



Lab & Scene

Volume 18, Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2014

Greetings,

I would like to thank the members of Indiana IAI for giving me this opportunity to serve as the 2014 Indiana IAI president. I have been a member of Indiana IAI since 2007; I have served the last few years as a board member and continued with serving as vice president for 2013. I want to commend Lorinda Gibbs and 2013 board (Allyson Dagnon, Rachael Donaldson, Wally Lewis, Sean Matusko, Chuck McMichael, Kacie Proffitt and Shane Slack) for all the time and hard work they devoted to the organization last year who made the 20th annual conference a huge success.

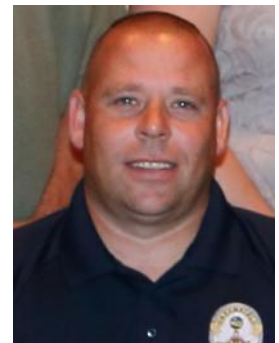
I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves at the 20th Annual Educational Conference. The 20th annual conference had a lot of great speakers with a larger member attendance. I want to continue in 2014 with the same tradition Indiana IAI has provided for their members over the years. I also want to continue with the member's appreciation night. I felt this was a great way to thank all of our members for their time and dedication to the organization.

It seems that we have received great feedback regarding the location and activities for the last year's conference. The current 2014 board is busy with setting up speakers for the upcoming 21st Annual Educational Conference. The board is currently working on location and setting dates for the conference. I believe our members will be as excited for this year's educational conference as they were for last year's conference. I look forward to working with the 2014 board and to seeing the members at the 21st Annual Educational Conference in the fall of 2014.

Feel free to contact me at rvawter@greenfieldin.org with any ideas you may have for this upcoming year.

Sincerely;

Rodney Vawter



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**Advanced technology for police
and crime scene investigators**

**Light Sources
Latent Fingerprints
Trace Evidence
Shoe & Tyre Prints**



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fosterfreeman.com

Foster + Freeman USA Inc. 46030 Manekin Plaza, Sterling, VA 20166 USA
Tel: 888 445 5048 Fax: 888 445 5049 usoffice@fosterfreeman.com





The rare condition adermatoglyphia causes people to be born without fingerprints (file picture).

Mutated DNA Causes No-Fingerprint Disease

Genetic difference found in people with immigration-delay disease.

Photograph courtesy Eli Sprecher, American Journal of Human Genetics

By: Rachel Kaufman for [National Geographic News](#)

A genetic mutation causes people to be born without fingerprints, a new study says.

Almost every person is born with fingerprints, and everyone's are unique. But people with a rare disease known as adermatoglyphia do not have fingerprints from birth. Affecting only four known extended families worldwide, the condition is also called immigration-delay disease, since a lack of fingerprints makes it difficult for people to cross international borders.

In an effort to find the cause of the disease, dermatologist [Eli Sprecher](#) sequenced the DNA of 16 members of one family with adermatoglyphia in [Switzerland](#). Seven had normal fingerprints, and the other nine did not. After investigating a number of genes to find evidence of mutation, the researchers came up empty-handed—until a grad student finally found the culprit, a smaller version of a gene called SMARCAD1. ([Get a genetics overview.](#))

The larger SMARCAD1 is expressed throughout the body, but the smaller form acts only on the [skin](#). Sure enough, the nine family members with no fingerprints had mutations in that gene.

Being born without fingerprints doesn't occur simply because one gene has been turned on or off, Sprecher said. Rather, the mutation causes copies of the SMARCAD1 gene to be unstable.

That mutation is also the first link in a long chain of events that ultimately affects fingerprint development in the womb. The rest of the links in the chain are still a mystery, said Sprecher, of the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center.

No-Fingerprint Disease Not Harmful

Other inherited diseases that result in a lack of fingerprints—such as Naegeli syndrome and dermatopathia pigmentosa reticularis—are caused by problems with the protein keratin-14.

These conditions "manifest not only with lack of fingerprints, but also with a number of other critical features—a thickening of the skin, problems with nail formation," Sprecher said.

By contrast, immigration-delay disease doesn't come with any side effects besides a minor reduction in the ability to sweat. In general, people with the disease "are otherwise completely healthy, like you and me."

By further studying the Swiss family, Sprecher said, it might be possible to solve the mystery of fingerprints overall.

