

AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS

Promoting Excellence Through Certification

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ABC Fall 2024 Newsletter President's Message

Hello ABC Certificants,

I am happy to announce that earlier in September, the ABC was granted continued accreditation under the ISO/IEC 17024:2012 standard for the Biological Evidence Screening, Forensic DNA, and Foundational Knowledge (FKE) exams. This significant accomplishment could not be achieved without the tremendous efforts of our Accreditation Manager as well as all the other volunteers that have spent numerous hours performing audits, updating policies and procedures, and various other tasks.

Another great accomplishment that began in September is the beginning of field testing for our new Seized Drug Analysis exam. Once we have achieved enough test takers, the response analysis will begin. The goal is to have at least 75 people complete the exam by the Spring of 2025 with the final analysis to be complete by the end of 2025. After all of this is done, the ABC will have a new exam and will work to add it to our scope of accreditation. Please encourage your colleagues that meet the minimum requirements for this new exam to take it. Note that the application and sitting fees are waived for the field testing process. More information can be found [here](#). Thank you to our Examination Committee (EC) and all involved to make this new exam possible.

Another step forward that began with the recent field testing is an electronic testing format. No more paper and pencil. No more fill in the circle for the most appropriate answer. The field testing is being conducted 100% electronically. I appreciate all the efforts that have gone into this new process. We will gather feedback on this process to develop the future of exam sittings. We hope to move all exams to the new format which should allow easier administration of exams while also reducing the travel that may have been needed in the past to take an exam. This process should also decrease the time it takes to receive your results.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank a few individuals that have made significant contributions to the ABC. Audra Curry-Yovanovich will be stepping down as the current Chair of the EC at the end of this year. In addition, Amy Duhaime and Stephanie Lambert also left the EC as of September. For more information on these changes, please see the Examination Committee update.

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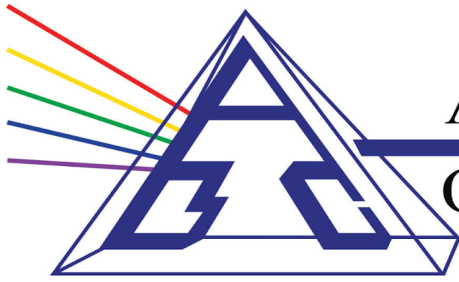
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President's Message Continued

While it is sad to see these volunteers go, it is exciting to give new people the opportunity to grow and help advance the future of this organization. Tanna Brown will be taking over for Audra as the Chair of the EC effective January 1, 2025. Tanna is currently serving as the Vice Chair of the committee. Also effective on January 1, Ruth Damaso Neely will become the new Vice Chair.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season!

Respectfully,

Shawn K. West, ABC-GKE
President

[ABC - About Us](#)

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Happy Fall Everyone!

We hope the new season finds everyone well! Your Communications and Marketing team has been hard at work on this newsletter! I would like to give a special shoutout to Erin Tracy and Laurie Thonesen for their time and effort in putting these newsletters together.

I want to thank the certificants who replied to our request for "Why You Became Certified" and the "Weird and Wild Tales from the Forensic Lab" sections. You'll see that entry below. Feel free to keep those emails coming and we'll keep using your stories in upcoming newsletters.

RECERTIFICATION UPDATE

Hello ABC Certificants,

The Recertification Committee continues to evaluate and improve the recertification process on a yearly basis.

For this newsletter, I would like to highlight course preapprovals. As you fill out your packets, please check the pre-approval of courses through the ABC website, and if a course does not appear on the list, please fill out the pre-approval request. This helps move the process along more quickly.

