



INVESTIGATIVE REVIEW

The Official Newsletter of the International Homicide Investigators Association

www.ihia.org

1-877-THE-IHIA (1-877-843-4442)

FAMILIAL DNA SEARCHING

A Powerful Tool that is seldom being utilized by Law Enforcement

by Rock Harmon



National Library of Medicine

Familial DNA searching burst into the limelight with its recent success leading to the identity of the "Grim Reaper" in Los Angeles, a serial killer who had terrorized the area for over 18 years and committed at least 10 murders. The topic of familial DNA searching was not a new one, however, having been discussed in various public meetings for the past four years. Surprisingly only two states have formally adopted familial DNA search policies, California and Colorado. Meanwhile, in late 2010, a serial

killer preys on women in the Kensington part of Philadelphia, another case that clearly calls for the use of familial DNA searching.

CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) has provided the means to solve previously unsolved cases when DNA evidence profiles match convicted offenders. However, these offender matches (cold hits) only occur about 25 percent of the time. Familial DNA searching is based on well-known principles of genetic inheritance. People inherit half of their DNA from their mother, half from their father. Familial DNA searching provides an opportunity to develop investigative leads for some of the remaining 75 percent of the cases that have been uploaded (approximately 200,000) and remain unsolved. It is a simple choice between trying to do something to solve these crimes, or simply waiting until the offender is included in the database, if that latter would ever happen.

The process is relatively straightforward. Once the profile is searched and no direct offender hit occurs, special software can be used to try to determine if the CODIS database contains a DNA profile indicative of a possible close relative of the person who left the DNA at the crime scene. There are two parts to this process. First, the software ranks candidate offenders in order of likelihood that they are closely related to the person who left the DNA. There will always be an appreciable number of candidates on this list. For example, in California

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International Homicide Investigators Association 18TH ANNUAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

July 31 - August 5, 2011 (Registration: 2 - 7pm on July 31)
Hyatt Regency Washington D.C., on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Ave. NW, Washington DC 20001

What a great privilege it is to host the 18th Annual Training Symposium in our nation's capital. Washington D.C. offers a variety of attractions including the Lincoln Memorial, the White House and the Smithsonian. These will leave lifetime impressions, as do some somber moments spent at the Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Holocaust Museum, National Law Enforcement Museum or the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. There's always something going on in Washington, DC. From festivals to touring its vast monuments, there are tons of ways for locals and tourists to fill their days with wild sights and vibrant activities.

Among the many events will be the IHIA's 18th Annual Training Symposium. In planning each year's courses, we thoroughly read your critiques and listen to the concerns of the members and Board of Directors to better address the training needs and learning-style preference of IHIA's membership. This year's training week incorporates many of those preferences. We will address points of interest such as cutting edge forensics and technology, investigative resources, child abduction and murder, victim issues, serial homicide investigations, death and unidentified remains, terrorism and our role in catastrophic circumstances.



We look forward to seeing everyone again in Washington, D.C., July 31-August 5, at the 2011 IHIA Training Symposium. The Washington, D. C. Symposium is a great location for learning and it offers a truly unforgettable historical and fun filled venue for all symposium attendees and their families and friends.

Come to D.C. with Us!

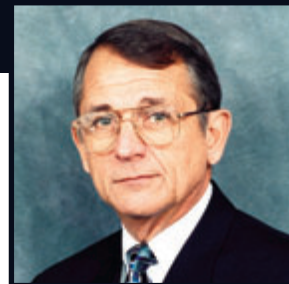
IHIA 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11-15, 2011
**BASIC HOMICIDE
INVESTIGATORS COURSE**
Hoover, AL

July 31 - August 5, 2011
**18TH ANNUAL
IHIA SYMPOSIUM**
Washington D.C.

June 17 - 22, 2012
**19TH ANNUAL
IHIA SYMPOSIUM**
New Orleans, LA

Letter from the President



Greetings,
I hope you find this latest edition of our "Investigative Review" newsletter informative. We try to bring our members information about the "happenings" with the (IHIA) International Homicide Investigators Association and what to look for in the future.

Our Symposium in Sparks, Nevada in August 2010 was very successful. We had a large number of international attendees from the countries of: Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Thailand, Bahamas, Philippines, Canada, Great Britain, Hungary, Australia, Ireland and the Netherlands. Of course, you can't have a successful conference without "boots on the ground", so we must again thank all of our co-hosts in Reno, Nevada. The co-hosting agencies were the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Washoe County District Attorney, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Las Vegas Office), Sparks Police Department and the Reno Police Department.

