However, other areas of forensic science also badly need funding to fix or rebuild the crumbling infrastructure of many aging crime laboratories and medical examiner facilities. In recognition of that need, the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act (NFSIA) became law in December 2000, and subsequently received a $5 million appropriation — a significant amount, but well below what the bill allowed. Funding for 2003 is again budgeted, although again well below what we hoped for. Although funding for forensic science is still far from where we would like it, the CFSO and its allied organizations have made tremendous progress in gaining the support of key staffers and politicians on "the hill." That support is slowly translating into increased funding for forensic science. Please read Barry Fisher's comments on his proposal for a National Forensic Science Commission (page 3). The idea of the commission is to develop a national plan for establishing the needs of forensic science and hopefully a more coordinated approach to funding.

Both Jim Hurley and I have written about the Forensic Education Programs Accreditation Committee (FEPAC), chaired by José Almirall. This committee was formed last year to develop a program for accreditation of university-based forensic science education programs. The standards to be used are based on the soon to be published "TWGED" (NIJ sponsored Technical Working Group on Education and Training in Forensic Science). FEPAC has made tremendous progress over the past year and plans to undertake mock accreditation inspections of selected university forensic science programs during 2003. FEPAC now has a link on the AAFS website (www.aafs.org, "AAFS," "Committees," "FEPAC"), where minutes of their meetings are posted for the information of those interested.

I would like to close by extending my thanks to all of the Academy staff, and to all committee chairs and members, who make the life of any Academy president so much easier. Please accept my warm, personal wishes for an enjoyable holiday season with your family and a successful and fulfilling New Year.

See you in Chicago!
The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations is meeting with representatives of several organizations to request their support. These include the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National District Attorney Association, and the National Sheriffs’ Association. Meetings are also planned with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institute of Justice. The continuing trend is that the nation’s forensic science delivery system needs more resources.

On another front, there is no coordinated national strategy for examining issues concerning forensic science services. There are many exemplary programs that assist public forensic science. Some are provided by federal agencies such as the FBI, DEA, and ATF. The National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Assistance fund many worthwhile programs. The new Office of Homeland Security speaks about the role of forensic science and notes the important roles for State and local law enforcement in the event terrorist acts. Yet, for all the programs initiated by Congress and the Administration, there is a general lack of a coordinated strategy to determine what the nation’s forensic science services needs are and how they are to be met.

Congressman Anthony Weiner (D-NY) has taken an interest in forensic science. His main thrust was the Debbie Smith Act and DNA evidence in rape cases. While DNA is important evidence, it represents one of many issues facing forensic science, and a national forensic science commission is an answer to many of the challenges presented. The outcome for a commission would be to consider public policy and funding solutions. Although others may have a different viewpoint on these issues, some of the reasons for a commission follow.

The notion of a forensic science commission is a key to addressing the myriad of issues surrounding forensic science today. The stakeholders need to be brought together to thoughtfully consider the totality of forensic science challenges, not just DNA testing. The commission model could be used to develop a long-term national forensic science strategy leading to public policy and potentially funding.

The following topics represent a few of the issues that a commission could address:

- What is the value of forensic science to the criminal justice system? Funding is an ongoing problem for forensic science organizations at all levels of government. One method to demonstrate the need for more funding is to show that better funded forensic science organizations result in more solved crimes. There are no quantitative measures to demonstrate the value of investing in forensic science. It could be demonstrated that investing in forensic science results in more crimes cleared, the program could sell itself.

A commission could call for such a study.

Is there a social impact of forensic science upon the community? Given the public’s attention to forensic science — the OJ Simpson trial, TV shows such as CSI and the Forensic Files — there is public predisposition towards what forensic scientists do. One might suspect that crime victims and their families would also embrace the need for more resources for forensic services. How might this latent support be harnessed? Public hearings called by a national commission could include crime victims and their families. They could also include police investigators, prosecutors, and even defense attorneys who would explain how forensic science, or the lack of it, impacts the administration of justice.

How do the future educational and training needs of forensic scientists get met? Experienced forensic scientists are retiring and the demand for additional qualified forensic scientists is rising. How are the educational and training requirements for the next generation of forensic practitioners addressed? Estimates of the need for new forensic scientists range as high as 10,000 over the next 5-10 years. Forensic science labs are looking for more forensic scientists at the MS and PhD levels. Yet despite the need for more graduate degree level personnel, there is scant research dollars available from federal funding institutions to support university programs.

When considering in-service training, the picture is equally problematic. There are some wonderful continuing education programs available from the FBI, DEA, ATF, NSIC; various state agencies, such as the California Criminalistics Institute and elsewhere. The difficulty is that the numbers of persons who need training far exceeds the capacity of existing programs. A national commission could define the extent of the education and training question and offer suggestions on how to address these issues.

How should the question of law-science issues be addressed? See Law (Dubbert, et al.) and the Federal Rules of Evidence (Rule 702) have raised a recurrent question — How to demonstrate the reliability of pattern evidence? A number of court cases have examined the issue and in the vast majority of these cases, the prosecution has prevailed. However, it would be naive for anyone to believe that the defense bar just gave up and stopped attacking pattern evidence.

The National Academies (formerly the National Academy of Science) is planning a study of this subject. At this writing, a funding source has yet to be identified, but it seems good that a student will be funded. Like the National Research Council Studies in the 1990s involving forensic DNA testing, this study will certainly resolve the issue of reliability.
However, it is also likely that recommendations about practitioner qualifications, training, continuing education, and competency testing will result. Recall how an FBI’s DNA Advisory Board was tasked to develop policy for DNA testing. A national forensic science commission could help sort out these recommendations and develop policies.

What are the needs of forensic science? How much forensic science services is required? What is the cost of this service? What type of funding is appropriate for the federal government to provide? Can standards for the number of forensic scientists per 100,000 police officers be developed? Can standards for evidence turn around times be established? What are reasonable amounts of continuing education training required of forensic scientists? A national commission could explore these and other resource requirements and recommend benchmarks to assist State and local jurisdictions meet these targets.

What is the role of forensic science in homeland security? How do public forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices interact with the federal agencies in the event of a terrorist attack? Mass disaster scenarios generally do not include a forensic science component. Are State and local forensic labs ready to deliver the necessary services if the unthinkable happens? A forensic science commission could be a catalyst to explore this issue.

Is there adequate collaboration between State and local forensic science labs and federal forensic science labs? Federal labs operated by the FBI, DEA, ATF, and Secret Service play vital roles in the administration of justice. While there is collaboration between these forensic science labs, can the level of collaboration and cooperation be improved? Do programs developed by federal forensic science labs meet the needs of State and local forensic labs? Is there effective two-way communication between federal laboratories and their State and local counterparts? A national commission could serve as a vehicle to explore these topics.

