



ASTE

American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners

February 2010

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ASTE at a Glance

First off, we would like to thank everyone for their interest in the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners. Since the announcement of the inception of ASTEE in August of 2009, the organization has grown in leaps and bounds. We currently have 189 accepted members from all corners of the United States. This rapid growth has presented some challenges to the board. Over the course of the last six months we have been very busy reviewing applications, mailing out acceptance letters, and building a foundation for this organization to stand upon. As much work as this endeavor has taken so far, we still have a long way to go. We would therefore ask for your patience as we continue to build this organization into something great.

We would like to take this opportunity to outline some of the things that we have going on. Please read on as there are some interesting announcements that will be made below.

Membership

Several of our Associate members were a little disappointed that they did not receive Charter member status. This was something that we needed to do according to our by-laws. In order to receive Charter status, applicants needed to meet the requirements of Regular member which included three years of trace related experience. Upon a further look into this occurrence, a promotional provision was placed into the by-laws before they were officially adopted. This provision gives Associate members the opportunity to promote into Charter status if their applications were received prior to December 31st, 2009 and they meet the requirements for Regular member by December 31st, 2012. In order to upgrade, Associate members who fall under this provision must submit their paperwork for promotion no later than December 31st, 2012. All membership inquiries should be made to our membership chair **Amy Michaud** at Amy.L.Michaud@usdoj.gov.

Membership (cont.)

Dues notices have been sent via e-mail in conjunction with this communication. They will also be available on the website or via request from the Treasurer, **Sandy Parent** at Sandy.Parent@txdps.state.tx.us. In order to keep the costs of membership down, the annual dues have been set at \$20. The dues will be used to cover the everyday operations of the society, including but not limited to postage fees, incorporation fees, website fees, and journal fees. In order to save money, we will be operating primarily electronically. A large majority of our correspondence and communication will be carried out via e-mail and the internet. We intend to devote a substantial portion of the dues income to the provision of training and the hosting of events for our membership.

Training and Events

If any of our members are planning to attend AAFS in Seattle, **Chesterene Cwiklik** has made the suggestion that perhaps we could meet up for dinner on Tuesday, February 23rd. If anyone is interested in joining us for some good food and lively discussion, send Vinny Desiderio an e-mail at vfornsic@yahoo.com and he will update you on the time and place.

Through the hard work and dedication of **Dave Exline** and **Cassandra Burke** we have received a generous donation from **Bruker Forensics**. This generous gift will not only give us a good financial base to start with, it will also give us the opportunity to provide a training event for our members sometime this year. Without getting too much into the details, we are looking to organize a workshop to be held sometime around this coming August that would be free to members. Unfortunately, we will not have enough money for travel and lodging so those expenses would be on the individuals who choose to attend.

Website

We are currently in the process of developing a new website, the shell of which is now online. This website will have numerous useful features including updates on interesting occurrences within our field, training announcements, job postings, and links to relevant sites. This site will also serve as a repository for all society related forms. Additionally, **Chris Taylor** is diligently piecing together a Trace 101 feature that will include information on the value of trace evidence in criminal investigations and descriptions of the various disciplines within our field. We are hoping to develop the site over time into a highly useful resource for our members, students, attorneys, and the forensic field at large.

ASTEEMembership Application

DIRECTIONS:

1. All information supplied on this form WILL be verified.
2. Type or print in ink and check your preferred mailing address.
3. Attach a copy of your curriculum vitae/resume and lists of applicable forensic coursework to this form.
4. Have two (2) current ASTEE members propose and second your membership application.
5. Enclose a check or money order (made payable to ASTEE), for the non-refundable \$5.00 application fee.
6. Mail application and fee to the Treasurer (see address below).

Name:

Agency:

Title:

Preferred Mailing Address: HOME BUSINESS

Business Phone: () EXT. _____ E-mail Address:

Education and Experience: (attach Curriculum Vitae/resume and a list of applicable forensic course work)

Please select any disciplines in which you actively conduct analysis/examinations.

Administration	Forensic Education	Impression Evidence
Arson	General Unknowns	Ink
Explosives	Glass	Paints & Polymers
Fibers	Gunshot Residue	Physical Matches
Fire Debris	Hairs	Soil

My signature acknowledges that all information on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant Date

PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP:

ASTEE Member #1 Signature: Printed Name: Daytime phone: ()	ASTEE Member #2 Signature: Printed Name: Daytime phone: ()
ASTEE Treasurer Amy Michaud ATF National Laboratory 6000 Ammendale Road Ammendale, MD 20705	For ASTEE Use Only Date application & fee received: Check No. ASTEE Membership No.



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think forward

Spectroscopy

Online Journal

Chris Bommarito, our Journal editor, has opened up solicitations for paper submissions. If anyone has some research that they would like to write up, an interesting case they would like to share, or some information that they think is important for the trace community to hear about, please submit a manuscript to Chris at bommaric@michigan.gov. We know that there is a great deal of unpublished materials out there. Please use this opportunity to share your hard work with an ideal target audience. We are hoping to get the first issue out later this year.

Membership Directory

We would like to distribute a membership directory. Initially, this would be carried out via e-mail distribution. If there is anyone that does not want their information included on the list, now would be the time to let us know. There is also the possibility of posting the directory on our website. The only feasible way to accomplish this would be to put it in a secure location so it is not available to the public. This possibility will be discussed at a later time.

The Future

We are anticipating some great things from this organization. Judging by the overwhelming response that we have received thus far, there was a definite need for this. We have received all sorts of requests for collaborations that hold great promise. As we grow and find our identity, perhaps we will be in a better position to partake in many of the offers for collaboration that have come our way.

We have also received many requests to get involved. As we move along, we will surely call upon those individuals to contribute in some fashion. If anyone else would like to contribute in any capacity, please let us know. This is your organization, and we would welcome any contributions that you would be willing to make.

In the short term, we are hoping to arrange several training events each year, provide support for research through seed grants and scholarships to students who are performing trace related research, and provide a visible presence at various forensic meetings.

In the long term, we are hoping to become a relevant entity within the forensic sciences. Considering the current climate within our parent field, where biological individuality is favored above all else, it is important that we band together to extol the virtues of our disciplines. Trace evidence has a great deal to offer criminal investigations. If we do not let our voices be heard, we risk the chance of fading into obscurity much to the detriment of the criminal justice system.

In discussing this endeavor with some of the founding members, we hope that we can look back on this moment several years from now and see how far we have progressed from a fledgling group to a forensic organization that matters. Perhaps we will be able to find our place at the table after all.



Treasurer/Dues Remittance

ASTEE

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General Business

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WWW.ASTEETRACE.ORG