open! Besides looking your forensic-best after shopping, all profits go directly to the Carol De Forest Forensic Science Research Grant.



Photo of Carol at the NEAFS merchandise table at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Long Branch, New Jersey



An effortless and enjoyable shopping experience last week just culminated in the arrival of some brand new items from the NEAFS virtual store. I thought I already had every shape, size and color NEAFS product but was pleased to see many new items available in choices of the traditional logo or some new discipline-specific logos (see photo below of four new items just purchased, the shirt, water bottle, coffee cup and sturdy bag).

For starters I only chose the crim theme that sported a profile of a microscope sandwiched between the full NEAFS name on top and "Trace Evidence" below. I am now ready for the first day of the Annual Meeting in Hershey, Pa in just 5 months.

I'm always a day late and a dollar short so I added a NEAFS clock to my order that I modified to get the most out of it. While taking the photo for the Newsletter, I realized that the deadline for submissions for the July edition was just minutes away!



There is also a note on the shopping website that other items can be emblazoned with the NEAFS logos. That has great possibilities because back in December 2012 I was on an assignment with Dr De Forest in Puerto Rico and was specifically instructed that Kevlar was mandatory. As you can barely see, I was wearing a NEAFS shirt with the traditional logo but it was almost completely obscured by the vest. How cool would a NEAFS logo be on Kevlar?!





Mechanical Volume-Set Pipettes



Actual Size

Performance, ergonomics and value in one elegant design.



Simple conventional volume setting



Easy tip acquisition EVERY TIME



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Rachel Bower
Carol DeForest Research Grant
Update - 5/13/2014

Our knowledge of the chemistry of decomposition is limited because of poor reproducibility and comparability within and between published studies and the difficulty in obtaining human corpses. A huge concern of the studies on decomposition that are published thus far, is that the sample sizes are less than desirable for valid scientific claims and there is a wide range of variability within the parameters of each study. A main goal in this study was to have a large enough sample size to be able to make comparisons within the study. Another goal was to compare indoor decomposition studies with the outdoor decomposition studies to see if a consistent profile could still be obtained.

Eight (8) decomposition experiments were performed; five (5) outdoor decompositions and three (3) indoor decompositions. Each outdoor decomposition experiment consisted of a sample size of two pigs that were placed on opposite ends of the field. Each indoor decomposition experiment consisted of a sample size of one pig, due to space constraints, that was placed inside a Plexiglas box located inside a fume hood. The volatile organic compounds were collected using SPME fibers. Originally, three different types of fibers were utilized; 65um PDMS/DVB, 100um PDMS and 85um Polyacrylate. However, due to time constraints and the fact that the 65um PDMS/DVB picked up the same compounds as the 100um PDMS fiber, the 100um PDMS fiber was eliminated. The fibers were originally collected every 6, 6, and 12 hours. Since the fibers weren't being quantified, there was a concern that the data could not be compared unless the equilibration time was consistent. Therefore, since the compounds were evolving so quickly that it would not have a great affect, the sampling time was changed to every 24 hours. So far, the data that has been analyzed is from the 65um PDMS/DVB fiber. Due to the amount of data obtained, the 85um Polyacrylate fiber data is still in the process of being analyzed.

For each decomposition experiment over 150 volatile organic compounds were collected and identified. A handful of the compounds identified were further analyzed for trends. Overall, the chemical profiles obtained from the outdoor experiments consistently contained all of the compounds being assessed. These compounds include: Indole, Trimethylamine, 2-Piperidinone, N-Phenyl Formamide, Dimethyl Trisulfide, Phenol, Quinazoline and 2, 3-Dimethylquinoxaline. 2, 3-Dimethylquinoxaline is an especially interesting compound, because it is the only compound that is detected with the outdoor experiments, but not detected with the indoor experiments.

Nonanal and n-Hexadecanoic acid were prominent compounds during each decomposition experiment, but they were also prominently found in the field background fibers.

While the chemical profile of decomposition does change over time, the rate at which it changes and progresses to a "final" stage is so quick that it would be more difficult to be used in determining the time of death unless more specific trends can be discovered. Of the eight key compounds analyzed, once a compound was detected it continued to be detected. Dimethyl Trisulfide was an exception; it was not detected by the "final" stage.

