

The background features a large, faint watermark of the seal of the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners. The seal is circular with a central shield containing a microscope. The text 'AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINERS' is written around the top inner edge of the circle. A banner across the bottom of the shield contains the motto 'Tout Contact Laisse une Trace'. At the very bottom of the seal, the year '2009' is flanked by two stars.

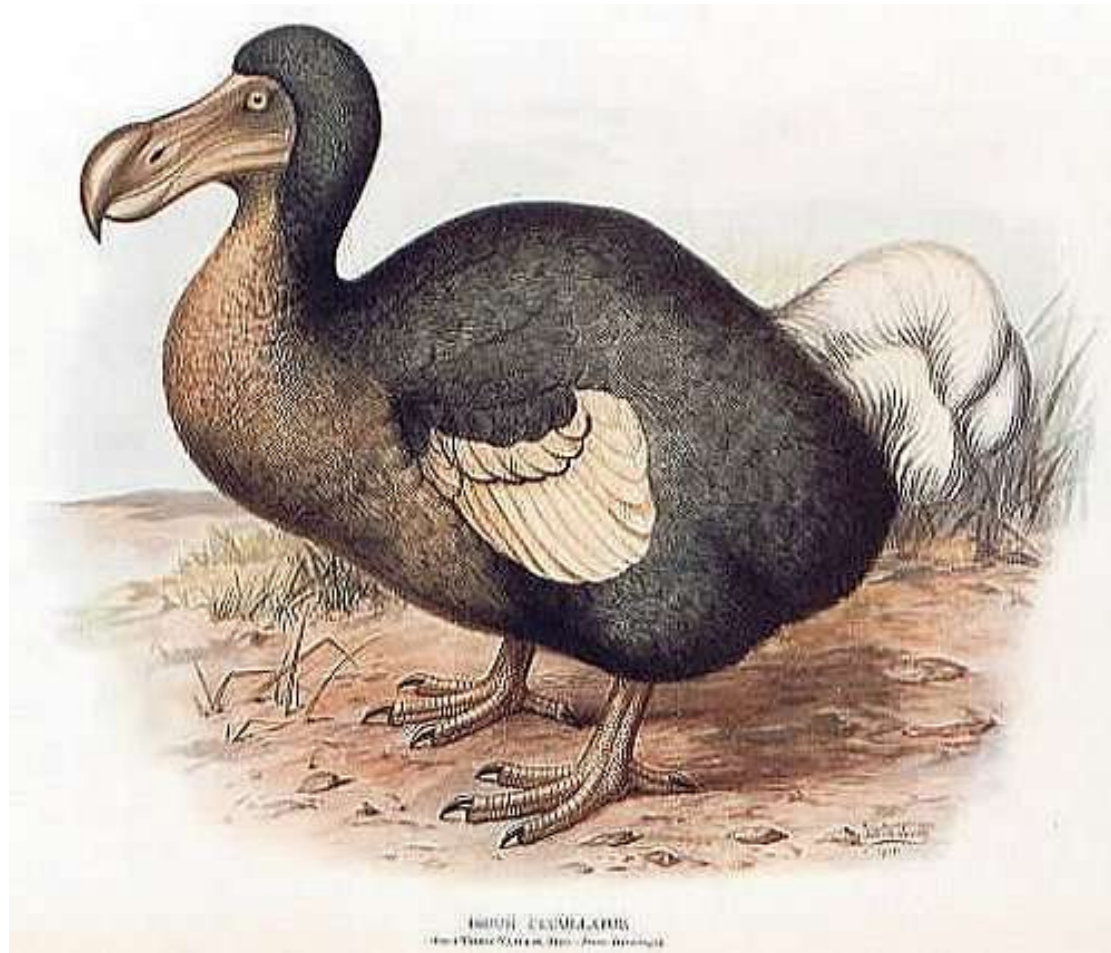
Trace Evidence: Part of a Path Forward

Vincent J. Desiderio

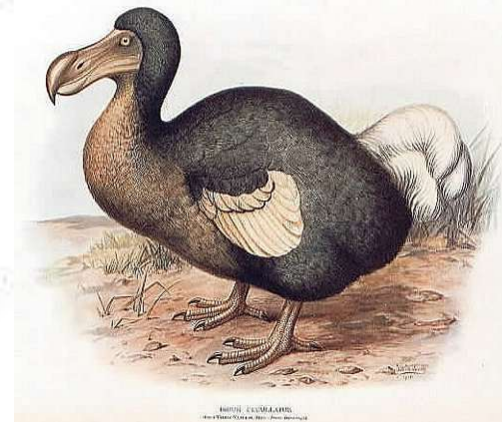
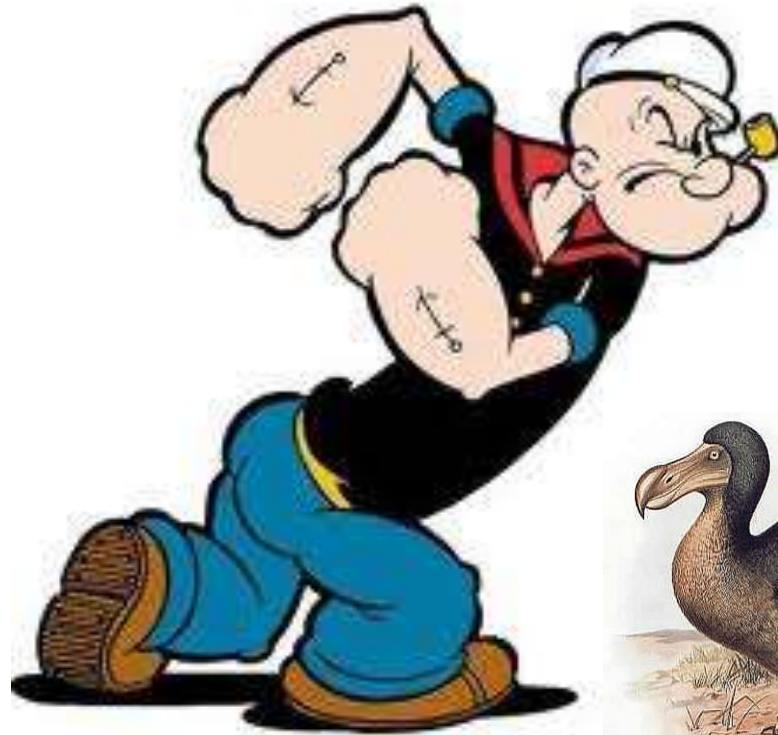
A Tale of Extinction



A Tale of Extinction



A Tale of Extinction





A New Era of Challenges

STRENGTHENING
**FORENSIC
SCIENCE**
IN THE UNITED STATES

A PATH FORWARD

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

PRICE \$

SPIDER-MAN TURNS 3
by Anthony Lane

THE NEW YORKER

MAY 7, 2007

Obama's America

Barack Obama is basing his campaign on a vision of unity and compromise. Can he be the man for all people? Larissa MacFarquhar reports

Real-life CSI

Jeffrey Toobin on the trouble with forensic science

A hundred million copies sold!

Dana Goodyear on the cult of Paulo Coelho

To catch a smuggler

Patrick Radden Keefe on the looting of India

UNITED STATES \$4.50
CANADA/FOREIGN \$5.50



Plus: Ian Frazier on idiocy •
Hilton Als on Ralph Ellison •
Sasha Frere-Jones on Björk



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WHY WE NEED TO GO TO MARS

by Buzz Aldrin

win!

