

# The CACNews

News of the California Association of Criminalists • Second Quarter 2020



# *The President's Desk*

alice  
**Hilker**



*CAC President*

**[M]uch of the membership has given support to reducing the number of seminars from two per year down to one.**

## **Change is Coming**

**T**hank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president. It has truly been an honor to serve this organization and its members and I hope that I will see many of you at the Spring Seminar in Santa Cruz where I will pass the coconut on to your next president. As I write my final President's Message, I am looking forward to all the changes that are coming for the CAC as we continue to grow.

Some of the changes coming is based on the survey conducted during the annual membership renewal process where much of the membership has given support to reducing the number of seminars from two per year down to one. In order to achieve this, a proposed change to the Bylaws will need to happen in order to allow a minimum of one yearly seminar rather than mandating two. The existing verbiage has been in place since the October meeting of 1970, and while we feel this will strengthen the CAC, the Board knows that this transition may be a difficult change for some members. Our goal and focus will be to provide more training opportunities throughout the year in order to make this an easier transition.

This coming year, the Regional Directors will be ramping up their efforts to improve the study groups and, if possible, increase their frequency. Already, they are offering certificates of attendance with the number of training hours listed, in order to conform to the guidelines of certification boards and accrediting bodies. If you have not attended a study group recently, please try to attend. These study groups are a great forum to discuss research done in the labs, to present interesting cases, or even to debate new and controversial issues with colleagues that are experiencing the same issues. I would like to note that we are actively looking to form a new CAC Southern Firearms Study Group, as the previous group is no longer a CAC – affiliated group. These study groups are an incredible benefit available to you, and by hosting a full variety of disciplines, the CAC will continue to provide different venues to develop the connections, skills, and knowledge of the membership. I urge you all to reach out to reach out to your Northern and Southern Regional Directors if you have ideas for topics at study groups or if there is anything of particular interest for discussion in this smaller, less formal setting.

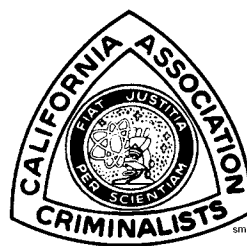
I am looking forward to the Santa Cruz meeting! I hope that many of you can attend, that you voice your opinions at the business meeting, that you are able to attend or present during the seminar, that you enjoy the social events, and that you remain active participants in this organization.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice".

SECOND QUARTER 2020

# The CACNews

www.cacnews.org



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## On the cover:

Artist George Stefely reimagines Dr. Bouchard as Edmund Locard. More on the fascinating story of this painting shared by Skip Palenik—inside this issue.

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Submissions should be made in the form of Windows compatible files on CD or by e-mail. Alternatively, text files may be saved as plain ASCII files without formatting codes, e.g. bold, italic, etc. Graphics, sketches, photographs, etc. may also be placed into articles. Please contact the editorial secretary for details.

The deadlines for submissions are: December 1, March 1, June 1 and September 1.

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jonathan  
**Charron**



*CAC Editorial Secretary*

**I wanted to ask a fan who is not employed in the criminal justice system about their ideas on how this particular podcast and modern media outlets affect expectations of jurors. I decided to ask the woman who initially introduced me personally to this podcast, Miranda Smith, who graciously agreed to the following interview.**

## **The Criminalist and the Vigilante**

A few mornings ago, I woke up with a slight fever and the overwhelming sense that this was just the beginning of being sick. Sure enough, by the afternoon, I was full blown sick and headed back to bed to try and sleep the illness away. Those that know me well, know that relaxing is something I have a difficult time doing. Being sick in bed is often the only instance where I will force myself to take the time to play catch up on the newest TV shows or films that I have avoided spoilers for. One such show that has been on my list for a couple of months now is a show titled *Don't F\*\*k With Cats: Hunting an Internet Killer* on Netflix. The subject of the show is a man who posted videos online of him killing cats, and then eventually a video of him killing and dismembering a human victim. Part of the series retold the story of how a group of online amateur detectives were able to identify the suspect using only the videos for clues. Though this group successfully identified the man, law enforcement they reached out to seemingly dismissed their input. While the entire show was fascinating, the interaction between these amateur detectives and law enforcement really got me thinking.

I thought about a good way to describe the group of armchair sleuths and initially defaulted to the term "vigilante." They are taking justice into their own hands and trying to do the work that law enforcement would and should be responsible for. The problem I run into with this classification is that the word "vigilante" also evokes images of masks, capes, and a perfectly structured superhumans imbued with extraordinary powers from some tragic accident in their youth ultimately driving their desire for justice. This may be a product of my long-held hope that these fictional characters would one day spring from the pages of my comic books, but these people don't fit the description of "vigilante." In fact, when looking at the definition in the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, vigilante is defined as, "A member of a volunteer committee organized to suppress and punish crime summarily (as when the processes of law are viewed as inadequate)." So how would one classify this new breed of "vigilante" and should law enforcement, as well as us criminalists, be aware of their expectations and actions in modern day society?

To explore that question, I began to think about how our popular culture has changed over the years regarding the criminal justice system and crime in general. A public fascination with what science has to offer the criminal justice system arguably started with the onslaught of forensic and law-based television shows. These programs gave a glimpse of our world to the viewers and, I believe, paved the way for the fascination with true crime. True crime type programming dives into cases that have actually happened versus what a team of writers created for our viewing pleasure. And viewing is just part of it.

While television is still a primary source for many people when it comes to their true crime fix, another pop culture trend has emerged and embraced this topic. Podcasts are one of the latest trends of media sources that merge the worlds of television and live radio into an easy-to-download form of portable audio entertainment. The topics of these podcasts range from cooking to travel, technology trends to product reviews, and, of course, true crime.

