



# The CACNews



News of the California Association of Criminalists • Fourth Quarter 2021

## President's Message

### A Season of Change

by Catherine Currier



The season Autumn is upon us, and I cannot believe how fast this year seemed to move! Wasn't it just Spring?? The days of summer are almost over. I love fall, and everything it encompasses, but I don't like that it means another year is coming to a close. I

see beginnings and endings everywhere. The start of a new school year, the end of toddler years. The start of pumpkin-spiced everything, the end of lazy mornings. The start of in-person instruction and conferences, the end of home schooling for some. Despite all these new beginnings, we are still living in times of uncertainty. The highly infectious Delta variant of the coronavirus has emerged with corresponding increased positive cases and hospitalization. I don't know about you, but I am feeling weary. That is why the Board of Directors has decided that for the upcoming seminar that will be held in the Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley area on October 17-23, 2021, we are requiring that all attendees and vendors show proof of vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test. We made this decision to protect our members and the community we will be hosting our seminar in. Additionally, attendees must comply with all safety procedures, including wearing masks while indoors and physically distance to the extent possible. We want to gather safely and have a good time while still keeping everyone healthy. I am looking forward to the October seminar, to meeting new members, making new friends, and learning. Please come up and say hi if you are attending. Let's make this upcoming seminar a great one!

With this season of change looming, it reminds me that as we forge ahead in our respective careers, we must also be willing to embrace some change. I just attended a virtual conference and it showcased the amazing

research being done, and the new instrumentation being used to conduct that research. My sector of criminalistics (firearms and toolmarks) hasn't had any real change to the instrumentation we use in about a century. Seeing all this new research ignited a real interest in procuring a three-dimensional scanning instrument for our section. We realized change is coming, and we wanted to be a part of it. The same sentiment applies to all areas of criminalistics. We must be willing to embrace change. We are scientists, and science evolves. Science is never static. As the science improves, we apply it to the examinations we conduct in the laboratory. And as science evolves, so does the accreditation guidelines. We may dislike all the things required for accreditation, but its goal is to ensure that we are conducting our work in a quality manner. This is what is expected from the judicial system we serve, and we should expect it from ourselves.

With so much change and uncertainty around us, let's keep one thing constant: our desire to keep growing while staying connected to each other.

Be well and stay safe.

*C. Currier*

## Editor's Message

### CAC Updates

by Jonathan Charron



As Catherine stated in her message, a new season is certainly on its way. With Fall's fast approach and the 2021 seminar less than a month away, you may notice a few new things going on here with the CAC. The CAC website, [www.CACNews.org](http://www.CACNews.org), continues to be the best place to go for updated information regarding conference

## Editor's Message *continued*

announcements, current requirements for attendance, and information about beautiful Santa Cruz. While the website is a great source of information, don't forget to check out our Facebook and Instagram Page! We have started to post regularly and will use these platforms to share some of the highlights of our great organization.

Another change you may notice is with this issue of *The CACNews*. With us reducing our seminar frequency, we have made a shift to our publication schedule. We are still releasing something every quarter, but some of the publications may be more like a newsletter than a full-blown publication that you are used to. With the expansion of our social media platforms and a reduction in seminar frequency, it has become increasingly difficult to fill an entire issue. While the intention is to reduce some of the strain on filling pages, my hope is that this inspires you all to think about different ways you can contribute! I am always on the lookout for interesting articles, papers, reviews, or opinions from the membership, so if you have been sitting on a submission for a while, please reach out to get them published!

The publications may be looking different in another way as well. As many of you have read in a previous issue, our very own John Houde will be officially stepping down as Art Director. The impact this gentleman has made on this organization is beyond words, and probably best seen in the years of publications he has overseen. His talent, passion, and love for this organization and *The CACNews* is obvious as you flip (or now scroll) through the pages of issues past. John, your vision and dedication will be missed, but I look forward to and hope to continue to work with you as a contributor. Make sure you all take some time to look at some of the amazing work he has produced, and if you are at the upcoming seminar, be sure to thank him for his unparalleled dedication.