The IHIA basic homicide courses are

continuing to be well received across the country and are providing world class training. Look for these

classes to be offered soon in the states of Alabama and Wisconsin. Continue to monitor the IHIA website for those dates.

All members should "save the dates" of July 31 - August 5, because those are the dates of our 2011 Symposium, which will be held in Washington, D.C. We will again have an outstanding program consisting of national and international speakers. The conference hotel is the Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C. on Capitol Hill. This is a wonderful venue in sight of the U.S. Capitol Building and the hotel is just minutes from all the many fantastic Washington, D.C. attractions.

We Hope to See You in Washington!!

Gary G. Terry, *IHIA President*

Regional Director's are Key to Moving IHIA Forward



In most organizations, including the IHIA, success or failure is often attributed to a small nucleus of individuals who dedicate their time and efforts in the organization's day-to-day operations. With this in mind the IHIA Board of Directors several years ago created the Regional Director positions. Dedicated IHIA members were subsequently chosen to represent the four regions in the IHIA. The regions, located in the U.S. and Canada where the bulk of the IHIA's membership exists, are designated as the North, South, East, and West Regions.

The Regional Directors' main respon-

sibilities are to actively support the members of their respective regions and to pursue and provide membership information to non-member agencies and individuals. Regional directors also attend IHIA Board meetings and they promote training initiatives offered by the IHIA throughout the year. They contact regional members to foster better networking with an eye towards recruiting new members into the IHIA and increasing attendance at the IHIA's symposiums and training courses. Lastly, each Regional Director provides a quarterly report of their efforts in furthering the IHIA's operations.

Accepting Nominations for Two Regional Director Positions

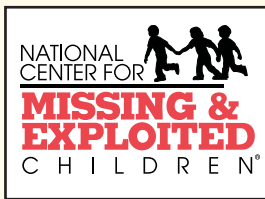
Two IHIA Executive Board offices have been announced for nominations for the positions of the Eastern Regional Director and the Western Regional Director. The members currently holding these positions are eligible for re-nomination. All Board positions are non-paying and voluntary and can at times require office holders to devote considerable time and effort conducting various IHIA duties. Active Members in good standing are eligible to serve as Board members. Active Members should have sufficient flexibility in their professional and personal lives and possess a keen desire to work hard on the IHIA's behalf. Additionally, Active

Members should have their agency's support and approval to serve on the IHIA's Executive Board of Directors.

A regional member, other than the named nominee, may nominate a person (who is an Active Member of the IHIA) to run for election for any available position in their respective region. For example, an IHIA Active Member in the East Region may nominate another Eastern Regional Active Member to run for the position of Eastern Regional Director. Check the IHIA Website to determine your specific region as well as to obtain additional information regarding eligibilities, duties, and available Board positions.

Written nominations for the Eastern Regional Director and Western Regional Director are being accepted from January 1 through April 1, 2011. The nomination should contain the nominee's name, the office they are being nominated for, and a summary of the nominee's experience and qualifications. All nominations must be submitted to the IHIA Secretary by e-mail to Wayne.Koka@ic.fbi.gov or by regular mail and addressed to:

Secretary Wayne Koka
IHIA Office
10711 Spotsylvania Avenue, Suite 3
Fredericksburg, VA 22408



National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Plans Largest Effort Ever to Resolve 750 Long-Term Missing Children Cases

A Team of 175 Retired Law Enforcement Volunteers in Project ALERT Program to be Deployed

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® is deploying its entire team of 175 retired law-enforcement officers, known as Project ALERT (America's Law Enforcement Retiree Team), to cities and towns across the United States to take a fresh look at long-term missing children cases.

The Project ALERT deployment is the largest ever undertaken by the national center, the leading organization addressing the problems of missing and exploited children, and will be part of an ongoing process. In the initial phase, the retired officers, all volunteers, will meet with investigators and relatives of more than 750 children who have been missing from six months to as many as 61 years.

The volunteers will review case files with investigators and glean important identifiers about each child including physical features, dental records, DNA samples, scars, tattoos, jewelry, old injuries and clothing. That information will be entered into NamUs, an acronym for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, which matches missing-person cases with unidentified human remains nationwide.

Launched last year and funded by the National Institute of Justice, NamUs is a new web-based tool developed to aid in the search for missing persons. Anyone can search the database, at www.namus.gov, but sensitive case data is restricted to law-enforcement. Unidentified remains cases are entered by medical examiners and coroners. According to NIJ estimates, there are as many as 40,000 unidentified sets of human remains in this country.

