



On the web: www.tcnj.edu/~csiewing

Email: csiewing@tcnj.edu

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From the Desk of Dr. John Allison
Director, Forensic Chemistry Program
The College of New Jersey

In our occasional newsletters, we try to provide information that may be useful to all readers—from high school students through professionals in the field. We try to limit the extent to which we discuss our program at TCNJ, with the hope that you will understand that we have, in a short time, “put TCNJ on the Forensic Map.” However, since this is the end of the semester, this is a good time to report on some events of the past academic year, in part to keep former students informed.

We had three publications in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 2007-08. Sylwia Stachura (now at Merck) collaborated with myself and Vincent Desiderio from the NJ State Police Laboratory, and her work entitled “Identification of Organic Pigments in Automotive Coatings Using Laser Desorption Mass Spectrometry” appeared in 2007. Research done by Sylwia was combined with that done by two other students, Kaitlin Papon (now in the Ph.D program at the University of Delaware) and Luke Borlasky (graduating in a few weeks), which resulted in the 2008 publication “Identification of Colorants in Pen Inks by Laser Desorption Mass Spectrometry.” Also, I published a paper with a former graduate student from Michigan State University, Jamie Dunn, entitled “The Detection of Multiply-Charged Dyes using Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Mass Spectrometry for the Forensic Examination of Pen Inks Directly From Paper.”

In the past academic year I had the opportunity to give a number of talks, ranging from a meeting with a cub scout troop in Chesterfield, NJ in January 2008, to The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) national meeting (Feb. 2008). At the AAFS meeting, two students (Trevor Cornell and Shawn Donnelly) and I gave two oral presentations on the analysis of inkjet printer inks for questioned document examination. I was also honored to have been selected by the Northeast Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS) to hold a one-day workshop for NEAFS members on the interpretation of mass spectra. Forensic scientists from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania attended the workshop, which was held at TCNJ.

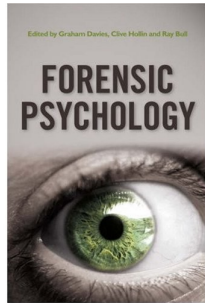
Finally, I’m happy to report that the Forensic Chemistry Program continues to thrive. With the help of two research students, we’re developing some experiments for next Fall’s CHEM 360 (Forensic Chemistry) course that will utilize gas chromatography. This semester, CHEM 472 (Forensic Chemistry II) is full, with 24 students enrolled. In the lab, students are doing two semester-long experiments. One involves determining the chemistry of the Scott test, a presumptive test for cocaine. The second is to invent a new presumptive test. Each student, with two assistant inventors will be presenting and demonstrating their finished product— not only the chemistry but packaging as well during the last laboratory period. This class organization, being done for the first time this year, has been an exciting experiment in “big chemistry” at the senior level.

This issue of our newsletter contains information on some books that may be of interest to readers; also, I can’t read a Ward’s Natural Sciences catalog without feeling the need to point out some of their more forensically interesting products. We hope you will find something in this issue that matches your personal interests.

Best Wishes for a great summer! Keep in touch!

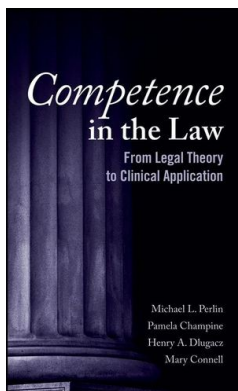
Current Book Shelf

Below is an informational list of recently published books on a wide variety of topics within the field of Forensic Science.



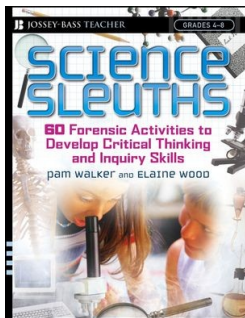
Forensic Psychology by Graham Davies, Clive Hollin, and Ray Bull © 2008. ISBN: 978-0470-05832-3.

Written for undergraduate students of Psychology, this work covers topics in the Forensics field from committing the crime to sentencing.



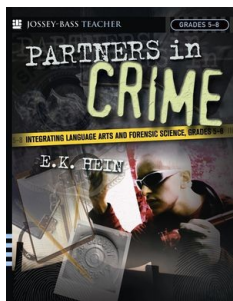
Competence in the Law by Michael L. Perlin, Pamela R. Champine, Henry A. Dlugacz, and Mary A. Connell. © 2008. ISBN: 978-0-470-1440-6.

This publication prepares mental health professionals to understand the law, consider questions of civil and criminal competence, and knowledgeably counsel lawyers and judges in cases in which mental competency issues are germane.