An interesting observation was that Indole's detection in the outdoor experiments always coincided with the hatching of the maggots. And it also appears that the concentration decreases as the maggots migrate away from the carcass. However, Indole was also detected with the indoor experiments. Indole produces an interesting trend among both the outdoor and indoor experiments that can be seen in the figures below. There appear to be significant peaks and dips in the evolution of Indole as the decomposition process progresses. However, the reasoning for the trend or any further correlations hasn't been found yet. More studies

would need to be conducted with this trend specifically in mind. One thing that should be noted is that the concentrations among experiments were not consistent.

In conclusion, with a larger sample size, a temporal evolution of volatile organic compounds was reconfirmed. It was also confirmed that there is a consistent profile of certain compounds within decomposition studies and between decomposition studies. However, this was achieved through the use of pigs that all came from the same source and were decomposed in the same general location. It would have to be determined if diet and location truly have an effect. This was a larger sample size than any currently published study pertaining to the volatile organic compounds released during decomposition. As was expected, slower decomposition was observed with the indoor decomposition studies that lacked insect activity. Several trends were able to be observed with possible key compounds. However, with such a large set of data, data interpretation continues. In the future, it would be extremely informative to conduct studies that are focused on individual compounds deemed important, such as Indole and 2, 3-Dimethyl Quinoxaline. Overall, it is still a difficult area to conduct research on and any information could possibly contribute to an overall understanding of decomposition.