The true crime type podcast I am most familiar with is one called *My Favorite Murder*. This podcast is hosted by two women, Karen Kilgariff and Georgia Hardstark, who discuss different true crime cases that they have heard about. These fans and the outlets in which they engage each other is very reminiscent of the "vigilante" cat detectives. They discuss evidence,



speculate on and explore unsolved cases, look for potential unexplored aspects to crimes, and have even defined their passionate fanbase as “murderinos.” Finally a title for a modern day true crime aficionado.

While having listened to and enjoyed a few of their podcasts myself, I wanted to ask a fan who is not employed in the criminal justice system about their ideas on how this particular podcast and modern media outlets affect expectations of jurors. I decided to ask the woman who initially introduced me personally to this podcast, Miranda Smith, who graciously agreed to the following interview.

JC: First off, I just want to say thank you for being willing to talk to me about your perspective when it comes to true crime related media in a modern world. When did you first become interested in true crime?

MS: It is my pleasure and honor to contribute in any way to your article. I grew up in a very true crime centric home. When I was as young as six years old, our family nights consisted of watching *America's Most Wanted* and *Unsolved Mysteries*. Our favorite past time in watching these shows was the “Who done it” mentality, where my Dad would try to guess who committed the crime or solve the case based on the information we just received. Sometimes at the end of one of these shows, Robert Stack or Adam Walsh would state, “Update!” Nothing thrilled us more than finding out when someone was caught, or a case was solved. When I grew into my teenage years, my friends and I were fascinated with the Zodiac Killer because there was a rumored “Zodiac Shack” in my hometown of Vacaville. Many weekend nights were spent going out to the shack with friends and telling stories to each other of the awful things that this killer did and the six degrees of separation that everyone in my hometown had from these heinous acts. I would say the nail in the coffin of my true crime interest came with true crime novels. Elaine, the mother of one of my best friends, was a true crime novel aficionado and the books were easily accessible to borrow at any time. Being fifteen years old and reading books such as *The Stranger Beside Me* by Ann Rule (Ted Bundy), *Helter Skelter* (Manson Murders), and the Menendez Brothers among others was influential to my sensitivity and curiosity to true crime. Shout out to some of the OGs of true crime; HBO Documentaries (*West Memphis Three*), *Dateline* and *20/20* (hi Barbara Walters!)

A side note that I believe brings people like me to true crime is that I also grew up with addiction and physical abuse in my family among other issues. There is a part of me that was really interested in understanding how people snap and why they commit crimes. My mom's brother had a particularly rough story, so I felt that I could relate to a lot of these broken people and their stories in a strange way.

JC: What sort of avenues do you receive your information regarding true crime topics, and has that changed over the years?

MS: In my adult life, I primarily listen to true crime podcasts. I enjoy the process of listening to a full story with the possibility of a background story of the victims and perpetrator. I have several in rotation that meet my interests, and they have different approaches. *My Favorite Murder* is my favorite podcast as its platform is more of a comedic, light-hearted, fascination with true crime. There are also more investigations in depth or real time like *Crime Junkies* or series like *Cold* or *Criminal*. I also do my own research if a case catches my interest and rely on online news sites for additional information. The recent capture of the Golden State Killer Joseph James DeAn-



Donald Smith photo.

**“Nothing thrilled us more than finding out when someone was caught, or a case was solved.”**

—Miranda Smith

gelo was one that crossed over in to all avenues, the news, printed materials and podcasts. The biggest change has come from regular network tv to now getting my information on demand by streaming true crime shows, listening to podcasts or looking up stories that interest me. I am also a member of several true crime groups on social media and enjoy learning about cases on there as well.

JC: Would you talk a little bit about the podcast *My Favorite Murder*? What is it about and why do you feel it has garnered such a following?

MS: *My Favorite Murder* is an anomaly. This podcast has created a safe space for all the weirdos that maybe don't fit in to a conventional world and celebrates their differences. Hosted by my personal hero Karen Kilgariff with her sharp sense of humor, fierce blue eyes and zest for napping and her dogs alongside the delightful Georgia Hardstark. Georgia is quirky, who loves puns and canned wine and who keeps them both light and emotionally vulnerable during the show with her charm. That is the secret, at the beginning of the podcast you hear Karen & Georgia have conversations that are warm, authentic and relatable before getting in to the nitty gritty of their story telling of a true crime. The structure is they both pick a crime to tell the other person, the other person doesn't know ahead of time what the crime will be. The beauty of this exchange as you might be gasping, responding to a quip to the speaker, or yelling out a question—it is likely that the host on the receiving end of the story is doing the same. There is also a heavy focus on mental health, body issues, depression, self-care and improvement from Karen and Georgia. It could be said that they have normalized therapy and speaking about their own issues with addictions and self-harming with candor and honesty. They have also done a lot of work in giving a voice to victims, working against victim blaming, using the correct terms for people of certain identities (i.e. sex worker vs. hooker) and often sharing broken parts of the cps and judicial system. They try to be fair and respect authorities and the process while exploring how we can learn from past mistakes and do better. Did I mention that Karen is magical? They also did a great job early on in touring worldwide, so their fans could experience their energy in person, this made their following feel personal and almost movie star like.

## The Criminalist and the Vigilante

JC: Do you feel these types of podcasts influence, inform, and change the public's viewpoint of our criminal justice system? If so, how?

MS: Yes, I do think that the public interest in podcasts influence the public's point of view on the criminal justice system. There can be a positive affect where the public relates to the process on a deeper level because of their own understanding of the crime or what they believe to be true. I think that the public could have a deeper criticism or respect the justice system more depending on what case they are following. Podcasts like *Crime Junkies* by Ashley Flowers and Brit Prawat have worked with authorities during investigations and research. Karen and Georgia from *MFM* have a deep friendship with Paul Holes, one of the detectives on the Golden State Killer case. There is certainly an understanding that there is a system in place, but I think that the public does have more cynicism when it comes to mistakes that are made or when a crime is not solved easily. There are a lot of opinionated people that are interested in true crime.