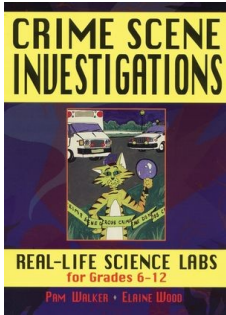
Science Sleuths: 60 Forensic Activities to Develop Critical Thinking and Inquiry Skills, Grades 4-8 by Pam Walker and Elaine Wood © 2006. ISBN: 978-0-7879-7435-0 .

This book employs the fascinating topics within Forensic Science to engage younger students and encourage them to develop their higher order thinking.



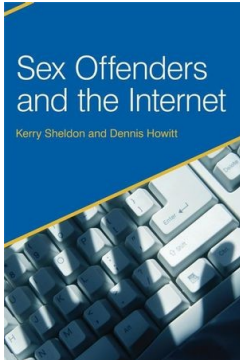
Partners in Crime: Integrating Language Arts and Forensic Science Grade 5-8 by E.K. Hein. © 2004. ISBN: 978-0-7879-6993-6 .

Hein's book engages your students by asking them to solve a crime using the skills of forensic science while simultaneously teaching them key concepts in language arts.



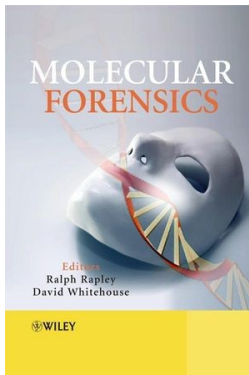
Crime Scene Investigations: Real Life Science Labs for Grades 6-12 by Pam Walker and Elaine Wood © 1998. ISBN: 978-0-7879-6630-0.

This instructional guide allows teachers to implement Forensic Science labs into their science curriculum.



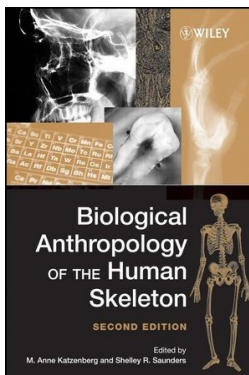
Sex Offenders and the Internet by Dennis Howitt and Kerry Sheldon © 2007. ISBN: 978-0-470-02801-8

In this pioneering text, the nature of Internet sex offenders is explored in order to help practitioners to understand and treat this new category of criminal.



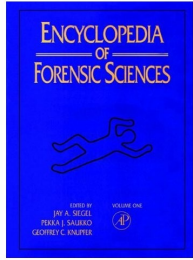
Molecular Forensics by Ralph Rapley and David Whitehouse © 2007. ISBN: 978-0-470-02496-6.

This is an invaluable reference for students taking courses within the Forensic and Biomedical sciences, and is also useful for practitioners in the field looking for a broad overview of the subject.



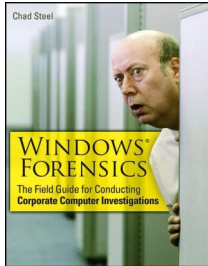
Biological Anthropology of the Human Skeleton Second Edition by M. Anne Katzenberg and Shelley R. Saunders. © 2008. ISBN: 978-0-471-79372-4

Biological Anthropology of the Human Skeleton covers a scope of major topics in human skeletal biology and will be an indispensable research guide to biological anthropologists, osteologists, paleoanthropologists, and archaeologists.



Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences Three-Volume Set edited by Jay A. Siegel, Geoffrey C. Knupfer and Pekka J. Saukko © 2000
ISBN: 0-12-227215-3

A comprehensive reference work that addresses over 200 of the most common areas and applications of Forensic Science.



Windows Forensics: The Field Guide for Conducting Corporate Computer Investigations by Chad Steel. © 2006. ISBN: 978-0-470-03862-8

This book provides readers the tools necessary to track down the source of threatening e-mail, investigate fraud, electronic theft, and employee internet abuse.

Ward's Natural Sciences: Forensic Science Edition

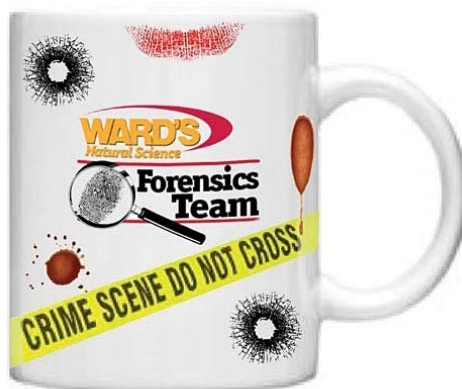
Every year Ward's Natural Science puts together a special catalog devoted to Forensic Science. The catalog, features a wide range of useful tools, texts, and activities for those who work in, are students of, or just interested in Forensics.

This month's issue features several new products.