Many issues facing the nation’s forensic science organizations have now been presented. Ultimately, improvement in the delivery of forensic services comes down to more resources. A thoughtful, comprehensive approach is the best way to address these challenges. To accomplish this, a National Commission on Forensic Science is the best approach.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER. . . CONT.

The White House Fellowship program is American’s most prestigious program for leadership and public service.

White House Fellowships offer exceptional young men and women first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the federal government. White House Fellows typically spend a year working as full-time, paid special assistants to senior White House Staff, the Vice President, Cabinet Secretaries, and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors as well as trips to study U.S. policy in action, both domestically and internationally.

Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2003. Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis. Employees of the federal government are not eligible unless they are career military personnel. There are no age restrictions; however, the program was created to give remarkable young Americans this experience early in their careers. Most competitive applicants have completed their graduate studies and are working in their chosen professions at the time of consideration.

For more information and to download an application, please visit www.whitehouse.gov/fellows. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has no influence over the application evaluation process and is announcing this invitation for information purposes only.

WHITE HOUSE SOLICITS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

IN MEMORIAM

Hanausek Tadeusz, PhD, JD, Provisional Member of the Criminalistics Section, 2002
Elmer A. Roubal, Retired Fellow of the Criminalistics Section, September 2002
Pam Hall, MS, Retired Fellow of the Toxicology Section, 2002
Jay Dix, MD, Fellow of the Pathology/Biology Section, November 2002
AAR Secretary Ron Singer was asked by the Discovery Channel to assist with the 2002 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge (DCYSC) which took place the week of October 21 in Washington, DC. The DCYSC identifies and honors America’s top middle school students who demonstrate the best skills in leadership, teamwork, and scientific problem solving. This year’s competition included for the first time a forensic science challenge and the title of the mission was “American Academy of Forensic Sciences/Capitol Police, Washington, DC.” Ron and DC Capitol police officers set up a mock crime scene in downtown Washington. Working closely with police investigators and following Ron’s guidance, students went through the steps to solve the crime. They secured the crime scene, photographed details at the scene, carefully collected and analyzed evidence including fingerprints, and devised and tested various theories until the crime was successfully solved.

More than 6,000 middle school students have entered the DCYSC since its inception. Winners have received more than $400,000 in scholarship awards, federal government recognition, and participated in science-related trips that have taken them to the far corners of the globe. Overall impression of the inclusion of forensic sciences to the list of challenges was quite positive and Ron believes that the AAFS will be asked to continue to be a presence in future competitions.

The FSEC/NYC Steering Committee may take great satisfaction in the planning and execution of the second Forensic Science Educational Conference, held at Pace University in New York City. Evaluations confirm the success that the organizers had hoped for. The following written comments from two teachers capture the overall sentiment of the attendees:

Excellent presentation and set-up! Organization of presenters and workshops was very impressive. This being my first exposure to forensic science, I now have so many ideas that I want to incorporate into my classroom.

Wonderful! The labs were low cost and most could be done with high school students. The presenters were down-to-earth, approachable, knowledgeable.

Putting on a conference as comprehensive as the FSEC/NYC in just three months is testimony to the diligent oversight of AAFS Executive Committee member Tom Bohan. Moreover, much of the credit must go to Brian Gestring who proposed the event, secured Pace University as the site, recruited nine young AAFS members from the NYC Medical Examiner’s Office, coordinated the presentations, round tables, and workshops, and personally orchestrated the activities of all three days. An eminent cast of AAFS members, President Graham Jones, President-Elect Ken Melson, Peter De Forrest, Mark Flomenbaum, Mary Manhein, Marilyn Miller, Peter Pizzola, Lawrence Quarino, Peter Tytell, and Michael Welner, were on hand to present pertinent lectures and to offer pedagogically sound guidance to more than 80 middle- and high school science teachers from throughout the U.S.

On another note, if you missed information about the EAFS Istanbul 2003 Triennial Meeting and the AAFS special pre-conference tour, please refer to the “Planning And Development” article in the November 2002 issue of the Academy News. The newsletter is also available online at: http://aafs.org/AcademyNews/aafsnews1.htm.
FSEC/NYC HIGHLIGHTS

Peter Tytell discusses the work of the questioned document examiner in legal and criminal cases.

Teachers’ smiles during the hands-on laboratory workshops reflect satisfaction.

Mary Manhein, professor at Louisiana State University, explains the role of the physical anthropologist as it applies to forensic science.

Marilyn Miller, professor at the University of New Haven, demonstrates the practical applications from her curriculum presentation to the laboratory experiment.

Actor Tony Randall (Felix Unger of The Odd Couple) takes a moment before the curtain rises on his play at Pace University to join teachers at the Friday evening reception.

Holly Adams explains how the forensic engineer assists courts in determining the cause of a failure or defect in something built or designed.

Phillip Orlando, Plainedge High School teacher from North Massapequa, NY, and FSEC/NYC official photographer, engages in one of the forensic lab experiments.

Middle- and high school science teachers from 17 states fill a lecture hall at Pace University for the second Forensic Science Educational Conference.

Evan Shapiro (third from left), Executive Vice President of Marketing at Court TV, joins FSEC/NYC high school Steering Committee teachers Scott Rubins, Frances Cummings, and Angela Cancemi at the Friday Internet Curriculum presentation.
Now is the time to finalize plans for the 2003 AAFS Annual Meeting. The deadline for pre-registration without penalty is January 22, 2003. Please remember that pre-registration is required for all breakfast seminars, luncheons, special sessions, and workshops. The deadline for reserving a room at the guaranteed conference rate at the Hyatt Regency is January 24, 2003.

This year’s Plenary Session will feature distinguished national and international speakers. It will also include a multimedia presentation of the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero as well as the identification efforts made by the New York City Medical Examiner’s office. The Plenary will be a “must see” session.

A form is included on page 12 of this issue of Academy News for those interested in presenting at the Bring Your Own Slides session. Please complete the form and drop it off at the on-site Academy Staff Office by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19th.

At the risk of sounding like “Ms. Manners,” I would like to point out that our reliance on advanced technology and the need for being available 24/7 have at times been disruptive for speakers and the audience at sessions at the annual meeting. Please see the reminder regarding meeting etiquette on page 9 of this issue of Academy News.