The Committee is working to increase efficiency in the review process so that the packets are completed sooner. Making sure that courses are pre-approved will help expedite these reviews. Additionally, the committee members will continue to reach



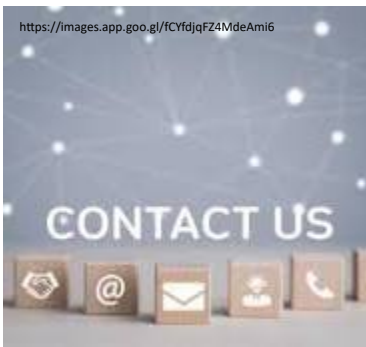
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Communication Update Continued

Below you'll see we added information regarding spring 2025 regional and national meetings to the newsletter. If there is anything else you would like to see, please let us know.

In 2025, we'll be moving to one newsletter a year. You can look forward to that in the spring. Other updates throughout the year will come via emails and postings on LinkedIn, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter).

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions for the committee, please feel free to send them to us at communications@criminalistics.com.



Recertification Update Continued

out to certificants regarding missing or insufficient documentation. In order to avoid losing points, please respond with the requested documentation in two weeks or less. We hope that this process will benefit certificants by allowing them to correct mistakes made during the submission of the recertification packets.

A huge Thank You to our Recertification Committee members and in particular, Recertification Co-Chairs Jenna Crawford and Amy Brodeur who manage the Recertification Committee and who work to ensure that the recertification process runs smoothly. We appreciate all that you do for the ABC!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding recertification.

Respectfully,

Alice Hilker, MFS, ABC-GKE, ABC-MB

UPCOMING MEETINGS WITH ABC EXAMINATIONS

American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Conference

- February 17-22, 2025 - Baltimore, Maryland

California Association of Criminalists Seminar

- April 27- May 2, 2025 - Folsom, CA

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists Annual Meeting

- May 5-9, 2025 - Jacksonville, FL

Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists Annual Meeting

- May 4-9, 2025 - Richmond, VA



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MEMBER DIRECTOR MESSAGE

As I wrap up my tenure as a Member Director for the ABC Board of Directors, first for the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Criminalistics Section and then for ASCLD, I have taken a moment to reflect on the progress the ABC has made. I am proud to say that the last decade has brought significant change and modernization to the ABC.

One of our most noteworthy achievements has been the development of four new exams, all aligned with ISO/IEC 17024 standards, thanks to the dedication of many individuals. We've also made strides to simplify the recertification process, introducing electronic packet submissions and clearer guidelines. I'm particularly excited about the upcoming transition to electronic testing, which promises to enhance the testing experience significantly.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to my fellow Directors, who have become friends, for their hard work in elevating the ABC into a top-tier organization. I eagerly anticipate seeing their continued efforts to make the ABC even better in the future!

Jason Linder

THANK YOU PETER DIACZUK

Peter (Pete) Diaczuk is also wrapping up his tenure as a Member Director for the ABC Board of Directors for the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS). Pete has been on the board since 2015.

Pete has been and continues to be involved with FSAT testing and serves on the FSAT Committee. Pete has also served on the Appeals Committee.

His contributions to the ABC Board of Directors will be missed. Thank you Pete!

Cathy Savage



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Our 2025 tests:

Biological Criminalistics

- 2025-Bio1 - BPA
- 2025-Bio2 - Assault
- 2025-Bio3 - Kinship
- 2025-Bio4 - Sexual Assault

Chemical Criminalistics

- 2025-CC1 - Fibre Analysis
- 2025-CC2 - Glass Examination
- 2025-CC3 - Ignitable Fluids Residue

Fingerprint Examination

- 2025-FP1 - Latent Fingermarks

Forensic Document Examination

- 2025-FDE1 - Physical Document Examination
- 2025-FDE2 - Signature Analysis

Digital Forensics

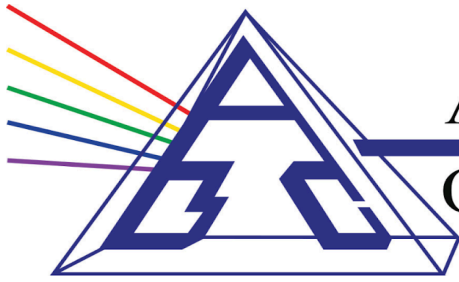
- 2025-DF1 - Phone Analysis
- 2025-DF2 - Hard Drive Analysis