As the times change, so must we. Thank you all for making this organization the remarkable force that it is and continue to think on how you can contribute to shaping the future of the CAC. I hope to see many of you in Santa Cruz!



## Welcome, New Members!

The California Association of Criminalists would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members so far this year!

### New Affiliate Members:      New Associate Members:

Ezekiel Short	Maya Hamade
Kayla Patel	Shanin Barrios
Bliss Tafolla-Aguirre	Morgan Kephart
Carolina Avelar	Mark Lavigne
Madison Carlin	Bernadette Lingat
Brittnie Pimental	Xiao Ma
Nori Anchondo	Lizett Ramirez
Amonroca Holland-James	Dyna Shirasaki
Phoenicia Byas	Daniel Solorzano
Jade Allison	Patrick Yew
Tiffany Nguyen	Megan Brinkmeyer
Nicole Slattengren	Ashley Chan
Alyssa Campell	Jennifer Chavez
Sofya Chikivchuk	Jennifer Nguyen
Kylie Edwards	Taylor Tyler
Luis Flores	Jasmine Diaz
Jana Cathrese Lagnada	Leilani Nguyen
Alyssa Smith	Scott Moser
Justin Hubbard	Christopher Vance
Hung Yeh Lin	Jyoti Malik

We would also like to recognize those members that have promoted to Full Member status so far this year!

### New Full Members:

Valera Horton  
Apryl Stafford  
Luke Rodda



# The CACNews

## National Forensic Science Week Trivia Competition

Interviews with Alanna de Korompay, Stacy Whitefield, and Marlyssa Collins

by Jonathan Charron



Trivia screen as viewed from the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Crime Laboratory.

In honor of National Forensic Science Week, many CAC members and their laboratories participated in a trivia competition hosted by the San Diego Sheriff's Crime Lab. We took a moment to speak with this year's "Trivia Queen" and organizer Alanna de Korompay to learn a little more about this event.

**CACNews:** Good Afternoon Alanna! I wanted to take a moment to talk with you now that we have just finished the National Forensic Science Week Trivia competition. To your knowledge, how did this event come to fruition?

**Alanna de Korompay (AD):** San Diego Sheriff's Crime Lab held a lab-wide trivia contest last year for National Forensic Science Week (NFSW). I hosted the trivia competition and it was a hit! Our lab director thought it may be fun to make the contest a statewide competition between the various public crime labs and ME/coroner labs in 2021. She approached the CACLD and CAT Boards to ask if they would be interested in participating and to send out the invite to their respective members. CAC members then approached SDSO about forwarding to their members as well.

**CACNews:** What were some of your goals for this event when this was being organized?

**AD:** The goal was to encourage healthy competition and fun to honor the amazing people employed in forensics throughout the state and Vegas :) for NFSW.

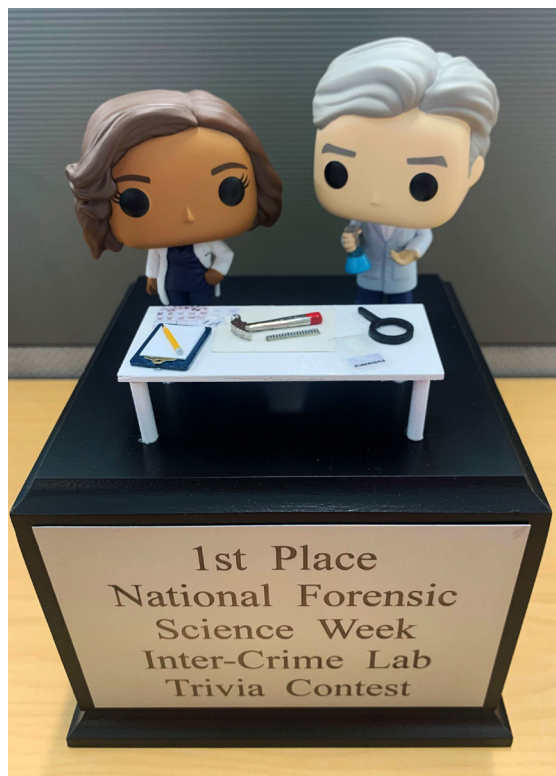
It was also important to incorporate the lab directors in soliciting questions from them for each of the teams. We were hoping to provide a fun event that would encourage other opportunities for the labs and their leadership to celebrate the week and their people.

