

# THE IDENTIFIER



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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SCIAI Members,

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for your continued support as I serve as President of the South Carolina Division of the International Association for Identification (SCIAI) for the 2025–2026 term. I am also deeply grateful to our board members and committee members for their dedication and commitment to our association.



The SCIAI Educational Conference, held May 5–8, 2025, in Greer, South Carolina, was a tremendous success. We had strong attendance, and several vendors generously contributed their support and presence. This year's keynote speakers were exceptional. Detective Louie Aguilera delivered a compelling presentation on the Aramazd Andressian Jr. kidnapping and murder case, offering an emotional and in-depth perspective that extended beyond its portrayal on true crime channels. Dr. Kimberlin shared insights from his extensive research on death row inmates, including behind-the-scenes details and his work with serial killers in Ohio and Florida. Attendees were even given the rare opportunity to speak with a death row inmate via telephone.

We were fortunate to host a diverse lineup of expert presenters covering topics such as crime scene and latent print processing, ballistics, bloodstain pattern analysis, photography, and mental health. Photos from the conference will be available soon. Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that the 2026 conference will be a joint event held in Cherokee, North Carolina. This collaborative effort will include chapters from North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina. With combined resources and expertise, we anticipate a highly successful and well-attended conference.

If you have ever considered presenting at a conference, hosting a training session at your agency, or serving on the board, I encourage you to contact me or Luke Spratt for more information. Involvement with SCIAI offers valuable professional development opportunities, enhances your resume, and fosters meaningful connections within our field.

I look forward to a year of continued learning, growth, and collaboration. Please remember to promote SCIAI within your agencies and academic institutions.

Warm regards,  
**Teresa Bryant**, President, SCIAI

# SCIAI ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ALL MEMBERS** are encouraged to review the SCIAI constitution and by-laws posted on the website located under the News tab.
- Renewal for memberships must be submitted by Tuesday July 1st 2025 for the upcoming years' membership.
- Submissions for case study features and Member Spotlights are open. We want to highlight our members and interesting or unique cases that you have personally been involved with. If you would like to see yourself, a coworker, or one of your cases featured, please contact the Editor at [bribrown@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:bribrown@greenvillecounty.org)
- Have a topic you would like to see covered or have an article you would like to submit for future issues of *The Identifier*? Submit your proposals to the Editor at [bribrown@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:bribrown@greenvillecounty.org) — guest authors are welcome!
- If you've taken a newsletter appropriate forensic related photograph that you would like to see featured in an upcoming issue of The Identifier — Please contact the Editor at [bribrown@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:bribrown@greenvillecounty.org)!

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## MEET THE OFFICERS

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- **President—Teresa Bryant**
- **Vice President—George Potash**
- **Treasurer—James Kearney**
- **Secretary—Chris Gary**
- **Historian—Brittany Brown**



Not Pictured: James Kearney

# 2025 SCIAI Conference **Recap**

Thank you for all who attended our Spring Conference in Greer, SC! President Teresa Bryant organized the conference at Greer City Hall. In total, there were over 30 attendees from representing agencies from across the state. There were 10 vendors/sponsors who provided about \$7000 in sponsorships and fees. There were 14 speakers who provided quality and useful information through various presentation topics and workshops! Two keynote speakers traveled from across the country to present a case study and an inside look at death row inmates to our attendees!



Social events were attended on Monday May 5th and Wednesday May 7th during the conference!

A big round of applause goes out to all who were involved in the success of the Greer Conference!

*Lewis*  
BARBECUE



# INTERVIEW WITH AN OFFICER

## Getting To Know Your 2025-2026 Appointed Officers

During each issue of *The Identifier*, we will take time to introduce some of the newly appointed SCIAI officers in order to introduce our members to get their elected officers better. For this issue, we interviewed the SCIAI's newly appointed vice president George Potash, who shared with us various topics that have made a positive impact and influenced him throughout his career.



## MEET George Potash, Vice President

Tell us about your work experience. How long have you been a practitioner in the field and what is your current position?

I've been a police officer for close to 30 years, beginning at a Sheriff's Department before being sworn in as a Columbia Police Department (CPD) officer. Applying for a career in law enforcement can be time-consuming and I was put on a yearlong waiting list. To make the most of my time, I completed my first year in law school – a year that was very beneficial and had quite an influence on how I worked as a police officer, and later as a Crime Scene Investigator. Law enforcement was far more satisfying and challenging for me than being a lawyer, so I continued to hone my law enforcement skills. I now have over a dozen years with the Crime Scene Unit at CPD and I still love my job. An interesting backstory, a cousin who has since retired from CPD, was one of the best crime scene investigators CPD has ever had.