As more cases are added over time, NamUs automatically cross-searches the missing and unidentified persons databases and provides side-by-side comparisons of possible matches. As of Sept. 21, there have been 5,209 missing persons entered into NamUs and 7,100 unidentified persons. So far, NamUs helped locate 35 missing persons and identify 18 others.

There are an estimated 2,000 children reported missing every day in the United States. While time is the enemy in the search for a missing child, there is more hope than ever that more of these long-term missing children can be recovered alive. Elizabeth Smart of Utah was recovered after nine months. Shawn Horn-

beck of Missouri after four years. Jaycee Dugard of California after 18 years.

"Many people believe that just because a missing child is not found quickly, there is no hope," said Ernie Allen, president and CEO of the national center. "We are disproving that assumption every day. This bold new initiative will help us keep long-term cases alive and provide both hope and answers that these families need and deserve."

The national center is a 501 © (3) nonprofit organization that is mandated by Congress and works in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

It operates the national toll-free 24-hour missing children's hotline and never closes a case until a child has been found. NamUs can help give loved ones the closure they so desperately seek.

For 18 years, the Project ALERT program has recruited retired local, state and federal officers with recent and relevant investigative experience to bring fresh eyes to long-term missing and exploited children cases, said Ray Harp, the program manager. Volunteers act as consultants on cases involving endangered runaways, family abductions, non-family abductions and lost, injured or otherwise missing children. The service is offered at no cost to those law-enforcement agencies that request help, with travel and resource materials paid for by the national center.

As part of the deployment, the volunteers will use their knowledge and experience to collect critical data to bolster the NamUs databases, along with the national center's case files, Harp said. After meeting with investigators, Project ALERT volunteers will reach out to relatives for important identifiers not already in possession of law enforcement. They will also determine a family's willingness to provide DNA family reference samples.

Rodney Mickens, a retired detective from the New York Police Department's Missing Persons Squad, joined Project ALERT in February and will soon be deployed on the NamUs project from his home in Maryland. Mickens believes NamUs will be an invaluable tool in the search for missing children, especially as more and more information is added to the databases.

"When everybody uses a database and they put their information in, you usually get some very good leads," said Mickens, who retired after 20 years with the NYPD. "We will all be on the same page, and that's what you want when you have missing juveniles. They don't

own anything, and their features change so quickly."

Among other tasks, Mickens and the other volunteers will try to determine if dental records exist and track them down. If they do, then a NamUs odontologist will make contact with the dentist. They will also try to determine if DNA was ever collected and where it is currently stored. As part of a separate initiative, they will seek written consent to upload photographs of missing children into the National Crime Information Center. (NCIC)

In addition to Project ALERT, the Alexandria, Va.-based national center offers a wide variety of training and other free services to aid law enforcement in missing children and child sexual exploitation cases. Team Adam, named after the abducted and murdered son of national center co-founders John and Reve Walsh, is comprised of retired law enforcement officers who rapidly deploy in critical missing children cases, as mandated by Congress. Currently, there are 62 Team Adam consultants, who are selected for their expertise in the field of child abduction and exploitation.

Other free resources provided to law enforcement include: case analysis and technical support; forensic support including age-progression; missing children photo distribution; a Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) which works to identify and rescue child victims of child pornography, help tracking fugitive sex offenders; the CyberTipline, www.cybertipline.com, which serves as the nation's 911 for the Internet to report suspected child sexual exploitation; and Team Hope, a support group for families of missing children. For more information visit www.missingkids.com.



THE 2010 IHIA HOMICIDE TRAINING SYMPOSIUM Sparks,



The IHIA Board of Directors thanks all who attended



Members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force receive the IHIA Award for Excellence.

August 8th of last year marked the start of the 17th Annual IHIA Homicide Training Symposium, held at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, in Nevada's Sparks/Reno region. This venue provided a prime location for enjoying training, fellowship, and fun times. For those of you who like to play the odds, this first rate hotel casino provided an opportunity to be a winner. Over 250 members attended, including representatives from eight countries. The symposium offered great training in crucial areas such as cold case investigations, gang violence, serial murder, terrorism, child abduction, and who could forget the motivational words of Vietnam POW and military hero Captain Charlie Plumb.