A \$1000
TELESCOPE

p. 99

★
popularmechanics.com August 2010

Popular Mechanics

Science Technology Automotive Outdoors Home

The Truth About **Forensics**

Debunking the Shaky Science of
Ballistics, Fiber Analysis,
Fingerprinting & Other CSI Myths

★ HIGH-TECH
COP CARS

LONG-TERM
CAR TEST:

Dodge
Pickup,
Diesel Jetta,
Nissan
Maxima

diy

Boost Your Car's Value
Foil ATM Scams
Repair Drywall

**THE
HELICOPTER
WAR**

PM Reports From
Afghanistan

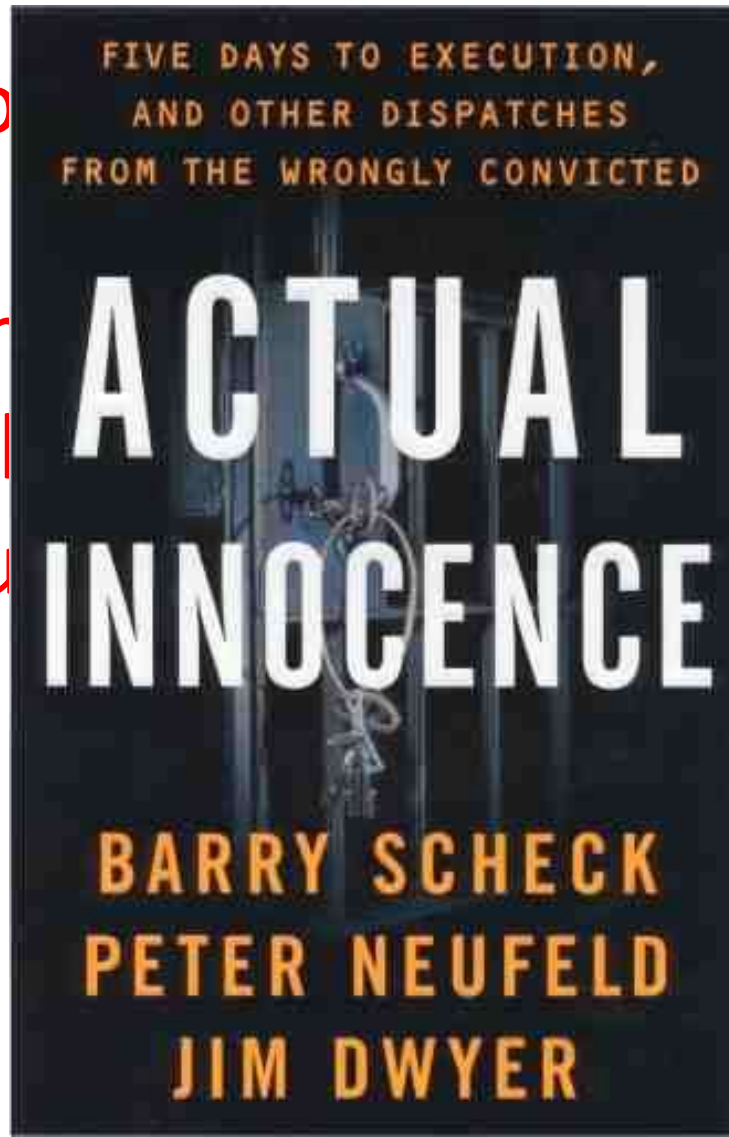
**DISASTER-
PROOF YOUR
HOME**

**I FLEW A
P-51 MUSTANG**



Scheck et al. Reform #8

“Microscopic
should
mitochondria
should
evaluate

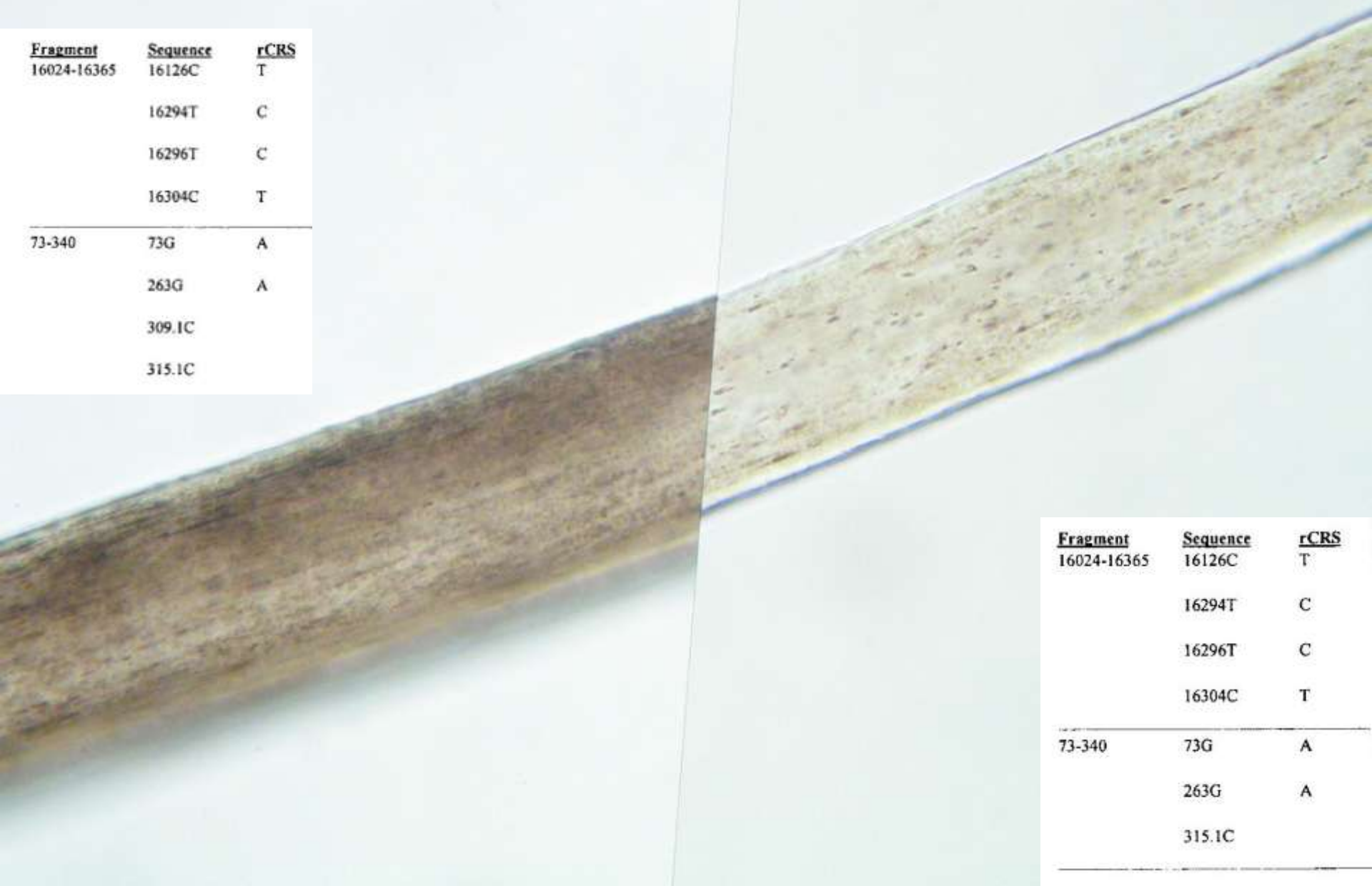


in evidence
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Hair: Microscopy and Mito

<u>Fragment</u>	<u>Sequence</u>	<u>rCRS</u>
16024-16365	16126C	T
	16294T	C
	16296T	C
	16304C	T
73-340	73G	A
	263G	A
	309.1C	
	315.1C	

<u>Fragment</u>	<u>Sequence</u>	<u>rCRS</u>
16024-16365	16126C	T
	16294T	C
	16296T	C
	16304C	T
73-340	73G	A
	263G	A
	315.1C	





MAKING THE CASE FOR A HIGHER STANDARD

PROFESSORS WEIGH THE MERITS OF NON-DNA EVIDENCE

By Jennifer Nislow

DNA is considered the gold standard in forensic science. But what of the other types of evidence gathered at crime scenes that do not contain genetic materials, such as fingerprints, shell casings, teeth marks, glass, paint chips and documents? Two seasoned experts at John Jay have agreed to disagree on the value and reliability of these and other traditional types of criminalistics analysis.