Finally, a sincere thank you is extended to the members of the Program Committee and the Academy Staff for their help in organizing the meeting. We anticipate another successful meeting and look forward to making new acquaintances and renewing old ones. Have a safe trip to Chicago.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has selected United Airlines as the official airlines for its 55th Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, February 17-22, 2003. United is offering special meeting fares for all attendees who use the Special Meeting Desk to book their reservations. Book early and take advantage of the promotional fares that give you the greatest savings! Earn a 5% discount off the lowest applicable fare, including First Class, or 10% off the mid-week coach fare. United is also offering an additional 5% off tickets issued purchased at least 30 days in advance. Simply call 1-800-521-4041 and refer to Meeting ID Number 510CV.

OFFICIAL CAR RENTAL AGENCY

Avis Worldwide has been selected as the official car rental agency for the 55th AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago. To receive the special discounted rates being offered to you by Avis, go to http://www.avis.com/meetings/tools/bridge2.html?1290, or call their toll-free number, (800) 331-1600, for reservations and be sure to mention the AAFS Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) Number: D131169.

If you have a disability that may impact your participation at the 55th AAFS Annual Meeting, please check the appropriate box on the AAFS Pre-Registration Form (page 23), and append a statement regarding your special needs. Someone from the AAFS headquarters will contact you prior to the meeting to discuss accommodations. Availability of appropriate accommodations cannot be ensured without prior notification of need.

If you would like to have more spending money to take in the “must see” sights while in Chicago during the AAFS 2003 Annual Meeting, then share a room!

The AAFS office is maintaining a list of meeting attendees who would like to share a room with a colleague at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. For more information, please contact the AAFS office at (719) 636-1100.
2003 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fellows and Members of AAFS will be held Wednesday, February 19, at 4:15 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL. All Fellows and Members are encouraged to attend this very important meeting. Agenda items include the election of 2003-04 Officers and recognition of all Members being promoted to Fellow status. You will be briefed on AAFS activities during the past year and plans for the future.

The Section Business Meetings will also be held on Wednesday, February 19. Please consult the Advance Program for specific times. Attendance at your Section’s Business Meeting is strongly encouraged.

The AAFS Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, February 17, at 8:00 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING EMPLOYMENT FORUM

Due to an overwhelming response, and often confusing jumble, of traditional job posting boards at the AAFS Annual Meetings, AAFS will be hosting its first annual Employment Forum. The intention is to provide a means for employers and applicants to meet, exchange information, conduct informal interviews, or schedule interviews for later in the week.

This special event will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2003, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., directly adjacent to the AAFS Welcoming Reception.

Space is limited! Employers, to reserve your place at the Employment Forum, please notify Nancy Jackson at AAFS the headquarters by e-mail: njackson@aafs.org, or fax: (719) 636-1993. Nancy will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Plan on joining us for the first AAFS Annual Meeting Employment Forum!

TRANSPORTATION

Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) offers fast, direct train service from both airports to downtown, convenient bus and train lines to major attractions, simple fare cards, easy-to-use maps, and brochures. The one-way fare is $1.50 for ages 12 and up. The travel time from O'Hare International to the Loop/Magnificent Mile area is an average 40-minutes.

For travel around town while attending the conference, you may purchase CTA Transit Cards, which automatically deduct fares and transfers and may be used on trains and buses, at any CTA train station for any amount between $1.50 and $91. If you plan on using the CTA to get around, Visitor Passes are your best value. Available for 1-Day ($5), 2-Day ($9), 3-Day ($12), and 5-Day ($18), they allow unlimited rides on buses and trains. You may purchase passes at either airport, visitor information centers, Union Station, and select Chicago attractions. To purchase passes or transit cards in advance, call 1-888-968-7282. You may also purchase passes online at http://www.meetinginchicago.com/cta_frame.html.

Chicago’s Free Trolley System now runs year round! This winter, the City of Chicago will provide Saturday and Sunday service to Chicago’s most popular museums, shopping destinations, and visitor attractions. Chicago’s free trolleys are easy to use. No ticket is needed; just catch a trolley at any stop marked by a “Free Trolley” sign. For more information, visit http://www.meetinchicago.com/ trolley_frame.html.

PROGRAM 2003 - CHICAGO

Is that your cell phone ringing again

As a courtesy to others, meeting attendees are asked to have their cell phones and pagers turned off when attending the sessions. If a phone conversation must be held, please step outside of the meeting room.

ACADEMY NEWS
DISTINGUISHED FELLOW HONOREES

The Distinguished Fellow Award will be presented on Wednesday, February 19, immediately following the AAFS Annual Business Meeting. Join us in acknowledging this most distinguished colleague as she is presented with this prestigious award.

Distinguished Fellow Honoree
Carla M. Nairglia, MS

2003 SECTION AWARD HONOREES

Plan to attend your Section’s Business Meeting. You won’t want to miss the presentation of your section’s award(s) and the opportunity to congratulate your colleague(s).

Criminalistics Section’s
Mary E. Cowan Outstanding Service Award
Jan S. Bashinski, MCrim
Paul L. Kirk Award
John D. De Haan, PhD

Engineering Sciences Section’s
Andrew H. Payne, Jr., Special Achievement Award
Helmut G. Brosz, BASc, PEng
Founder’s Award
Thomas L. Bohan, PhD, JD

General Section’s
Achievement Award
Sharon Crowley, RN, MSN

Jurisprudence Section’s
Harold A. Foder Award
Haskell M. Pitluck, JD

Pathology/Biology Section’s
Milton Helpern Award
Vincent J.M. Di Maio, MD

Physical Anthropology Section’s
J. Lawrence Angel Award
Joseph T. Hefner, BS

Questioned Documents Section’s
Ordway Hilton Award
Martha A. Blake, MCrim

Toxicology Section’s
Alexander O. Gettler Award
Michael I. Schaffer, PhD
Rolla N. Harger Award
H. Horton McCurdy, PhD
Irving Sunshine Award
Jeri D. Ropero-Miller, PhD

FSF EMERGING FORENSIC SCIENTIST AWARD HONOREE

The FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award will be presented on Wednesday, February 19, during the AAFS Annual Business Meeting. You’ll want to be present to congratulate the recipient.

2002-03 FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Honoree
Helena Soomer, DDS
Continuing professional education credits are offered for physicians, dentists, attorneys, psychologists, and chemists. The objectives of the AAFS Continuing Education Program are to provide for multidisciplinary presentation, instruction, and discussion of relevant forensic science issues related to science, evidence and the law, and to research descriptive studies, technology and methods, diagnostics, interpretations, testimony, and administrative functions performed by forensic scientists in the disciplines of pathology, biology, odontology, physical anthropology, psychiatry and behavioral science, engineering sciences, toxicology, questioned document examination, and general forensic investigation.

Credit will be given on an hour-for-hour basis. Attendees should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the education activity.