JC: If you were called to serve on a jury, do you feel that your knowledge and exposure to these podcasts cause you to have more or less expectation of the quality and type of evidence presentation in the courtroom?

MS: I recently was called to jury duty and was very much analyzing my expectations if I were to be chosen for a trial. Because of my heavy listening of these podcasts, my expectations of quality evidence and strong presentation is very high. I would prefer to have a case spelled out with as much evidence as possible laid out beautifully for me. That would be fascinating.

JC: Do you think law enforcement, forensic scientists, and those involved in the criminal justice system would benefit from listening to these type of podcasts? Why or why not?

MS: I think that anyone listening to true crime podcasts should do so with the frame of mind that this is also entertainment. While many of the podcasts are well researched, most listeners are in no way part of the investigation or trained for investigative work. I do think that people that are involved in the criminal justice system, if that is their life work and passion, that it would be smart to keep their finger on the pulse of these shows for current cases or cold cases. Some of the podcasts are even hosted by investigative journalists, so there are times when new information to a case is discovered. A good example would be the first podcast I (along with millions of others) listened to was *Serial* by Sarah Koenig (*Queen!!!*). The story of *Serial* was of Adnan Sayed who was accused of killing his high school girlfriend. After the podcast ran its season Adnan's lawyers actually took evidence brought up in the podcast as part of an appeal and won, the case went to retrial. I think that there would be a lot of frustration at the same time, there is a lot of storytelling on podcasts.

JC: In your opinion, do you feel that having a larger portion of society aware of true crime cases is a benefit to the overall criminal justice system?

MS: I think that society being aware of true cases is a benefit to the general public. If we can learn from past crimes whether it be murder, serial killers, sexual assault, or cults, then we can better protect ourselves and understand signs of these crimes. *My Favorite Murder* has a saying "F\*ck Politeness." Essentially, don't worry about being nice, worry about protecting yourself. Ok, but you are asking about the benefit to the overall criminal justice system, I don't think that the

general society understands the process still even with the exposure of true crime. It is important that there is an awareness that the criminal justice system has due process, and I think that is more respected as true crime has become so broad. So, I think that the benefits are there for sure.

JC: Thank you very much for your ideas and opinions on this topic! I really appreciate your time!<sup>1</sup>

Having gained some perspective from my talk with Miranda, I wanted to finish my journey on this topic with some research. I found a study that looked at the "CSI Effect" and at what expectations jurors have when it comes to evidence presentation in a courtroom. According to a study conducted in 2006 of summoned jurors in Ann Arbor, Michigan, 46% expected there be some sort of forensic based evidence presented in every single criminal case. When specifically lining out types of cases however, 74% believed there should be forensic evidence presented in homicide cases and 73% said the same of rape cases.<sup>2</sup> I was not able to find a study that covered the expectations before this time period, but I was curious if these expectations had changed in a modern setting. I sought to explore this by conducting a survey which I posted on a local *My Favorite Murder* focused fan page. I had 40 participants answer the same three questions as the Ann Arbor study asked and found that 43% expected there to be some sort of forensic based evidence presented in every single criminal case. For a homicide case, 60% expected forensic evidence, while 40% expected the same in a rape case.<sup>3</sup>

Though this was a very small survey, I found the reduction of expectation of forensic evidence being presented in homicide and rape cases interesting, especially since the expectation of evidence in general was nearly the same as the 2006 study. I feel that this reduction represents an understanding that science can explain a lot but may not always be applicable or needed in every single case, especially in the eye of a jury. Is this an indication that the "CSI Effect" is beginning to be less prevalent in the courtroom as popular culture becomes more aware of true crime cases?

With time comes change. And with change, we see progress. We see changes in our culture and workloads. We see changes in the types of questions asked of us on the stand. We see changes in the expectations of the jury, and we see changes in the way the pool of jurors consumes their entertainment and information. We even see police departments change from turning down leads from "vigilantes" about a cat killer to now posting requests for public assistance about cases on Facebook and Twitter. These changes are here, and soon, new ones will emerge. I urge you all to take the time to look at our world through an outsider's viewpoint, every now and again, so that we continue giving evidence a voice that speaks to the modern ear.



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Charron, Jonathan. "Forensic Information for a Jury." *Survey*. 02/2020.

## Between Art and Science

The cover of this issue of the CAC-News features an oil painting commissioned by Skip Palenik. It appeared in the annual Christmas card sent out by Microtrace along with the intriguing caption:

*"This oil-on-canvas painting of Dr. Edmond Locard (1877-1966) was commissioned by Skip Palenik to serve as the centerpiece of the Microtrace lobby. It depicts the father of forensic trace evidence analysis as he appears in the studio photograph presented to Harry Söderman on the completion of his studies with the Maître Locard in 1928. The image is intended to depict Locard as a heroic scientist-detective in the high Art Deco style of the period. His lab coat evokes the fashionable trench coats of the roaring Twenties, and the Zeiss petrographic microscope is consistent with the period...Locard's work on the analysis of dust traces inspired Skip's lifelong love of microanalysis and led to the establishment of Microtrace. Dr. Locard is best known for his work on the transfer of traces in criminal investigation, which L.C. Nickolls first referred to as "Locard's Exchange Principle" in 1956.*



We wasted no time in contacting Skip and asked for permission to reproduce the impressive artwork on the cover of the upcoming issue. We also wanted to know the history of the piece. Skip wrote back:

