



The NIRCL Update

Spring 2018

In this Issue:

- Director's Message
- Staffing Updates
- Casework Trends
- Training Corner
- Laboratory Communication
- Sherry Fleischauer's Good News!
- Impactful Evidence
- NIRCL's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Director's Message

As I learn more and more about the operation, I continue to be impressed with the focus on quality and productivity at the NIRCL.

We are busy planning to celebrate **NIRCL's 50th Anniversary** at our General Meeting this year in June. The meeting will involve some business, lunch and a lot of comradery as we visit and consider all the good work done by the lab and on behalf of the lab, our member agencies and for the public good.

The season of **drug and gun destruction** is coming up. We have an appointment with our drug destruction facility to drop off drugs for destruction on June 15th, 2018. The lab will be receiving drugs for destruction on June 13th and 14th. We need the evidence packaged in like-sized boxes which are fully packed (half empty boxes collapse during transport). Bankers boxes or boxes that reams of paper come in are best.

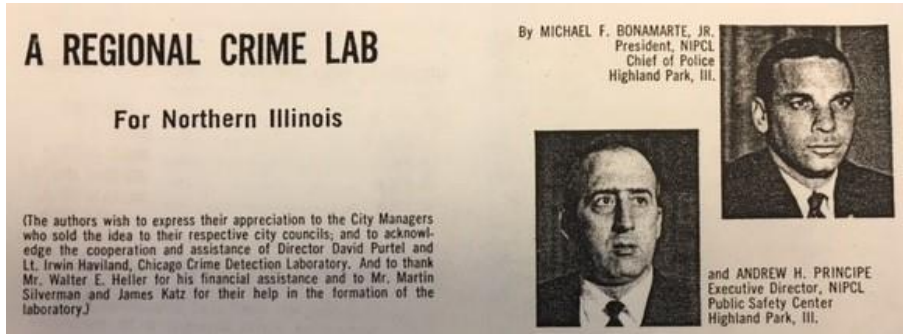
We have two appointments scheduled with our gun destruction facility, one on May 10 and one on July 12. We will be reaching out to your agencies as these dates near to schedule drug and gun drop-offs.

Philip T. Kinsey, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Staffing Updates

We are pleased to report that our new **Latent Print Examiner Karen Duquette** is now authorized to produce supervised casework! Congratulations to Karen and to **Tony Spadafora** for guiding her through her training period.

Long time **DNA Analyst and CODIS Administrator Kelly Lawrence** has left the laboratory. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. If you have any questions regarding work Kelly was helping with, please contact the laboratory.



An article published in THE POLICE CHIEF magazine in 1969 describing the need and original ideas for the organization of what would become the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory.

Look for details on the 50th Anniversary Celebration later in this Update.



The NIRCL Update

Spring 2018

DNA Analyst Maria Salazar will be taking over CODIS Administrator duties. We have begun the hiring process and will have the vacant position filled as soon as possible. We anticipate case backlogs to increase slightly until we have a new analyst fully trained. We expect to have that process completed within 4 months.

Casework Trends

In the last NIRCL Update (Winter 2018), casework trends were presented for the previous five years to give context to the subject. In this and future updates we will provide more current information regarding four metrics that are important to the management of casework in the lab: **Requests Received, Requests Completed, Backlogs and Turn-around Times (TATs)**. Data is collected monthly but will be reported out quarterly. In each NIRCL Update, data from the two previous quarters will be provided for comparison purposes.

	Requests Received		Requests Completed		Final Backlog		Average TATs (days)	
	2017 Q4	2018 Q1	2017 Q4	2018 Q1	2017 Q4	2018 Q1	2017 Q4	2018 Q1
Chemistry	577	647	693	607	58	98	22	9
DNA	270	272	264	324	140	88	52	68
Latent Prints	376	319	394	382	221	158	53	57
Firearms	272	234	238	276	115	73	32	36
Toxicology	118	143	122	134	15	24	16	13

- The **Chemistry** section has done a wonderful job reducing TATs while receiving more requests for testing than in the prior quarter. Given the capacity of the section, the increase in backlog is not a concern but we will continue to monitor the situation.
- The **DNA** section is focusing on closing out cold as well as older cases. If the TATs for these older cases were eliminated from the analysis, the average TAT for 2018 Q1 would be an outstanding 47 days.
- The **Latent Prints** section has made significant reductions in case backlogs despite significant time spent training our new examiner.
- **Firearms** is in great shape especially considering that a partial FTE has been absent from the section while he trained our new LP examiner.
- **Toxicology** made great strides in reducing the TATs in the face of increasing requests for testing.

