

ARIZONA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY

**Presented at the AAFS 63rd
Annual Meeting
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How did this start?



Arizona Forensic Services Advisory Committee

- Arizona Attorney General
- Recommended from DNA Committee
- Chair – Judge Ron Reinstein



AZ FAC Composition

- ALL Arizona crime lab directors
- Prosecution
- Justice Project
- Law Enforcement – Dept. of Public Safety, Sheriff and Police
- Medical Examiner
- Staffed by Attorney General and Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



AZ FAC Education Committee

- Chair – Attorney General Prosecutor
- Phoenix PD Crime Lab
- AZ Dept. of Public Safety
- ACJC



Academy Board

- Members of Education Committee
 - AZ Attorney General's Office
 - Dept. of Public Safety Crime Laboratory
 - Phoenix Police Crime Laboratory
- Medical Examiner
- Director of Arizona Prosecutor's Association
- Defense Bar Training Coordinator



Planning Effort

- Did we have all the right people?
- Who would be our class?
- How large?
- Where to hold?
- What cost?
- Who would be the faculty?
- What agency would administer?
- How would communication occur?
- Textbook?



Planning Effort Cont.

- Took 6 months
 - Board Meetings once a month
 - Email communication
- Timeline
 - 3 months out: Announcement
 - 2 months out: Notifications Made to Attendees
 - 1 month out: Tuition Payments Due



Important Considerations

- Continuing Education Credits for attendees
- Equal Opportunity for both prosecution and defense
- Involvement of the Judges
- Interactive Curriculum
- Length of Academy & Schedule



Materials

- Reference Materials

- Predicate Questions
- Executive Summary of NAS Report
- Research on Forensic Science on the Internet (Cynthia Holt)
- Joe Bono's Article: *Forensic Science Needs a Lot Less Finger-Pointing and a Lot More Solutions*
- *Glossary of Terms*

- Binder

- Presenter Hand-outs
- Topic Articles

- Text

- Safferstein: *Introduction to Criminalistics, 10th Ed.*



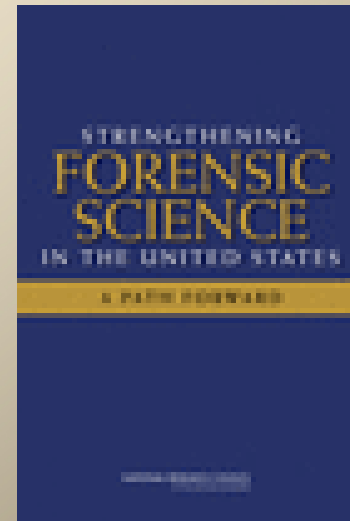
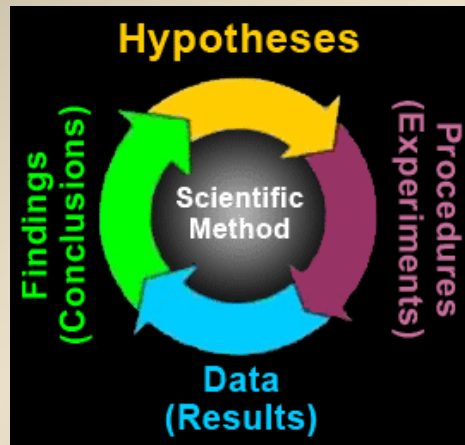
Curriculum

- Scientific Foundation
- Forensic Disciplines
- Interactive Team Presentations
- Tours and Hands-on Practical Exercises



Curriculum Cont.

- Scientific Foundation
 - NAS Report and Panel Discussion
 - Scientific Method
 - Daubert in Arizona



Curriculum Cont.

- Forensic Disciplines

- Crime Scene Response
- Forensic Biology/DNA
- Toxicology
- Controlled Substances
- Firearms
- Trace
- Arson
- Trace
- Questioned Documents
- Latent Prints
- Death Investigation
- Digital Forensics



Curriculum Cont.



- Team Presentations
 - Moot Courts on Forensic Disciplines
 - Prosecution & Defense Teams
 - Fact Pattern: Scenario, Evidence, Results
 - Judges
 - Debrief



Curriculum Cont.

- Tours and Hands-on Practical Exercises
 - Phoenix Police Crime Laboratory
 - Maricopa County Medical Examiner
 - AZ Dept. Of Public Safety Crime Laboratory*
 - AZ Computer Forensic Laboratory*
 - National Clearing House for Science, Technology, and the Law
 - Book Fair

*Virtual Tours



Where are we now?

- Just finished Week 6
 - NAS, Scientific Method, CSR, Forensic Biology/DNA, Team Presentation, PPD Tour
- Successes:
 - Presenters, Participation, Tour
- Opportunities for Improvement:
 - Team Presentation



Looking to the Future...

- Evaluations
- Reporting back to AZ FAC
- Next Academy
- Expanding across the State



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Thank you!!!

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