*"In answer to your question, we would love to have it featured on the cover of the CACNews and will see that Chris sends you a high resolution image for this purpose. I'm assuming, first of all, that it is the actual painting and not Chris' fanciful Christmas photoshopped version(which we could provide instead if that is the one you wanted) and that you will provide the proper credit.*

*"I think also, however, that it is important to provide some version of the following information by way of explanation to go with the cover (I'm sure you can condense this but I want you to know the whole story): I had my artist base my painting on a another painting, from the 1920's, of a French doctor (Dr. Bouchard) by Tamara Lempicka who, to some extent at least, defined the Art Deco style in European painting in the 20's and 30's. For years I had admired a glossy print I found, purchased and still have. As it turns out, there is actually not only a similarity in the names Bouchard and Locard but to some extent in their appearance as well. (You can find Lempicka's painting of Bouchard with little effort on the internet) As I thought about this over the years, I decided in 2018 to have an artist from whom I commission paintings to paint this painting with Edmond Locard as the subject. I think the result is terrific and the response to our card this year has eclipsed almost every other card we have designed over the years. There have even been requests to obtain posters of it from some of the recipients.*

*"Since I have admired my Bouchard print for years, I decided to turn the subject of the painting into Locard (and not Bouchard in whom I have no real*

**The image is intended to depict Locard as a heroic scientist-detective in the high Art Deco style of the period. His lab coat evokes the fashionable trench coats of the roaring Twenties, and the Zeiss petrographic microscope is consistent with the period...**

interest), so I worked with my artist to locate the face of Locard from the 1920's (the period of the painting). Thus, the face on my painting is that of a relatively young Locard (not as he is seen in most photos on line today) as he appears in the studio portrait that he presented to Harry Söderman as a gift at the conclusion of his studies with Locard in 1928, which is reproduced in Söderman's *A Policeman's Lot*. George (my artist) also worked on the microscope, which appears to be a polarizing microscope in the original painting (oddly enough) and worked it into a specific type of actual polarizing microscope from the period as noted in the text on the back of our card.

*"Anyway, I would want people seeing (and hopefully admiring) it to know the story behind its creation and not confuse it with Bouchard as [some people] had, at first, done.*

*"If this is agreeable, let us know and we will be happy to send both a scan and any permission you may need.*

*"Hope all is well. It was really nice to hear from you and I am really happy to know you enjoyed our card and the primary contact it created."*

*Skip Palenik leading a workshop at the fall 2015 CAC seminar in Ventura*





## How to Help Get Your Co-Workers Certified

If you are a certificate holder of the American Board of Criminalistics you have chosen to demonstrate your professionalism by seeking and achieving a Certificate of Qualification by the ABC. Though there are a few governmental agencies that require certification of its forensic scientists, they are still the minority. The majority of you have done it because you know that as a forensic scientist the demonstration of your competency is an integral part of participating in the profession. In addition, few agencies provide fiscal incentives to becoming certified. In too many instances it is just the opposite. They do not help by paying application, seating and recertification fees or even provide work time to prepare for the test. You have become certified in spite of the obstacles because you know it's the right thing to do.

Unfortunately, because of the many obstacles, the number of certificants is still too small percentage of practicing professionals. Until agencies wake up and recognize the importance of supporting certification, your participation in helping your coworkers understand the process and help them prepare for taking the examination is essential.

The following is a compilation of suggestions from recent certificate applicants on how to prepare for the examinations.

### *Create an in-house study group*

Getting together a group of people within your laboratory to work together to study for the test has proven to be successful in many laboratories. Every person has knowledge to impart about his or her area expertise. It can reduce anxiety and help promote laboratory camaraderie. This works best if management supports the concept and allows some on work time to meet.

### *Help your Regional Association put on an ABC Prep Course*

For example, MAFS has given an ABC Prep workshop in the past that attendees have said really helped them. The workshop was developed based on published ABC KSA's. Discipline experts and a couple of general experts gave presentations.

### *Provide information about the ABC Study Guides*

Study guides for all the examinations are available on the ABC website. There has been some complaints that the study guides are too broad. However, the reality is every question on all of the tests can be sourced back to a study guide.

*Provide helpful hints and tips to help others learn what are the most effective ways to prepare for the examination. These include:*

The ABC has determined that the people with the highest success rate averaged about 100 hours of preparation time in the three to four months preceding the exam.

Start preparation slowly about six months before the test, increasing the study time as the test approached, has shown to be effective.

Re-read all of the Forensic Science Handbooks, a basic criminalistics textbook, or anything else that covers the KSAs (available on the ABC web site)—if you're in Biology/DNA, re-read Butler's text books; take notes in a notebook as you do this and organize by discipline. Highlight your notes and tab important information or information you really need to study because you're not familiar with it; make sure you study historical information for your discipline

Go over your notebook and review it up until you take the exam.

### *Consider a commercial preparation course*

The ABC does not endorse any outside commercial preparation courses but they exist.

—Courtesy, the ABC

## CACBits

### Temporary Replacement Named for Board Position



Lauren Sautkulis, of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Regional Crime Lab was recently approved by the board to take over Stephen Lu's position as Regional Director, North until the end of the regular term as he needed to step down due to health reasons. Stephen writes, "It is my hope that the doctors can get on this and help me feel better on a daily basis, and I can consider serving again as the Regional Director South. I

am still acting as a webmaster, however, so I'm helping with our online presence."

### Help Wanted on the CACNews

Help bring the newsletter into the digital age! If you have an interest in working on the CACNews or skill in preparing a mobile-friendly version, please contact Jonathan Charron at [editor@cacnews.org](mailto:editor@cacnews.org).

