

# FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT NEWSLETTER

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## Special Points of Interest:

- *UNT Health Science Center receives grant to manage the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)*
- *New composite sketch released in the 1974 "Lady of the Dunes" homicide investigation*
- *Tips for performing advanced searches of the NamUs databases statistical information*
- *Fox Valley Technical College hosts the 7th Annual National Training Conference: Responding to Missing and Unidentified Persons*

## UNT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AWARDED NAMUS GRANT BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

The UNT Health Science Center has been awarded a grant from the National Institute of Justice to manage and administer the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) during the 2011/2012 fiscal year.

Ultimate oversight of the UNT Health Science Center NamUs program is being performed by Dr. Arthur Eisenberg, Co-Director of the UNT Health Science Center's Center for Human Identification (UNTCHI) and Chairman of the Department of Forensics and Investigative Genetics. The UNT Health Science Center NamUs program is being managed within the Forensic Services Unit.

In next month's Forensic Services Unit newsletter, we will introduce you to the new UNT Health Science Center NamUs team. All NamUs personnel have been selected based on their extensive experience with law enforcement agencies, medical examiner/coroner offices, non-profit missing person organizations, victim advocate groups, or other areas that are critical to the support of NamUs stakeholders throughout the country. We are proud

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). The header includes the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs logo and the text "Innovation \* Partnerships \* Safer Neighborhoods". The main content area features three sections: "Missing Persons", "Unidentified Persons", and "Missing Persons Database". Each section includes a brief description of the database and its purpose. A video player is also visible, titled "Watch a 6-minute video: NamUs Behind the Scenes: How it Works, Why it Matters".

that this outstanding group has become part of the UNT Health Science Center team, and we are honored by this opportunity to manage and administer the NamUs program. We look forward to working with agencies and families across the county in the combined effort to resolve our nation's "Silent Mass Disaster".

### About NamUs

NamUs is a national clearinghouse for information related to missing person and unidentified decedent cases across the United

States. Through secure online databases, medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officers, family members of missing persons and concerned citizens can access varying levels of information in NamUs to assist in the resolution of thousands of unsolved cases. NamUs also provides data management and forensic resources for missing and unidentified cases at no cost to investigating agencies or searching family members.

Additional information about NamUs can be found at [www.NamUs.gov](http://www.NamUs.gov).

## LATEST TECHNOLOGY REVIVES MASSACHUSETT'S OLDEST CASE

by Deborah Halber

It was one of those cases James Meads thought would be solved in a matter of days. Thirty-seven years later, the former chief of police is no closer to knowing the identity of the Lady of the Dunes—let alone her killer—than he was in the summer of 1974.

On July 26, 1974, a thirteen-year-old girl was walking her beagle on Race Point Beach in Provincetown, Mass. It's a spot of untamed beauty, one of only a few of the country's seashores protected as national parkland. The girl had reached a stretch of dunes around two miles east of an old Coast Guard station when her dog bounded into a pine grove. Tucked inside was a nude woman on a green beach blanket. The woman's head was almost separated from her body; the force of the blows that severed her hands from her wrists had forced her forearms into the sand, making it look as though she was doing push-ups. Girl and dog ran for help.

The few details investigators managed to glean about the woman on the Cape Cod beach was that she was between twenty-five and forty years old, 5' 6-1/2", 145 lbs, with long, auburn or reddish-blond hair. She had an athletic body, a 34-inch waist, and 31-inch legs. Her hair was tied in a ponytail with a rubber-type barrette. Her toenails were painted pink. Behind her left ear, a blow had caved in her skull.