"You go from a rare disease to a biological insight of general importance," he said. "We would never have been able to get to this gene if not for the study of this family."

The fingerprint research was published August 12 in the [American Journal of Human Genetics](#).

FORENSIC SEMINARS

FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT, MEDICO-LEGAL, LEGAL, AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL

DEATH SCENE INVESTIGATION SEMINAR



Indianapolis March 4-6 2014

Join us for this dynamic 3-day training seminar on death scene investigation. Through the use of case-studies and the best selling *Death Scene Investigation Procedural Guide*, the authors will take you through the protocols, procedures and processes that are used in death scenes today. For a detailed description of the course, visit our webpage at www.maloneyforensics.com

CURRENT EVENTS

Wrongly convicted Elkhart woman sues two cops for bad evidence

(Article taken from: <http://www.elkharttruth.com/news/crime-fire-courts/2014/02/19/Wrongly-convicted-Elkhart-woman-sues-two-cops-for-bad-evidence.print>)

ELKHART — An Elkhart woman is suing two police officers after [faulty fingerprint evidence](#) led her to spend eight years in prison for murder.

Lana Canen, 54, who was sentenced in 2005 to 55 years in prison for the murder of 94-year-old Helen Sailor, is suing Elkhart County Sheriff's deputy Dennis Chapman and Elkhart police officer Mark Daggy. The lawsuit filed this week in the U.S. District Court for Northern Indiana alleges the officers violated her civil rights.

Police and prosecutors believed that Canen and Andrew Royer, both tenants in the Waterfall High Rise apartments, entered Sailor's apartment on Thanksgiving in 2002 and robbed and strangled her. Royer confessed to the murder and is serving 55 years in the Pendleton Correctional Facility. He is projected to be released in 2031 release date on good behavior.

Canen has maintained her innocence all along. The only evidence entered against her at trial was a fingerprint found on a Tupperware container inside Sailor's apartment, which was believed to have been handled by the killer.

Chapman, who presented himself as an expert in fingerprint identification despite having had no training or experience in the field, testified that the fingerprint belonged to Canen, the suit alleges. The print evidence originally had been sent to the Indiana State Crime Lab but was withdrawn "for reasons unknown," and was then given to Chapman for his analysis, the suit alleges.

When Canen filed a motion for post-conviction relief, Plainfield attorney Cara Wieneke had Chapman's fingerprint analysis reviewed by Kathleen Bright-Bimbaum, a certified examiner at Arizona-based Desert Forensics, Wieneke previously told The Elkhart Truth. Bright-Bimbaum concluded the fingerprint did not match Canen's.

Once Chapman told the court in a post-conviction relief hearing that he had no training in latent fingerprint analysis, and that he no longer believed the print matched Canen's, Elkhart County Prosecutor Curtis Hill allowed the original print to be tested by the Indiana State Crime Lab. On Aug. 19, 2012, the lab issued a report that excluded Canen as the source of the print, the suit alleges.

Hill then moved to dismiss all charges against her, and [Canen was released from prison](#) in late 2012 after eight years.

Shortly after her prison release, Elkhart County Sheriff Brad Rogers told The Elkhart Truth that [Chapman would be disciplined](#). Rogers could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday.

The suit also names Daggy as a defendant because he endorsed and advocated for Chapman's testimony at trial, the suit alleges.

Canen seeks compensatory and punitive damages against Chapman and Daggy as individuals. She is not suing the county or city. Her suit alleges that Hill did not know that Chapman wasn't qualified to analyze fingerprints.

Goshen attorneys Nathaniel Jordan and Michael DeBoni have entered appearances on behalf of Chapman. Both were involved in a deposition all day Wednesday and were unavailable for comment.

LaPorte attorneys Martin Kus and David Jones represent Daggy and also could not be reached for comment.



Greenfield officer runs for his life as semi crushes car

(Article from <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/greenfield-officer-runs-for-his-life-as-semi-crushes-his-car>; Pictures from <http://fox59.com/2014/01/16/fatality-injuries-reported-in-numerous-crashes-in-greenfield/#axzz2ttfzofBo>)

GREENFIELD, ind. - An officer is lucky to be alive after his vehicle was crushed in one of several accidents on Interstate 70 on Thursday.

Dash cam video from the car of **Greenfield Police Department Officer Chuck McMichael** showed how he was preparing to block the westbound lanes of I-70 because of a serious accident two miles down the road.

