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Special Points of Interest:

- $3.5 Million grant to UNTCHI from Life Technologies will enhance training and DNA capabilities
- DNA produces a new lead in two 1995 Jane Doe cases
- Dallas hosts the 2011 Crimes Against Women Conference
- A model protocol for hunters discovering human remains
- Fox Valley Technical College hosts premier missing and unidentified person training conference
- NamUs registration tip for medical examiners and coroners

Life Technologies $3.5 Million Grant will Create High-Throughput Lab and Global DNA Training at UNTCHI

The University of North Texas Center for Human Identification (UNTCHI) has been awarded a $3.5 million grant from Life Technologies Corporation. This grant will establish the Center for Forensic Excellence, a state-of-the-art high-throughput laboratory on the campus of the UNT Health Science Center, and create a one-of-a-kind accelerated training program for DNA scientists across the world.

The Life Technologies award will fund a faculty director and two full-time training coordinator positions, and create a premier forensic laboratory and teaching facility at the UNT Health Science Center to train students from counties where the need for DNA analyses and databasing has surpassed the ability to hire and train qualified DNA analysts.

Up to twelve DNA scientists will be trained in each accelerated, four-week program. Each session will combine classroom lectures with daily, hands-on training in the forensic laboratory. Students will also receive training on quality assurance, ISO accreditation and validation, so that they leave the program prepared to establish forensic DNA databases in their home countries.

The high-throughput laboratory made possible by Life Technologies will also be utilized for UNTCHI casework, to include samples related to missing persons and victims of human trafficking.

In an interview with Patty Zamora of Life Technologies, Doctor Arthur Eisenberg, chairman of the Department of Forensic and Investigative Genetics at the UNT Health Science Center, commended Life Technologies for their innovation and humanitarian outreach. The UNTCHI has Memorandums of Understanding with the countries most affected by human trafficking, and the new high-throughput laboratory will be used to process samples from child victims of human trafficking.

Dr. Eisenberg stated that Life Technologies has shown “incredible vision and innovation” in not only developing state-of-the-art forensic technology, but also by creating a program that will provide international DNA training at a nominal cost.

“Life Technologies is establishing a great opportunity to train DNA professionals from other countries,” said Eisenberg. “As the world grows smaller and more interrelated, the need to share information in databases just multiplies. By training more DNA experts in various countries to collect reference samples and process them more efficiently, we can increase the number of reference samples in databases across the world which could help identify missing individuals, criminal perpetrators and victims of trafficking.”

Life Technologies Corporation is a global biotechnology tools company which provides premier systems, consumables and services to scientific researchers around the world. The Life Technologies brand is found in over 90% of research laboratories in the United States.

For more information on Life Technologies Corporation, visit www.lifetechnologies.com.

To hear a blog interview between Dr. Arthur Eisenberg and Patty Zamora from Life Technologies regarding this grant award, visit: http://www.blogtalkradio.com/lifetechnologies/2011/02/15/dr-arthur-eisenberg-discusses-35-million-grant-by-life-technologies.

For more information on the Center for Forensic Excellence, visit www.untcfe.org.
DNA PRODUCES NEW LEAD IN CT AND MA CASES


The younger victim was located in New Britain, CT on 09-28-1995. This victim was estimated to be between 17 and 20 years of age. Her body was found wrapped in sleeping bags.

The older victim was located in a campground in Tolland, MA on 10-06-1995. This victim was estimated to be between 30 and 45 years of age, and she wore red or maroon colored prescription eyeglasses. Personal affects and scientific testing indicate that this victim may have resided in the Capital District of Upstate New York prior to her death.

DNA testing has produced a new lead in these cases. The victims were found to share the same mitochondrial DNA profile, indicating that they could be maternally related. Nuclear DNA testing could not produce enough information to definitively state a relationship between the victims, however, based on the mitochondrial profiles, the victims could be related as mother/daughter, aunt/niece, younger/older siblings, etc.

The New Britain, CT victim was located near a wooded area where the skeletal remains of multiple other victims were found in 2007. It is possible that these cases are all related to the same unknown offender.