Professors Lawrence Kobilinsky and Adina Schwartz come at the issue from very different disciplines. Kobilinsky, who chairs John Jay's Department of Sciences, is a serologist and a DNA expert. Schwartz is an associate professor in the College's Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration as well as an attorney who has been serving as an expert witness since 2001 in cases involving evidence drawn from firearms and tool marks.

Their views converge in a shared belief that resources are needed to bring other types of analysis to the level of standardization and scientific solidity that has been achieved with DNA. Where the two part company is over

whether criminalists at this point contribute anything of value when they testify on non-DNA evidence.

Kobilinsky believes they do. Schwartz contends that if the forensic evidence is not DNA, "you don't have a case."

"This debate is cutting edge," he said. "There have been papers published in these areas that have been criticized because of claims of total reliability and no human error. Total reliability can't be backed up. To declare an analysis has been totally objective and accurate is something we have not as yet achieved."

Other types of analysis cannot and should not be phased out, according to Kobilinsky. Among other things, usable quantities of intact DNA may not be present at every crime scene. Criminalists have to extract as much information as possible from evidence that may include soil, glass, paint or a blood spatter. They have to try to associate the suspect or the victim with the crime scene.

"The question is, can you trust these other areas of scientific analysis and the answer is, up to a point. We need to do more work,"

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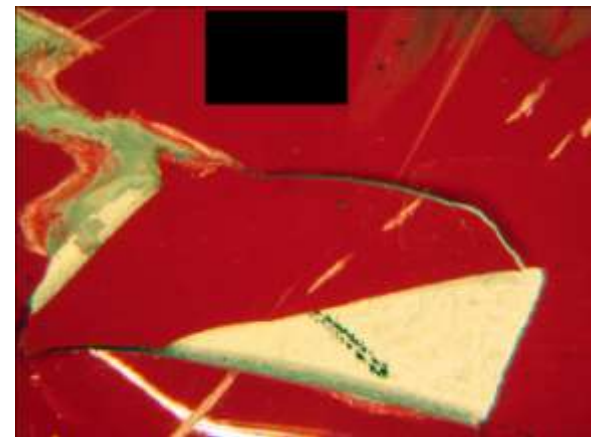
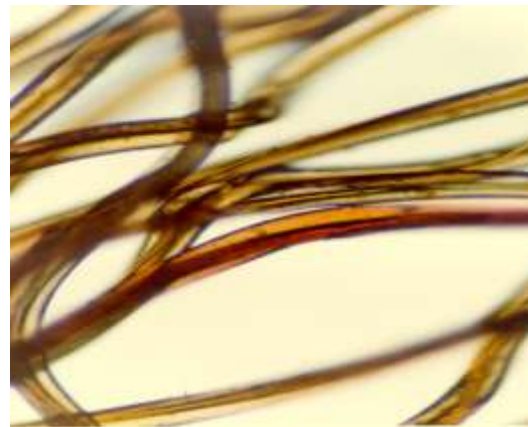
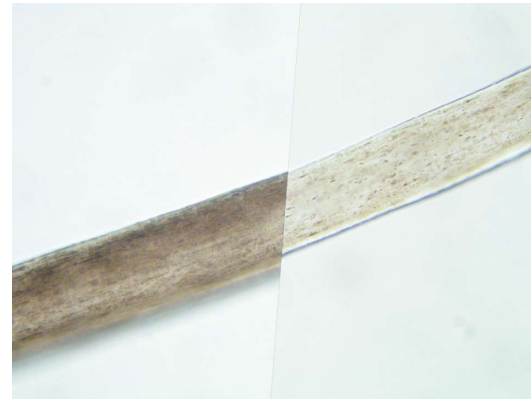
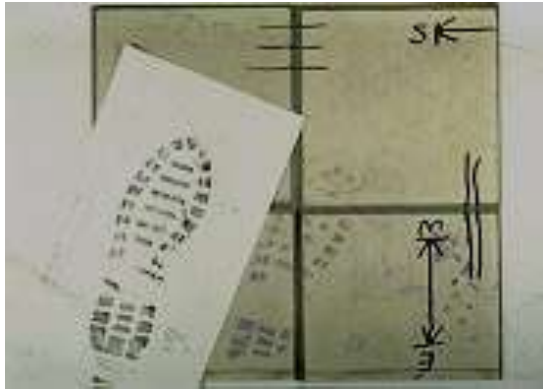
[REDACTED] Schwartz