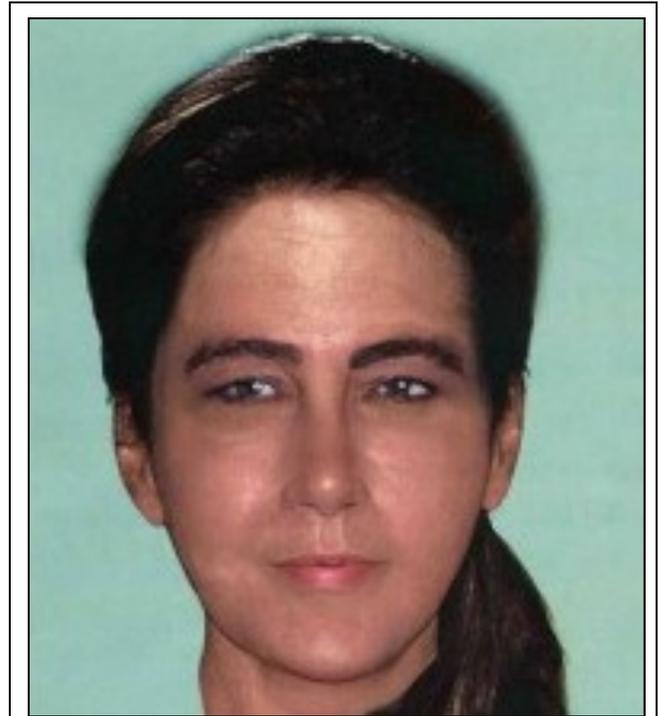
She was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Provincetown with a headstone that reads only: "Unidentified female body found Race Point dunes July 26, 1974." In 1980, her unembalmed body was dug up for blood samples. In 2000, she was again exhumed to collect a DNA sample from an

arm bone to see if it matched DNA of a missing prison escapee. (It did not.) Voiceless, she's been dependent on a few persistent law enforcement officials like Meads to keep the meager facts of her existence alive in the hope that someone, somewhere glimpsing an image on a TV screen or in a newspaper will come forward with information. As time goes by, chances for this become increasingly low for solving the case, which is Massachusetts' oldest unsolved murder, but many refuse to lay the case to rest.

In 2010, with the idea that the victim may have been much younger than originally believed, current Provincetown police chief Jeff Jaran and Det. Monica Hines took her skull from the state police crime lab to meet with Gerald Nance, head of the cold case unit of the nonprofit National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in Alexandria, Va., and with Dr. David Hunt, a forensic anthropologist with the Smithsonian Institution. A hospital agreed to perform a CAT scan of the skull, which was sent to the Smithsonian for another review.

A new computerized facial reconstruction shows a much thinner face than previous images. The Provincetown police department posted a flyer with the new composite images on its web site. The story got a fair bit of media attention when the images were released last spring and tips came in to the Provincetown police, but Nance has not received word of any breakthroughs.

"Whoever took the hands took the evidence with them," Meads said, although not quite. The teeth contain eight gold and porcelain crowns that would have cost as much as \$7,000 in 1974. There was also evidence of root canals and gum treatments. Even the Tufts



Above: Composite image of the "Lady of the Dunes", created by a forensic artist at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

University forensic dentist who worked on the investigation declared that most people wouldn't go to that much trouble about their teeth. Nance noted that with so many thousands of dollars worth of gold inlays and porcelain reconstructive work, "at some point in time someone really cared about this person. She was too young for individual wealth to pay that kind of dental work."

A special poster describing the dental work was sent to dental associations in New England and Canada in the hope that a dentist would "recognize this very unique dental situation," Nance said. "I really thought we'd get a hit on that."

While Meads was chief, he vowed not to retire until she was identified. "This young lady, whoever she was, knew her assailant, there's no doubt in my mind," he said. "I figure she had to be taken there in a jeep. We went through every

jeep at the seashore for a week. We went through Interpol and distributed charts of her teeth to dental journals. There wasn't that much available scientifically. It was just old-fashioned police work."

"It's a very interesting case and one I believe is resolvable," Nance said, "unless everyone associated with her is dead." Meads agreed. "I just hope before I pass on, it gets solved," he said.

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Deborah Halber is a Boston-based writer working on *The Skeleton Crew*, a book about volunteer efforts to identify the missing and issues surrounding unidentified remains, coming from Simon and Schuster in 2013. She can be contacted at:

[halber.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:halber.deborah@gmail.com)

## NAMUS TIP: ADVANCED SEARCHING FOR STATISTICAL INFORMATION

In addition to searching NamUs for potential matches between missing and unidentified person cases, the Missing Person (MP) and Unidentified Person (UP) databases can be searched in ways that will provide valuable statistical information. This article will provide suggestions for performing advanced NamUs searches to obtain statistical information that is relevant to your county, state, research project, etc. All statistics reported in this article are current as of November 21, 2011.

