



**Maureen Casey-Owens—President-Elect  
American Academy of Forensic Sciences**

MAUREEN CASEY-OWENS, A.B., Chief Document Examiner for the Chicago Police Department Crime Laboratory has been elected President-Elect of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. She began her career with the Police Department in 1963 following her graduation from Mundelein College in Chicago. She has published many articles on questioned documents in leading forensic science journals and books and has also lectured extensively on the subject. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners and is Vice President of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners. She will take office as President of AAFS on 1 July 1984.

## **First Symposium of the Committee on Forensic Hair Comparison**

The ad hoc Committee on Forensic Hair Comparison held their first symposium at the FBI Forensic Science Research and Training Centre in Quantico, VA from 31 May to 3 June 1983. In attendance were hair examiners from a number of different forensic laboratories in the United States, Canada, and Britain as well as representatives from university forensic science programs, McCrone Associates Inc., and the National Bureau of Standards. This symposium was mainly concerned with three aspects of forensic hair comparison:

- (1) definition and standardization of terminology,
- (2) establishment of a protocol for hair comparison, and
- (3) illustration of hair comparison characteristics.

Each of these three areas was discussed by a subcommittee. Their recommendations were then presented to the symposium as a whole for discussion. The subcommittees then met again to revise and complete their recommendations.

The work product of the symposium will consist of two publications. The first will include a report on the meeting, a list of recommended terms and definitions relating to forensic hair comparison, a recommended hair comparison protocol, and a list of macroscopic and microscopic hair characteristics. The second will be in the form of an atlas illustrating a wide range of macroscopic and microscopic hair characteristics. An announcement will be made in this journal as soon as these can be completed and made available.

It is the committee's plan to hold a second symposium in the spring of 1984. At that time, in addition to the continued discussion of hair comparison characteristics, three other areas will be addressed. These are:

- (1) conclusions and court testimony,
- (2) training of hair examiners, and
- (3) collaborative testing.

The final day of the first symposium was devoted to formation and initial meeting of subcommittees to deal with these topics.

Anyone who has any ideas or material they would like to share with the Committee and anyone who would like further information can contact the chairman, Barry Gaudette, at (613) 993-0554, or write:

Barry Gaudette  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Chief Scientist—Hair & Fibres  
Central Forensic Laboratory  
P.O. Box 8885  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3M8

## **Announcement**

### **Award**

An educational research award is being offered by the Society of Forensic Toxicologists to students pursuing academic degrees in Chemistry, Pharmacology, or Toxicology. Applications are accepted continuously—no deadline dates. For further information contact:

Yale Caplan, Ph.D.  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
111 Penn St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201

## **Announcement**

### **Seminar**

The California Association of Criminalists' Spring Seminar will be held 9-12 May 1984 in Monterey, CA at the Casa Munras Hotel. For further information, please contact:

Stephen Cooper  
Seminar Chairperson  
California Department of Justice  
Regional Laboratory  
745 Airport Blvd.  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(408)443-3188