Chemistry: Application has been made to the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, Inc., for ACCENT® credit. Credit will be given on an hour-for-hour basis.

Dental: The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is designated as an Approved PACE Program Provider by the Academy of General Dentistry. The formal continuing education programs of this provider are accepted by AGD for Fellowship, Mastership, and membership maintenance credit. Approval does not imply acceptance by a state or provincial board of dentistry. Credit for FAGD/MAGD credit and the California Board of Dental Examiners will be given on an hour-for-hour basis. The current term of approval extends through 12/31/04.

Legal: Continuing Legal Education credits are being sought from only Colorado, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Credit will be given on an hour-for-hour basis.

Medical: The AAFS is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. Credit hours in Category I of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association will be given on an hour-for-hour basis. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity. The current term of approval extends through 11/01/04.

Psychology: The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. The AAFS maintains responsibility for the program. Credit will be given on an hour-for-hour basis. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity. The current term of approval extends through 3/01/05.

CE HELPFUL HINTS

A few reminders about CE (Continuing Education) procedures which may be helpful to meeting attendees:

- If you would like to receive CE credits for medical, legal, psychology, or chemistry, please remember to check Box 4 on your 55th AAFS Annual Meeting Registration Form. Continuing education materials will automatically be placed in the registration packets of all registrants who have a DDS or DMD degree in order to obtain dental credits.

- The Credit Reporting Form and Session Attendance Worksheet must be completed and returned to AAFS by March 1, 2003.

- The AAFS encourages attendees to complete evaluation forms for the various presentations, especially for those that are of substandard or outstanding content or quality, but completion of such evaluations is not required to obtain CE credit.

- AAFS assumes that lack of comments or evaluation by attendees is indicative that a given presentation was of average, or higher quality, in all respects.

- All comments and suggestions provided on evaluation forms are reviewed by the Program and Continuing Education Committees to detect program problems and facilitate correction or program improvement. Your input is needed.
GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING 35MM SLIDES

Noted below are the official guidelines in preparing 35mm slides for presentation at the 2003 AAFS Annual Meeting:

- Limit the information on each slide to a single point or idea.
- Keep slides simple with plenty of open space. Space between lines should be at least the height of capital letters.
- Limit messages to seven lines or less. Do not use more than seven words per line.
- Do not crowd the slide. Two or more simple slides are better than one that is complex and crowded.
- If you must use illustrative materials, try to use simple graphs with a limited number of captions.
- A good rule of thumb is if you can read the information on your slide held at arm's length against a bright background, then it will be readable to your audience.
- Simplify-Simplify-Simplify: Your entire presentation should not be on the slides. The slides should support your talk and add emphasis to your important points.
- Speaker should be able to convey slide information in five-ten seconds. Avoid advancing the slide before ten seconds; however, most slides should not remain on the screen longer than two minutes.
- Avoid backing up in slide lectures. If you need a slide twice, make duplicate slides.
- Slides mounted in plastic mounts are preferable to cardboard or glass.
- Fill the slide. Avoid blank areas on the periphery.
- Graphics are preferable.
- White on black, white on blue, or blue on yellow project the best. Avoid red and blue or other non-contrasting color combinations.

Following these guidelines will ensure that the audience will obtain the maximum benefit from your presentation. As it is a primary goal of the AAFS to promote education and to elevate professionalism in the field of forensic sciences, organizing a quality presentation is an area to which everyone can contribute.

Although every effort will be made to meet your needs, the number of available slide carousels is limited once at the meeting. It is highly recommended that you provide your own, if possible.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS USING AN LCD PROJECTOR

Computers will not be provided by the AAFS. It is your responsibility to provide the laptop computer for your presentation. However, your section may coordinate this effort and have a computer available for your use at the meeting. A LCD projection unit will be available in the speaker ready room for testing and practice purposes.

Preparing your presentation:

- Microsoft PowerPoint® 97 is highly recommended. Other versions of PowerPoint and programs may be difficult to support at the conference.
- Dark background and light text provide acceptable contrast and display well in the darkened meeting room. Avoid distracting or otherwise hard to read color combinations such as red and blue, and yellow and green.
- Arial, Times New Roman, or Helvetica are the recommended font styles. Avoid using fonts that project poorly. Unusual or custom fonts may not be available on the host computer.
- Use as large a font as possible and fill the screen. Anything less than 24 is too small. Suggested font sizes are:
  - Titles: 48-54
  - Main text titles: 32
  - Smallest text lines: 24
- Keep your presentation simple. Do not crowd the frame. Limit the number of text lines per frame to a maximum of seven lines, with no more than 30 characters per line.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions. Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines.
- Verify your computer resolution by going to your computer's control panel, selecting "Display" then "Settings." The recommended resolution is 1024 x 768.
- Avoid the use of commercial messages (e.g. logo), and video and audio clips.
- Save your presentation on a 3.5" diskette. Other media such as zip cartridges and CD-ROM’s may be supported; please contact your Program Chair for these details. Always test your presentation on another host computer to verify file compatibility, layout, and style.

If you plan to use an LCD Projector at the meeting:

- You must report to your assigned room at least 30 minutes before the session is scheduled to begin (not your scheduled presentation time). Introduce yourself to the session moderators. You may be contacted by a moderator prior to the February meeting and asked to submit your presentation electronically.
- Bring your presentation on a 3.5" diskette that is clearly labeled with your name. Other media such as zip cartridges and CD-ROM’s may be supported. Please contact your Program Chairman for these details.
- You will be given instructions on how and when to connect to the LCD projection unit; or, your presentation will be loaded onto a laptop computer if provided by the section.
- You are encouraged to bring a set of 35mm slides in case of technical difficulties. If technical problems occur, you may be asked to present without visual aids.
CRIMINALISTICS

By the time you read this, the 2003 Annual Meeting will be just weeks away. The Criminalistics Section Program put together by Susan Ballou will be jam packed with fascinating and up-to-date information. In addition, the two special sessions — "A Tribute to Walter McCrone", and a "Multidisciplinary Symposium on Fire and Death" will also be of interest. The Academy is making the Advance Program available through the Internet as well as by mail, so each of you has a choice how to receive this information.

Several Members and Fellows of the section will be speakers and/or panel members during the Young Forensic Scientists' Forum (YFSF) Special Session. Marie Samples, Criminalistics Chair, will be speaking about developing professionalism in a career, with an emphasis on participation in organizations such as AAFS. In addition, the YFSF has a breakfast meeting, workshop, and a "Bring Your Own Slides" session planned. If you are new to the field, make sure to attend one or all of these. It is a good opportunity to meet your peers and get involved.