**CACNews:** The competition was quite fierce! How many different laboratories participated this year?

**AD:** We had 19 laboratories from California and 1 from Las Vegas.

**CACNews:** Who ended up taking home the "Gold" and what did they win?

**AD:** Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Laboratory were crowned the winners this year. They won a fantastic trophy that was built by our Assistant Laboratory Director – Anthony DiMaria. They also won the amazing opportunity to host trivia next year!



The 1st Place NFSW Trivia Trophy made by Anthony DiMaria, awarded to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Laboratory.

**CACNews:** What are your hopes for this event over the upcoming years? Is this something that will be done every year?

**AD:** The original intent was always to make this an annual statewide event; with the winner becoming the next year's host. The other hope is to see lab leaders make the week a way to celebrate their teams for all the great work they do year-round. There is plenty of space on the trophy to add a winner's plaque each year!



## National Forensic Science Week Trivia Competition *continued*

**CACNews:** Thank you so much Alanna for taking the time to talk with me today. I thought that the event was a huge success. Do you have any final thoughts for those who participated or to those who may be thinking about participating in a future event?

**AD:** It was so nice to see how many labs participated – from the foam fingers to the dance moves during the song round, it looked like everyone had a great time! I hope that everyone returns next year and if any new teams would like to participate, please do!

We also had the opportunity to speak with some representatives of the winning lab: Stacy Whitefield and Marliisa Collins from the Las Vegas Metro Police Department Forensic Laboratory. We wanted to get their reaction about their win and if they are going to take up the torch this next year as trivia masters!

**CACNews:** I would like to start by saying congratulations to you and your lab for winning this competition! What was your strategy going into the competition? Did you try and vary the team with members of different sections, or try and find any and all who are passionate about trivia games?

**Stacy Whitefield (SW) & Marliisa Collins (MC):** Our strategy was to see who was free on Wednesday the 22nd between 1030 & 1130. We also caught someone who just came in the room to grab a bagel.

**CACNews:** There is no better way to get participation than with promises of food and coffee! Your tactic seemed to serve you well! What do you feel was the best aspect about this competition? What would you tell to convince a lab who did not participate this year why they should participate next year?

**SW & MC:** We liked the group effort aspect. The music portion of the trivia competition was unexpected and ended up being really fun. If you like to have a little fun, you should participate! Or at the very least be in the conference room to watch your co-workers struggling to remember the Planck constant.

**CACNews:** At the close of the competition, it seems that the torch has been passed to your laboratory to host this event next year. Can we expect that to come to pass and are there any trivia topics you think we should all start preparing for?

**SW & MC:** Yes, we will host next year! Start studying up on a mix of science knowledge, forensic science knowledge, more music trivia, and maybe TV show theme songs or crime related movies.

**CACNews:** Thank you so much for taking the time to chat with us. We are looking forward to what you come up with next year!



Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Laboratory, winners of the 2021 NFSW Trivia Competition.

**Congratulations  
to Las Vegas  
Metropolitan  
Police Laboratory,  
winners of the  
first state-wide  
National Forensic  
Science Week  
Trivia  
Competition!**

Thank you to all laboratories who  
participated in this year's competition!



*Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff*



*Jan Bashinski DNA Laboratory*



*Kern Regional Crime Laboratory*



*Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner*



*Los Angeles Police Department*





Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



Orange County Crime Laboratory



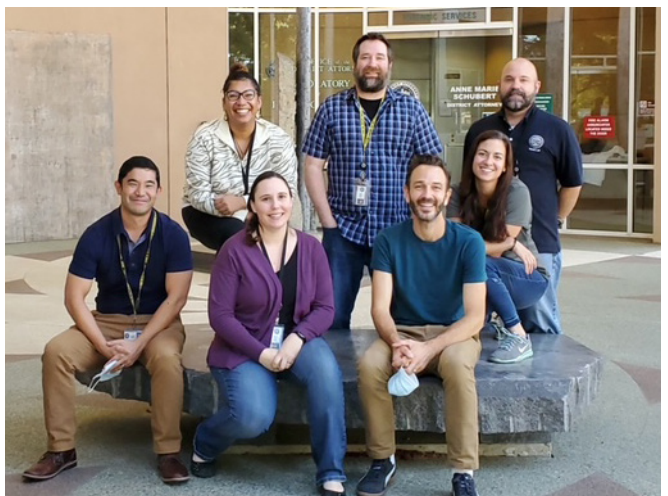
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



Orange County Crime Laboratory



Oakland Police Department



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office





*San Diego County Sheriff's Department*



*Santa Clara County District Attorney's Crime Laboratory*



*San Mateo County Sheriff's Office*



*Ventura County Sheriff's Office*



*Santa Barbara DOJ Crime Laboratory*

**Come back and play again next year!**



# **Catching the Next Wave of Forensic Science**



**Fall 2021 CAC Seminar**

**Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley**

**October 18 – October 22**

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

Image:Freepik.com



## Technical Program Highlights

**Keynote Speakers: "The Jayme Closs Abduction"**

*Jeffrey Nelson, Detective, Barron County Sheriff's Department*

*Joe Welsch, Special Agent, Wisconsin Department of Justice- Division of Criminal Investigation*

**Founders Lecture: "A Woman...A Private Forensic Science Laboratory...A Journey"**

*Carol Hunter, Retired Laboratory Director, California Laboratory of Forensic Science*

**"Mass Fatality Identification: A Look at Identifying Victims in the Camp Fire and Conception Dive Boat Fire"**

*Kimberly Gin, Coroner, Sacramento County*

**Topic: Christina Williams Case**

*Matt L'Heureux, Deputy District Attorney, Monterey County*

*Linh Schulz, Senior Criminalist, BFS Freedom Laboratory*

*Eric Halsing, Senior Criminalist, BFS Jan Bashinski DNA Laboratory*

**"Distinguishing Hemp from Marijuana Quickly, Easily, and Accurately Using a Novel Mid-Infrared Spectrometer"**

*Dr. Brian C. Smith, CEO/CTO, Big Sur Scientific*

**Topic: Familial Search Case- Antunez and Dwyer**

*Clinton Cole, Senior Deputy, San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office*

**Topic: How Prosecution of Marijuana Cases Has Changed Since the Passing of Prop 64**

*Michael McKinney, Assistant District Attorney, Santa Cruz County*

*Ed Browne, Assistant District Attorney, Santa Cruz County*

**"Too Close to the Action: Avoiding Conflicts of Interest in the Laboratory"**

*Michael Chamberlain, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice*

**"Burning, Wildfires, and Human Remains Recovery"**

*Dr. Alison Galloway, Emerita Professor, University of California at Santa Cruz*

**Topic: Implementation of Self-Collected V-SAE Kits during Covid Shutdown**

*Dr. Sheree Goldman, Nurse Practitioner/SANE-A/SANE-P, Monterey SART*

**"The Argument That Lasted 39 Years -- The Case Study of the Teresa Broudreux Murder"**

*Jamie Lajoie, Senior Criminalist, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Scientific Services Bureau*

