

# International Association for Identification



## November, 2010 – 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.

### ***Retirement***

On October 12, I notified the IAI’s Board of Directors and Officers that I will retire from my job as the Chief Operations Officer effective April 1, 2011. After thirteen years of this “second career”, I have decided its time to move on.

The past thirteen years have been a most wonderful experience and filled with many opportunities I could never have imagined when I took the job in January 1998. I was fortunate to participate in the creation of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO), initial meetings of the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) and many other events. During these thirteen years, the association grew from around 4,200 members to almost 7,000. Thirteen years ago the association was most often overlooked when various national meetings, conferences etc. were planned and held. Today is very different and the IAI is included in any discussion involving forensic science whether it is at the local, state or national or even international level.

I will miss the many fine people I’ve come to know over the years but look forward to new experiences and the future.

If anyone is interested in applying for the job of Chief Operations Officer, please visit the IAI’s website at [www.theiai.org](http://www.theiai.org) for complete information, the application process etc. The Board’s Advisory Committee on Management Issues has worked diligently to create the website information regarding this position.

### ***Grants Awarded***

We are often asked for information about federal grants, who receives them, and for what purpose. If this interests you, please see the below web link for a complete listing of grants awarded by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/FY2010\\_awards\\_solicitation.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/FY2010_awards_solicitation.htm)

***IAI's 2015 Centennial Celebration***

Under the direction of Committee Chair Glen Calhoun, planning for the IAI's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centennial Celebration is getting under way. Much more information will be available as it develops but one aspect of the celebration is the solicitation of sponsorships from individuals, IAI divisions and corporations. The Florida Division is honored to be the first Gold Sponsor of the event with their contribution of \$15,000. We congratulate the Florida Division for their generosity.

***International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Forensic Committee Meeting***

In late October, the IACP held their annual conference in Orlando, Florida. During that conference, the annual business meeting of the IACP's Forensic Committee was held. The committee announced the recipients of the Vollmer Awards for Excellence in Forensic Science and conducted other business. Ray Prime, co-chair of the committee for the past several years announced that he resigned that position due to his retirement from the Forensic Science Centre in Toronto, Canada. Stephanie Stoiloff, the crime laboratory director for the Miami-Dade Police Department was chosen as the new co-chair of the committee.

The IACP is becoming increasingly concerned with the issue of wrongful convictions. Last year, the Investigative Committee of the IACP held a panel discussion regarding this matter and I represented the forensics community on that panel. This year, the committee held a special meeting to discuss the issue of wrongful convictions. Many factors contribute to those wrongful convictions; included are false confessions, forensic errors, wrong eyewitness identifications, faulty prosecutions and others. The committee brainstormed ideas that could be turned into action items for both the committee and the IACP leadership. No specific recommendations were adopted but this issue is not going to go away and will continue to rise on the radar screen of the IACP.

As always, don't hesitate to contact the IAI office if there is anything we can do to assist you.

***Joe Polski***