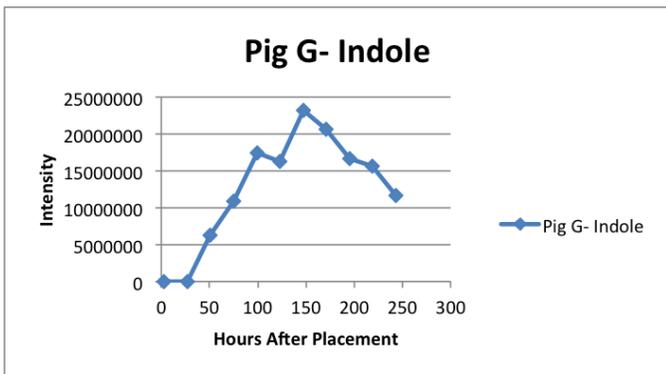


Figure 01: Indole Trend Observed with Pig G

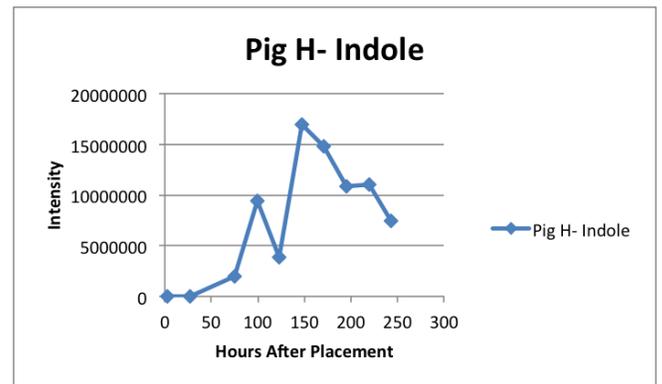


Figure 02: Indole Trend Observed with Pig H

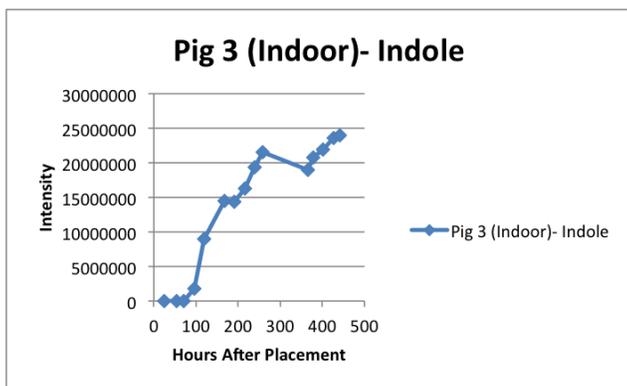


Figure 03: Indole Trend Observed with Indoor Pig 3

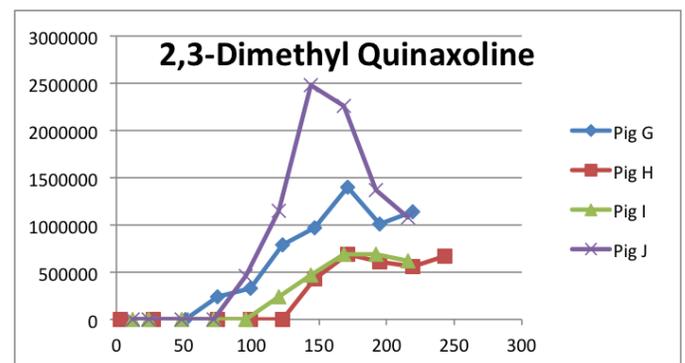


Figure 04: 2, 3-Dimethyl Quinoxaline Trend Observed with Pig G, H, I, and J (*this compound is not observed with indoor pig decompositions)

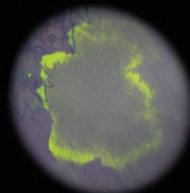
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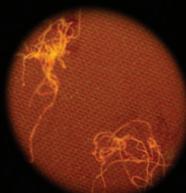
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Dishing Out a Tip of the Trade

Dan Rothenberg

Are you working with small amounts of evidence?

Do you ever need to quickly protect your evidence?

If so, I have a tip for you:

Use a glass petri dish to cover your evidence. It's easy and effective.



In the above illustrations, I am preparing a fiber sample for Fourier Transform Infrared Analysis. The fiber sample was flattened on a microscope slide.



While checking the instrument status, I have covered the sample with a petri dish. The sample is protected from drafts and foreign materials, thus preventing loss and/or contamination.



An added benefit is the transparency of the glass which allows the sample to always be in view.

Glass petri dishes are easily cleaned; they offer renewable opportunities to protect your evidence. Note: Plastic petri dishes should be avoided since they are full of static and are more difficult to properly clean.



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2014 Training Scholarship Fund

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS) is proud to offer its members a 2014 Training Scholarship Fund. Regular members, in good standing, are eligible to receive up to \$200 towards training, workshop or non-NEAFS meeting registration expenses. Detailed instructions and application forms are available on the NEAFS website. Simply click the “Training” link at the top of the screen and scroll down to the “NEAFS Training Scholarship Forms”.

The current application period is January 1st, 2014 to December 31st, 2014. Reimbursements will be issued on a first come, first serve basis and funding is limited. If you plan to attend a non-NEAFS meeting workshop, training or course during this application period and will not be funded by your agency or any other non-NEAFS related entity, we highly encourage your swift application for the 2014 Training Scholarship Fund.

Please visit the NEAFS [training](#) website to take advantage of this great NEAFS opportunity and to view upcoming training opportunities!

Upcoming Training

The Northwestern University Center for Public Safety in Evanston, Illinois will be offering a course titled “Shooting Incident Reconstruction I” during June 23-25, 2014. Contact Ruthy at NWU for more info at (847) 467-7546.

The Northwestern University Center for Public Safety in Evanston, Illinois will be offering a course titled “Shooting Incident Reconstruction II” during August 25-27, 2014. Contact Ruthy at NWU for more info at (847) 467-7546.

Emerging Forensic Genomic Applications Conference will be held in Greenville, NC during September 9-10, 2014. The mission of SNP Forum Emerging Forensic Genomic Applications Conference is to foster meaningful scientific discussions concerning advanced DNA technologies. SNP Forum brings together thought leaders from the forensic science research and practitioner community for an open dialogue regarding emerging science and technology applications. Tuesday’s focus will be discussions on Emerging Advanced Technologies, while Wednesday will be focused on the Adoption of Advanced Technologies. Each day will include a roundtable component so all attendees will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Some of the scheduled presenters and invited participants are Dr. Kenneth Kidd (Yale University), Dr. Peter Vallone (NIST), Dr. Tamyra Moretti (FBI) Dr. John Butler (NIST), Dr. Jack Ballantyne and Dr. Bruce Budowle. Please see their website for more details and meeting registration - www.snpforum.com.

25th anniversary of the International Symposium on Human Identification will be held in Phoenix, Arizona during September 29 – October 2, 2014. Additional information about the symposium, including registration links, can be found here: <http://ishinews.com/>.



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2014 Training Scholarship Fund-Course Summary

The workshop titled “Demystifying the ABFDE Certification Process” provided the Forensic Document Examiner (FDE) with the information needed to become ABFDE (American Board of Forensic Document Examiners) certified.