To obtain statistical information for your county, begin with an advanced search of the “Circumstances” screen, using your county and state in the search criteria. For instance, in the search below, entering King County and the state of Washington reveals that there are 85 active missing person cases entered into NamUs for that geographic area:

**Advanced Search**

Case Information

Circumstances (Searching for State LKA, County LKA)

Type of Address

Address LKA

City LKA

State LKA

Zip LKA

County LKA

Foul Play

Financial Transactions

Circumstances

Circumstances Public View

Physical / Medical

Clothing and Accessories

**Search Results**

85 cases found based on Washington, King View: Case Log | Thumbnails | Map

MP #	Name	Date LKA	Location	Sex	Race	Age
11878	Munoz, Benjamin R.	04/29/2011	Tukwila, WA	Male	White	32
9837	Perez, Marizela	03/05/2011	Seattle, WA	Female	Asian or Pacific Islan...	18
11736	Riaz, Mansoor	01/02/2011	Bellevue, WA	Male	White	31
11737	Wellesa, Eugene B.	11/24/2010	Bellevue, WA	Male	Black/African Americ...	23
6609	Claver, Edith M.	11/27/2009	Renton, WA	Female	Native American	47
8931	Millam, Tayvaunna S.	11/25/2009	Seattle, WA	Female	Other	15
8742	Valdez, Diana L.	10/31/2009	Renton, WA	Female	Other	15
4905	Schmidt, James W.	09/17/2009	Seattle, WA	Male	White	43
9895	McLemore, Alyssa A.	04/09/2009	Kent, WA	Female	Asian or Pacific Islan...	21
6603	Rosas, Daniela	02/10/2009	Renton, WA	Female	Other	15

1 / 9 10 85 Record(s) Found

Additional criteria can be added to this search to learn more about these 85 cases. For instance, adding the “Age LKA” (last known alive) field to this search and entering “0” to “17” years in the text boxes:

Age LKA  to  years old

reveals that 22 of the King County cases involve juveniles and the remaining 63 cases involve missing adults.

Adding the “Sex” field to the original search:

Sex

reveals that 43 of the 85 King County, Washington cases involve missing females and 42 involve missing males.

Searches can be run on the availability of any biometric data, such as fingerprints, DNA and dental records. For instance, a search of cases in the state of Michigan with a DNA status of “Complete”:

Circumstances (Searching for State LKA)

Type of Address

Address LKA

City LKA

State LKA

Zip LKA

County LKA

Foul Play

Financial Transactions

Circumstances

Circumstances Public View

Physical / Medical

Clothing and Accessories

Transportation Methods

Electronic Communications

Secondary Parties

Dental

DNA (Searching for DNA Status)

DNA Status

DNA Relationship

mtDNA Checkbox

nucDNA Checkbox

DNA Location

DNA Reference Number

reveals that 58 missing person cases in that state have DNA profiles complete and entered into CODIS. Changing the criteria under “DNA Status” to “Sample Submitted—Tests Not Yet Complete”:

DNA Status

reveals that another 37 cases have DNA samples submitted to a laboratory and are awaiting completion of analyses for upload to CODIS. Similar searches can be run on all biometric data to determine how many of your city, county or state’s cases contain DNA, fingerprint records or dental records.

The “Status” field of NamUs can be searched to determine how many cases in your city, county or state have been “found” versus how many of your cases remain “missing”:

**Advanced Search**

Case Information (Searching for Status)

MP Case Number

Profile Strength

Status

NamUs Assistance

First Name

Literally, every field in the NamUs database can be searched using checkboxes, pull-down menus, and free text fields. This enables NamUs users to obtain a wealth of information regarding the cases entered into the system.

For assistance performing advanced searches of the NamUs database, contact the NamUs toll-free at:

**1-855-626-7600**

# MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSON CONFERENCE



By Barbara Nelson

Each year, tens of thousands of people vanish under suspicious circumstances. Due in part to sheer volume — as many as 100,000 active missing persons and unidentified human remains cases — a tremendous obligation has been placed on federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and the workload for these agencies is staggering.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Training Conference “Responding to Missing and Unidentified Persons” will be held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin on Feb. 21-23, 2012 to help participants navigate the complex investigative issues necessary to bring resolution to families of the missing, law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

It is extremely important to improve access to critical information and to bridge existing gaps in resources among law enforcement agencies, forensic professionals, national, state, and local resource providers, and families of the missing.