The deadline for pre-registration for the meeting is January 22, 2003. Register now, and see you in Chicago!

ENGINEERING SCIENCES

It is hard to believe that it has been almost a year since the meeting in Atlanta. By now you have all received the Advance Program for the 2003 Annual Meeting in Chicago. Roy Crawford and the program committee have worked hard this past year and put together an excellent program. Remember, the key to a successful meeting is participation, so glance through the program and register for workshops and seminars that are of interest. The more you put into the meeting, the more you will get out of it!

All Engineering Sciences Section members are urged to attend the section business meeting. We have much to discuss this year. In addition to being updated on the status of professional certification efforts, the section’s membership application requirements will be reviewed, discussed, and potentially revised. Anyone with strong feelings about these, and/or other topics of interest to the Engineering Sciences Section membership, is urged to attend and be heard.

A heartfelt thanks is extended to Section Officers Jim Smith (secretary), Roy Crawford (program chairman), and David Goldman (treasurer) for helping to make this a successful year. Additionally, thank you to the section membership for providing the honor and privilege of serving as the Engineering Sciences Section Chairman.

GENERAL

The positions of General Section Chairman and Secretary for the year 2003 are open for election during the 2003 General Section Business Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, February 19. The General Section Nominating Committee for the current year consists of Chairman Gil Brogdon, Bob Keppel, and Paul Kish. The Committee received no petitions to place individuals on the ballot for either of the Section Officer positions. The Committee’s nominations are as follows: Section Chairman: James Adcock; and Section Secretary: John Gems.

A brief résumé from each candidate nominated by the Committee will be mailed to section members prior to the business meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the business meeting. To be eligible for nomination, an individual must be a Fellow in good standing in the General Section.

JURISPRUDENCE

While terrorism is the theme for the February conference, lawyers and experts who testify in court every day are well aware that other areas will still pervade courtroom life. Therefore, the Jurisprudence Section will be putting on dual programs on Thursday and Friday at the conference in February. In addition to a daylong program focusing on terrorism, other areas concerning bite mark evidence for lawyers and the impact of mass disaster operations on transportation facilities will be discussed. There will also be sessions concerning what constitutes prosecutorial misconduct along with a session involving psychology of sexual offenders. In addition, Jurisprudence will be sponsoring a poster session concerning medico-legal autopsies in Nepal.

On Friday, the more basic and traditional legal focuses will be emphasized. In the morning, a three-hour session concerning how to bring or defend lawsuits against healthcare workers charged with homicide will be explored. In the afternoon, the gamut will run from understanding handwriting analysis to several very serious sessions concerning experts who have been charged with misconduct due to their testimony. And, of course, all other programs previously mentioned and organized by Carl Edwards will take place along with an international focus by Coroner Peter Dean on several European cases.

Finally, "Crime, Movies and the Law" will have an encore performance during the Wednesday morning breakfast.
The Odontology Section is gearing up for one of the most interesting meetings in a long time. Tom David has done a great job as Program Chair; the main issue was which of the papers to present since they were all so well done. Chicago is a wonderful city, so it will be quite a combination. Richard Souviron, one of our "own" will present at the Annual Tom Krauss Memorial Bite Mark Breakfast, so be sure and order your tickets, and pre-register today. Wishing everyone a wonderful New Year, and hoping you enjoyed the happiest of holidays!

Source: Parrala Wallace Hammel, DDS, Section Chairman

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Source: Elizabeth A. Murray, PhD, Section Secretary

Kenneth Kennedy was awarded the William W. Howells Book Award for his book "God-Apes and Fossil Men: Paleoanthropology of South Asia," published by the University of Michigan Press in 2000. The ceremony took place at the business meeting of the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association Meeting in New Orleans on November 21, 2002. This award takes the form of a medal, an honorarium, and a check to cover travel. Kenneth's book was judged the best published during the past two to three years by the selection committee.

Peter Moore-Jansen, Associate Professor and Chair of the Anthropology Department at Wichita State University, has been named Kansas Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. He received the award in a ceremony in Washington, DC, on Thursday, Nov. 21.

Kathy Reichs was selected by Court TV Network in conjunction with Ladies Home Journal and Women in Cable and Telecommunications (WICT) as a "Woman Superstar," and was honored at a breakfast for 200 top executives from the cable and telecommunications industries, and invited members of Congress, the FCC, the Administration, and the press. The award is given to those who inspire, lead, and serve as a role model to women and who have demonstrated exceptional career achievement. Kathy was also featured in the November issue of Ladies Home Journal as one of the top ten women in justice in America, in an article entitled "Women Who Keep You Safe," and in a PSA campaign on Court TV entitled "A Few Good Women."

Tal Simmon has accepted the position as Senior Lecturer in Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology at Bournemouth University in England and will be leaving Western Michigan University, effective July 1, 2003.

A reminder that the American Board of Forensic Anthropology Diplomate Meeting will be held in the hour prior to the Physical Anthropology Section Business Meeting at the Academy annual meeting in Chicago. Thanks to Judy Suchey for ensuring the meeting will now appear regularly in the meeting program and the room will be marked and reserved.

SECTION PROGRAM NEWS

PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Source: Barry D. Rosenfeld, PhD, Section Secretary

The upcoming meeting is only a few weeks away and despite the unusually cold venue, we've got a hot ticket. On Thursday, the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section has teamed up with the Jurisprudence Section for what looks like a fascinating day of presentations. A number of presentations on terrorism are on the schedule. Of particular interest is Michael Gelles’ presentation on “Behavioral Analysis of Suspected Terrorists” (originally on the schedule for Friday, but will now be presented Thursday morning. The Al Qaeda’s Operational Methodology presentation will be on Friday.) Dr. Gelles’ work with the military is always of great interest and should be especially so now. Thursday afternoon, don’t miss John McDevitt’s (from Northeastern University Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research) presentation on “Bias Crime Offender Typology.” He is one of the leading experts in the world on hate crime. Gail Stein will follow...
SECTION & PROGRAM NEWS CONT.

John. Gall works with the Chicago ADA office and does training with law enforcement agencies nationwide on issues of hate crime. The connection between hate crime and terrorism is a complex one and there will be more on this topic over the next few months in the media and in the professional forensic world. Thursday afternoon, Steven Drizin (from Northwestern University Law School) will provide an update on a topic of great interest — false confessions. He is followed by Allan Simcic from the Cook County Public Defender’s Office. Allan has been involved in cases of false confession that have received much media attention. His experience with this topic will be illuminating and valuable to evaluators.

