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Joint Educational Forensics Conference Recap



All Joint Educational Forensics Conference attendees come together for a group photo.

With the Joint Educational Forensics Conference now behind us, let's take a minute to review what a great conference it was! Held in Cherokee, North Carolina, this year's conference was a joint venture between the Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee Divisions of the International Association for Identification. In total, there were 220 attendees with 39 being from Georgia. Additionally in attendance, parent body IAI President Domingo Villareal even made an appearance! Representing Georgia were keynote presenter Dr. David Snively and our own member of the board, Jesse Worley.



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IAI President Domingo Villareal saying a few words during the opening ceremony.

Topics of instruction included crime scene photography, latent print examination, testimony, trace evidence overview, violence against children, resilience training, leadership and management, and so much more. Case studies presented included a crime scene and shooting reconstruction of the murder of Corporal Ronil Singh, the search of the Unabomber's cabin, and the Aurora Colorado movie theater shooting, to name a few.



GA IAI members come together for a group photo.



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Let's not forget about the contests; Georgia represented well here too! Winners of the logo contest included Anna Garrett from the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, NC, with her three-state design serving as the official logo for the conference, and Brandi Wiltse and Rebekah Hollingsworth from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, GA, with their "To Collect & Preserve" design being featured on the official conference shirt. As for the photography contest, Brandi Wiltse from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, GA, took first place in the forensics category, and Shelly Garris from the Greensboro Police Department, NC, took first place in the open category.



Top: Three-state logo design (left) and "To Collect & Preserve" logo design (right).
Bottom: Brandi Wiltse (left) and Shelly Garris (right) with their winning photos.



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In the Georgia IAI business meeting, members appointed new officers and reaffirmed others. After serving his one-year term, Bruce Willis passed the gavel to Cory Payne as the new president. Thank you, Bruce, for everything you've done during your time as president! (See page 6 for a word from past president Bruce Willis). Now, let's give a big round of applause to all the 2023-2024 officers and board members!



New president Cory Payne swearing in appointees.

On a final note, the joint conference was certainly one for the books, and hopefully, will be something seen again in the future! Between the over 50 vendors in attendance, the challenge coin trading table, and the bowling/video arcade social happening, this was a great event for networking and exchanging contacts. Hopefully, everyone has come away from this conference with a little bit more knowledge, a plethora of business cards, and great memories!



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A Word from Past President Bruce Willis



From left to right: Former President Bruce Willis being presented the Past President's plaque by Current President Cory Payne; Cory swearing in Bruce as Chairman of the Board; Bruce being presented the GA IAI commemorative presidential watch.

During his year as president, Bruce Willis did the impossible . . . here it is in his words:

Over the past year as president of the Georgia Division of the IAI, I have repeatedly been contacted about the backlog in forensic science courses currently offered for certification throughout the state. This backlog in courses has prevented uniform personnel and specialists from achieving certifications and promotional positions.

On numerous occasions, I have had conversations with P.O.S.T Director Mike Ayers. Director Ayers has indicated to me a desire to attempt to develop programs that would benefit the forensic science community. Through a corporative attempt with the National Forensic Academy at the University of Tennessee, and with the CSI Academy for the state of Florida, no solution was achieved.

As the law enforcement community continued to reach out to Georgia IAI officers requesting solutions to reduce the backlog of students desiring to take forensic-specific courses, a meeting was scheduled with Director Ayers and was attended by myself and Katrina



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Willis. The purpose of the meeting was to request recognition for certain P.O.S.T certification courses, as well as a re-draft of fingerprint classification to be recognized as "Fingerprint Science." Director Mike Ayers and Director of Certification and Training Terry McCormick requested the development of an advanced crime scene certification, as well as the state of Georgia's first Forensic Academy.

I have rewritten the courses required for the Crime Scene Technician and Latent Print certifications. In July 2023, the outline for the advanced forensic certification was approved pending the submission of master course files. P.O.S.T rules were amended in September 2023, approving the recognition and development of the Forensic Academy. Upon a pending P.O.S.T council vote in December, a Forensic Academy will be recognized at Piedmont University, effective January 1, 2024. These accomplishments are the end results of many entities on the local and state levels seeking a remedy to the backlog in certified forensic training courses.