My first exposure to forensics was courtesy of a simple fingerprinting class. After that experience, I got a "hit" from an auto break-in case and became hooked. After I went to work for CPD, I was assigned to patrol where I eventually worked as a field-training officer. My time in law school was beneficial in prosecuting my cases, and I came to understand not only the need to have evidence but also how to present it in court. I eventually had the opportunity to lecture for the South Carolina Attorney General's Office VAWA program and pushed the concept of evidence-based prosecution in domestic violence cases instead of the testimony-based prosecution that was the standard at the time. We also introduced the use of scene videos and video-recorded statements. This was years before body cameras were common. Our CSI Sergeant at the time took notice of what I was doing and arranged for me to attend a photography class. A simple invitation that pretty much set my path forward. I ended up handling most of the forensic work for my squad, and to other squads whenever crime scene investigators weren't available.

Being in the CSI unit was the best thing that ever happened to me. I'm fortunate enough to have taken classes from some of the best instructors in the nation, and I completed most of a master's program in forensic administration. Some of the best training I've ever had was at FLETC. I have training in most disciplines, including time as a latent print examiner. I love the technical skills, but I always work to make sure I understand the legal issues involving them.

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# INTERVIEW WITH AN OFFICER

(Continued)

**What do you enjoy most about your job?** I love the technical nature of my work, especially anything involving photography. I love the interplay of the disciplines and how each influences the other. The legal side of the job is fascinating as I work to anticipate the challenges to everything I do for an investigation. What we do as CSI experts matters and I love seeing when something I've collected or photographed helps an investigator solve a case.

**What improvements would you like to see in the forensic community?** Training is life. Everything we do as CSI experts revolves around the training we receive, and I'd like to see improvements in both the quality of training available in our state as well as some kind of standardization for training. While we have some truly incredible agencies in the state who are forward-looking, well funded, and well trained we also have a substantial portion of the state that is lagging behind. I'd like to see the SCIAI take the lead in supporting training opportunities within the state not only for the forensic community, but also for the officers who affect our work through their initial response.

**What are you passionate about or what hobbies do you enjoy?** I'm a photographer. I love my cameras. I especially love walking around at night capturing cityscapes. It's a hobby that came out of my career. For me, photography is cathartic to create images of the world from my view. I honestly wish I had discovered photography when I was younger, I'd love to have pictures of all the things that were important to me. We often say we'll never forget some event, but ten years later the memories are less distinct or even gone.

**What is something you have learned in your work experience that you can pass along to others?** Knowledge of the law surrounding our profession is critical. Evidence is useless if you cannot get it admitted in court or if you cannot explain your process adequately. As much as we may love the science and focus on it, there's a lot more to learn and be concerned about. If you understand the legal issues (my favorite example being the expert witness process and *voire dire*), then you will be far more comfortable and successful at trial.

**What is your vision or (what goals do you have) for the SCIAI?** I want to see the SCIAI grow in both membership and reach. I want to see us take a hand in ensuring that quality forensic training is available throughout the state and that we are seen as a critical part in the law enforcement community. It would be beneficial for administrators and attorneys to view us as a reference organization. We have great people in the organization who are truly experts in their fields.

**Is there a training course or certification you have completed that you feel has furthered your career?** Even though I didn't finish law school, my coursework affected how I approach my job. It defines my approach to everything I do. Can I justify my process and my actions in court? What is required to validate a process, and more importantly why? What do I need to do or say to ensure the evidence I collected is admissible? I think sometimes we forget that it isn't just our own best practices that we must remember.

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# INTERVIEW WITH AN OFFICER

(Continued)

**Who or what has had a major impact on your career?** Great people have helped me become an expert crime scene investigator. My cousin Jim was a CSI for CPD for years. He was the type of investigator that I wanted to become. Sergeant Kermit Scott at CPD set me up with my first camera class and pretty much set my CSI path. I had two Captains, Isa Green and Estelle Young who pushed me to excel and cleared the way for me to obtain forensic training while I was assigned as a patrol officer. Sometimes there are special people you meet who clear the way for you and make the biggest impact on where you end up.

**What is your favorite piece of equipment that you have used on scene or seen in demonstration?** I was so impressed with the Nikon Z6III that I bought one for myself. Image quality is superb and it will get focus-lock in light so low I cannot see what I'm photographing with the naked eye. The sheer number of useful features amazes me, and the fact that it can shoot 6K video has me planning tutorial videos for my unit. It is a bit pricy, but to me it is worth every penny.

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## SCIAI Officer Meeting Recap

On 06/10/25, President Teresa Bryant, Vice President George Potash, Secretary Chris Gary, and Historian Brittany Brown attended a Zoom Meeting discussing what future plans the South Carolina Division of the IAI has in store. A survey is in the works to reach out to other agencies within the state to get more participation within the division and to host potential training sessions for smaller agencies in the surrounding areas. The hierarchy of officers within the SCIAI was discussed to determine if vice-president will step up to be president or if other members volunteer to fill the slots.