Friday will be packed with interesting presentations. In the morning, there are three presentations from our international constituency on suicide and unnatural deaths, followed by Russell Pelzarea presenting the latest from his stalking data (IAED). Next, Dr. Jonathan Dukic, who recently completed a forensic post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Grisso and company at the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine, will present an important paper on sex offender commitment laws from across the country, followed by case examples presented by Drs. Rogel and Kesseler. The FBI weighs in later on child abduction data analysis (Dr. Hayes). All in all, there are a lot of great presenters on various issues of import. Take a look at the whole program. Other sections have excellent presentations as well. See you there.

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

Source: William J. Bodziak, MFS, Section Chairman

Section Program Chairman Jack Calverth has added even more to an already excellent program for the 2003 meeting. A Friday session will now include presentations on Daubert matters and handwriting individuality research, including the recent research of Sagar Schiacci on “Quantifying Handwriting Individuality” as reported in the July issue of the Journal of Forensic Sciences.

For those who may have misplaced their most recent newsletter, be reminded that there will be workshops on both Monday and Tuesday. The first part of Monday’s workshop will be chaired by Jim Hayes and Paul Gehl and will include a tour and lecture at the world renowned Newberry Library. The tour and lectures will provide the participant with the ability to identify forensic questioned document resources within that library. The second part of Monday’s workshop will be chaired by Michael Kecseg, a master calligraphic artist. He will provide a presentation on the history, form, and style of calligraphy. Tuesday’s workshop will be entitled “Note Taking Considerations and Techniques for Document Examiners.” The workshop, led by Larry Olson and Thomas Nelson will address how current legislation and legal rulings, including AECID/LAB accreditation requirements and scientific procedures, dictate how notes should be taken. The workshop will also include participation of attorney’s and other examiners. During the session, specific note taking techniques and formats for the various types of questioned document examinations will be shared and discussed. Attendees are reminded to register for workshops early.

TOXICOLOGY

Source: Amanda J. Jenkins, PHD, Section Program Chairman

The Advance Program for the 2003 meeting in Chicago is now available. The program for the Toxicology Section includes several special sessions in addition to the traditional workshops and platform and poster sessions. Many thanks to all who have helped to date and to those who will be participating in the program in varying capacities.

There are five toxicology related workshops scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. John Trestain will be presenting “Murder by Poison,” while Drs. Roesler and Michael Rieders will be discussing deaths by caregivers. “Clinical Chemistry” (Drs. Roper-Miller and Jenkins); “Diagnosis and Treatment of Asthma” (Drs. Juffer and Jenkins); and (newer) “Antipsychotics” (Drs. Roper-Miller and Winecker), are additional subjects to be explored in the workshop format. Come and show your support of the workshop chairs’ efforts by attending these offerings.

The section will continue its tradition of a Wednesday evening poster session. Thirteen posters have been accepted for presentation covering a range of topics from oxycodone deaths to analysis of LSD. Note that the format has changed slightly for 2003 in that the section will recognize its award winners immediately prior to the poster session.

Several special sessions will be interspersed throughout the 22 platform presentations on Thursday and Friday of the meeting. Drs. Caplan and Cone will moderate a session on oxycodone associated deaths. This session will discuss prevalence and classification of such deaths in light of recent advances in pain management. The Joint SOFT/AAFS Drugs and Driving Committee will moderate a session on impairment and over the counter and prescription medications. This session will have an international flavor by including cases from Canada and Europe. A special session on Friday morning, hosted by Drs. Brunk and Benjamin, will elaborate on the general meeting theme of bioterrorism.

The Annual Lectureship in Toxicology will be presented by Dr. Charles Schuster of Wayne State University, Detroit. He is a former Director of NIDA and will be presenting his exciting research on the neurotoxicity of methamphetamine and MDMA in humans. Dr. Middleberg will conclude the section program with a session on pediatric postmortem toxicology. He has assembled a panel of four individuals to assist discussion of this subject.

The Toxicology Section’s program for 2003 is diverse. Between workshops, special sessions, and regular presentations, the program should have something for everyone. Therefore, come and join your colleagues in Chicago in February!
DR ALAN CURRY RECEIVES 2002 LUCAS MEDAL

Congratulations to Dr. Alan Curry, the recipient of the 2002 Douglas M. Lucas Medal (see President’s Message in the July 2002 issue of Academy News).

This international award, sponsored by the AAFS, is presented once every three years, at the meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS,) to a person who has made significant professional contributions to the forensic sciences.

Dr. Curry was the director of the forensic sciences research establishment at Aldermaston where new technology essential to forensic scientists throughout the world was developed. The center also served as a training facility for selected scientists receiving Rhodes and other scholarships. Several AAFS members have benefited from this availability.

During his career, Dr. Curry wrote and edited a number of useful books, and is best known for Poison Detection in Human Organs, now in its 4th edition. He also contributed to numerous textbooks and scientific journals.

The first conviction of a murderer who had used insulin as the toxin occurred in the 1950s, and was due to the extraordinary work of Dr. Curry and his staff. Dr. Curry developed methods for the extraction of insulin from the tissue, chromatographic methods for the separation of insulin from the body proteins, and that, together with complex animal tests, provided evidence for conviction.

Other important research by Curry et al, involved information on the production of cyanide in postmortem tissues, methods for the analysis of the vast number of new pharmaceuticals hitting the market from the 1960s on, and methods for thallium and other heavy metals. Interpretation of findings in both fatal and non-fatal cases led to much of the research at the Center.

Dr. Curry even went so far as to ingest arsenic in small doses and grow a beard for use in analysis and interpretation at one time! This was at the time instrumentation was available for the analysis of heavy metals from hair and his methods and findings were of much value to criminalists and toxicologists among others in the forensic sciences.

Recognizing the need for sharing information on an international scale, in the early 1960s, Dr. Curry met with several other forensic toxicologists and founded “The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists” and the TIAFT Bulletin. The Bulletin was to be published monthly, and TIAFT has grown to several thousand members.

AAFSPresident Graham Jones presented Dr. Curry with the Lucas Medal in August 2002.

AAFS CHRONICLES – DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

Source: Ken Field, Academy Historian

In 1953...

... at the conclusion of the Annual Banquet of the 1953 Annual Meeting the Academy presented its first award — a calligraphic scroll — to Alexander Gettler in recognition of his long and distinguished career and his outstanding contributions to the forensic sciences. In 1983 the Toxicology Section named one of its awards in his honor and still presents it at each annual meeting.

In 1963...

... the Academy annual meeting was held on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the Chicago Drake Hotel. The meeting program consisted of a day and a half devoted to two “General Science Sessions” and two half days of Section Scientific Sessions. The official “Program” for the 1963 meeting consisted of 10 pages printed in a 6” x 9” booklet. A mere glance at any recent annual meeting “Program” amply demonstrates how much more complex the meetings are today.