**"Fentanyl Tablets, Vaping Cartridges, and a New THC Analysis Methodology"**

*Dr. Charmaine Qiu, Senior Forensic Chemist, DEA Western Laboratory*

**"Details of an Officer Involved Shooting: From the Laboratory to the Courtroom"**

*Michael Appel, Criminalist Supervisor, BFS Sacramento Laboratory*

**"When Forensics Don't Fit"**

*Kenton Wong, Senior Forensic Scientist, Forensic Analytical Crime Lab, Inc.*

## **Wine and Cheese Reception**

**Fall 2021 CAC Seminar at the Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley  
Hosted by the CA BFS Jan Bashinski DNA Lab and the CA BFS  
Central Coast Labs**

**October 18 - October 22**

Wednesday evening's wine and cheese reception will include wine tasting by Bargetto Winery, a producer of hand-crafted wines in the Santa Cruz Mountains since 1933. They specialize in producing award winning, cool-climate varietals like Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Grigio which are carefully nurtured at their Regan estate vineyard as well as other varietals from other Santa Cruz Mountains vineyards. They also offer a large selection of wines such as Petite Sirah and Zinfandel from other regions of California. Four wines will be available for tasting and for purchase during the reception.



<https://www.facebook.com/bargetto.winery>

## **Banquet**

**Fall 2021 CAC Seminar at the Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley  
Hosted by the CA BFS Jan Bashinski DNA Lab and the CA BFS  
Central Coast Labs**

**October 18 - October 22**

Join us at the CAC Fall Seminar 2021 banquet on the evening of October 21! It will be held in the panoramic Sun Room at the historic Cocoanut Grove on the beautiful Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. After the banquet, attendees will be able to unwind under the stars of the Boardwalk, along with exclusive use of Neptune's Kingdom's arcade games, billiards, ping pong, foosball, and air hockey tables. Shuttles will be provided to/from the seminar to the banquet.





## Keynote Speakers



Fall 2021 CAC Seminar at the Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley  
Hosted by the CA BFS Jan Bashinski DNA Lab and the CA BFS Central  
Coast Labs  
October 18 - October 22

We are excited to announce our Wednesday keynote speakers! They will be presenting on the 2018 abduction of Jayme Closs.



Detective Jeffrey Nelson  
Barron County Sheriff's Department



Special Agent Joe Welsch  
Wisconsin Department of Justice

The presentation involves the October 15th, 2018 investigation of the abduction of Jayme Closs and the homicides of her parents. It will cover how local, state and federal agencies worked together and co-managed the investigation until Jayme's heroic escape on January 10th, 2019. It also covers the successful prosecution of Jake Patterson and difficulties encountered during the process.

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*The CACNews*, ISSN 1525-3090, is published quarterly (January, April, July, and October) by the California Association of Criminalists (CAC).

The CAC is a private foundation dedicated to the furtherance of forensic science in both the public and private sectors.

Please direct editorial correspondence and requests for reprints to the editorial secretary.

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

## COVID-19 Policy Reminder



## CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINALISTS

To Our Friends and Colleagues,

The California Association of Criminalists (CAC) is excited to host our upcoming seminar in the Santa Cruz area on October 17-22, 2021! We are excited to exchange ideas, learn about new research, and spend time with our fellow colleagues; however, we must also ensure that we protect our members' health as well. To protect our members and the community in which we are hosting our seminar at this coming October, the CAC is requiring the following:

- All attendees, presenters, and vendors must show proof of vaccination or take a COVID-19 test with a negative result 72 hours prior to attending the conference. Proof of vaccination or negative test result will be checked at the Registration Desk upon first arrival. A list of COVID-19 testing sites should be available through your county of residence. For those who live in California, you may visit the following website to download a digital copy of your vaccine record, if you prefer to keep it on your phone: <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>
- Everyone must wear masks while indoors, unless you are eating or drinking, regardless of vaccination status.
- A signed COVID-19 waiver that is forthcoming.

If you have questions, please email me at [president@cacnews.org](mailto:president@cacnews.org) or the CAC Board at [board@cacnews.org](mailto:board@cacnews.org).

Sincerely,

Catherine Currier  
California Association of Criminalists  
President

**We look forward to seeing you all in Santa Cruz!**