Welcome receptions were held by the exhibition vendors. Your IHIA Board of Directors guaranteed sufficient time to network and gain valuable insight into new technology and scientific advancements. A special night at the Cantina Los Tres Hombres, just across from the hotel, hosted by NBC Dateline was well attended and enjoyed. As in past symposiums, NBC Dateline, a valued and loyal supporter of the IHIA, spared no expense to insure that our members were well dined and entertained.

Special thanks goes out to our good friends in the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Washoe County District Attorney's Office, the Las Vegas FBI, the Sparks Police Department, and the Reno Police Department. They provided invaluable boots on the ground and assisted with many behind the scene details that made the symposium run smoothly. Additional thanks goes out to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the Washoe County District Attorney's

Office that provided incredible items that were raffled for the IHIA fundraiser. We would especially like to thank our tremendous corporate and government friends who exhibited and supported the symposium:

- Aftermath Incorporated
- AIT Laboratories
- American High-Tech Transcription
- Bode Technology
- Cognitec Systems
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBI Laboratory
- Leads Online LLC
- LexisNexis
- NamUS-NFSTC
- N-Dex
- National Center for Missing
& Exploited Children
- NBC Dateline
- NCIC Operations and Policy Unit
- NMS Labs
- Panoscan, Inc
- Sorenson Forensics
- Taser International
- Trinity DNA Solutions
- Veri-Pic
- Veterinary Genetics
Laboratory/Forensic Unit

IHIA Awards For Excellence

The IHIA takes great pride in recognizing individuals or agencies in law enforcement that excel in investigative endeavors or support law enforcement agencies in the investigation of violent criminal activities. Below are the individuals who were honored at the 2010 IHIA Training Symposium's Gala Awards Banquet held in Sparks, Nevada.

Multi-Agency Serial Murder Investigation

- Captain Dennis Thornton
Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office
- Senior Investigator Mark Goldman
Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office
- Specialist William Null
Louisiana Office of Probation & Parole
- Investigator Jeffrey M. Bergeron
Office of the Louisiana Attorney General
- Special Agent Barbara O'Donnell
FBI, New Orleans, LA
- Lt. Dawn C. Foret
Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office
- Detective Sergeant Todd Charlet
Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office

Career Contributions in Forensic Science

- Dr. Paul Ferrara
Director, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science

Cold Case Investigation of a Murdered Child

- Lt. Charlie Bonner
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
- Special Agent H.L. Seale Jr.
FBI, Little Rock, AR
- Special Agent W. Michael Lowe
FBI, Little Rock, AR

Career Contributions to Law Enforcement

- Det. David Jenkins
Reno Police Department

Child Serial Murder Investigation

- The Royal Bahamas Police Force*

Special Recognition

- Major Case Specialist Timothy G. Keel
FBI, Quantico, VA

TRAINING SYMPOSIUM WRAP-UP

Nevada

led the 2010 Training Symposium and made this symposium a success.



The LexisNexis "One Step Closer" Award

In 2010, LexisNexis awarded its inaugural LexisNexis "One Step Closer" Award in Law Enforcement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP). The prestigious award was presented to ViCAP at the 2010 IHIA Training Symposium held at Sparks, Nevada in August during the gala awards banquet.

The one Step Closer" Award is given to the agency, unit, or individual that demonstrates excellence in using open source intelligence and third-party resources to get "one step closer" to solving crimes. This award program is designed to showcase forward-thinking agencies making significant use of third-party resources to solve cases faster. The FBI ViCAP team exemplifies this to a tee. ViCAP's web-based application provides a real time user friendly tool in which investigators and crime analysts can search other ongoing investigations, allowing them to "connect the dots" across multiple jurisdictions.

Over the last 30 years LexisNexis has become a leading global provider of content-enabled workflow solutions designed specifically for professionals in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting, and academic markets. LexisNexis provides essential information that helps advance industry and society. The services provided by LexisNexis are utilized daily by law enforcement, revenue, and social service professionals at the federal and state levels to combat crime and fight fraud, waste and abuse.

The IHIA thanks LexisNexis for their cutting-edge technology and outstanding services they have provided to law enforcement agencies over many years. The IHIA looks forward to its continuing association with NexisLexis now and in the future.

In 2011, the IHIA will once again honor distinguished law enforcement professionals and organizations at the annual Homicide Training Symposium in Washington, D.C. If anyone would like to recognize exemplary achievement in the investigation of violent criminal activity, please forward written nominations to the IHIA Office via the IHIA Website. Included in the nomination should be the names of the nominated individuals or agencies along with a brief synopsis of the investigation. The IHIA's Executive Board will consider each nomination and will select the award honorees.