In 1973...

... at the Annual Business Meeting a major item on the agenda was whether or not to accept the Forensic Sciences Foundation as the Academy’s educational and research arm. Don Harper Mills, Chairman of the Special Presidential Foundation Committee, led the discussion. To properly prepare the Fellows for the pending vote, a 47-page document had been distributed in the mail giving the complete background of the Foundation and the conditions under which the Academy would affiliate with it. Noting the emotionally charged hours spent discussing this issue at the 1972 meeting, and satisfied with the conditions cited, the Fellows unanimously approved the merger.

In 1983...

... the annual meeting in Cincinnati was the first time the Academy made use of a Convention Center (located next door to the hotel). It was a successful venture and especially amusing because we shared the large facility with a “bikers” convention. With big smiles on their faces, the bikers regularly asked about attending the Toxicology Section sessions on drugs.
Like Superman, DNA has its Kryptonite. Although highly regarded and even touted regally, and rightly so, for its impact upon the administration of justice, both civil and criminal, DNA profiling lacks the capacity of a magic wand. It can affiliate bodily tissues and fluids to a specific person with a phenomenal degree of assurance but it is often at a loss to define why a person's DNA was discovered at a particular crime scene or even to play an imperious role in the absence of bodily tissues or fluids.

It is one thing to be able to declare, through DNA profiling, that the blood of a suspect was found at a homicide scene. It is wholly another to use DNA profiling to affirm that the death under investigation occurred by the hand of a perpetrator acting in self-defense or not. Whether the killing happened in self-defense, as the perpetrator whose blood was recovered from the crime scene might maintain, or whether the killing was a punishable homicide, as the prosecution would contend, is beyond the ken of DNA profiling even though the differentiation between an excusable homicide by self-defense and an inexcusable one with malice aforethought may be the linchpin of a successful or a failed prosecution. DNA exceeds its bounds in being summoned to be the arbiter of guilt or innocence of criminal wrongdoing.

DNA profiling's potency is limited in other ways as well in the criminal justice system. There are documented instances where DNA profiling, in today's usage, could not conclusively prove that a missing person was a homicide victim or not but a suspect was tried and convicted of homicide notwithstanding. Similarly DNA profiling cannot resurrect a person who has been executed for the killing of another person who later reappears in a state of full bodily health. Both of such strange, extraordinary, and execrably unjust situations arose well before the recent advent of the law enforcement uses of DNA profiling, but they nevertheless pont if the need to be wary of giving DNA profiling more than its due, attributing an alpha and omega value to it.

Almost, But Not Quite Executed in 1709

In Queen Anne's England of 1709 tragedy came unsuspectingly to Ambrose Guinnnett. Guinnnett, apprenticed to an attorney in Canterbury, was an enterprising and conscientious young lad, whose work ethic persuaded his master to allow him to take a holiday to his sister's inn near Deal, some twenty miles distant.

For all his exuberant youth and good intentions Ambrose found himself unable to travel by foot the full distance to his sister's lodgings in one day. Instead he sought overnight lodging at Deal, where he was fortunate enough to find an innkeeper who knew his sister and took pity on him for his sister's sake. The innkeeper suggested that Ambrose bed down with her uncle, one Richard Collins, always supposing Collins would not object. As it happened, Collins, a boatswain, was merely tarrying at his niece's inn while his ship was at anchor in the neighboring Downs.

Upon the entreaty of his niece, Collins reluctantly agreed to sharing his bed with Ambrose. So, strapping his money belt securely around his waist, he being in no mood to be robbed by a stranger, Collins made his way to his room, with Ambrose closely in tow. During the night Ambrose awoke with fitful stomach cramps requiring him to make haste to the privy.

Collins, awakened by Ambrose's groans, directed the young man to the outhouse in the garden and kindly provided him with the key to unlock the door to the privy. Upon opening the key case at the privy door Ambrose was surprised to find that it concealed a penknife and a valuable coin. After opening the privy door, he pocketed these items and promptly forgot about them. Ambrose's stay at the privy was rather extended, given the nature of his sudden intestinal indisposition.

Upon his return to his room, Ambrose realized that Collins was no longer sleeping in the bed. Giving little attention to Collins' absence, Ambrose slept until day's first light when he joined his landlady at the breakfast table. The landlady was busy giving Ambrose directions to his sister's inn in Deal when a pair of constables arrived from Deal. They had been following a trail of blood from the sea wall back to the inn where Ambrose had taken lodging.

Upon the constables' inquiry Ambrose revealed that Collins had disappeared during the night while he, Ambrose, was visiting the garden privy. Suspicious of this explanation, the constables asked Ambrose to empty his pockets, bringing to light the penknife and the guinea he had found in the privy key case Collins had given him. Both items, to the misfortune of Ambrose, were scratched with the initials "R.C."

Upon examining the room whereAmbrose and Collins had slept the bed clothes were found to be blood stained and a trail of blood led to the door of the room. Collins' money belt was nowhere to be found. Ambrose's involvement in the disappearance and possible death of Collins seemed clear beyond peradventure. He was promptly placed under arrest.

In due course Ambrose was brought to trial at Maidstone assizes. After a brief period of deliberation the jury convicted him of both theft and murder in spite continued on page 20
of the blatant inadequacy of the proof of the corpus delicti for either crime. He was sentenced to be hanged near the scene of his crime and to be thereafter hanged in chains on the outskirts of Deal.

The day of Ambrose’s hanging was a blustery one, what with wind and rain aplenty. The hangman, we may imagine, did his job in haste and departed for more comfortable quarters just a few minutes after the hanging, the usual custom being to stay at least an hour in the event the hanging did not result in the death of the convict.

A passerby noticed the body of Ambrose lying on the ground covered by a water-soaked calico. It might have been the wind and then again it might have been the movement of the hanged man, thought the passerby, who lifted the calico to satisfy his curiosity. Sweet holy Moses, Ambrose was still alive.

With the aid of Ambrose’s sister and her friends, he was extricated from the hangman’s noose, put into a warm bed and given the care and attention necessary to revive him fully. In order to ensure his safety from the inquiring eyes of the constables he was offered and greedily took a position as an account steward on a privateer which was about to set sail for the West Indies.

But Ambrose Gwinnett travels did not end so handily. The privateer that he had boarded was engaged in a gun battle by a Spanish ship while en route to the West Indies. Ambrose was taken prisoner and became a captive in Cuba. He spent five years in Cuba, first in jail and later as an English and Spanish speaking employee of the governor of the island.