PO Box 2279 Ringwood North
VIC 3134 Australia

Office: +61 (0)411 426 656
Mobile +61 (0)429 966 012

admin@ffint.com.au
www.ffint.com.au



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EXAMINATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Fall 2024 Update from the Examination Committee (EC) – Audra Curry Yovanovich, Outgoing Chair

It's fall in Indiana again and I'm excited for the cooler weather and changing leaves. This time of year is one of transition. We all prepare for the cooler weather (with cooler being subjective depending on your geographic location) and gear up for the excitement of the holidays (Halloween is a fan favorite in my house). This year in particular comes with even more changes as I move out of my role as Examination Committee Chair. As I look back on my time with the Exam Committee (EC), I can't help but reflect on all the changes ABC as an organization has also gone through.

I joined the Exam Committee as a representative of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) in the fall of 2015. At that time we were having monthly telephone conferences and two in person meetings a year. At my first monthly meeting, it was a lot of new names, faceless voices, and acronyms that I didn't understand. When I attended my first in person meeting in February 2016, I finally was able to put faces to the names but was still lost as to what was going on. Turns out, exam development and maintenance wasn't as easy as just thinking of questions to ask folks on a test. There was statistics, classical test theory, bias, and all other sorts of things to consider. I learned that there is an entire profession dedicated to developing standardized tests. Of course in hindsight this makes sense, otherwise how would we have gotten the juggernauts like SAT, ACT, GRE, MCAT, etc.?

Those first few years on EC I learned so much more than just how to develop and maintain an exam. I learned from Marie Samples (former EC Chair) how to efficiently run a meeting and have clear, concise notes to keep everyone on track. From Laura Silva (former Comprehensive Criminalistics Exam coordinator and EC Chair), I learned how to apply methodical processes to evaluate exam data and make strategic changes to items. From Dave Stockwell (Database Manager), I learned the rich history of ABC since the founding of our organization and how past decisions had led to current situations. More than anything, I saw how a group of passionate scientists could work together and achieve a goal. I was amazed that ten people from all over the country with different backgrounds and experiences could work together so well. Everyone who has been on EC over the last 9 years has influenced me and taught me important lessons that I will never forget.

Since my first meeting in 2015, we have developed four new exams (BIO, DNA, FKE, SDA) using a new process and a different philosophical approach based on the voice of our customers. Three of our new exams (BIO, DNA, FKE) are now ISO accredited with our fourth exam (SDA) being added to our scope once development is complete. We now have video calls instead of phone calls and we haven't met in person since the February 2020 meeting in Anaheim. We've developed new procedures to maintain our current exams, learned terms like DACUM, exam reliability, and bookmark method, and critically looked at how we do things to see if they still serve us today. We've also made the leap into electronic testing, leaving behind our booklets and scantrons.



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Being on the Exam Committee also taught me how to be a better scientist. While I had been taught to think critically and apply scientific principles in my education and training, the work of EC taught me how to take those skills outside of the laboratory and apply them to something different. It gave me insight into how to create better training programs for analysts, how to ask better questions to assess if someone really understood what I was teaching them, how to really look at the information I was presenting to a trainee to evaluate if it could be interpreted multiple ways. And more than anything, ABC taught me how to lead.

When I was first asked to become the Vice Chair, I was shocked. I didn't have the most time on the committee and I wasn't sure that I would be up to the task of leading the committee when my time came to become the Chair. However when it was announced to EC, if anyone was concerned they didn't show it. And more than anything, their support as I became the Chair in August 2020 taught me to trust myself. I made many mistakes along the way, had to admit to my failings and learn from them, and I was always supported and given grace. Through my work with EC, I not only became a better scientist but I also became a better leader. Without the opportunity that ABC gave me, I would not have been given the professional opportunities I have today.