Anyone having information regarding these cases should contact any of the agencies listed below:

Massachusetts State Police
413-862-4511

New York State Police
518-783-3210

New Britain Police Department
860-826-3065

Below: Arrows show the New York Capital District (left), the location in Tolland, MA where one victim was located (middle), and the location in New Britain, CT where the other victim was located (right).
2011 CONFERENCE ON CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

March 28-30, 2011
Dallas, TX

About the Conference:
The Conference on Crimes Against Women, co-sponsored by the Genesis Women’s Shelter and the Dallas Police Department, is the national clearinghouse of best practices for law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, advocates, medical personnel and others who work in the area of crimes against women. Recognizing that these crimes are unique in nature, CCAW provides the most up-to-date, most relevant and most effective training and techniques that exist to battle this epidemic.

Who Should Attend
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Probation/Parole Officers
- Victim Advocates
- Prosecutors
- Nurses
- Shelter Staff

Outstanding Workshops on These and Many Other Issues
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Suspect Interrogation
- Forensic Evaluation
- Interviewing Victims
- Trafficking of Women
- Courtroom Testimony
- Cell Phone Forensics
- Homicide
- Stalking
- Sex Offenders
- Offender Profiling
- Digital Evidence
- Crimes on Campus
- Advocacy

TCLEOSE, CLE, and CEU hours available!
Nursing contact hours have been applied for through the Texas Nurses Association, an accredited approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

When
Monday, March 28 - 30, 2011

Where
Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 North Olive Street, Dallas, TX 75201

FEE
General Registration
$325.00 early registration until February 25th
$350.00 regular registration

Go to www.conferencecaw.org for a comprehensive list of preliminary workshops and speakers and to register. Time is running out! Early registration ends February 25 and hotel rooms are limited!
MODEL PROTOCOL FOR HUNTERS

DAVIDSON COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
110 W Center Street  Lexington, NC  27292

Dedicated to honest, professional, and efficient service

Sheriff David S. Grice

Emergencies: Dial 911
Phone: 336-242-2105
Fax: 336-236-3091

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND HUMAN BONES?

As a hunter, there is a strong likelihood that you will find bones during your hunting excursions. Generally, these will be animal remains, but what if you recognize the remains to be that of a person? There are definite “Do's and Don'ts” should you be faced with this circumstance.

First, DO NOT DISTURB THE SITE. Remember, it is possible that the bones are going to be spread over a large area. Mark the spot, either by GPS coordinates or by some type of recognizable marker. Leave the area in the same path that you entered. As with hunting, utilizing the same pathway ensures that a minimal amount of possible forensic evidence will be removed from the scene, and it is easily recordable as to the specific ingress/egress to the skeletal find.

Second, immediately contact law enforcement by dialing 911. Establish an easily identifiable location for the officers to meet with you, and remain at that location until contact is made. Give the officer all pertinent information concerning the locating of the bones, as well as your contact information should the authorities need additional information later on. It will be up to the authorities to determine if the find is the basis for a criminal investigation or perhaps a geological inquiry (Native American/Family Interments).

Chances that you will be placed in this situation are rare, but possible. Understanding proper procedures upon discovering skeletal remains will avoid any hindrance to criminal investigation or otherwise.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Smith Grice, a lifelong resident of Davidson County, has held the office of High Sheriff since his appointment in 2004. Prior to his appointment and subsequent election, Sheriff Grice has been a sworn law enforcement officer with the Davidson County Sheriff's Office and the Denton Police Department since 1971. Sheriff Grice was also a 30-year member of the criminal justice division faculty at Davidson County Community College. Sheriff Grice was awarded a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of North Carolina - Charlotte in 1990. Under his direction, the Davidson County Sheriff's Office has enhanced innovative and effective crime deterrent programs, including I.C.E. (Interstate Criminal Enforcement), Davidson County B&E Task Force, and cooperatively participates in the A.T.F. Task Force and the U.S. Marshall's Task Force.
MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE NATION’S PREMIER CONFERENCE ON MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

By Carol Moore

Blonde, beautiful Natalee Ann Holloway was born on Oct. 21, 1986, and disappeared while on a high school graduation trip to Aruba on May 30, 2005. Since her daughter vanished, Natalee’s mother, Beth, has dedicated her life to finding her child and focusing attention to the plight of missing persons.

Each year, more than 100,000 individuals vanish in the U.S. alone, an average of one every thirty seconds. Most are found, but happy endings are not always on the table: Some of the missing are victims of foul play, suicide or abduction. And the figures themselves are misleading since not every case in a given year is resolved in the same reporting period.

