



## Questioned Documents Section – 2011

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### **J24 Sixty Years of Milestones in Forensic Document Examination**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will gain a brief historical insight into the establishment of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and its Questioned Document Section and gain knowledge of the progression of Forensic Document Examination (FDE) over a period of sixty years.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing specific historical information relating to the evolutionary developments in FDE. Sixty years of milestones will be offered in a brief and simple format. This presentation will demonstrate how the continuing advances and challenges of technological progression have historically influenced the development and evolution of the science. New technology creates new questions to answer and new problems to solve.

The original idea to research milestones in the forensic sciences was developed by President Bruce A. Goldberger, PhD, who was president during the sixtieth anniversary year of the AAFS. The section officers of each section in the AAFS were encouraged to develop a “sixty years of milestones” text regarding their specific sections. Motivated by this wonderful idea, the research for this project, sixty years of milestones in FDE, was conducted and the milestones were documented. This presentation, which is designed to be concise, will feature the evolution of sixty years of milestones in FDE and address areas including forensic organizations, certification, establishing standards, tools and techniques, texts, writing instruments, typewriters, ink, copiers, desktop publishing, and handwriting.

This presenter has personally experienced much of the historical evolution in FDE through decades of participation in the Questioned Document Section of the AAFS. The historical information contained in the milestones is the result of experience in the field, communications with knowledgeable members of the AAFS Questioned Document Section and researching FDE history contained in published reference materials which were written by Questioned Document Section members.

It is especially important to have knowledge of the evolutionary milestones of one's forensic discipline. Along with the rapid technological advances in society, forensic science will continue to evolve, and new milestones will be documented. Future milestones will occur in an exceedingly rapid manner when compared to the milestones of the past sixty years. Court rulings directly affecting the forensic sciences will progress, challenges to forensic science disciplines will continue, scientific research are on-going and there will be new problems to solve and new questions to answer.

#### **Evolution, Milestone, Forensic Document Examination**