Over the last nine years, I've gotten to work with amazing people. They are dedicated, passionate, and persistent in our shared purpose to establish professional levels of knowledge, skills and abilities; define a mechanism for achieving these levels; recognize those who have demonstrated attainment of these levels; and most importantly **promote growth within the profession**. When you take one of our exams, you don't see the hours of volunteer time that went into making it possible. The weekends and evenings spent dedicated to continuous improvement. You also can't see the comradery, friendship, and support that we have.

Since that first meeting, the "how" we do our work looks different, but the "why" is still the same. In our pursuit to promote growth within the profession, we also promote growth amongst ourselves. If you made it to the end of my novella, I hope that you take away how much love and respect I have for all those who contribute to the mission of ABC. I will miss the monthly meetings, the evening phone calls, the lengthy email chains, and the ever changing projects. And I will miss these because I will miss Amy Duhaime, Amy Reynolds, Tanna Brown, Stephanie Lambert, Tammy Jergovich, Esmeraldo Gorecho, Chance Cline, Michelle Madrid, Ruth Damaso Neely, Dave Stockwell, Gretchen Lajoie, Dave Koppenhaver and so many others. The EC will be in great hands when I step down at the end of 2024 and I can't wait to see where they go next!

Fall 2024 Update from the Examination Committee (EC) – Tanna Brown, Incoming Chair

Hello and happy spooky season! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and inform the forensic science community of the newest changes to the Examination Committee. My name is Tanna, and I work in the Chemical Analysis Unit at the Montana State Crime Lab. I was appointed to the committee shortly after I attained my own certification in Drug Analysis and have filled multiple roles within the committee. I have acted as the Legacy Drug Analysis Exam Coordinator, the new field test Seized Drug Analysis Exam Coordinator, and the Vice-Chair of the Committee. I hope to continue advancements that the committee has been actively involved in for years!



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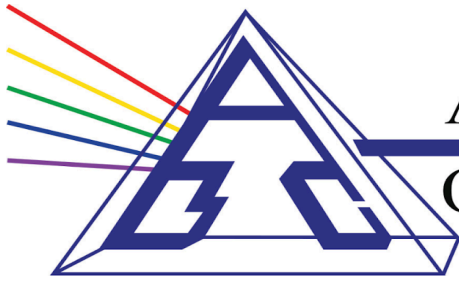
In taking this new position, I am sad to announce that our tenacious leader, Audra Curry-Yovanovich, is stepping down from the committee effective January 1, 2025. She has been an integral part of ABC for years and has earned so much of my respect. Over the course of her term as Chair, she has provided ABC and the forensic community with a multitude of advancements. She oversaw the introduction of our first two ISO accredited examinations, Biological Evidence Screening and Forensic DNA. She has also provided leadership in the development through induction of the latest ISO accredited exam, Foundational Knowledge. The most recent examination with the intention of ISO accreditation, Seized Drug Analysis (SDA) is currently in field testing. Audra not only provided valuable leadership during the development process but also acted as a Subject Matter Expert during multiple steps of development. While I was the Examination Coordinator, I feel I owe her all the props for pushing it through. She has overseen technological advancements that I didn't know were possible from a committee who only five years ago was meeting monthly on a telephonic conference call! We now utilize video conferencing, electronic examination approvals, and are soon to be debuting an electronic testing platform.

In other big changes, there are two other members of the Examination Committee that have recently stepped down after years of service. Stephanie Lambert stepped down in September and her contributions will be missed. Amy Duhaime also stepped down during the month of September. Amy had many years of service to the Committee and contributed her skills to most projects put out by ABC. From my introduction to the Exam Committee until now, I have seen Amy act as the Fire Debris Coordinator, Foundational Knowledge Exam Coordinator, and participating in a huge number of other sub-committees. Her shoes are going to be difficult to fill!