Special IHIA Symposium Fundraiser

Several years ago the IHIA started a tradition of holding fundraisers in the cities hosting our annual training symposiums. Since its inception, the IHIA raised over \$25,000.00 at these fundraisers. Every penny raised at our fundraiser events goes to a worthy local charity, person, or family. Fundraiser proceeds have supported injured law enforcement officers, families of slain officers, and seriously ill dependents of officers. The Homicide Training Symposium held in Sparks, Nevada this past August 2010 was no exception. The 2010 fundraiser recipient was Rylee Bloom. Below is a note from Rylee.

Hello:

My name is Rylee Bloom and I am a very bright, intelligent, precocious 8 year old. I recently received an award in my class for being there and helping my classmates to do the best that they can with their assignments. I enjoy handheld games and playing Xbox with my older brother Broc. I idolize my dad who is a deputy sheriff with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and when I grow up I want to build "Big Things".

My family and I were planning a trip to Disneyland but we had to cancel our vacation because my leg started hurting and at first my parents thought it was just growing pains, but the pain continued to get worse and it was difficult for me to walk so they took me to my pediatrician.

After some long tests and blood work I was sent to see an orthopedic surgeon who did more tests. A tumor was discovered in my pelvic area and I heard the word, "Cancer" being discussed. I was admitted into the hospital where a biopsy was taken and it was determined it was benign but there were some abnormalities so more tests were done. I was diagnosed with a rare blood disease, Langerhan's cell histiocytosis. My parents were told the treatment for this disease would require surgery and/or chemotherapy.

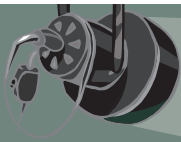
My parents have had to miss a lot of work to stay home and take care of me, taking me to California for additional testing and other doctor visits and I had to miss a lot of school. I can't go outside and play with my brother or my friends because the pain is too great.

On March 17, 2010, I had the tumor removed and a bone graft but the pain in my leg is still there. I have good days and some bad days but I keep it to myself because I don't want my parents to worry about me. I know that one day I will get better and the pain will go away.

Because of this disease I will have to be checked often and there is no guarantee that another tumor will not come back, and if one does, then I will have to go through more surgeries and chemotherapy.



The IHIA will continue to support people like Rylee and his family at every annual training symposium. Please keep the Bloom Family in your prayers. Many thanks are extended to those great people and businesses that make the IHIA's fundraising events so successful and meaningful.



Spotlights on Notable IHIA Members



Paul Buschini began his law enforcement career in 1974 when at 16 years of age he joined the Lancashire Constabulary in England as a police cadet. Over the next 30 years with the Lancashire Constabulary he worked his way up from an entry level detective to become Detective Superintendent of the Homicide Division. Paul conducted hundreds of murder investigations and achieved a 90% conviction rate throughout the U.K., Switzerland and Austria. During one investigation, he posed as a Mexican Army Colonel at the United Nations in New York.

In 2004 he became a sworn officer with the Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago where he investi-

gated gang related shootings, kidnaping, and extortion. In 2006 Paul became the Director of Investigations with the Garda Siochana Ombudsman Commission in Dublin, Ireland. A position which he currently maintains.

Paul attended his first IHIA Symposium in 2000 at Houston, Texas. Since then Paul has been a regular fixture at every U.S. IHIA Symposium. He says the IHIA Symposium is an important conference to attend because it keeps him up to date with the latest developments in investigative techniques. It also allows him to maintain a network with law enforcement professionals from around the world. At first he considered the IHIA members as his colleagues but now considers them his international friends. Paul says it's an honor to associate with like-minded law enforcement professionals from across the oceans.

Paul currently resides in Dublin, Ireland. He is the proud father of four children and eight grandchildren. He has a lifelong passion for Rugby football which he played for 20 years but now is merely a spectator.

Paul has been a loyal member of the IHIA for years. He is a good friend to those who have been fortunate enough to meet him through the IHIA. He has extended a warm invitation to any and all IHIA members who come to Ireland on business or pleasure.



David Rivers is a charter member of the IHIA and served several years as the Regional Vice President on the IHIA Board of Directors in the early formative years of this organization.

Dave began his law enforcement career in 1971 when he joined Florida's Metro-Dade Police Department. He retired from the department on January 31, 1998, with 27 years of service. Twenty (20) of those years were spent in the Homicide Bureau where he rose to the rank of sergeant. During his long career he supervised the homicide squad and eventually became supervi-

sor of the "Cold Case Squad".