Here's an excerpt from the CACNews Art Director job description: The CACNews enjoys a worldwide reputation as the premier forensic society newsletter. This success is due in part to the excellent content supplied by membership and outside contributors and also to the easily accessible design of the publication. The acceptance or rejection of content rests solely with the Editorial Secretary and the layout and design of the newsletter is determined by the Art Director (AD). The AD serves as a collection point for articles, original papers, advertisements, announcements, upcoming classes, job openings, letters to the editor, regular columns including the "President's Desk"



and the Editorial Secretary's message. The AD works closely with the Ed Sec to coordinate content, reprints, and secure copyright clearances. In addition, the AD receives pre-publication copies of materials submitted to the Ed Sec in order to produce an aesthetically pleasing format for the publication of the newsletter.

One of the primary functions of the AD is to maintain a historical record of our meetings and to promote the seminars to our many members who did not attend, thus encouraging an interest in attending future seminars.

Have you always wanted to be an  
**Inkstained  
Wretch?**



## Technology Center

Technology is at the core of what we as criminalists do. We use instruments, techniques, and powerful technologies to assist us in the analysis of evidence. With technology so ingrained in our work, there is a need for us, as criminalists, to continue to educate ourselves on the ever-changing landscape that is forensic science. I will be dedicating a section of the *CACNews* to technology so that new, novel, and expanding technology can be highlighted and discussed for the benefit of us all. With this, I encourage you all to think about the new technologies that you are using in your laboratory and consider contributing to this section.

To start us off, I would like to write briefly about a section of the laboratory that often gets skipped over in the way of new technology; Controlled Substances. I started my career as a criminalist in this section of our laboratory and learned quickly that GC/MS (gas chromatography mass spectrometry) was the go-to form of analysis alongside FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy). This training falls in line with what the majority of drug analysts use when looking at the statistics from the most recent CTS test. Of the 527 participants, 99% used GC/MS in their analysis of both samples, while between 46% and 49% used FTIR.<sup>1</sup> Both of these technologies have been employed for a long time with little change. Another form of analysis with little change is the microcrystal test. According to the same CTS test referenced above, only 1% of the participants used this form of analysis when analyzing their unknown samples.<sup>1</sup> While this

number did not surprise me, it did get me thinking about this form of analysis.

While the technology and technique has not changed for microcrystal testing, the drugs that we are seeing in the laboratories certainly are. In an email, I was notified that some of these new drugs were being researched by the McCrone Research Institute. The McCrone Research Institute was founded by Dr. Walter C. McCrone in 1960 and focuses much of their research and training on applied microscopy.<sup>2</sup> They also provide, through our organization in conjunction with the A. Reed and Virginia McLaughlin Endowment Fund, specialized training in polarized light microscopy. For more information about what new drugs are being profiled or for the training opportunities provided by the McCrone Research Institute, visit their website at [www.mccroneinstitute.org](http://www.mccroneinstitute.org).

Even though, in this example, technology has not necessarily changed, the world around us has. In upcoming issues of the *CACNews*, we will continue to explore new technologies, new techniques, or how old procedures can be applied to new problems. If you are interested in contributing an article or have an idea for a new article, email them to [editor@cacnews.org](mailto:editor@cacnews.org).

—Jonathan Charron

CTS website, [https://cts-forensics.com/reports/19-502\\_Web.pdf](https://cts-forensics.com/reports/19-502_Web.pdf), Accessed 02/2020.

McCrone Research Institute Website, [www.mccroneinstitute.org](http://www.mccroneinstitute.org), Accessed 02/2020.