"There was another traveler on the road behind me, so when you saw me kind of swerving back and forth it was to get her attention that I'm stopping here in the roadway and she did stop behind me," McMichael said.

McMichael got out of his car to tell the motorist he was shutting down the interstate when he saw a semi begin to jackknife. He never made it to the woman's car – he ran for his life.

"The trailer started coming around the back side of it and as it did, I made a run for the median," McMichael said.

It was only seconds later that his car was struck and totaled.

He first let dispatch know he was out of the car and safe and then he made a *call to his wife* a short time later.

"It's one of the things I told my wife when I talked to her, you know I've never run so fast on ice in my entire life..." McMichael said.

McMichael believes his quick thinking most likely saved his life and he considered himself lucky.

"Had I been in that car at the time that semi hit me, who's to say what really would've happened, but you know, it doesn't look good," he said.

When McMichael went to go check on the semi driver, he noticed the driver that had been behind him went off an exit ramp and disappeared.

The semi driver was also OK and even drove away in his semi, but not before getting three tickets for unsafe driving.



Protecting the Crime Scene

by George Schiro

Forensic Scientist

Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory

Article from: <http://www.crime-scene-investigator.net/evidence1.html>)

The most important aspect of evidence collection and preservation is protecting the crime scene. This is to keep the pertinent evidence uncontaminated until it can be recorded and collected. The successful prosecution of a case can hinge on the state of the physical evidence at the time it is collected. The protection of the scene begins with the arrival of the first police officer at the scene and ends when the scene is released from police custody.

All police departments and sheriff's offices should include intensive training for its personnel on how to properly protect crime scenes. Potentially, any police officer can be put into the position of first responding officer to a crime scene. The first officer on the scene of a crime should approach the scene slowly and methodically. In some cases this is not altogether practical. The first officer may also be involved in arresting an uncooperative suspect or performing life saving measures on an injured victim. In either case the officer should make mental or written notes (as is practical in each situation) about the condition of the scene as it was upon the officer's arrival and after the scene has been stabilized. The officer should keep notes on the significant times involved in responding to the crime scene (time dispatched to scene, time left for scene, time arrived at scene, time left scene, etc.). An effort must be made to disturb things as little as possible in assessing the situation. Particular attention should be paid to the floor since this is the most common repository for evidence and it poses the greatest potential for contamination. Notes should also be taken if the officer has to alter something in the investigation. Some things the officer should note include: the condition of the doors, windows, and lighting (both natural and manmade); if there are any odors present; if there are any signs of activity; how EMS or fire personnel have altered the scene; anything essential about the suspect (description, statements, physical condition, mental condition, intoxication, etc.); and anything essential about the victim. Once the scene has been stabilized, the scene and any other areas which may yield valuable evidence (driveways, surrounding yards, pathways, etc.) should be roped off to prevent unauthorized people from entering the area and potentially contaminating it. Investigators and other necessary personnel should be contacted and dispatched to the scene, however, under no circumstances should the telephone at the scene be used. Once the officer has secured the scene, he or she could do the following: record witness names and others who may have entered or been at the scene; separate witnesses and suspect(s); do not discuss the events or the crime with witnesses or bystanders or let the witnesses discuss these events; listen attentively but discreetly; and protect evidence which may be in danger of being destroyed. Any actions taken should be reported to the investigators.

(Continued from page 7)

Many times the arrival of additional personnel can cause problems in protecting the scene. Only those people responsible for the immediate investigation of the crime, the securing of the crime scene, and the processing of the crime scene should be present. Non-essential police officers, district attorney investigators, federal agents, politicians, etc. should never be allowed into a secured crime scene unless they can add something (other than contamination) to the crime scene investigation. One way to dissuade unnecessary people from entering the crime scene is to have only one entrance/exit into the crime scene. An officer can be placed here with a notebook to take the names of all of the people entering the crime scene. The officer can then inform them that by entering the crime scene they may pose a problem by adding potential contamination, and the reason that the officer is taking their names is in case the crime scene investigators need to collect fingerprints, shoes, fibers, blood, saliva, pulled head hair, and/or pulled pubic hair from all those entering the crime scene. This will sometimes discourage non-essential personnel from entering the crime scene. The officer can also stop unwanted visitors from entering the restricted areas. If extraneous people do have to enter the scene, then make sure that they are escorted by someone who is working the scene. This is to make sure that they will not inadvertently destroy any valuable evidence or leave any worthless evidence.

