



# Association of Forensic Document Examiners

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## Continuing Education Symposium

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November 5-8, 2009

Milwaukee, WI

### **The Bulgarian Case**

*John Gorajczyk, D-BFDE* Laboratory Services Bureau, Phoenix Police Department, Phoenix, AZ

This presentation is in two parts. A proficiency test will be given with an explanation and instructions to all who want to participate. Those participating are to then examine the test items and return with their findings on Sunday, Nov. 8th as the second part of the presentation (discussion format). The actual case is a Will that is written in Bulgarian. (Note: An individual's test results are confidential and will be provided only to the participating individual.)

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### **Some Resources for Print Process Identification**

*Joseph Barabe*, Senior Research Microscopist; Director of Scientific Imaging, McCrone Associates, Inc., Westmont, IL

As a modern office continues to evolve, it has become increasingly important for the forensic document examiner to be able to discriminate among the myriad of print processes in use today.

There are a number of resources available to FDEs interested in improving their competence in this fascinating field. This paper will examine some of these resources in some detail, and will also explore strategies for self study and the assembly of a reference collection. This presentation will also include a brief survey of some of the more important print processes in use today, and their detection.

### **Handwriting Variability in Movement Disorder Patients and Effects of Fatigue**

*Heidi Harralson, MA, D-BFDE; Hans-Leo Teulings, PhD; Becky G. Farley, PhD.*

A comparison of pre-fatigue and fatigue handwriting conditions between movement disorder patients and normal controls was conducted of online recordings and off-line samples. The offline analysis showed differences due to fatigue. The differences were more pronounced in certain movement-disorder patients (e.g., printing, size, tremor, or baseline) than in the control subjects (e.g., expansion).

In the online analysis, patients were slower and more variable than the controls. Certain patients exhibited increased speed and decreased pen-down durations when in the fatigue condition. Individual responses to fatigue have relevance in the assessment of the range of variation within individuals. Fatigue increases variability in motor-disorder handwriting more severely than in healthy handwriting.

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### **Photoshop Questions Answered**

*Charla Janney*, Forensic Document Examiner  
*Richard McEvoy*, Forensic Imaging Inc.

This presentation will address working methods and enhancements of images using Adobe Photoshop. This will assist participants in learning to enhance images for demonstrations, reports, or court exhibits. Also shown will be automatic tracking of enhancements. These methods, enhancements and tracking are acceptable within the forensic community. Explaining these enhancements will be addressed as well.

## **Speech Pathology and Handwriting**

*Dr. Gary Cohen, Speech Pathologist, Milwaukee, WI*

Dr. Cohen will discuss and demonstrate a link between speech pathology and handwriting.

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## **Physiology of the Hand and Writing Process**

*Teri Bielefeld PT, CHT*

Ms. Bielefeld is an experienced and distinguished clinical specialist in Physical Therapy. Her presentation will focus on hands, wrists, elbows, and the writing process. and will discuss what happens when the writing process is interrupted through trauma.

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## **Multiple Personality Case from both the Legal and Handwriting Perspective**

*Elizabeth Neary, Attorney at Law; Milwaukee, WI  
Bonnie Schwid, D-BFDE; Milwaukee, WI*

The presenters have been involved with a client diagnosed with this disorder. The legal issues and mishaps will be presented by Ms. Neary, and Bonnie Schwid will discuss the handwriting issues and testimony. A brief video will demonstrate various alter personalities.

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## **A Case of Multiple Personalities and Seventeen Handwriting Styles**

*Richard Baer, M.D., Medical Director for Medicare in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio*

Dr. Baer had a private psychiatry practice for fourteen years and served as President of the Illinois Psychiatric Society. He is the author of "Switching Time – A Doctor's Harrowing Story of Treating a Woman With 17 Personalities." In this book, Dr. Baer documented with illustrations, that each personality had a separate and distinct handwriting style. This presentation will discuss this interesting case.

## **National Academy of Sciences Report**

*Heidi Harralson, MA, D-BFDE*

This presentation summarizes the 2009 National Academy of Sciences report on Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward. Some of the issues that are challenging forensic science include research, education, certification, methodology, and bias. Recent law conferences on the NAS report and Law Review articles regarding FDE will also be reviewed. The presentation will include open discussion on identifying critical points, evaluating the issues that have been addressed, and implementing possible solutions.

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## **Panel: What Document Examiners Can Do to Enhance their Image and Effectiveness**

This panel, consisting of a judge and several attorneys, will respond to questions from participants. You are requested to submit your questions regarding testimony and other expert witness issues. Please submit them by October 25th.

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## **Document Examination in South Africa and Surrounding Countries**

*Sarel Snyman, Johannesburg, South Africa*

Forensic document examination is conducted on an international level. The presentation will discuss similarities and differences in South Africa and surrounding countries.