Taking over the Examination Committee is daunting for me, but I have an excellent team remaining on the committee. One individual who has already proven her talent is Ruth Damaso Neely. Ruth has graciously accepted the incoming role of Vice-Chair of the Committee. Ruth has acted as Coordinator for three examinations Biological Evidence Screening, Forensic DNA, and Molecular Biology (for a time simultaneously). Her sub-committee participation list is the size of a small child. Her lighthearted spirit has never faltered even when overwhelmed by projects and examinations. I cannot begin to sing the praises I have for her, and I know that with her on my team, everything will go according to plan.

The next big plan for the committee is to finalize field testing, release, and accreditation for SDA, with the help of the newest coordinator, Chance Cline. We will also be working on recruiting and training new members of the committee and ensuring we continue technological advancements. To finalize, I wanted to thank the entire Exam Committee and Board for trusting me as your next Chair, with a special shoutout to Dave Stockwell (Question Database Manager) for his decades-long dedication to the ABC and support of the EC.

Tanna Brown
Examination Committee Chair



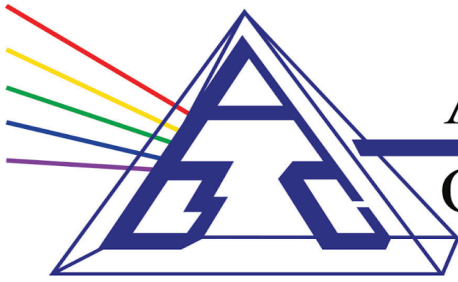
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DORMANCY OF CERTIFICATION

Did you know that the ABC offers our certificants the ability to put their certification into dormancy? Dormancy is an option for our certificants who are unable to maintain their certification due to life changing events e.g., long term illness, military deployment, family care leave, maternity leave, or a leave of absence from the profession. I was not aware of this option when I had my kids, and it would have made that time in my life a bit easier. Over the past year, I have had contacts with a few certificants who could have benefited from this option, had they been aware. Because of those contacts, I wanted to make sure to highlight this process in the newsletter.

Dormancy protects your certification status during a time where you are unable to obtain points due to a life-changing event. To apply for dormancy, you must be in good standing with the organization. During your dormancy you must continue to pay all applicable maintenance fees and submit your Rules of Professional Conduct. You may not claim points during your dormancy period. To apply for dormancy, complete the Dormancy Request form found on our [Dormancy](#) page. Here are a few things to consider when completing this application:

- Requests should be made within 90 days of the life-changing event.
- You can request 1 dormancy per life-changing event.
- Dormancies can last up to 3 years.
- Dormancies are for one calendar year (January 1-December 31). This is because of our recertification cycle. It was too confusing to allow dormancies to begin and end mid-year.
- If you wish to claim points in the year that your life changing event began, then your dormancy will begin on January 1 of the next year. If you are not claiming points, then your dormancy will begin on January 1 of the current year. For example:
 - Life-changing event: September 1, 2024, 3-year dormancy request
 - Claiming points earned in 2024: dormancy begins 01/01/25; expires 12/31/27
 - Not claiming points earned in 2024: dormancy begins 01/01/24; expires 12/31/26
- Each year you are in dormancy extends your expiration date by one year.
- If you are in the year that your certificate expires, dormancy will be approved only for the next recertification cycle. For example, if my certificate expires 7/31/2025, dormancy will be approved for points earned in 2025. If I have not attained enough points to recertify by 7/31/2025, dormancy cannot be used to extend that expiration date.
- You must submit your request to return to active status within 60 days of returning to work or the end of the life changing event.
- Dormancy does not change your certification status, you are still certified during this time.



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DORMANCY OF CERTIFICATION CONTINUED

We value our certificants and we understand that life can get in the way of our professional goals at times. We want to ensure that our certificants are afforded every opportunity to maintain their certification. More information on dormancy can be found on the website. If you are unsure if your situation qualifies for dormancy, please reach out to me at abcregistrar@criminalistics.com.