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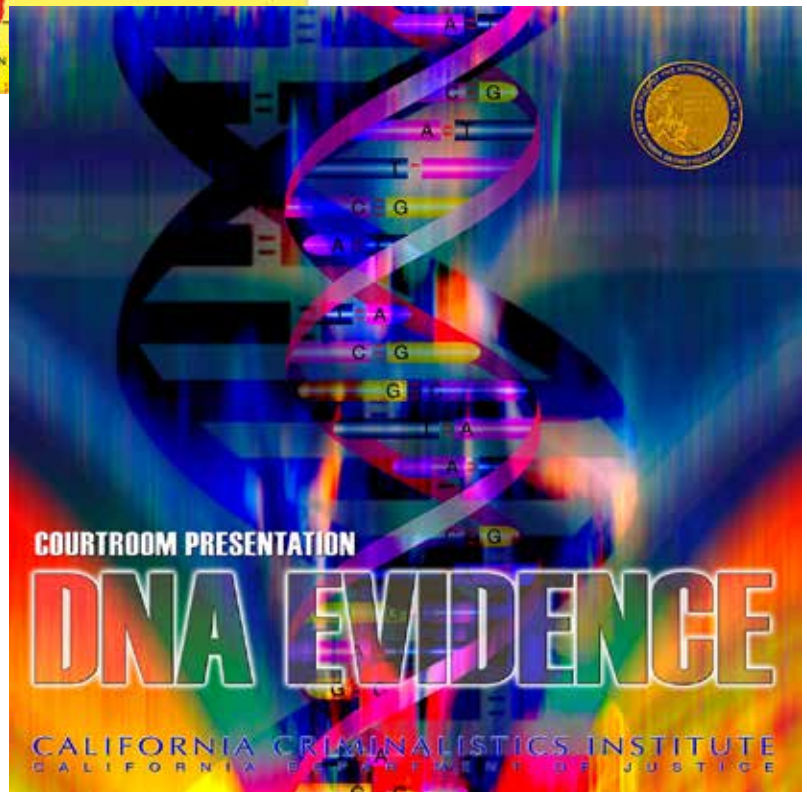
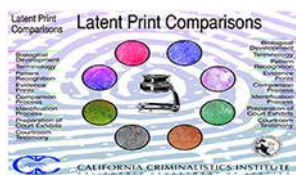
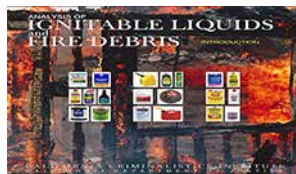
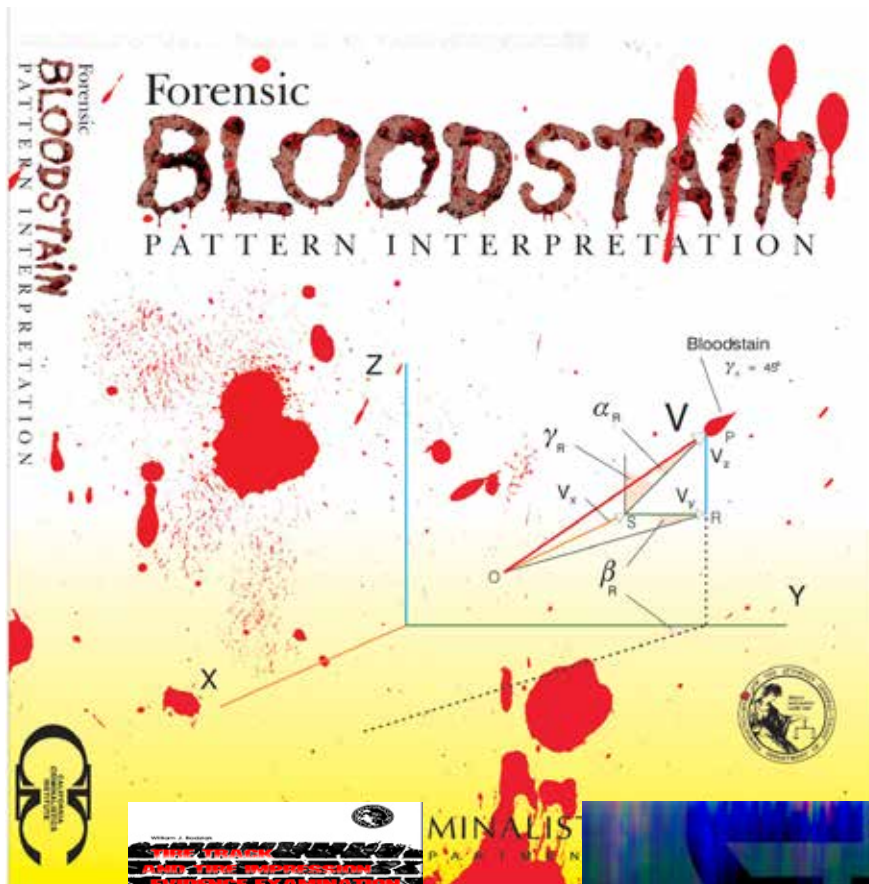
CCI is an institute that provides specialized training for forensic scientists and other law enforcement personnel. From the beginning in 1986, the California Criminalistics Institute's mission is to provide continuing education for local forensic scientists and law enforcement to stay current with discoveries and trends in the field of forensic science. Currently CCI offers 50+ classes per year. We are centered in Rancho Cordova, but offer classes at other locations in California including Richmond, Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Orange County. CCI, under the umbrella of the California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services, is able to offer classes at no cost to those employed by government labs and law enforcement agencies in the state of California. For those employed in out-of-state or private laboratories the course tuition is \$120 per day. We offer an array of classes in many forensic disciplines including biology, DNA, chemistry, crime scene, firearms, impressions, latent prints, trace,

toxicology, photography, and health & safety. Newly developed courses include Analysis of Explosives (C152) and Gunshot Residue & Distance Determination (E440). A sampling of upcoming classes are included below.

Please check out our website for current course listings (we update them frequently) and put yourself on a wait list by registering with our system so we can gauge interest. If the class you are looking for is not offered, let us know. We are looking to expand our offerings and would love new ideas! Or if you are interested in becoming one of our instructors, please contact us. To start the process, all you need to do is go to our website and fill out our instructor form. We also have a large collection of paper and electronic resources in our Forensic Library. Contact our CCI Forensic Librarian if you are looking for forensic literature resources. We are here as a local resource for you!

[oag.ca.gov/cci](http://oag.ca.gov/cci)  
[cci@doj.ca.gov](mailto:cci@doj.ca.gov)  
 916-695-1800

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Courtroom Presentation of DNA Evidence	A109	Richmond	4/1-4/2
Detection and Recovery of Footwear & Tire Impression Evidence	E140	Riverside	4/15-4/17
Footwear Impression Evidence: Detection, Recovery, & Examination	E141	Riverside	4/20-4/24
Fingerprint Pattern Recognition & Friction Ridge Comparison	E150	Rancho Cordova	4/15-4/17
Cognitive & Human Factors in Forensic Decision Making	A180	Richmond	4/23-4/24
Cognitive & Human Factors in Forensic Decision Making	A180	Los Angeles	4/27-4/28
Bloodstain Pattern Interpretation	S201	Rancho Cordova	5/4-5/8
FTIR Instrumentation & Sample Prep	C132	Los Angeles	5/4-5/5
Interpretation of Infrared Spectra	C131	Los Angeles	5/6-5/8
Forensic Toxicology Instrumentation- LC/MS-MS	T102	Rancho Cordova	5/12-5/14
Laboratory Safety Officer	H102	Rancho Cordova	5/12-5/15
Biological Evidence Examination	R109	Los Angeles	5/18-5/22
Advanced Hash Oil Lab Investigation & Scene Safety	C115	Rancho Cordova	5/27
Population Genetics in Forensic DNA Analysis	R103	Los Angeles	6/9-6/11
Kinship Analysis	R500	Richmond	8/10-8/14