It was in his role as the governor’s scrivener that Ambrose chanced to meet Richard Collins for the second time. Collins, as it happened, had also been taken captive while tasked as a sailor on an English ship which had been overrun by a Spanish naval vessel. Like Ambrose before him, Collins was taken by the Spaniards to Cuba where Ambrose had been enlisted to document the names and other identifying information on captured British sailors.

One can only imagine the effect upon Ambrose Gwinnett of this meeting with Richard Collins. After the first wave of excitement had subsided, Ambrose sought an explanation for Collins sudden disappearance many years before from the inn outside Deal. Collins revealed that before arriving at the inn where he met Ambrose he had been bloodied in a fight, requiring his being bandaged by a surgeon. During the night, while Ambrose was in the privy, Collins’ wound had reopened with blood spewing forth. He quickly left his bed in search of a surgeon’s attention but he was waylaid by a press gang, dragged to a skiff at sea’s edge and put on board a privateer as an impressed seaman. It was that privateer which had lost the battle to the Spaniards all these years later.

It is not known whether Ambrose Gwinnett ever returned to England to begin his life anew. It is known however that the trail of blood, among other items of circumstantial evidence, which convicted Ambrose of murder was the blood of Collins, the alleged homicide victim. Even in today’s world of forensic science, DNA profiling would not have lighted the way to Ambrose’s acquittal on the murder charge. DNA profiling does have its limits.

murdered him." Still others indicated that Perry had said that the dead body of Harrison was "hid in a bean-rick in Campden," but when an exhaustive search there came up empty, Perry's involvement in Harrison's disappearance seemed patent.

The Justice of the Peace's interrogation now bore down heavily on Perry. Finally, he answered the justice that Harrison "was murdered, but not by him." After being cautioned by the justice, Perry named the murderers as "his mother and his brother." Again the justice admonished Perry that "he should not draw more innocent blood upon his head" but, nonetheless, Perry insisted that "he spoke nothing but the truth, and that if he were immediately to die he would justify it."

"Why, inquired the justice, did his mother and brother murder Harrison? What was their motive? Perry explained the tawdry business as his relatives desire for him "to help them to money, telling him how poor they were, and that it was in his power to relieve them, by giving them notice when his master went to receive his lady's rents," for they then way-lay and rob him.

Having outlined the pimlicious deed, Perry explained in detail how, in his and their mother's presence, his brother Richard had strangled Harrison, taken "a bag of money out of his pocket and threw it into his mother's lap." The murder done, the money obtained, it was agreed that the dead body would be thrown "into the great sink, by Wallington's mill behind the garden." Meanwhile Perry agreed to obtain a hand, band, and comb belonging to Harrison and to hack and cut the hat and band in such a way as to signify an assault upon Harrison and then to lay claim to having found it by accident in a field.

Perry's confession resulted in the immediate arrest of his mother Joan and brother Richard. They both protested their innocence in the most sincere and plaintive words. Not even the failure to find the body of Harrison in the sink, where Perry said it would be, or in the "fish-pools in Campden," was considered to be proof positive of Joan and Richard's innocence. John Perry's confession had cemented the case against them all. After all, why would Perry admit to a murder that would lead with certainty to his conviction and sentence to death?

At the next assizes (session of court) John, Joan, and Richard Perry were brought to court on two indictments; one for breaking into William Harrison's house and robbing him in 1659 and the other for robbing and murdering him on August 16, 1660. The sitting justice accepted the plea of guilty of the three to the 1659 crimes and, upon their "humbly begging" for "his majesty's gracious pardon," were granted the requested pardon. It seemed that the guilty plea was entered not in earnest but being "prompted by some who were unwilling to loose (sic) time, and trouble the court with their trial." (In today's legal world this guilty plea would be called an "Alford" plea, after the United States Supreme Court opinion legitimizing a guilty plea of one who, contrariwise, insists on his/her innocence.)

On the second indictment, for the murder of Harrison, the justice would not try them "because the body (of Harrison) was not found." But that was not to be the end of l'affaire William Harrison, alleged murder victim.

At the next assizes, a different judge was sitting and a different proceeding unfolded. The Perrys were tried, all three of them, for murder. The evidence against them was heavily reliant upon the confessions of John Perry, which he now recanted in asserting "he was then mad, and knew not what he said." Richard testified that his brother's confession was not trustworthy because he had also "accused others as well as him to have murdered his master."

However, the jury was unconvinced and convicted all three of the murder of Harrison. Even on the day of their execution, John Perry would not unequivocally renounce his confession. He went to the scaffold "with a dogged and surly carriage (telling) the people he was not obliged to confess to them." His mother Joan went to her death first ("being reputed a witch, and to have so bewitched her sons they could confess nothing while she lived"). Richard was hanged next, but only after "with great earnestness (he) begged and beseeched his brother" to tell the truth.

At this point in this descriptive rendering, the reader must be expectantly aware of the denouement. In the bland words of Howell's State Trials, "some years afterwards Mr. Harrison returned home."

Harrison's explanation for his disappearance has been called by the late esteemed criminal law professor Rollin Perkins "a weird tale of having been robbed, kidnapped, and transported to Turkey where he had been held as a slave" until he escaped. Skeptics pointed to the possibility that Harrison had absconded with his landlord's rents, never having been robbed or even having left England. Regardless of the truth of that matter, three innocent persons had been hanged for a murder that never happened based almost entirely on the confession of one of them.

The reader can justly muse: Would DNA profiling have saved the Perrys by upturning the confession of brother and son John Perry? Scratch as one might, and should, what bodily tissues or fluids existed to cast a. Welting eye on John Perry's confession through DNA profiling? The might of a confession, barely corroborated by the condition of the hat, band, and comb, all attesting to the corpus delicti for homicide, followed up by the jailhouse informers' declarations along with a palpable motive by the Perrys for the robbery-murder of Harrison, caused them to be carted them off to the gallows on Broadway-Hill "in sight of Campden" in 1660.

Would DNA profiling augur for a more well-founded and just outcome today? Or is it the case that there is less a need for DNA profiling than a caution against a too heavy reliance on non-scientific circumstantial evidence? In short is the lack of the requisite bodily fluids or tissues DNA profiling's Kryptonite and, consequently, the law's as well?

See Perry's Case, 14 How.St.Tr. 1312 (1661).
The Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made to the Foundation. Please accept our apologies if your name has been inadvertently omitted and contact the AARS office as soon as possible with the connection. This listing reflects contributions received from 08/01/02 through 12/01/02.

The percentages shown indicate the number of members within each section who have contributed to the Endowment Fund.

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