- **Traffic Sketching Templates**– Re-create car accidents and other criminal scenarios with a set of plastic templates used to sketch traffic scenes. Price: \$21.95
- **Natural Fibers Reference Collection**-Stage a realistic crime scene with an assortment of fibers such as hemp, linen, rayon and silk. Great for viewing under a microscope or for demonstrations. Price: \$299.00
- **Animal Furs and Hair Reference Collection**– Add realism to any staged scenario with this collection of 120 individually bagged samples of furs and hairs. Each sample of domestic, wild, and imitation fur is stored in an organized three-ring binder. Price: \$134.95
- **Hair and Fiber Cross Section Kit**– Quickly and consistently create your own cross-section samples of hairs and fibers. Kit includes six cross section boards, embroidery thread, six thread pullers, six economy hand microtomes, and detailed instructions. Price: \$12.95
- **Serial Number and Restoration Kit**– Often destroyed in cases of theft, a products serial number is a key component used to solve crimes. This kit provides 16 steel samples that have had serial numbers imprinted then removed. Using the accompanying PowerPoint presentations students will learn valuable restorative techniques. Price \$224.95



- **Solving Cold Cases with DNA Lab Activity**– Demonstrate how DNA technology is used to solve unsolved crimes or to reunite families after their children are separated from their parents for many years. Includes materials for two gels with six lanes each. Price \$45.00
- **DNA Fingerprinting Concepts Set**– Conduct simulations in DNA fingerprinting used in forensics paternity test, reunification of lost children with their families and identifications of victims in accidents and casualties of war. Price \$115.00
- **Forensic Science: An introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, 2nd Ed. By Stuart H. James and Jon J. Nordby**– This book covers the latest theories and practices in areas such as DNA testing, toxicology, chemistry of explosives and arson, and vehicle accident. Price: \$84.95
- **Forensics for Dummies by Dr. D.P. Lyle**– This highly accessible book utilizes case studies to inform people about topics such as determining cause of death, fingerprinting, fibers, blood, ballistics, and forensic computing. Price: \$19.99
- **Forensics Bingo**– Explore the world of Forensic Science, criminal justice, and crime solving with this entertaining game. Students look for answers to 75 questions on their Bingo cards. Price: \$26.50
- **Forensics Speaking the Language**– Ideal for bulletin board displays, topic reviews, and testing. This book features a set of 76 vocabulary cards, each containing a term, its definition and additional information. Price \$21.95
- **Crime Scene Neck Tie**– A great gift for any aspiring CSI, this fun silk tie is decorated with crime scene tape, chalk body outlines and more. Price: \$29.95
- **Crime Scene Mug**– This creative mug is a perfect way to express your love of Forensic Science every day. A large handle makes it easy to hold 11 Oz of your favorite beverage. Price: \$9.95



Forensic Science Media

Insight Media offers a large collection of DVD's and VHS tapes which highlight dozens of topics in the field of Forensics and Police Science. A few are listed here.

Sign up for their brochure or search for a full list of products at www.insight-media.com

Body Detectives: Forensic Anthropology at the Body Farm 2000 (DVD) 52 min

This DVD shows how forensic scientists study decomposing bodies to further scientific knowledge and assist in criminal investigations. It discusses factors and biological markers that help pinpoint time of death, presents three homicide cases that were solved using Forensic Anthropology, and features footage of field work and body processing. Price: \$149.

Them and Us: Cultural Awareness 2007 (DVD) 25 min

Explaining that prejudice is rooted in a need to group people into categories and to distinguish between "us" and "them," this presentation explores the mental processes that people use to evaluate other cultures. It shows how common thinking habits can easily lead to hidden assumptions, biases, and prejudices. Price: \$139

The Art of Listening 2007 (DVD) 27 min

This presentation illustrates the value of silence and emphasizes the importance of allowing speakers to finish before talking. It examines note-taking strategies, the role of body language, and the need to listen for feelings. The DVD also considers the ways in which male and female communication filtering systems differ. Price: \$139

Recognizing Fraudulent Identification Documents 2001 (DVD) 25 Min

Explaining that modern technology has facilitated easy access to the development of fraudulent identification and security documents, this program shows how to recognize fraudulent documents. It explores government resources available for the investigation of suspicious documents. Price: \$319

When Hackers Attack: Incident Response Planning and Forensics 2005 (DVD) 38 min

Teaching how to create a computer incident response team and response plan for hacker situations, this presentation discusses the proper phases of incident response. It shows how to respond in a manner that minimizes network downtime, protects critical information, and produces consistent results for an organization. Price: \$199

Elements in Action: Forensics Applications 2006 (DVD) 25 min

This presentation examines the Forensic dimensions of basic chemical substances. It covers such topics as arsenic poisoning and uranium smuggling. \$119

Explosive Evidence 2004 (VHS) 60 min

This presentation teaches how to read evidence after an explosion, explains the significance of smoke's color, and compares the stability of particular types of bombs. Price: \$79