Gretchen Lajoie

ABC Registrar

WHY I WANTED TO BECOME CERTIFIED

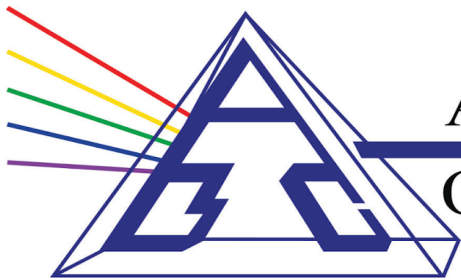
I chose to take the exam early in my career anticipating that it would encourage me to study a wide variety of forensic publications. In doing so, I believe it helped me understand how different forensic disciplines work together in solving crimes. I believe it enabled me to become a better criminalist. At the time, I did not realize that it would bolster my CV for testimony purposes, assist me in obtaining private contract work, or serve as justification for my agency to support my annual training.

Nancy McCombs - FATE Forensic Instruction

WEIRD AND WILD TALES FROM THE FORENSIC LAB

In the summer of 2022, our lab received a large submission with multiple cans of suspected liquid PCP. Due to the number of cans, a sample of the contents of a handful of the cans were analyzed. They did test positive for PCP. The case went to court and in the spring of 2023. We were notified that the case was adjudicated and the evidence could be destroyed. In attempting to get the evidence destroyed, we learned that liquid PCP was an interesting mix of hazardous materials and Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS). It couldn't be destroyed with our normal CDS waste or our normal hazardous waste. On top of that, our lab couldn't identify the solvent that the PCP was dissolved in. That's not in our normal scope of analysis. We tried multiple companies and multiple ways to destroy this evidence. Working for a government agency, there were hurdles with funding the destruction once we found a company who could do it. Finally, in the fall of 2024, we got everything worked out and have a destruction planned for before the end of 2024. Hopefully we'll be PCP free in 2025!

- Anonymous



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APPEALS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Appeals Committee of the ABC Board of Directors received just 6 appeals in 2024! Thanks to the combined efforts of the Registrar's Office, the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC), and especially the Recertification Committee, appeals continue to remain at a minimum. The goal of the Appeals Committee is to carefully review each certificant's appeal and make a determination as to whether the appeal shall be granted based on the information provided, by applying the established policies and procedures of the American Board of Criminalistics, and consulting with the Board as needed.

In 2024, the types of appeals were diverse from examination re-scores and reevaluating recertification points to dormancy requests.

- The right to a re-score is given to all candidates who fail an examination. When an appeal for an examination re-score is received, the Registrar's Office reviews the examination booklet to ensure it is complete and without printing errors. The Appeals Chair then re-scores the exam by hand. The score is then compared to the exam cut score provided by the Examination Committee Chair to determine if that score results in a pass or fail and the appellante is notified of the final results.
- Pay close attention as points from the 2024 recertification cycle are now available for viewing. If for any reason, you believe the points awarded are not reflective of the points earned, please file your appeal in a timely fashion so the appeals committee can evaluate all appeals efficiently. The Appeals Committee will continue to evaluate any new appeals in a judicious manner and note any significant issues that may be remedied by new recommendations to the Board.
- See the newsletter section specific to Dormancy of Certification for more information on this topic.