contends that if the forensic evidence is not DNA, “you don’t have a case.”

The Gold Standard



Everything Else



A Dangerous Road



The DNA Monoculture



The Utility of Trace Evidence

- Paint
- Hairs
- Fibers
- Glass
- Polymers
- Tape
- Adhesives
- Soil
- Pollen
- Building Materials
- Ropes and cordage
- Gunshot residues
- Chemical Unknowns
- Ignitable Liquids
- Lubricants
- Explosives
- Headlamp filaments
- Shoe prints
- Tire prints
- Fracture matches
- Fabric Impressions

Don't Put All of Your Eggs in One Basket!

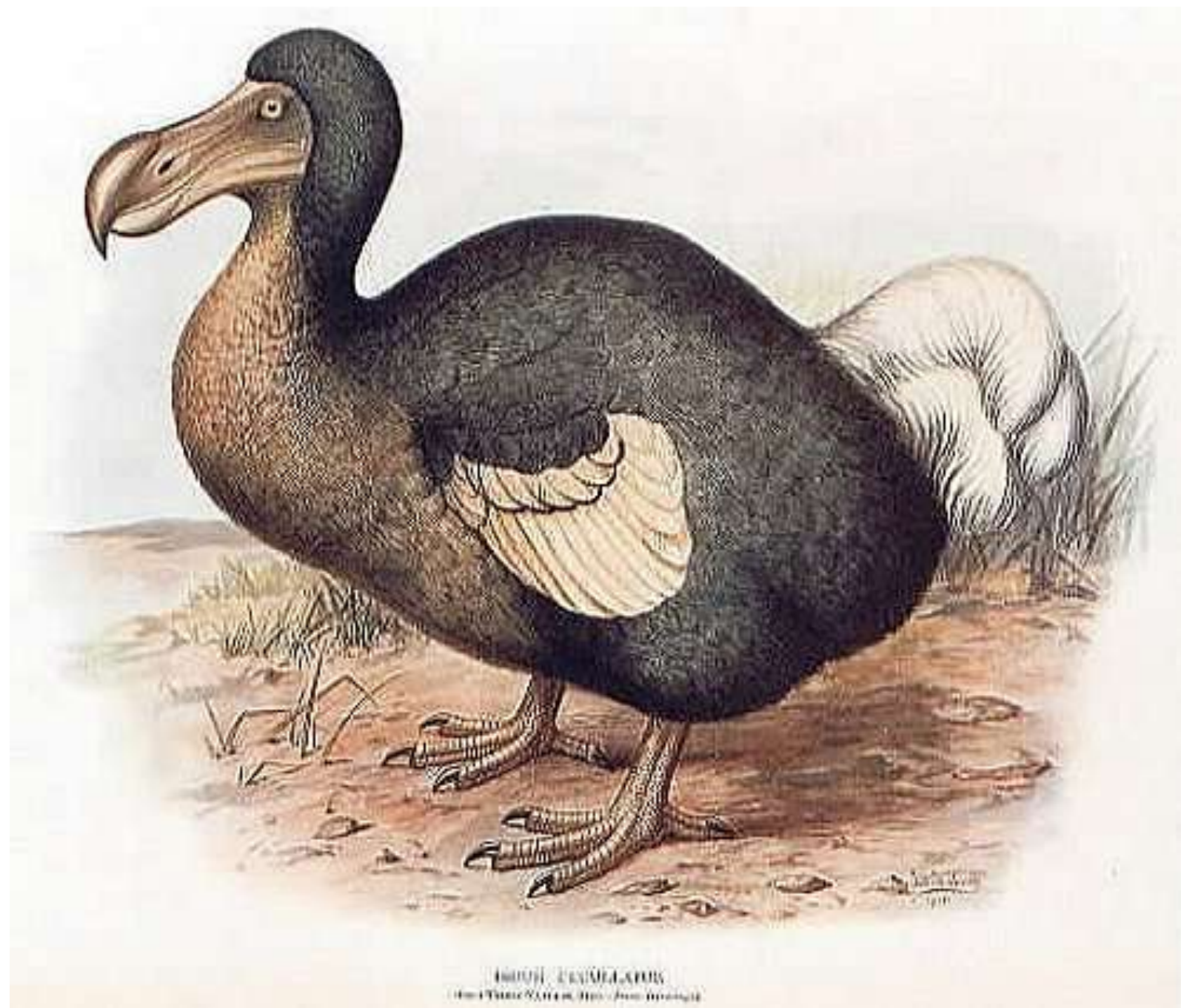


We are the last Dodos on the planet, so I've put all of our eggs safely into this basket...

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How Do We Correct This?

- Education is key
- We need to rise to the challenges that are presented
 - Symposia
 - Research
 - Better training
- We need to respond
 - Initiate dialogue and confront the challenges head on



DODO, RAPHUS CUCULLATUS
(See Plate XXXIV. No. 1. from the original)





AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINERS

ASTEE



Tout Contact Laisse une Trace

★ 2009 ★



Brief History



- Idea initially conceived in 2008 at SWGMAT
- Further developed at AAFS 2009
- Finally became official at the 2009 Trace Evidence Symposium



Brief History



- Currently:
 - Over 250 Official members
 - Representation from:
 - Federal
 - State
 - Local
 - Private
 - Academia
 - International



Mission/Goals



- Support the growth of Trace Evidence as a Forensic Discipline
- Disseminate relevant information to practitioners
- Provide education to practitioners, non-trace forensic scientists, attorneys, and the public on the various trace disciplines and what they offer the criminal justice system
- Support research
- Promote professionalism and high ethical standards within the field



Website

(WWW.ASTEETRACE.ORG)



[Home](#)

[Trace 101](#)

[Board Members](#)

[Membership](#)

[Journal](#)

[Training Opportunities](#)

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[Links](#)

[Contact Info](#)

Version info:

v1.0 - February 8, 2010

ASTEE

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINERS

Education, Dissemination, and Preservation

Welcome to the website of the newly formed American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners (ASTEE).

The mission of this organization is to encourage the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information within the field of trace evidence through improved contacts between persons and laboratories engaged in trace evidence analysis.

The Society's goal is to stimulate research in the development of new and/or improved scientific techniques for forensic trace applications and to promote high standards of performance and professional ethics.

ASTEE Notes:

We are off to a great start. To date, we have received over 180 applications with interest pouring in from all corners of the United States. As this is a relatively large undertaking, we request some patience on the behalf of our membership. The next year holds great promise, however, it will be a year of building and establishment. Our short term goals include placing our organization on a sound financial foundation, development of our website into a significant resource for the trace community, launching a trace specific online journal, and the organization of a free workshop to be held at a central location covering one of the core trace disciplines. As for long term goals, we are looking to become a relevant entity in the forensic science community. When properly utilized, trace evidence can provide critical information for criminal investigations. Unfortunately, this message appears to have been lost as of late. As this organization grows, we hope that our message becomes louder and people once again realize the value of trace evidence.