Families of the missing face uphill battles; they aren’t always privy to most of the investigative information developed by police, yet they have the deepest and most abiding interest in resolving the case. For those whose loved one vanishes in a foreign country, the investigation can be even more frustrating since they must deal with so many unknowns, from the language to the laws and customs.

For Beth Holloway, her daughter's disappearance has led to nearly six years of false leads and never-ending press speculation. Despite many exhaustive searches, the involvement of U.S.-based law enforcement and the apprehension and subsequent release of numerous suspects, Natalee’s disappearance remains unsolved. Because this case has not been resolved, Beth Holloway has not given up hope that her daughter’s case will some day be resolved. And she works tirelessly to ensure that other parents will not face the same series of roadblocks she has met. Recently, Beth Holloway announced the opening of the Natalee Holloway Resource Center, which will be located at the National Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington, D.C.

On Feb. 22, 2011, Beth Holloway will share the intimate, yet very public story of her family and their lives as altered by the disappearance of her daughter, Natalee, when she gives the keynote address at Fox Valley Technical College’s annual conference on Responding to Missing & Unidentified Persons.

The two and one-half day national conference, which is set for Feb. 22-24, 2011, in Appleton, Wisconsin, has been an annual fixture since 2006. Barbara Nelson of FVTC says, “Although adults have the right to disappear without notifying anyone, the substantial issues surrounding adult disappearances are often sensitive and recovery resources limited. In order to make a determination that an individual is ‘at risk,’ law enforcement agencies must focus on a number of serious social issues that contribute to disappearances.”

Nelson says the conference, which in 2010 featured Ed Smart, father of abduction victim Elizabeth Smart as the keynote speaker, aims to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies and practices for responding and investigating cases relating to missing and unidentified persons.

Attendees include the families of missing persons, law enforcement officers, judicial officials and representatives of nonprofits and agencies ranging from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

Among the presenters at the 2010 conference was Las Vegas Coroner P. Michael
Murphy who addressed the thousands of unidentified and unclaimed dead in this country, and Jim Lewis, retired chief of the New Haven Police Dept., who charted the investigation into the Annie Le homicide case. Le was a Yale graduate student whose disappearance shortly before her wedding set off a national media storm.

The 2010 conference provided opportunities for attendees to choose among a number of breakout sessions, but this year organizers are concentrating the breakouts on Thursday, Feb. 24, the final day of the conference. B.J. Spamer, program manager at UNTCHI, will talk about common issues that impede association between human remains and missing persons during a split plenary with a session on “Vicarious Trauma and Self Care.” Both are at 11 a.m. Among the other sessions that day are “Framing a Missing Person Investigation,” “Cold Case Investigations,” “Using the Internet to Locate Missing Persons” and “Working Together for Positive Solutions.”

Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge Mark McGinnis, who also spoke at the 2010 conference, will reprise his discussion of civil liability and Constitutional questions, while Dr. Emily Craig, retired forensic anthropologist from the Kentucky State Medical Examiner’s Office, will address forensics in scene recovery, lab analysis and identification of human remains.

An Interpol representative will be on hand to discuss the agency and its place in the law enforcement constellation where it pertains the missing persons cases. Another highlight of the conference will be a session on the Green River Killer Investigation by Sgt. Jon Mattsen, a detective with the King County Sheriff’s Office in Seattle, Washington. Gary Ridgway is believed to have murdered at least 48 women during his killing spree, which spanned about two years during the early 1980s. To this date, some of Ridgway’s victims remain unidentified.

Like the 2010 conference, this year’s sessions will be held at the Radisson Paper Valley in Appleton. The hotel, which features several restaurants and is within walking distance of additional eateries, is large and comfortable, and the room rates are affordable, especially to jurisdictions looking for ways to make their training budgets stretch. The hotel provides a free shuttle service to and from the local airport, Outagamie County Regional Airport (ATW), which is both modern and convenient. The Austin Straubel International Airport (GRB) is about 30 miles away, in Green Bay.

Conference registration is now open. Those interested in finding out more about the nation’s premiere gathering addressing the needs of the missing and unidentified persons can find more information at: http://www.fvtc.edu/public/content.aspx?id=1238&pid=3. Barbara Nelson can be reached at 888-370-1752.

