

SYMPOSIUM: ISSUES IN FORENSIC SCIENCE HIGHER EDUCATION

Preface

Several papers on "Issues in Forensic Science Higher Education" were presented before the Criminalistics Section at the 1987 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in San Diego, California. These presentations addressed a variety of issues of concern to both educators and practitioners in the specialty of criminalistics and the more general field of forensic science. Six of the papers have been developed into the articles that appear in this special section of the *Journal*.

The papers address a broad array of concerns beginning with Jay Siegel's inquiry into the question of what crime laboratory directors look for in the educational backgrounds of potential new employees. Next, Robert Gaensslen and Henry Lee propose an innovative approach to satisfying the need for expanding the number of specialized course offerings within present day forensic science educational programs. In the paper that follows, Lee and Gaensslen discuss the results of a survey designed to find ways in which operating laboratories can maximize the assistance local university programs can give to them.

Fred Smith, Ray Liu, and Charles Lindquist discuss the research potential and experiences of forensic science graduate programs and how students benefit from such experiences as they develop their professional careers. Joseph Peterson describes how students view potential ethical conflicts in the practice of criminalistics and what higher education programs might do to prepare them better to address such professional dilemmas. David Stoney concludes this section with a review of the history of medical education and how lessons learned from this profession might prove valuable in resolving some of the major educational challenges facing the forensic laboratory sciences.