



Mississippi Forensic News

Volume 6 | Issue 1

September 8, 2023

From the President

Greetings,

It is my honor and privilege to serve each of you this year as MDIAI President. Over the past several years, involvement with the Mississippi Division Board and Officers has afforded me the opportunity to become more knowledgeable of the inner-workings of our organization and the support we provide to Identification professionals throughout our state and region. With an ever expanding reach within the forensic science professional and learning communities, the MS Division of the International Association for Identification will continue to strive to provide relevant, timely and research-driven training. The Mississippi Division derives terrific strength from the diversity of our membership. Drawing on the professional knowledge of Forensic Scientists, Crime Scene Specialists, Coroners, Law Enforcement Officers, Educators and Students (among others), our organization strives to provide opportunities that will allow all stakeholders to work collaboratively through the levels of the justice system to consistently and professionally show that physical evidence cannot lie.



Joel Lofton

MDIAI President 2023–2024

This past March, the 2023 Training Conference was held in Gulfport and hosted one of the largest crowds ever. With a focus on mass casualty incidents, participants learned from numerous speakers who have been intimately involved with all phases of preparation, response and recovery from numerous tragedies that have occurred within our nation. The work of your Board, Committees and Officers to plan, staff and execute an event of this quality cannot go without recognition. Thank you all for your efforts to fulfill the duties of our organization by providing excellent training, facilitating extensive networking and supporting members and guests throughout the conference.

As President, it is my desire to continue the positive growth that our organization has experienced over the last several years. By continuing to improve member services, develop additional means of engagement for members/potential members, provide the best and most applicable training through appropriate sources, the Mississippi Division will maintain positive growth and uphold the professional standards that are necessary within the field. Please feel free to provide feedback as to opportunities and/or changes through the website at: www.mdiai.com/contact

To close, please allow me to wish you a healthy, happy and successful year! Make plans now to attend the 2024 Training Conference to be held along the I-20 corridor this coming spring! Efforts are under way to develop an interesting and informative program that will provide everyone opportunities to grow and learn not only from guest speakers but also from our peers! Let's all come together to make the MDIAI 2024 Training Conference the best conference ever!

See you there!

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2023 CONFERENCE

Gulfport, MS

CONTROLLING THE CHAOS

Mass Casualty Events through the Forensic Lens



TOPICS

- Leadership in Managing Mass Casualty Events
- Media Relations for Law Enforcement
- Significance of Patterns in Forensic Pathology
- Case Studies of the Events at
 - Route 91 Harvest Music Festival
 - Pulse Night Club
 - Pearl High School

SPEAKERS

Dr. Karen Ross	Therese Apel
Greg Eklund	Timothy Frederick
SSA Richard Marx	John Curnutt



2023 CONFERENCE

In Photos



Mississippi Division of the
International Association for Identification



More photos and highlights from the 2023 Conference are available on our Facebook page.

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MEET THE NEW

2023-2024 Officers and Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President, Joel Lofton	Walthall County School District/SO
1st Vice President, Ashley Aucoin	Gulfport Police Department
2nd Vice President, Matt Hoggatt	MS Gulf Coast Community College
Secretary, Whitney Tuura	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
Treasurer, Heather Estorffe	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
Editor, Natalie Jepson	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
Public Relations, Gabe Regan	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
Sergeant-at-Arms, Olivia Tyson	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
Historian, Jamie Richardson	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
Regional Representative, Heather Estorffe	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair (Past President), Shannon Roy	Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
Member (1st VP), Ashley Aucoin	Gulfport Police Department
Member, Karla Pope	William Carey University
Member, Kristi Johnson	University of Southern Mississippi
Member, George Chaix	William Carey University
Member, Jeff Nester	MS Dept. of Public Safety CIC
Member, Dean Bertram	William Carey University

To contact our officers or board members please email info@mdiai.com

FORENSICS FUN

Puzzle Pages

A multimillionaire CEO was found deceased in his office. Five former employees, Mr. Henry, Ms. Lee, Mr. Locard, Mr. Jeffreys and Mrs. Bisel, were seen going into his office, each at a different time, with a different weapon and motive. They also each left a clue that incriminated them. From their statements below, can you work out who killed him?

	Poison	Dagger	Revolver	Lead Pole	Rope	Jealousy	Greed	Blackmail	Revenge	Rage	Fingerprint	Note	Blood	Footprint	Hair	9:05	10:30	10:45	11:25	11:55	
Mr. Henry																					
Ms. Lee																					
Mr. Locard																					
Mr. Jeffreys																					
Mrs. Bisel																					
9:05																					
10:30																					
10:45																					
11:25																					
11:55																					
Fingerprint																					
Note																					
Blood																					
Footprint																					
Hair																					
Jealousy																					
Greed																					
Blackmail																					
Revenge																					
Rage																					

Mr. Henry

"I didn't do it. I never left a footprint because a woman did. I entered the room before the person who took in the poison. I must say though, she was in there for a quarter of an hour before someone else went in!"