Eating, drinking, or smoking should never be allowed at a crime scene. Not only can this wreck a crime scene but it can also be a health hazard. A command post should be set up for such purposes. The post is to be set up somewhere outside the restricted areas. It could be a vehicle, picnic table, hotel room, tent, etc. It can be used as a gathering place for non-involved personnel, a place for investigators to take breaks, eat, drink, or smoke, a communication center, a place for press conferences, a central intelligence area, etc. The best thing about it is that it is away from the crime scene.

Protection of the crime scene also includes protection of the crime scene investigators. One person, whether a civilian or a police crime scene investigator, should never be left alone while processing the scene. This is especially true if the suspect has not been apprehended. There are many stories of suspects still hiding at or near their area of misdeed. That is why there should always be at least two people working the scene. At least one of these people should have a radio and a firearm.

To read more of this article please visit: <http://www.crime-scene-investigator.net/evidenc2.html>

Attention:

We want your
Feedback!

Did you enjoy the last
conference?

Learn anything new?

Who was your most and least
favorite speaker?

Did you like the location?

What can we do better this year?

Upcoming Local Training

- Death Scene Investigation Seminar
Indianapolis, March 4-6, 2014
- Alice Maceo– Distortion Workshop (2– Day)
Date: April 10 and 11, 2014
Location: Indiana State Police Laboratory,
Indianapolis Cost: \$300
Deadline: March 21, 2014

Know of any upcoming training? Email me at aconnell@isp.in.gov to include it in the next newsletter.

2014 Officers and Board Members Contact Information

President

Rodney Vawter

E-mail: rvawter@greenfieldin.org

Vice President

Wally Lewis

E-mail:

wlewis@dearborncounty.in.gov

Secretary-Treasurer

Sean Matusko

E-mail: smatusko@isp.in.gov

Board Members

Lorinda Gibbs (Board Chair)

Email: lgibbs@isp.in.gov

Chuck McMichael

E-mail: lmcmichael@greenfieldin.org

Shane Slack

E-mail: sslack@aurora.in.us

Kacie Proffitt

E-mail: kproffitt@isp.in.gov

Tom Pitzen

E-mail:

thomas.pitzen@cityoffortwayne.org

Ryan Chappell

E-mail: rchappell@greenfieldin.org



Alice Maceo's Distortion Workshop Registration Form

Registration Deadline: March 21, 2014

When: April 10 – 11, 2014

Where: Indiana Health and Forensic Science Laboratories

550 W. 16th Street, Suite C; Indianapolis, IN 46202

Class will begin at 8am on Thursday morning.

Attendee Name:

Company Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Hotel accommodations can be made at:

Hampton Inn Hotel & Suites

920 Hatfield Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46231

(317)856-1000

- Please let them know that you are part of the Alice Maceo Workshop group to ensure room availability.

- Rental cars will be needed since the hotel is located approximately 20 minutes from the training site.

Registration Fee: \$300.00

Please make checks payable to Indiana Division of IAI or pay using PayPal at www.iniai.org.

Registration deadline is March 21, 2014

Please return your completed registration form, as well as your payment, to Lorinda Gibbs at either the physical or email address:

Lorinda Gibbs, Board Chair

550 West 16th Street, Suite C

Indianapolis, IN 46202

lgibbs@isp.in.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Lorinda Gibbs at 317-921-5613 or lgibbs@isp.in.gov.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Indiana Division of the IAI was chartered July 29, 1994.



This organization was established as a not-for-profit organization to associate persons working in the fields of forensic investigation, examination, and identification for the following purposes:

- To encourage communication and the sharing of ideas and information among the forensic science and criminal justice communities.
- To keep members advised of the latest developments in the forensic and identification sciences.
- To encourage research into new methods and techniques of forensic investigation, examination and identification.

2014 INIAI Officers and Board



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Board Chair: Lorinda Gibbs

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Board Member: Thomas Pitzen

Board Member: Shane Slack

Board Member: Kacie Proffitt

Board Member: Chuck McMichael

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2013 Indiana Division of the IAI Conference

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Editor: Allyson Connell

aconnell@isp.in.gov

allysondagnon@gmail.com

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