# CAC Regional Director's Reports



## Southern Region

*Article and photos by Stephen Lu*

The Southern Study Group Meetings were held on January 15th, 2020, at the San Diego Sheriff's Regional Crime Lab. Blood Alcohol (19), Trace/Arson (10), and CSI (25) met in the morning; DNA (34) and Controlled Substances/Toxicology (23) met in the afternoon. We all came together for a lunch talk given by Child Abuse Detective Jeff Udvarhelyi of the Escondido Police Department on the North County Creeper Case: During the Summer of 2013, 27 year-old Gilbert Chavarria terrified the residents of North San Diego County after he forced his way into several homes and sexually assaulted nine children between the ages of 4 to 15 while they were asleep. During the initial investigation(s) DNA was identified at two separate crime scenes in two separate cities. Chavarria's eventual arrest was the first in San Diego County history resulting from a familial DNA match. This case study detailed the exhaustive investigative efforts preceding and following Chavarria's arrest to include: the development of a major case strategy while working in partnership with other investigative agencies, post-arrest interview strategy, and the significant lessons learned throughout the course of the 18-month-long investigation. In March of 2019, efforts were made to meet with and speak to Chavarria following his sentencing in January of 2018. Investigators shared details of their candid interview with Chavarria and how they learned details about the investigation that were not known until their meeting in March of 2019.

The talk was very interesting and well-received. We were almost at full capacity with about 85 people in attendance.



*Controlled Substances-Tox 2: Controlled Substances/Toxicology study group (Chair: Tony Casper)*



*Trace study group (Chairs: Gina Williams and Casey Hughes)*



*Blood Alcohol study group (Chair: Bob Reckers)*

## Northern Region

*Article by Cindy Anzalone*

Attention Northern California! The Northern Region study group meeting on April 2nd has been postponed. We are planning on rescheduling this for sometime during the summer. The study groups are always looking for speakers, so if you are interested in giving a presentation, please contact the appropriate study group chair person. For a list of chairpersons, please see [www.cacnews.org/organization/group-chairs.shtml](http://www.cacnews.org/organization/group-chairs.shtml)

These study groups provide a great opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with peers who work in the same discipline as you do. These events also provide a perfect place to discuss, present, and fine tune research papers and presentations. Check the CAC website for the most current information about which groups are meeting, information about some of the topics that will be discussed, and to register for the event. Those who register, regardless of membership status with the CAC, will be provided a training certificate to document training hours for certification renewals. A delicious lunch will be provided to current members. Non-members have the option to purchase lunch. And if you are not a member, why not? Join now at [cac.wildapricot.org/application](http://cac.wildapricot.org/application) Please keep an eye on the website for registration details and deadlines. We hope to see you there!





### **For Recording Secretary Gunther Scharnhorst**

I am a senior criminalist working for the California Department of Justice at the Jan Bashinski DNA Laboratory in Richmond. I hold a certification in Molecular Biology by the American Board of Criminalistics.

My coworkers and I in the Method Development unit test and validate new protocols and technologies in DNA analysis for the Bureau of Forensic Services. Protocols we have contributed to are used in BFS laboratories around the state and we are particularly proud of our newest work product: the automated differential extraction using the Hamilton AutoLys STAR. It is such a leap forward for the processing of sexual assault evidence that other state-level laboratories are already looking to emulate it.

I have been a member of the CAC since 2008 and have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors as your Recording Secretary since 2016. It would be an honor to continue to do so and I would greatly appreciate your support for another term as your Recording Secretary. Thank you.



### **For Regional Director, North Cindy Anzalone**

I am a criminalist with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory where I am assigned to the Forensic Biology/DNA unit as well as the Crime Scene Investigation Team. I have been a CAC member since 1999 and previously served as assistant treasurer from 2002 - 2008. The past four years with the CAC Board has been rewarding and I am excited to run for a third term as the Regional Director - North. As the CAC transitions to an annual seminar format, I am looking forward to increasing the number of study group meetings throughout the year. My goal is to continue to foster the exchange of ideas in our forensic community by holding study groups with all disciplines represented and to hold these meetings in ideal locations to maximize the number of attendees. I ask for your consideration and support to serve the membership for another two years as the Regional Director - North.



### **For Membership Secretary Megan Caulder**

It is an honor to be nominated for the CAC board position of Membership Secretary. I am currently employed by the Cal-DOJ Jan Bashinski DNA Lab. I started at CAL-DOJ as a criminalist in 2009 working in the Databank section and promoted to Senior Criminalist in 2014. In 2014 I also started working in the Biology/DNA Casework section and have been there ever since. I am also certified as a Fellow in Molecular Biology by the ABC.

I first joined the CAC in 2005 as a Student Affiliate member while working on my master's degree in Forensic Science at UC Davis and later gave a presentation on my thesis research at a DNA workshop. I eventually became a Full member in 2011. I served as the Northern DNA Study Group Chair from 2013 to 2016 and have attended many CAC workshops, seminars, and study group meetings over the years. I value my involvement in the CAC as it offers a way to communicate and collaborate amongst colleagues about current forensic technologies, issues, and cases.

I have had the pleasure of serving the CAC as Membership Secretary since 2016 and would be thrilled to contribute to the Board of Directors in this role for another term. Thank you for your consideration for the position of Membership Secretary.