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## **Measurements - How Valuable are They?**

*J. Wright Leonard, CDE  
Philadelphia, PA*

Measurements are being used by some document examiners. This workshop will be conducted to determine the extent of the value of measurements in reaching conclusions of handwriting authenticity. (Bring you favorite measuring tools)

## **A Technical Review of the MiScope MP-IR Handheld Digital Microscope**

*Emily Will, MA, D-BFDE*  
Raleigh, NC

The MiScope has been available for several years, and the devices have now come of age. There are several models at reasonable prices, and many document examiners are using them. This presentation will explain the capabilities of the various MiScopes, and demonstrate some uses of the MiScope MP-IR.

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## **When a Lawyer Needs a Linguist**

*Allan M. Perlman, PhD*  
Highland Park, IL

Dr. Perlman is a practitioner of forensic linguistics. He applies the principles of linguistics to the resolution of legal issues involving authorship, copyright, and language interpretation. This includes Forensic Semantics and forensic stylistics to determine authorship.

Qualitative forensic linguistics, which is as old as the original scientific question of who wrote the Bible and which has been used in legal cases as far back as the 18th century, is both an art and science. It is a science in that it uses the agreed-upon tools and concepts of linguistics, especially semantic and stylistic analysis, and deals only with the data at hand. It is an art in the application of the linguist's judgment of authorship. Dr. Perlman will discuss the ways in which the linguist's expertise can be of assistance to attorneys, etc. He will provide illustrations from his past cases.

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## **Sharing Cases**

Several cases will be presented that demonstrate different approaches to reaching conclusions. Participants include Joseph Barabe, Robin Williams, Bonnie Schwid, Barbara Downer, and Emily Will.

## **Is There a Link Between Music and Handwriting?**

*Bonnie Schwid, Clarinet Hobbyist-Performer*

The presentation will discuss and demonstrate some of the commonalities and individualizing characteristics of music, language, and handwriting. It will be supplemented with a performance by a clarinet quartet.

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## **Update - FDE Courses at East Tennessee State University**

*Dr. Larry S. Miller, PhD, D-BFDE* Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

Dr. Miller will report on the status of the newly developed graduate courses in Forensic Document Examination.

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## **ASTM Guidelines and the Forensic Document Examiner**

*Barbara Shipper, D-BFDE*  
Beaumont, TX

A look at the most current ASTM Guidelines pertaining to the Forensic Document Examiner. A complete list of all ASTM standards pertaining to the FDE will be provided.

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## **Workshop on Procedures for Obtaining Exemplars**

*Robin Williams, MS, MFS, D-BFDE* ; Green Bay, WI

This workshop will address obtaining various types of exemplars, including request exemplars. Several case studies will be included.

**Dates and Times:**

**Registration:** Thursday, November 5th  
5:30-6:30 pm Registration in the Meeting Room

**Symposium Begins at 6:30 pm and concludes  
at 5pm on Sunday, November 8th.**

**REGISTRATION FEE:**

**Conference fee and lunch for days attending:**

**Members: \$435**  
**\$150 daily rate**

**Others: \$475**  
**\$170 daily rate**

There will be a drawing of registrations received by  
October 1. The winner will receive a refund of \$100.00

**Board Meetings:**  
**Thursday, November 5th**  
  
**9:00 am-12N BFDE Board**  
**1:00-3:00 pm AFDE Board**

**For Information, contact:**

Barbara Downer:  
[bdowner@documentexam.com](mailto:bdowner@documentexam.com)

Bonnie Schwid:  
[bschwid@anagraphics.com](mailto:bschwid@anagraphics.com)



**Hotel Information**

**Hilton on the River**  
**4700 N. Port Washington Road**  
**Milwaukee, WI**  
**(414) 962-6040**

**Room Rate: \$89.00 + Tax**  
**for Single or Double**  
**Add \$10 per person for more than two**  
**(Ask for the AFDE Rate)**

There is a shuttle from the airport  
to the hotel - \$21 per person

Go-Airport Connection  
**(414) 769-2444**

Reservations are highly recommended.  
There is a desk near the baggage claim #4.

*Professionals who share  
knowledge increase their  
own skills.*

[www.afde.org](http://www.afde.org)

**\*\*\* 2009 FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION COURSES FOR AFDE  
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES**

The [College of Microscopy](http://College of Microscopy) in Westmont, IL (close to Milwaukee) is offering **COM405: Microscopy for Forensic Document Examiners** on November 3-4 and **COM404: Forensic Document Examination Instrumentation** on November 9-10. Transportation between Milwaukee and Westmont will be arranged. Contact Lois Gelwicks at 630-887-7100 or [education@collegeofmicroscopy.com](mailto:education@collegeofmicroscopy.com).