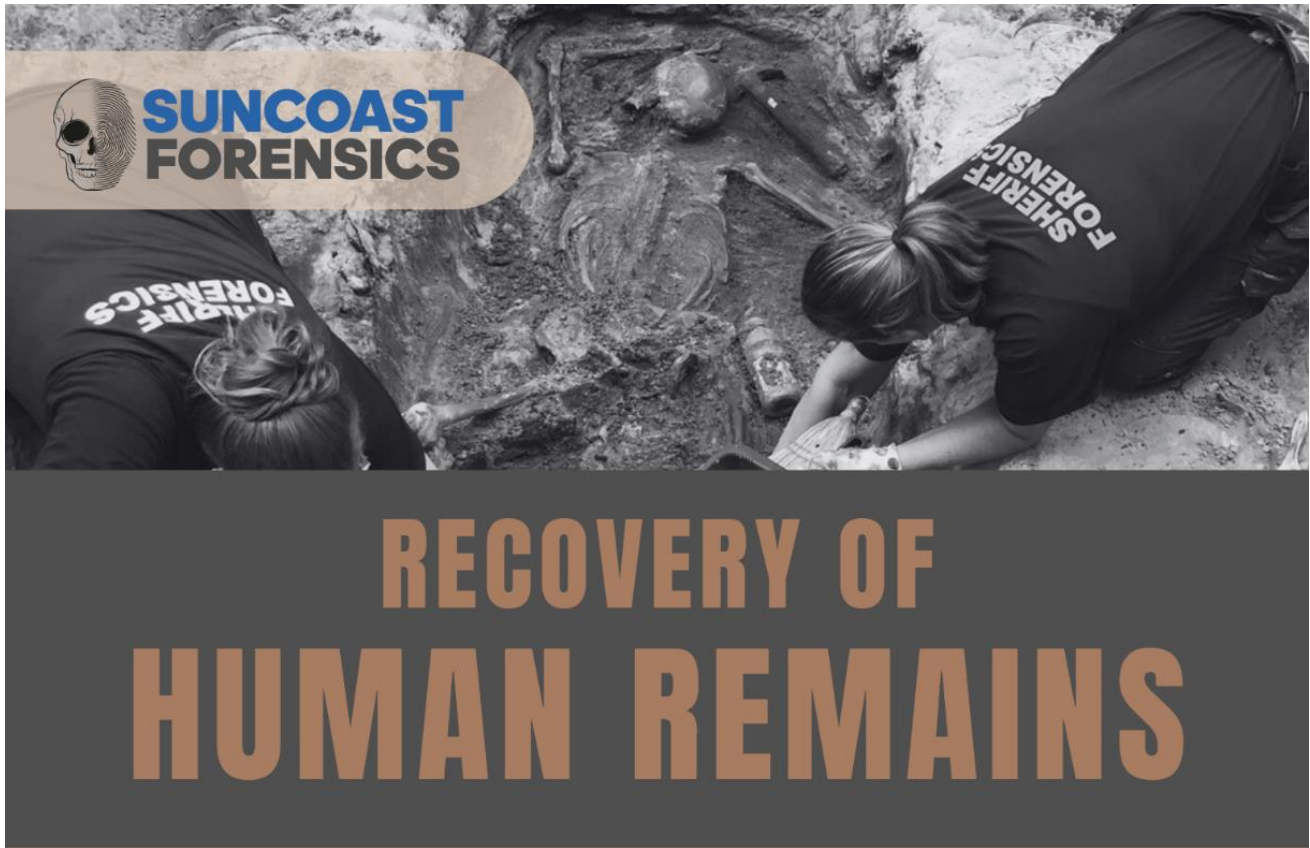
As Chairman of the Board of Directors, I will continue to serve the Georgia Division of the IAI. I will continue to develop advanced courses for all stakeholders in Georgia. I look forward to another productive year for our officers and members.

Thank you, Bruce, for your dedication and hard work to not only the GA IAI but also to the field of forensic science. For a look at what courses the Georgia Forensic Academy will be offering next year, see page 10.



Upcoming Training

Is your agency hosting an upcoming training course? Send an email to the editor at BAWiltse@forsythco.com to be included in next quarter's newsletter



Details:

- **Date:** February 5-7, 2024 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM
Location: Savannah Police Department
3401 Edwin Street, Savannah, Georgia 31405
- **Date:** April 8-10, 2024 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM
Location: Athens Clarke County Police Department
3035 Lexington Road, Athens, Georgia 30605

TO REGISTER, VISIT <http://www.suncoastforensics.com> OR CONTACT DR. MEREDITH TISE BY EMAIL AT meredith@suncoastforensics.com.