Currently, Dave is the president of Voice & Ink Enterprises, Inc. a forensic education corporation. He has been hired as an expert witness in homicide investigations and in cases involving the use of deadly force. Dave also provides training instruction for the Public Agency Training Council, located in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has served as an instructor at the Williams Seminar in Albany, New York, which is sponsored by the New York State Police. For the past twelve years, Dave has been invited as a guest speaker at the Delaware State Police Seminar, in Dover, Delaware.

Dave has a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Nova University and a M.S. in Criminal Justice from Florida International University.

Though currently not serving on the IHIA's Board of Directors, Dave maintains his IHIA membership. He actively recruits new members when he travels around the country during his instructional and speaking engagements. Dave is a respected and knowledgeable expert in the area of homicide investigation. Dave's continued support of the IHIA and his vast expertise in the field of homicide investigation is admired and appreciated by all.



IHIA STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Beginning in 2011, the IHIA will accept qualifying post-secondary or higher education students as student members of the association. After receiving numerous requests, the IHIA Board of Directors discussed this topic in 2010 during several BOD meetings. The BOD decided that a new category of membership allowing students to become involved in the IHIA will be added to the existing three membership classes. The IHIA Membership Categories are now: 1) Active Professional Members, including retired professional members; 2) Associate Members; 3) Life Members; 4) Student Members.

The IHIA Student Membership allows college/university students who are seriously interested in entering careers in the fields of behavioral science, criminal justice, forensics, law, medicine, or other applicable fields related to homicide investigation; to become involved in the association. The IHIA Student Members pay the same annual membership fees as other IHIA's members. Student Members are not eligible to hold office, vote, or have access to the IHIA Website's secure area. IHIA Student Members will be eligible to attend the annual training symposiums.

The IHIA Student Membership is open to any person currently enrolled in a post-secondary or higher education program and has advanced to the third year of study in the fields of behavioral sciences, criminal justice, forensics, law, medicine or other applicable studies related to homicide investigations, and who is interested in homicide investigations. The IHIA Board must approve the student applicant's acceptability before Student Membership is authorized. Applicants are required to prepare an IHIA Membership Application Form and provide: 1) A letter of recommendation from a dean or professor of the applicant's higher education program; 2) A certified transcript of the applicant's grades from his/her higher education facility (school).

Current IHIA members are invited to encourage eligible college/university students to apply for IHIA Student Membership. Please provide information about this exciting new opportunity to your local colleges and universities and/or student acquaintances and family members. Additional information about the Student Membership Program can be obtained by contacting your Regional Director or the IHIA Office.

IHIA BASIC HOMICIDE TRAINING COURSE

Monday, April 11 - Friday April 15, 2011, 8am to 5pm

Hosted by the Hoover Police Department, Hoover, Alabama



Working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice through a grant, the IHIA designed a 40-hour Basic Homicide Investigations Course. This course is offered via hosting agencies on a regional basis throughout the country thus substantially reducing costs normally associated with attending other avenues of high caliber training courses offered at more distant venues. The quality of training provided in the IHIA's Basic Course is second to none. Local, regional, and nationally renowned experts in their respective field of homicide investigation provide the course instruction. Attendees come from law enforcement agencies, coroner/medical examiner offices, forensic labs, and prosecutors' offices.

The next IHIA Basic Homicide Investigators Course will be in Hoover, Alabama April 11-15, 2011. The hosting agency is

the Hoover Police Department. Anyone interested in attending are asked to contact the Hoover Police Department, Lieutenant Tommy Stuart, (205) 739-7235 or by contacting the IHIA's Southern Regional Director, Capt. Steve Buras, via the IHIA web site at: ihia.org.

Additionally if any law enforcement agency is interested in hosting an IHIA Basic Homicide Investigators Course they can contact the IHIA Office by telephone at 877-843-4442 or by email at ihia@ihia.org.

THE FOLLOWING COURSE TOPICS ARE COVERED:

- Responsibilities of the Homicide Investigator
- First Responder Issues
- Crime Scene Processing
- Laboratory Capabilities & Evidence Processing
- Investigative Resources
- Investigative Techniques
- Interview & Interrogation
- Suspect Development & Elimination
- Crime Scene Analysis
- Homicide Types & Offender Motivation
- Ethics
- Stress Management
- Documentation & Report Writing
- Media Relations
- Prosecution & Legal Concerns
- Victim Issues
- Serial Murder Investigation
- Case Management
- Responsibilities of Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office

Continued from page 1.

with a database of well over 1 million offenders, the candidate list typically is set as the top 150 candidates. Next, all of the offender candidates' samples are subjected to additional DNA typing, using existing Y chromosome testing. This testing can strongly establish the existence of a close familial relationship (typically father-son or brother-brother) between the person who left the evidence and the offender in the database.