The conference is sponsored by Fox Valley Technical College, Criminal Justice Center for Innovation, in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification, Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center, the Wisconsin Missing Child and Adult Clearinghouse and the Wisconsin Amber Alert Program.



Amber DuBois went missing from Escondido, California on February 13, 2009.

## Keynote Speaker

**Carrie McGonigle**, Mother of Amber Dubois. Walking to school on a busy street, how can a girl just disappear? Yet when her stepfather went to school at 4:30 pm, her first hour teacher reported that Amber never made it to class. Because she was 14, of the runaway age, she did not meet the criteria for the Amber Alert system. Ms. McGonigle's story is compelling, and one that gained national attention when it was aired on the CBS show *48 Hours*. Carrie will share how a registered sex offender with multiple parole violations remained on the street to kidnap, rape, and kill a 17 year old a year after Amber's disappearance. Learn about the agonizing decision over the murderer's fate that led to the discovery of Amber's skeletal remains in the desert outside of San Diego 13 months later.

Team Amber Rescue, established by Carrie in Amber's memory, is devoted to searching for missing persons and providing community safety awareness. Amber's father, Moe, helped to pass three new California laws to improve tracking sex offenders and to speed up police response in missing children's cases.

## Highlighted Speakers

**Detective Kevin Coffey**, Juvenile Division, Los Angeles Police

Department (LAPD), Los Angeles, California. Detective Coffey will provide an overview of the LAPD's investigation and tracking process, as well as taking a comprehensive look at partnerships with the California Department of Justice, Missing Person's Clearinghouse, and the newly formed California Missing Persons Task Force.

Participants will learn the process in which these multi-jurisdictional agencies utilize resources to assist in missing persons' investigations. In addition, Detective Coffey will discuss the sophisticated training program which simultaneously instructs and provides current updates to all sworn and civilian department members. At any one time, the LAPD has approximately 2,000 to 3,000 “open” missing juvenile and adult reports which are investigated by 22 separate entities within the department. This training ensures that the model provided by the multi-jurisdictional agencies is consistently enforced within all departments of the LAPD.

**Frederick Snow, PhD**, forensic anthropologist, Forensic Anthropology Consulting Services, Inc., Knoxville, TN, will use case studies and crime scene photographs to illustrate cases in which the investigation was compromised during recovery of decomposed or skeletal human remains and mistakes made in the lab. Due to revolutionized scene recovery methods that drastically reduce compromising evidence, Dr. Snow will explain the relevance of forensic anthropologists making the recovery. Crime scene investigators will learn how they can best preserve the crime scene for the forensic anthropologist. He will also outline reasons a forensic

anthropologist should assist the medical examiner in the identification of decomposed or skeletal human remains.

**Lisa A. Murray**, sister of Jeffrey Lynn Smith, Middletown, PA, last saw her 16 year old sister, Jeffrey, on December 4, 1985. Jeffrey Lynn was listed as a runaway in Hot Springs, AR, when she failed to return home from school. This classification changed to abduction when her opal birthstone ring was discovered at a pawn shop.



Jeffrey Lynn Smith went missing from Hot Springs, Arkansas on December 4, 1985.

Jeffrey Lynn's disappearance changed her family forever in their day to day struggle with hope that Lynn would return alive and unharmed. Older cases like Jeffrey Lynn's are often overlooked by the media and other avenues of support and awareness. It's never too late for answers and justice. Participants will learn why Lisa continues to act as her sister's advocate, how her resilience keeps her sister's case in the media, and the impact of a new detective assigned to this cold case.

**For More Information and to register, please visit:**

[www.fvtc.edu/missing](http://www.fvtc.edu/missing)

or contact Barbara Nelson, Conference Coordinator, by email at [nelsonb@fvtc.edu](mailto:nelsonb@fvtc.edu) or telephone at 920-735-4818.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**FORENSIC  
SERVICES UNIT**



International Association of Cold  
Case Investigators

PO Box 2261  
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918-409-5026  
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“Cold Case Investigators”

*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 of 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.