Fulfillment of a successful presidency earns a perpetual membership to the SCIAI! It was also discussed to reach out to universities throughout the state to search for student members interested in joining the SCIAI and to network with current professionals. Monthly meetings with the officers will continue as the year progresses.

***Reminder:***  
**Membership**  
**renewals are due**  
**July 1st, 2025.**

# Quarterly Book Review

Stay tuned for reviews of Forensic related books in upcoming issues of The Identifier!

If you have a book that you would like featured, please contact the editor!

**Book Title:** Field of Prey

**Author:** John Sandford

**Genre:** Fiction/Mystery/Thriller/Crime

**Published:** 2014

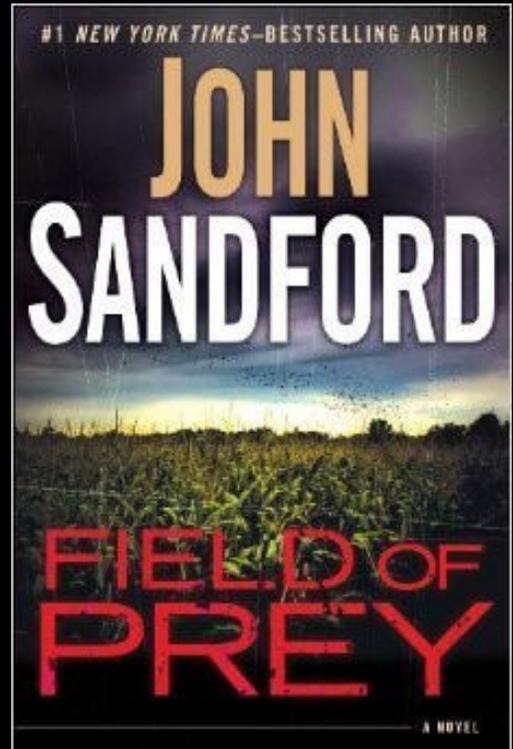
**Pages:** 421

**Reviewed By:** H. Grabow, Greenville County Forensics

## Review:

Loved this book. Great layout and loved the writing style. Had me hooked from the beginning. Has a lot of different characters so definitely have to pay attention throughout the book to understand the information. Trigger warning because it's pretty heavy on sexual assault. Would recommend.

This book is a part of a continuous series with main character Lucas Davenport over a course of multiple books (35 in total), but it can be read as a standalone book.



# Fun in Forensics

Frequently in the field of Forensics, we, as a whole, deal with a variety of difficult and demanding scenes, tough scenarios, and are often placed in stressful situations. This panel is designed for you to have the opportunity take a quick mental break, refresh your mind, and also to have a little fun. 😊

## Create four groups of four!

*Inspired by NYT Connections*

CLOSE-UP	IRREGULAR MARGINS	TRAJECTORY	MINUTIAE
ANGLE OF IMPACT	POWDER	RIFLING	ANTIMONY
NINHYDRIN	AREA OF ORIGIN	TRIPOD	EXPOSURE TRIANGLE
RICOCHET	ACE-V	ABFO NO.2 SCALE	CAST OFF

### Answers from the decoded message from the Spring Issue

Death, Buccal, Coroner, Investigator, Latent, Spatter, Homicide,  
Photograph, Trajectory, Shooting, Drugs, Trace, Evidence, Firearms

*"Proof Beyond A Reasonable Doubt"*



# UPCOMING TRAINING/EVENTS

Aug 5-7, 2025, [Homicide & Crime Scene Management Training](#)

\$310 (register 2 seats & get a 3rd seat free)—Inside the Tape: 216 C David Stone Rd, Pickens, SC

Aug 11-15, 2025, [Crime Scene Reconstruction I](#)

\$725—Bevel, Gardner & Associates Inc., 40 hours, SLED Forensics Laboratory, Columbia, SC

Sept 1-5, 2025, [Bloodstain Pattern Analysis I](#)

\$745—Bevel, Gardner & Associates Inc, 40 hours, SLED Forensics Laboratory, Columbia, SC

Oct 13-17, 2025, [The Fluid Dynamic of Bloodstain Pattern Formation](#)

\$1650/\$1750 (Member/Non-IABPA Member Price)-IABPA, 40 hours, Meridian ID

October 2026, SCIAI Joint Conference—Cherokee, NC

If you have upcoming training that you would like advertised in the newsletter, contact the Editor with course information and details!

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Greenville County: [Firearms Laboratory](#)

Greenville County: [Administrative Specialist II](#)

Greenville County: [Forensic Evidence Technician](#)

Charleston County: [Forensics Laboratory Analyst III](#)



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