In California's protocol, law enforcement is not involved in the familial search part of the process. The list of 150 candidates is not disclosed to law enforcement. Only after the Y chromosome testing is performed, and only if the results strongly support the likelihood that the evidence was left by a close relative of the offender, is the name of the offender disclosed to law enforcement. At that point law enforcement can utilize this powerful investigative lead to determine which close family member to focus their investigation on. Law enforcement can then use any number of lawful investigative techniques to identify the suspect family member, obtain a DNA sample, and determine whether there is a match between the reference sample and the crime scene evidence.

The process is not guaranteed to succeed. Prior to the "Grim Reaper" success, California had performed familial DNA searching in nine cases. Each search produced its list of about 150 candidates and Y chromosome testing failed to establish the existence of a close familial relationship in any of those cases; thus no investigative leads were provided to law enforcement in any of those nine cases. The first search done for the "Grim Reaper" case produced no leads. At the time of the first search, the DNA profile of the son of the ultimate suspect had not yet been added to the DNA offender database.

The success in California produced immediate interest in the subject in states

such as Virginia and Texas. After conducting several public hearings, Virginia authorities have recently decided to develop and implement familial DNA searching without the need for any explicit legal authorization. While it might seem that law enforcement has a vested interest in seeing the full potential of DNA realized through this technique, few law enforcement agencies or entities have weighed in on the subject of familial searching to date. Perhaps there is a lack of awareness of its potential. Certainly the potential will not be realized if only two states out of 50 develop and adopt the process. The FBI, which regulates searches of the national network of states' databases, has not yet played a role in developing this new tool that would assist states in adopting their own familial DNA searching protocols. Perhaps the recent introduction of H.R. 6011 and funding to support it will allow the F.B.I. to move forward.

Law enforcement in the United Kingdom has been utilizing familial searching for several years. In previous public presentations, U.K. law enforcement has shown that familial DNA search investigative leads have resulted in convictions in about 12 percent of the cases. How does this compare with how often CODIS offender hits result in criminal convictions in the U.S.? Little is known on the ultimate contribution CODIS makes towards solving crimes and attaining convictions. California endeavored to track offender cold hit data to case disposition in 2005. During that project, known as "CHOP" (Cold Hit Outcome Project), it was determined that California's offender cold hits resulted in conviction about 13.5 percent of the time. While the UK measure of efficiency is based on a small number of familial search efforts, 157, it should provide encouragement to U.S. law enforcement that familial DNA searching might double the efficiency of what CODIS currently

provides in helping solve cold cases.

Some law professors have suggested that familial DNA searching constitutes an invasion of some parties' privacy. In response, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently commented that, "...it is not clear that familial comparisons raise a constitutional privacy issue or, if they do, whose interests are violated... The familial match is not implicated: by definition the match is not perfect, so the government knows that the match is not the perpetrator. It is questionable whether the rights of the perpetrator (if ultimately identified through the use of familial comparisons) are violated" in response to defendant Jerry Pool's challenge to the federal arrestee sample collection process. United States v. Pool, 2010 DJDAR 14485.

The Innocence Project was opposed to forensic DNA typing until they realized the potential it provided to exonerate deserving inmates. It is simply a matter of time before all parties in the legal system recognize that familial DNA searching can provide the same truth-finding process for everyone that straightforward DNA comparisons have been providing for years.

ROCKNE HARMON retired in 2007 after 33 years as a prosecutor for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. He was the driving force behind the California Attorney General's decision to implement familial DNA searching in California that led to the arrest of the "Grim Reaper" serial killer in 2010. He has been a long time member of the IHIA and has served on the Advisory Board. He is currently a consultant to law enforcement and an instructor of Forensic Science at the University of California. Mr. Harmon is a graduate of the US Naval Academy and the University of San Francisco School of Law. He is a highly decorated military veteran who commanded a U.S. Navy swift boat during wartime.

— IHIA WebSite Update —

The IHIA Website is available to all IHIA members and to the general public. Only IHIA members may access the website's secure area to obtain law enforcement sensitive information and/or to contact other members. The website is updated constantly. It is available online at ihia.org.

Members may log in and update their "My Profile" information with needed changes in their email address or any other personal informa-

tion. Contact Mark Goldman, the IHIA webmaster at: ihia.org for assistance.