ABFDE certification process serves the public interest and promotes the advancement of forensic science. The workshop began with a half-day lecture consisting of a power point presentation and an open forum. Various organizations and groups that work with the ABFDE Board and the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners were discussed. In a collaborative effort, it is the objective of these organizations and groups to help strengthen the profession of Questioned Document Examination. The application process was introduced and advised as to how to begin. The three part testing phases-Phase I - written, Phase II - practical and Phase III - oral were discussed in detail. The written test presently consists of 100 multiple choice type questions and 2 hours are allowed to complete the proctored exam. The exam may be given at various organizations’ annual meetings but other arrangements may be able to be arranged if approved by the ABFDE Board. The written exam may change in the future and be extended to 120 questions. The current practical portion is the assignment of 5 practical problems that must be completed in a 45 day period. This Phase may also be changed and require 3 practical problems of multi-faceted document examination to be completed.

The time period from application being approved to completing all three phases of testing is 2 ½ years. The grading system is a pass/fail. If an applicant does not pass any step of the phases, he/she may request to schedule retesting provided he/she has satisfied the waiting periods.

If a candidate passes all three testing phases, the individual will hold a valid Certification of Qualifications and be a Diplomate. This status remains for a five year period. However, during that period, 40 continuing education credits must be obtained in order to be renewed. There are various ways to earn points through participation and attendance of ABFDE recognized Forensic meetings and programs and also through the publication of articles in journals that are recognized by ABFDE.

A 20 question sample written exam has given to each participant at the workshop. Afterwards, each answer was provided to the group and there was time allowed for discussion.

The second half of the workshop was the hands-on portion. Prior to attending the workshop, two practicals were assigned to each participant. Each practical problem was multi-faceted and was expected to be worked on as a FDE would perform his/her casework. They were representative of the type of problems to be expected as part of the Practical Testing Phase of ABFDE Certification. The practical report and case notes upon completion were sent to the instructor before the start of the workshop. This enabled the instructor to review and disseminate the materials to the mentors (ABFDE Diplomates) assigned to the participants. Participants were separated into small groups (2 or 3) and assigned a Diplomate. Each participant gave an oral presentation involving their practical problems which demonstrated Phase III of the testing phase. The participant was required to explain the scientific basis and reasoning behind the analysis of the problem(s) and how they reached their opinions based on the evidence (problem) they received. In summary, the workshop provided foundation and insight for a FDE that would like to seek ABFDE certification.

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ABC Reimbursement

The NEAFS Board of Directors has voted to reimburse the American Board of Criminalistics exam sitting fees for five NEAFS members (regular or associate) in good standing who pass the ABC exam. This offer is for any ABC exam taken in 2014. There will be an exam offered at the NEAFS Annual meeting in Hershey. After passing the examination, please fill out the ABC Examination Reimbursement Form (www.neafs.org) and email the completed form with proof of passing the exam to the NEAFS Certification Chair Mike Portzer at certification@neafs.org. The reimbursement is based on a first come first served basis. Remember you must pass the ABC exam to be considered for reimbursement.

Missing Something

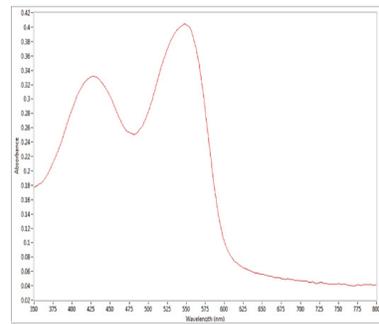
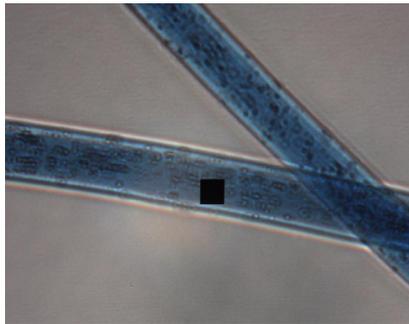
Be sure to check the NEAFS website for the latest **Job Opportunities**.

B.O.D. Meeting Minutes and Financial Statements will now be placed in the Member Area of the NEAFS website. If you have trouble logging in please contact the web master, webmaster@neafs.org.

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