Please see the [website](#) for further instructions on filing an appeal and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Erin Tracy – Chair



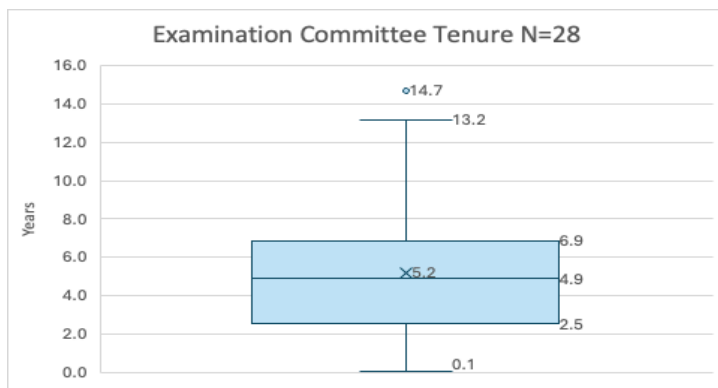
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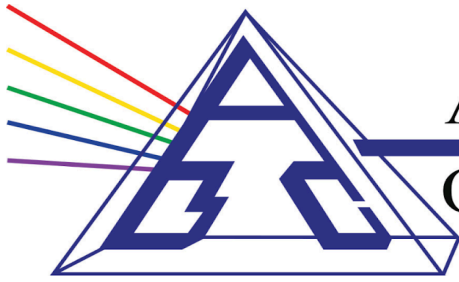
QUESTION DATABASE MANAGER UPDATE

One of my duties as Question Database Manager is to supply statistical information to members of the Examination Committee. Scientists are quite adept at the use of statistics in their day-to-day work. The workhorses of descriptive statistical analysis are mean, variation, standard deviation, and standard error. However, there are times when data may be better represented by median and quartile. While scientists are most comfortable with the concept of the standard curve and assessment of sigma value, other industries tend to follow the presentation of percentiles and quartiles. Do you remember your high school assessment test scores? Were you in the 80th or 90th percentile? The two systems are similar, but for purposes of defining group values, percentiles are somewhat easier to understand for most people. Let me give an example. I have chosen to represent the length of tenure of 28 members I have worked with on the ABC Examination Committee for the period 2004 to 2024. I have chosen to express these tenures in a “Box & Whisker” plot, a graph that can be produced through the Excel statistical module.



This plot contains much information regarding the data set. The blue box displays the boundaries of the 2nd through 3rd quartiles, defined as the interquartile range (IQ), with the middle line representing the median value. Inside the box, the “x” is the mean value of the dataset. The “whiskers” display the highest and lowest dataset values that fall within a general definition that best define the dataset: $X_{low} = Q2 - (1.5 * IQ)$; $X_{high} = Q3 + (1.5 * IQ)$. Dataset values outside this range or designated “outliers.”

I have two reasons for presenting this particular data set. First, I hope everyone who receives this newsletter might consider future opportunities to join the Examination Committee. The data presented should give you some expectation of the tenure that past EC members have invested in this worthwhile assignment. The second reason is to express my personal gratitude to two individuals who are leaving the committee. As she will undoubtedly mention in her column of this newsletter, our current Examination Chair, Audra Yovanovich, will be leaving at the end of this year. Audra has invested 9 years with the EC - well into the 4th quartile range – i.e., exceptional.



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Question Database Manager Update Continued

Her tenure has taken her through every position on the committee – Exam Coordinator, Vice Chair, and Chair. Our ISO/IEC 17024 accreditation status relied heavily on her efforts as well as her leadership. Audra, I would like to say I am amazed at what you have accomplished, and you will be missed.

The second person to whom I would like to extend gratitude is represented as the single “outlier” datapoint. Amy Duhaime has served on the committee since 2010 – almost 15 years! Over the course of this time, she has served as Examination Coordinator (Fire Debris), and single-handedly brought into existence our latest examination, Foundational Knowledge. She also brought her auditing skills to bear on the Quality Assurance Committee, and as she recently reminded me, we had some wonderful experiences while conducting that work.

I’m confident that both Audra and Amy would highly recommend serving on the Examination Committee. It’s more than a line on your CV, it is an opportunity to give back and to learn different and useful skills from exceptional people throughout the U.S. I think if you ask Audra or Amy, they would confirm that the assignment is a rewarding experience!