Remember the IHIA Website is used to inform members of upcoming IHIA training programs, current and relevant news articles, or to contact Board members and other IHIA members. Members may also use the Website to communicate appropriate law enforcement concerns for the awareness of the IHIA's membership.

Message from the Executive Director

The IHIA has come a long way since 1988 when founder Terry Green's vision began to take shape during a FBI sponsored ViCAP International Homicide Symposium at Quantico, Virginia. Terry's hard work and that of subsequent IHIA Boards have propelled the IHIA to what it is today. We have had 17 annual training symposiums with this year's planned in Washington D.C., the capital of the United States. Additionally, the IHIA has conducted four 5 day regional Basic Homicide Investigator Training Courses across the U.S. Our members come from every state in the U.S. and approximately 20 other nations. In recent years, we have developed membership pins, challenge coins, association clothing and related IHIA logo items. We launched an interactive website as well as a newsletter as a means to keep our membership better updated on IHIA news as well as the latest trends in homicide investigation. The IHIA has also assisted in the establishment of several state and local homicide associations.

Speakers addressing the IHIA Symposiums are among the finest in the world

and it is not by chance. Our outstanding speakers are recommended by the membership or recruited by the Board, and they join us because they firmly believe in what the IHIA strives to accomplish.

No profession has been hit harder by the recent economic crisis than law enforcement; especially in the area of training funds. Today, violent crime funding from governmental or private and corporate sources/grants is extremely difficult to find. The IHIA has experienced financial strain inasmuch as crucial financial support from the U.S. Department of Justice has not been forthcoming. Our long term partner, the FBI, has seen its budget sorely constrained and the IHIA has consequently shared the pain.

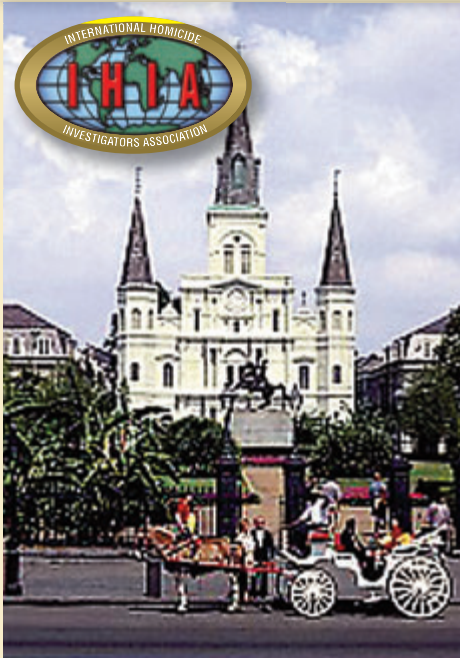
The IHIA, like other organizations, is constantly seeking creative ways to better serve our membership in light of decreasing revenue. The IHIA Board is committed to not raise membership dues. The creation and implementation of the regional Basic Homicide Investigator Training Courses and the

new Student Associate Membership status are two examples of the Board's innovative actions to help maintain the IHIA and better serve its membership. The IHIA will continue to explore other potential funding opportunities, including grants.

The aforementioned comments are not intended as a message of doom but rather a realistic assessment of the IHIA's current state of being. The Board and I sincerely appreciate the membership's loyal support. We also ask that you be vigilant to possible new revenue sources and to pass your ideas and suggestions to the Board or me to help make the IHIA grow larger and achieve its goals.



2012 IHIA Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana



New Orleans, Louisiana has been selected as the site of the **2012 IHIA Homicide Training Symposium**. New Orleans last hosted the IHIA Homicide Training Symposium in 2006, one year after suffering the devastating effects from Hurricane Katrina. Attendees in 2006 observed firsthand the aftermath of what has been called one of the greatest human catastrophes in the U.S. history.

June 17-22, 2012 are the dates for the 2012 Symposium. It will again be held at the beautiful **New Orleans Sheraton Hotel** located at 300 Canal Street. The Sheraton Hotel is within walking distance to the **French Quarter, Bourbon Street, the Mississippi Riverfront, Harrah's Casino,** and countless other attractions. "**The Big Easy**" is noted for popular attractions including numerous historic sites and the now fully operational St. Charles Avenue Streetcar.

Make plans to attend the 2012 IHIA Training Symposium, June 17-22, 2012. Come enjoy the world renowned hospitality, food, history, and entertainment that "**The Big Easy**" has to offer.

