B150 Integrating Digital Forensics into a Forensic Science Academic Curriculum

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The goal of this presentation is to show the relationship between the educational curriculum and the field of digital forensics. It will include information about the technical and scientific working groups for digital evidence and digital forensics that are available to institutions seeking to create a digital forensics program curriculum.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing a better understanding of the scientific and technical working groups and realize how these groups impact the development of curriculum for academic forensic programs.

Marshall University's Forensic Science Masters Degree Program began in 1994 to meet the growing need for forensic scientists. Initially the emphasis was DNA based but in 1999, the program began expanding its offerings into the digital field by offering a course in digital imaging. The following year a course in cyber crimes was added and in 2003 two addi- tional digital forensics courses were added. These courses became the basis of its area of emphasis in Computer Forensics. The first cohort of students in computer forensics graduated in 2005.

Over the past decade a number of changes have occurred within the program. The program expanded faculty, staff and curriculum; a new building was constructed; more courses were offered; and recently, the program underwent a voluntary audit by the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).

Over the past five years a number of changes have occurred in the digital forensics field as well. Guidelines and standards were developed by technical and scientific working groups; laboratories began accreditation through ASCLD/LAB; practitioners are becoming certified through private organizations.

Academic institutions often lag behind when it comes to educating students in a rapidly evolving field such as digital forensics where tech- nologies and techniques change so quickly. This presentation is designed to show the relationship between the educational curriculum and the field of digital forensics. It will include information about the technical and scientific working groups for digital evidence and digital forensics that are available to institutions seeking to create a digital forensics program curriculum.

Digital Forensics, Curriculum, Education

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