Dave Stockwell

ED RHODES SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

In memory of Edward Rhodes, a pioneer in forensic education and certification, the American Board of Criminalistics, Inc. is offering a complimentary examination sitting for one (1) representative from each of the following organizations per calendar year:

AAFS
ASCLD
ASTM E-30
CAC
MAAFS
MAFS
NEAFS
SAFS
SWAFS

Examinations can be taken at any offering during the year.

Candidates should fill out the Application Form found on the website and submit it to their Organization's Board of Directors for consideration. The Application Fee (\$75) is the responsibility of the candidate.



AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS

MESSAGE FROM THE ABC REGISTRAR/ACCREDITATION MANAGER

I have been very busy processing applications for the upcoming Seized Drug Analysis Field Tests. Our Credentials Committee has been working tirelessly to process all the incoming applications. We are very lucky to have these four dedicated volunteers who do this work for us (Chair: Julie Sikorsky, Committee: Bonnie Cheng, Sheri Jenkins, and Cecelia Crouse).

The SDA examination is our first certification examination to be offered electronically. A small group of us including myself, David Stockwell (our Question Database Manager), Alice Hilker (Board) and Tammy Jergovich and Esmeraldo Gorecho (Examination Committee members) have been working for approximately 2 years on this project. We are very excited about the changes that this will bring to our organization. In the spring we used the same platform to administer some of our FSAT (Forensic Science Assessment Test) examinations. In general, the examinations went very well. There still may be hiccups, but we are committed to making this process work. Our intention is that we will eventually transition our other new exams to this same platform. We will be sure to make an announcement well in advance of this transition. These examinations will be proctored by a live person, so there will still be a testing site. We are not planning to utilize remote proctoring any time soon.

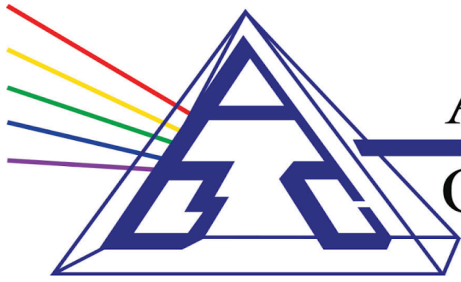
The ABC recently purchased new financial software (Quickbooks). We anticipate implementing this software within the next month. We plan to send invoices for annual maintenance fees through this software. We don't know exactly what this will look like, but please be aware of this upcoming change. I will send out an e-mail blast once we have our process implemented. Additionally, please note that I intend to send out Recertification reminders earlier than has happened in years past. This past year one was sent in November and that caused some confusion because everyone is used to seeing those come through in January. Submissions and payments can be made beginning January 1.

This past spring we submitted our annual application for surveillance with ANAB to maintain our ISO/IEC 17024 accreditation (Biological Evidence Screening, Forensic DNA, and Foundational Knowledge). This was a desk audit only. I am happy to report that the audit was successful and resulted in no findings.

It has been a busy first year as ABC Registrar!

Gretchen Lajoie

ABC Registrar/Accreditation Manager



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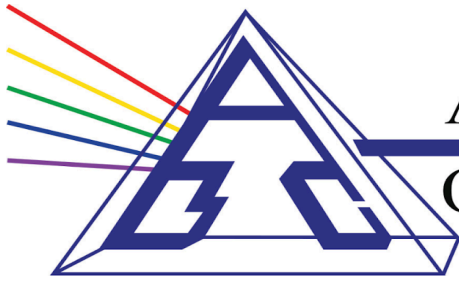
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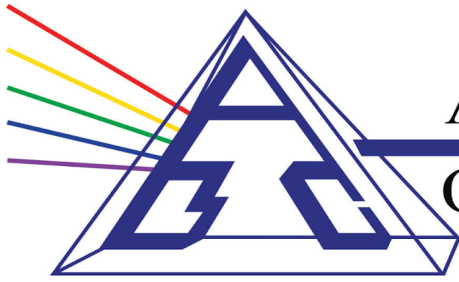
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