Ms. Lee

"Okay, I admit it! I took in the revolver, even though my motive wasn't revenge. A man entered the room after me and his motive was either rage or blackmail."

Mr. Locard

"All I know is, I did leave a fingerprint, but that doesn't explain why Mrs. Bisel lost a hair, does it? Oh yes! The person who entered seventy minutes before me took in the lead pole."

Mr. Jeffrey

"I entered after a woman, who did not take in rope because the last person to visit him did. I was in there for more than thirty-five minutes confronting him with my motive, which, may I say, wasn't greed or blackmail."

Mrs. Bisel

"Yes, you caught me! My motive was jealousy, but it wasn't as bad as that man's blackmail motive, who entered at five minutes past nine. I entered before another man who left the incriminating clue of the blood drop."

The person who entered the room at half past ten is the real killer. Who did it?

The getaway car will sometimes leave ___ tracks that can be examined.	T				
A crime in itself, this is the use of fire to destroy evidence.		S			
A, AB, B and O are all types of ___.	L				
CSI stands for ___ Scene Investigation.				E	
Determining the cause of ___ is a big part of a medical examiner's job.			T		
Forensic toxicologists search for alcohol and ___ in the body.		U			
A lie detector can be used to determine if a suspect is telling the ___.					
An investigating officer should first tape off and ___ the scene.		C			
The three main patterns of fingerprints are loops, arches, and ___.			R		
A thorough medical examination of a dead body is called an ___.	U		P		
A county official called to the scenes of death investigations.		R			
Chain of ___ is essential to best preserve evidence.			T		
Each person has unique ___ codes known as DNA.	E			I	
Every contact at a crime scene both leaves and ___ evidence.	R		V		
Person of interest in an investigation.			P		
Clues left behind by those committing a crime are called ___.		I			E
Bodies ___ at different rates depending on location and temperature.	E		P		
A ___ is usually the individual investigating a crime.			C		
Investigators will want to ___ potential witnesses of a crime.		T		V	
Evidence found away from the crime scene is called ___ evidence.	S		O		A
A scientific study of the flight path of a projectile.		L			C
Only males have a Y-___ in their DNA.			O		M
The person who saw something at a crime scene is a ___.	Y			T	
Small bits of evidence are often examined through a ___.		C		C	
Ransom or suicide notes can be examined through a ___ analysis.			W		N
___ taken at the crime scene help investigators review evidence.		O		G	
Some hidden evidence can be seen with this type of light.	L				O
No two identical ___ have ever been found.			G		I

S G U R D G E N E T I C M L W
 E S U F C S D E T E C T I V E
 V U G I E S T F E M I R C N I
 O S S N D E E I S E C U R E V
 M P I C I N L N V B L O O D R
 E E P H O T O G R A P H S P E
 R C S R N I I E R M Y C C Y T
 Y T L O Y W V R H E I G O R N
 D R R M S E A P W T N T P A I
 O U O O P Y R R S D A O E D A
 T T H S O E T I S H N E R N J
 S H W O T E L N T O P A D O S
 U B U M U L U T S G N P H C C
 C D E E A A E S O P M O C E D
 O C N B E C N E D I V E T S R

Find the answers above in the word search.
 Then, place the unused word search letters in
 order in the spaces below. Lastly, use the boxed
 letters to find the hidden message!

BECOME A CERTIFIED FOOTWEAR EXAMINER



Are you a practicing footwear examiner looking to elevate your credentials to the next level? The International Association for Identification (IAI) offers certification specifically to meet the needs of the footwear discipline.

The footwear certification program is designed for those individuals actively engaged in comparing footwear impression evidence. To qualify for test participation, individuals must meet specific criteria. Years of experience as a footwear examiner, combined with formal education and documented training, will be the primary focus when determining an individual's eligibility for participating in the examination process.

The certification process involves completing our application, fee submission, and the successful completion of both written and practical examinations. More information regarding cost, requirements, and application can be found on the IAI website, footwear certification page (www.theiai.org/footwear.php).

Inquiries can be made to the IAI Footwear Certification Board Secretary at: Footwear.Cert.Secretary@gmail.com



International Association
for Identification

PUZZLE PAGE ANSWER KEY

Mrs. Bisel killed the CEO with poison because of jealousy, leaving behind a hair as evidence.

Mr. Henry: Dagger, Blackmail, Note, 9:05; Ms. Lee: Revolver, Greed, Footprint, 11:25; Mr. Locard: Rope, Rage, Fingerprint, 11:55; Mr. Jeffreys: Lead Pole, Revenge, Blood, 10:45

Hidden Message: FINDING THE SUSPECT

STAY UP TO DATE

Reminders and Contact Information

MEMBERSHIP

To renew your membership please visit our website

www.MDIAI.com

Payments may be made online or mailed to

16743 Hwy 67
Biloxi, MS 39532



2024 CONFERENCE

The 2024 Educational Conference is in the works. We hope to see you in the Jackson area next spring!

More details to be released soon!

Follow Us!

to stay up to date on all future announcements



Mississippi Division of the
International Association for Identification