### **For President-Elect Catherine Currier**

I am a criminalist with the Sacramento District Attorney's Office, Laboratory of Forensic Services where I am assigned to the Comparative Evidence Section. I received my degree in Biological Sciences and a graduate degree in Forensic Science from the University of California, Davis. I have almost 14 years of experience working in the Forensics field, both in Sacramento and at the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory. I have been a CAC member since 2009 and have attended numerous CAC seminars and study group meetings. I am a member of the By-laws committee and the Awards Committee. I also am the co-chair for an upcoming CAC seminar to be held in Spring 2021 in the Sacramento area. I have enjoyed the comradery, professionalism, and support this organization has provided to me over the years. I would be honored to serve this organization as President-elect, and I ask for your consideration and support.

## **CAC Board of Directors Candidates Statements**



# Exciting things in store for the spring 2020 meeting

In addition to our DNA, Human Identification, Trace, Courtroom Testimony, LEEDS, and Emotional Intelligence Workshops, there is a General Session that features many interesting technical and case studies.

Our Wednesday keynote presentation will cover the 2018 abduction of Jayme Closs and homicides of her parents, and the 2019 escape of Jayme Closs and the prosecution of her abductor Jake Patterson. The keynote speakers are the lead investigators from the Barron County Sheriff's Department, the Wisconsin DOJ- Division of Criminal Investigations, and the FBI.

Other presentations during the General Session will feature topics such as the use of Rapid DNA instruments to identify victims of the Paradise and Conception boat fires, the shooting death of Fresno Sheriff Sgt. Rod Lucas, forensic anthropology case studies, marijuana analysis and prosecution, conflicts of interest in crime labs, and a serial murder investigation.

Wednesday's wine and cheese reception will evening will include wine tasting by Bargetto Winery, a producer of hand-crafted wines in the Santa Cruz Mountains since 1933. Bargetto Winery produces Pinot Noir, Merlot, Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay and several Italian varietals. Five wines will be available for tasting, and wine will also be available for purchase.

The Thursday Evening Banquet will be held in the panoramic Bay View Room at the Coconut Grove located at the historic Santa Cruz Boardwalk. After the banquet attendees will have full access to the Captain's Game Deck, which includes table tennis, pool tables, pinball machines and miniature golf.

## Workshops & Presentations

### DNA Workshop

*Monday, April 27th, 2020 8:00 am – 5 pm*

This full day workshop will feature a variety of DNA topics from various presenters, including forensic practitioners, scientists working on futuristic technologies, the Northern CA Innocence Project, and application specialists from partnering vendors.

### "Screening with Fluorescence, Infrared and Whitelight-workshop from Leeds on ALS Screening and Documentation with the LSV"

*Presenter: Jake Kurth, Monday April 27th, 2020, 1 pm – 5 pm*

The Leeds LSV system is an ALS screening instrument for screening and documenting bodily fluids, gunshot residue, and trace evidence; with systems installed at numerous laboratories across the United States. The goal of this workshop is to share techniques that we have picked up over the years of working with LSV customers, as well as provide a guided hands-on ALS training opportunity for any examiner that would like some additional training on ALS, or ALS imaging. The workshop will involve both a lecture and hands-on portion covering fluorescence, infrared, and white light screening. We will have one of our LSV2 demonstration units and samples. Please feel free to bring feedback and samples.

### "Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace"

*Tuesday April 28th, 2020 1 pm – 5 pm*

What qualities are essential for success in the workplace? Success on the job depends much more on a person's emotional intelligence rather than their intelligence quotient (or IQ). Emotional Intelligence (usually abbreviated as EI or even EQ as it is sometimes called) is an individual's ability to recognize and process their own emotions and to imagine what emotions other people are experiencing. This course is very interactive and is based on the work of author Daniel Goleman.

### Human Identification Workshop, "Forensic Anthropology in the Crime Laboratory"

*Tuesday April 28th, 2020, 8 am – 5 pm*

*Dr. Lauren Zephro, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Forensic Services Division*

This presentation will explore the role of Forensic Anthropology as a scientific discipline within the Crime Laboratory. Topics discussed will include crime scene investigation, analytical categories, trauma analysis and utility in mass disasters, including wildfire using examples from the 2018 Paradise Fire. Accreditation of the forensic anthropology discipline will also be addressed.

### "Making Faces: History, Anatomy and Work in Forensic Facial Reconstruction"

*Gloria Nusse, San Francisco State University*

Presentation on the history, the anatomy, and the work of facial reconstruction. Examples will be from cases in the author's own files!

### "Genetic Genealogy Applied to Forensic Casework"

*Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick and Dr. Margaret Press, DNA Doe Project*

The DNA Doe Project is a major success story of how genetic genealogy is being applied to cold case work. In early April 2018, we were the first to announce identifications on forensic cases using GEDmatch, a few weeks before the arrest of the Golden State Killer.

### "Thriving on the Witness Stand" Courtroom Testimony Workshop

*Presenter: Raymond Davis, Tuesday April 28th, 2020, 8 am–12 pm*

This 4-hour workshop takes the best material from the 3-day Courtroom Presentation of Evidence course. The goal of the workshop is to provide attendees with the necessary skills to thrive on the witness stand. The fourth hour of the workshop will be a courtroom practicum emphasizing the common challenges facing expert witnesses.

Raymond Davis is the author and presenter of *The Courtroom Presentation of Evidence* course he started in 1989. He has provided this training in 17 states at all governmental levels including the FBI, BATF, and the Customs Border Protections Labs, as well as at regional forensic society organizations.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINALISTS  
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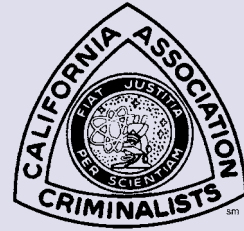


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# **CATCHING THE NEXT WAVE of FORENSIC SCIENCE**



**Spring 2020 CAC Seminar**  
**Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley**  
**April 27 – May 1**

**Hosted By: CA BFS Jan Bashinski DNA Lab and  
the CA BFS Central Coast Labs**