The conference is unique in that it brings together experts from many different platforms, including the too often forgotten families of the missing. In addition to Beth Holloway, the parents of Morgan Harrington will provide a civilian perspective and overview. Morgan, Dr. Daniel and Gil Harrington’s college-age daughter, disappeared while leaving a Charlottesville, Va., concert in October 2009. Her body was found in a rural area the following January. DNA has connected Morgan Harrington’s slaying to an earlier sexual assault where the suspect has not yet been identified. The Harringtons will talk about how media attention affects both the families and investigations into missing persons.
The Benefits of Using NamUs

As of February 28, 2011:

5,263 active missing person cases are entered into NamUs

7,336 active unidentified person cases are entered into NamUs

Many NamUs cases include dental records, fingerprint records, and information regarding the availability of DNA in CODIS

ME/Coroner NamUs Registration

Initially, some medical examiner and coroner users find it a strange concept to register for access to the missing person side of NamUs. Most medical examiners and coroners feel that their place is to focus solely on the unidentified decedents. However, medical examiners and coroners can register on the missing side of NamUs as "Medicolegal Investigators", and the missing person database can help them investigate their cases of unidentified human remains.

The benefit to registering for the missing person side of the system is more direct access to biological information on missing persons for comparison to the unidentified remains. Having the medical examiner and coroner communities plugged into the system enhances the ability to share data within the NamUs community, where users have direct access to more detailed dental information, DNA status and location, and digital fingerprints when these are available.

NamUs is an investigative tool and it makes perfect sense for Medicolegal investigators seek access to both the missing and unidentified databases.

Register for the missing person database at: https://www.findthemissing.org/users/new

About the Author

Carole Moore is the management columnist at Law Enforcement Technology, where she is also a contributing editor. A former police officer and criminal investigator, she writes frequently on criminal justice issues. Her book, The Last Place You’d Look: True Stories of Missing Persons and the People Who Search for Them, will be released in May (Rowman & Littlefield).

Visit www.carolemoore.com for more information.
For further information or submissions to the Laboratory for Forensic Anthropology, contact:

1-800-279-1399

For submission forms, sample collection kits or further information regarding the Forensic Services Unit or the Laboratory for Molecular Biology, contact:

1-800-763-3147

Services provided by the Laboratory for Forensic Anthropology, the Laboratory for Molecular Identification, and the Forensic Services Unit are provided to families and criminal justice agencies at no cost through funding from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) under award numbers:

2009-DN-BX-K164
2010-DN-BX-K206

OTHER UNTCHI RESOURCES

Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology

Located in a secure facility on the UNT Denton Campus, the Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology provides:

Analysis
- Creation of a biological profile (sex, ancestry, age, stature/physique), providing investigators a basis for their investigation and CODIS analysts with an ability to filter possible matches
- Analysis of possible trauma, answering the question, “What happened to this individual?”
- Descriptions of unique features which may be used to identify an individual
- Acquisition of dental radiographs for comparison should a potential match arise

Positive Identification
- Dental identifications through a board certified forensic odontologist
- Radiographic identifications using X-rays, CTs, or MRIs
- Identifications based on medical hardware/surgical procedures

Additional Services
- Consultation
- Elimination of non-human remains cases
- Identification of cases with no forensic significance
- Assistance with search and recovery efforts

Laboratory for Molecular Identification

The Laboratory for Molecular Identification is an accredited laboratory. The lab is one of only a few facilities that integrates nuclear and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) for analyses. Once DNA profiles are obtained, they are directly entered into the FBI’s Combined DNA Index System.

The National Missing Persons DNA Database utilizes three categories under the Missing Person Index:

Direct Reference Samples
Missing Persons: biological samples from the actual missing persons (hospital blood card, hospital tissue sample, baby tooth, etc.)

Family Reference Samples
Biological Relatives of Missing Persons: samples from biological relatives of the missing person (Family Reference Samples)

Unidentified Remains
Unidentified Human Remains: biological samples from unidentified remains (bone, skeletal muscle, blood cards, etc.)

The missing persons indices and the unidentified remains index continually search against each other at the local, state, and national levels of CODIS. This provides families of the missing the comfort that the search for their loved one will continue.