RON SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Palm Prints: Searching Smart




Class Instructor:
Jamie Bush, CLPE




ATTENTION: LATENT PRINT EXAMINERS!
DO YOU KNOW what part of the palm made these prints?
DO YOU KNOW if the left or right hand made these prints?
DO YOU KNOW what the correct vertical position of these prints are?
 If you have an Automated Palm Print System, **DO YOU KNOW** how to position the latent palm print to maximize the search accuracy and efficiency of your system?
DO YOU KNOW how to teach palm print comparison techniques to the people you supervise?

If the answer is "NO" to any of these questions, then you can benefit from this workshop.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this three day workshop is to substantially improve the ability of the latent print examiner to conduct latent print comparisons in a more time and cost efficient manner. This workshop is designed to benefit examiners at all expertise levels from the new trainee to the latent print supervisor. The practical exercises have been prepared in such a manner that each student will be working with material equal to their level of expertise and progress to more difficult assignments as their ability grows. These techniques can be immediately applied to both manual and automated palm print searching.

NEED: The reason that there is a need for this type of training is twofold. First, many, if not most latent print examiners have never had any formal training in the area of latent palm print searching. This is because, except on a very limited basis, none existed - UNTIL NOW!. Second, although the development of A.F.I.S. systems has been monumentally successful in identifying latent fingerprints, it has indirectly contributed to a new problem - a whole generation of latent print examiners who cannot effectively deal with palm prints. This seminar is designed to meet the need by training the students to "Search smart before they search hard!" This is accomplished by teaching the students how to recognize the numerous "position orientation clues" that normally appear in palm prints.

Target Audience

This workshop is designed to benefit examiners at all expertise levels from the new trainee to the latent print supervisor. The practical exercises have been prepared in such a manner that each student will be working with material equal to their level of expertise and progress to more difficult assignments as their ability grows.

Course Logistics

When:
March 4-6, 2024

Class Times:
08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Where:
Douglas County Sheriff's Office
8470 Earl D. Lee Blvd.
Douglasville, GA 30134

Tuition:
\$450.00

*This course approved for
I.A.I. Certification & Re-certification*

Local Contact

Greg Ashcraft
Lieutenant
Douglas County Sheriff's Office
770-942-2121
gashcraft@sheriff.douglas.ga.us

TO REGISTER ONLINE, VISIT <https://www.ronsmithandassociates.com/>



UPCOMING 2024 COURSES



Georgia Forensic Academy At Piedmont University

1021 Central Ave., Demorest, Georgia 30535

JAN Fingerprint History, Biology, Ridgeology-40 hrs.

FEB Crime Scene Investigation-40 hrs.

MAR Friction Ridge Analysis-40 hrs.

APR Basic Photography and Digital Imaging- 40 hrs.

MAY Friction Ridge Comparison 40 hrs.

JUN Latent Print Development 24 hrs.

JUL Palm Print Comparison-40 hrs.

AUG Bloodstain Documentation- 40 hrs.

SEP Distortion Issues & Complex Latents- 24 hrs.

OCT Courtroom Demeanor & Evidence Presentation- 24 hrs.

NOV Latent Print Expert Testimony- 40hrs.

Schedules are subject to change and classes may be added

These classes are recognized by Georgia POST and will count for Georgia POST certifications.

Course Rates:

40 Hour Course
\$455

40 Hour Course w/
lodging
\$600

24 Hour Course
\$280

24 Hour Course w/
lodging
\$360

For more information, contact:

Kayla Neal: kneal@piedmont.edu or Katrina Willis: aboutfacts.kwillis@gmail.com

1(800)277-7020 ext. 1262

404-277-8785

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THEIR WEBSITE:

<https://www.gaforensicacademy.com/>



Member Spotlight



Andy Forte is a Lieutenant with the Thomas County Sheriff's Office. He has served in law enforcement for 24 years but has spent the past 16 years in his current position as a Certified Latent Print Examiner and Certified Crime Scene Technician. Andy has been a member of the Georgia IAI for 16 years! Aside from law enforcement, Andy is married with five kids – ages ranging from 13 to 21 – and enjoys woodworking. He even has his own woodworking business called “Patriot's

Pride Woodworxx”, which you can find on Facebook. One item on Andy's bucket list is to visit Australia.

Q: Can you tell me about a favorite case you've worked?

“Honestly, I can't pick one. I get fulfillment from just about every case I examine. I love going to an Investigator who has absolutely no leads whatsoever in his or her case and saying ‘Hey, I got a latent hit on your case.’ Seeing their face light up and knowing the case is now off and running is very gratifying.”

Q: Do you have a tip or trick of the trade that you can share with everyone?

