

# International Association for Identification



## February 2011 – IAI Monthly Update

FYI, this update is sent each month to all IAI board members, officers, committee chairs, regional representatives, division secretaries, certification board chairs and secretaries, division editors and IAI staff. This update contains information that is of particular interest to these groups. It is also available on the “Members’ Area” of the IAI’s website. Please see the last page of *Identification News* for login and password information.

Hello again from the IAI office.

### ***Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting***

The IAI’s Board of Directors held their mid-year board meeting in Orlando, Florida on January 31 and February 1, 2011. During that meeting Glen Calhoun was selected to replace me as the Chief Operations Officer (COO) of the association. Glen is a long-time IAI member who recently retired from the Miami-Dade Police Department. He is looking forward to assuming his new position around April 1 when I retire. The IAI office will be moving to Hollywood, Florida, a city near Miami. Glen is coming to Minnesota the week of February 14<sup>th</sup> to begin the planning process of moving the office and getting to know the IAI’s operation. If anyone wants to contact Glen in the interim, his e-mail address is: [hgc\\_mdpc@hotmail.com](mailto:hgc_mdpc@hotmail.com)

We wish Glen all the best in his new role and will assist him in any way possible to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Other board actions included:

- Approved the recommendation of the Conference Planner, Candy Murray, to hold the IAI’s 2015 Centennial Celebration in Sacramento, California
- Voted to send a representative(s) of the IAI to the ENSFI Meeting in Latvia in September, 2011
- Accepted for posting on the IAI’s website *Standards and Guidelines for Forensic Art and Facial Identification*
- Heard an update via conference call from Senator Leahy’s staff on the pending forensic legislation recently introduced by the Senator
- Awarded Distinguished Membership Status to Brian Dalrymple and Michelle Triplett
- Approved the design of a pin for certified tenprint examiners and also approved a name change for that program to the Tenprint Certification Board
- Approved a name change for the Bloodstain Pattern Certification Program to Bloodstain Pattern Analyst Certification Board

## ***Research Grant Awarded – Forensic Odontology***

A while ago I mentioned that Dr. L. Tom Johnson, Chair of the IAI's Forensic Odontology sub-committee, and his collaborators, was awarded a National Institute of Justice (NIJ) grant to develop reliable bite-mark analysis. The below press release from Marquette University School of Dentistry provides further information on that grant.

January 31, 2011

### ***Forensic dental researchers receive National Institute of Justice grant***

#### **Dr. Johnson and team awarded \$715,000 to develop reliable bite-mark analysis**

MILWAUKEE – Dr. L. Thomas Johnson, a forensic odontologist at [Marquette University School of Dentistry](#), and collaborators were awarded more than \$715,000 from the [National Institute of Justice](#) to develop computer applications for an accurate, reliable and reproducible means of evaluating injury patterns, such as bite marks.

Johnson is collaborating with Dean Jeutter, professor of biomedical engineering at Marquette, and Dr. Joseph Thulin, director of the [Biomedical Resource Center](#) at the [Medical College of Wisconsin](#).

In research that spans nearly a decade, Johnson and his team have worked to better establish the reliability of bite pattern analysis.

A [National Academy of Sciences](#) report in 2009 raised three “basic problems” with respect to forensic odontology:

1. The uniqueness of the human dentition – the characteristic arrangement of teeth in the mouth – has not been established by scientific standards.
2. The “ability of the dentition, if unique, to transfer a unique pattern to human skin and the ability of the skin to maintain that uniqueness has not been scientifically established.”
3. “A standard for the type, quality and number of the individual characteristics required to indicate that a bite mark has reached a threshold of evidentiary value has not been established.”

In fall 2008, the researchers had already addressed the NAS' first issue and published a pilot study in the *Journal of Forensic Identification*, which demonstrated that the characteristics of the human dentition could be expressed statistically based on seven dental criteria, including tooth width, arch width, spaces between teeth, rotation of teeth, displacement and other such characteristics. The NIJ grant will allow the investigators and to take their research a step further, addressing the second issue cited by the NAS.

“With the data we have collected we now want to test whether, in a blind study, it is possible to replicate recognizable patterns of human teeth in porcine skin – the closest substitute for human skin,” Johnson said.

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### ***FBI/CJIS Biometric Services Section - 2011 Spring Schedule of Classes***

The FBI/CJIS/BSS Spring, 2011 schedule of classes has been posted on FBI.gov. It can be accessed through the link below. Please pass this on to anyone who may be interested in this information. Thank you!

[http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/fingerprints\\_biometrics/fingerprint-criminal-history-record-training/2010-fall-schedule-of-classes](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/fingerprints_biometrics/fingerprint-criminal-history-record-training/2010-fall-schedule-of-classes)

### ***2011 Membership Dues***

Just a reminder that 2011 membership dues are now due. The first dues invoice was sent in mid-October and a reminder notice to those who have not paid will be sent this month. If you have not yet paid 2011 dues, please do so as soon as possible.

We realize that many agencies are severely cutting back on all non-essential expenses these days and membership dues are viewed by some as being in that category. Given the rapid change of events in forensic science and the ongoing discussions and legislation resulting from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on forensic science, it behooves all forensic practitioners to stay abreast of the latest developments. We hope you find your IAI membership worthwhile even in these difficult economic times.

### ***Federal Legislation Regarding Forensic Science***

Since the release of the National Academy's Report on Forensic Science, the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) has been working with Congress and various agencies in Washington to craft legislation to address many of the issues raised in that report.

Senator Leahy from Vermont has now introduced long awaited legislation that deals with this matter. The bill is similar to the draft legislation from last May but there are differences. The legislation is posted in the Current Affairs section of the IAI's website ([www.theiai.org](http://www.theiai.org)) and the direct link is:

[http://www.theiai.org/current\\_affairs/Leahy\\_forensics\\_reform\\_legislation.php](http://www.theiai.org/current_affairs/Leahy_forensics_reform_legislation.php)

This legislation will affect almost everyone who works in forensic science/identification. It deals with an oversight model largely managed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with some aspects shared with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

At this time the legislation is open for comment and will undoubtedly be modified before final passage. When reviewing it pay particular attention to the make-up of the oversight committees/boards and the section on accreditation and certification.

If anyone has comments regarding this legislation, please forward them to Ken Martin at [kenneth.martin@theiai.org](mailto:kenneth.martin@theiai.org). Ken is the IAI's representative to the CFSO and is consolidating all comments from the IAI. The CFSO is actively involved in reviewing this legislation and making recommendations for modification.

***Joe Polski***