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What's New

The June 2011 ASTEE Newsletter is now available! Click on ASTEE Update June 2011 to check it out

ASTEE reception dinner on Wednesday, August 10th at Boulevard Brewing Co from 6 pm - 10 pm. The reception is sponsored by CRAIC, Gateway Analytical and STARLIMS. Space is limited to 225 individuals, so RSVP ASAP! To be added to the list send your name and agency to astee@astee.org by July 27, 2011. Hope to see you there!

Forms and Downloads

- [By-Laws](#)
- [Administrative Rules](#)
- [Membership Application](#)
- [ASTEE Update Feb. 2010](#)
- [ASTEE Update Jul. 2010](#)
- [ASTEE Update Nov. 2010](#)
- [ASTEE Update Feb. 2011](#)
- [ASTEE Update June 2011](#)

Sponsor Links

- [Bruker Forensics](#)
- [Brandon Pittam Photography](#)
- [CRAIC Technologies](#)
- [Your Link Here](#)
- [Gateway Analytical](#)



Newsletter



ASTEE

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ASTEE

ASTEE at a Glance

2011 is shaping up to be a big year for Trace Evidence and ASTEE. We have quite a bit going on this year with some things requiring a prompt response from as many members as possible, so please take time to read through this newsletter.

2011 AAFS Meeting in Chicago

We started off the year with a reception at the AAFS meeting in Chicago. This event, generously sponsored by CRAIC Technologies, Gateway Analytical, and Bruker Forensics, was attended by over 35 of our members. We would like to specifically thank Dr. Paul Martin, Arlene Adolfo and Seiya Yamaguchi from CRAIC and Linda Batykefer from Gateway for helping to make this reception a reality. A good time was had by all at the reception.

As the AAFS meeting progressed, not only did an informative meeting unfold, but one of our members, Mike Trimpe, received the prestigious Mary Cowan Distinguished Service Award from the Criminalistics section. Congratulations Mike on a well-deserved award!

For the past few years, there have been grumblings about the lack of trace evidence content and trace evidence examiner participation at AAFS meetings. With the various trace-related workshops offered and presentations given, along with a strong showing from the ASTEE membership, the 2011 meeting seemed to be a start at reversing that trend. In order to further our field and demonstrate the utility of trace evidence as a forensic discipline, it is important for us to attend this meeting. Therefore, we are looking to continue this social tradition and will hopefully be hosting another reception at next year's AAFS event in Atlanta. Perhaps we could entice a few more people from our field to attend and have an even stronger showing in 2012.

2011 Trace Evidence Symposium

The 2011 Trace Evidence Symposium is quickly approaching. It will be held August 8-11 in Kansas City, Missouri. Registration and a agenda can be found on the event website: <http://projects.nftec.org/trace/2011/index.htm>. The theme for this year's Symposium is *Advancing Science, Significance, and Impact*. From the looks of the workshops and scientific sessions offered, this meeting will be very informative.



Journal



**Journal of the
American Society of
Trace Evidence Examiners**



Volume Number One
Issue Number Two
DECEMBER 2010

www.asteeTrace.org



Events



AAFS 2011
Chicago, IL

Photographs Courtesy of Peter Disczuk, Graham Rankin, and Vincent Desiderio



Training



- ASTEE organized events
 - Develop and offer several core workshops
 - Develop and offer specialty workshops
 - Rotate around the United States
- Scholarships/Funding for training courses
 - Support workshops at regional meetings



Awards



- ASTEE Scholarship Award
 - 2011 Award Recipient

Emily Schenk

Florida International University



Awards

**The Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in
Trace Evidence
2011 Recipient**





The Future



- Develop the organization into a significant forensic entity
- Growth of finances in order to accommodate higher levels of training, provision of scholarships, and disbursement of seed money for trace related research projects



Acknowledgements



- Cassandra Burke
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- Alice Ammen
- Bryan Holden
- Michele Palmer
- Patrick Buzzini
- Scott Ryland
- Dave Exline
- Paul Martin
- Robin Gall
- Jocelyn Williams
- Margaret Black

Questions



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WWW.ASTEETRACE.ORG