[Regarding latent prints] “On complex examinations/comparisons, I try to never look at it for more than 30 minutes at a time before I get up and walk away from it for a bit to let my eyes and brain rest. As my trainer and mentor, Glenn Hutchinson (43 years as an examiner), used to say, ‘If you're not careful and you stay in the print too long, you'll start to see what you want to see instead of what's there.’”



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Rhonda Hays is a Latent Print Examiner with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. She has served in law enforcement for 14 years and has been a member of the Georgia IAI for 2 years. Aside from law enforcement, Rhonda has a 29-year-old son who competes in BMX racing. One thing that Rhonda enjoys most is watching her son race. If you know Rhonda, you know just how big of a heart she has! One item on Rhonda's bucket list is to travel.

Q: Can you tell me about a favorite case you've worked?

"One of our deputy's cars got broken into and his ballistic vest was taken. The latent print that was recovered from the vehicle was ran through AFIS and I was able to give them a suspect." Ultimately, the case concluded with an arrest and a recovery of the stolen vest. Rhonda shares a common sentiment felt among most latent print examiners, "I love my job knowing that I am able to give back . . . and generate suspects to help the investigators."

Q: Do you have a tip or trick of the trade that you can share with everyone?

"Just take your time and don't be in a hurry; and think outside of the box."



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Welcome New Members!

Aдриanna Ewing, *Conyers Police Department*
Alexis Smith, *Walton County Sheriff's Office*
Anay Rebollar, *Hall County Sheriff's Office*
Brandi Parker, *Atlanta Police Department*
Caralyn Ordonez, *Georgia Bureau of Investigation*
Cecily Kattantza, *Conyers Police Department*
Christina Johnson, *Forsyth County Sheriff's Office*
Christopher Traugott, *Cobb County Police Department*
Daniel Thacker, *Catoosa County Sheriff's Office*
Emma Holtzclaw, *Savannah Police Department*
Ervin Wilder, *Atlanta Police Department*
Haley Bolt, *Georgia Bureau of Investigation*
Hollis Brown, *Atlanta Police Department*
Jessica Scoggins, *Walton County Sheriff's Office*
Joelle Hogg, *Atlanta Police Department*
Josh Cox, *Braselton Police Department*
Joshua Ivey, *Alto Police Department*
Kayla Neal, *Piedmont University Forensic Academy*
Keyana Gallagher, *Atlanta Police Department*
Lavetta Oliver, *Stockbridge Police Department*
Maricella Madoo, *Cobb County Police Department*
Michael Jetmore, *Douglasville Police Department*
Pebbles Felder, *Atlanta Police Department*
Rebekah Hollingsworth, *Forsyth County Sheriff's Office*
Savon Perry, *Atlanta Police Department*
Shane Chavez, *Atlanta Police Department*
Sharon L. Davis, *Atlanta Police Department*
Skyler Pontiff, *Walton County Sheriff's Office*
Tanner Page, *Walton County Sheriff's Office*
Teresa Mattox, *Atlanta Police Department*
Tia Verret, *Atlanta Police Department*
Todd Sartain, *Ideal Innovations*



Fingerprint Word Scramble

LOWRH _____

DNYHINNRI _____

RHAC _____

EANLTT _____

OPOL _____

SIACLTP _____

RADXRO _____

DEINIO _____

PEDROW _____

ENPTTA _____

KNI _____

EIUTANIM _____

MARPISCOON _____

****Answers will be posted in the next edition of the GA IAI Newsletter****



Georgia Division of the International Association for Identification

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Where to Find Us

Official Website: <https://gaiai.org/>

Georgia State Division International Association for Identification

SEARCH ...

Find us on Facebook

ABOUT CONFERENCES TRAINING MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATIONS MERCHANDISE CONTACT US

INTRODUCTION

The Georgia Division of the International Association for Identification (GAIAI) is a professional, non-profit law enforcement organization dedicated to promoting training and research in the application of scientific methods for the purpose of crime detection.

As an organization, we seek to develop uniform and state-wide professional standards in such areas as:

-
-
-
-

SEARCH

SEARCH ...

ABOUT THIS SITE

The GAIAI is made up of forensic professionals across the great state of Georgia. The association strives to help its membership keep up to date with the latest in the exciting field of forensic science identification.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/georgiadivisioniaia>

Georgia State Division International Association for Identification

64 likes • 66 followers

Liked

Message

Search

GroupMe: Want to be added to the GA IAI chat group? Email or Facebook message Cory Payne at cpayne@carrollton-ga.gov with the name and phone number you would like to use!