Training Corner

Detection, Collection and Preservation of Latent Print Evidence Training

This **two-day** training will provide both lectures and practical exercises covering the topics of: dusting, lifting and other developmental techniques as well as documentation, evidence packaging and submission. Students are encouraged to bring their evidence collection kits. If you do not have these materials, a basic kit will be provided at cost for \$50.

Please contact Latent Print Examiner **Tony Spadafora** (aspadafora@nircl.org, (847) 362-0676) to enroll.

Dates: July 16 and 17, 2018.
Time: 8:00AM-5:00PM



The NIRCL Update

Spring 2018

Location: Lake Zurich Police Department Training Facility
200 Mohawk Trail
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Class size: 25-30 Students

Fee: Optional. \$50 if collection kit materials are needed. Please let Tony know if you'll need these materials.

Laboratory Communication

The **Toxicology** Section has noticed an increase of urine samples submitted for Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) investigations. As a **reminder**, urine cannot be analyzed without the proper consent form signed by the victim or guardian and it is only necessary to collect urine if alcohol or drugs are suspected. Not all sexual assaults are DFSAs. Please refrain from submitting DFSA urine samples until proper consent is acquired. Please find this "Consent to Toxicology" form on the lab's website www.nircl.org/home/lab_forms.

The **Latent Print** section recently put together a simple set of submission guidelines to help member agencies ensure they get the biggest impact from their Latent Print evidence submissions. You can find those guidelines at the end of this report and on the lab's website www.nircl.org/home/submission_policies_and_guidelines.

Remember you have many options when trying to contact the lab. One option that has been working well for those using it for **non-urgent** matters is our clerical@nircl.org email address. We have been responding to all requests submitted to this address within one business day. Please let us know what you need along with any pertinent information that would help us get you your information more quickly. As always, for urgent matters, please call the lab directly.

Please let us know how we're doing by taking a few minutes and completing our lab survey! Here is the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5T57K55>. You can also find links to the survey at the bottom of emails from laboratory management and on the NIRCL website. At the end of June, we will put the names of all the respondents in a hat to select the winner of a \$10 Starbucks gift card. Given that we've received only a handful of responses to date, your chances of winning will be pretty good! Thanks for your input!

Access to electronic reports update – A majority of agencies have successfully begun accessing and managing their lab reports on-line through the web-based collaborative platform SharePoint. We are still receiving the contact information we need from the other agencies and expect to have all agencies fully using this system soon. If after receiving our instructions for getting started you experience any difficulties in getting the system up and running, please don't hesitate to call Mark Milford at (847) 362-0676 for assistance. **Kudos to the following departments for doing a great job in actively managing their SharePoint sites: Deerfield, Evanston, and Skokie PDs and the Lake County Sheriff's Office.**

Sherry Fleischhauer's Good News!

Later this fall, Sherry will be taking some leave time for the birth of her second child! We are very happy for her! We are planning on a couple of changes in the front office so we can provide you the best level of service in her absence.



The NIRCL Update

Spring 2018

We will implement a **scheduling application for evidence delivery**. Your staff will be able to avoid waiting in line while other agencies are dropping off their evidence. It will also allow us to organize these appointments so we are maximally effective at the evidence in-take process. We hope to have this application available on the lab website. During Sherry's leave we will not be able to accommodate unannounced "drop-ins". As always, if there is an immediate need for assistance from the laboratory, please call.

We will also implement an **automated phone attendant**. We are aware that your ability to contact us is critical to your operations. This will not be diminished. The phone attendant will be the best way for us to get you to the person you need to contact while providing minimal disruption to lab operations. We will provide you extension numbers for all lab employees to expedite that process. Once your call has been answered by the attendant, you will be able to access your lab employee in a few seconds. We will also start using voice mail to further reduce disruptions to laboratory work. You'll also be able to easily reroute your call to the front office if your call is urgent. Look for more information on these topics in upcoming Quarterly Reports.

Impactful Evidence

A special **CONGRATULATIONS** to the **Gurnee Police Department** for their successes in solving crimes using DNA evidence and suspect standards. Though they serve only about 2% of our membership population, they've solved more crimes through CODIS (DNA Database) than all but 3 (Waukegan PD, Lake County SO and Zion PD) of our agencies. In the last 5 years, their work has resulted in 26% of the CODIS hits to suspect standards; more than any other member agency! Great job!

NIRCL's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Our 50th Anniversary/General Meeting this year will be held at the **White Deer Run Golf Club**, 250 W. Greggs Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 on **June 28th from 12:00-2:00pm**. The laboratory will provide lunch for this working meeting. Each member department and State's Attorney's Office is invited to have two representatives attend. Laboratory staff as well as special guests with connections to the laboratory in the past will also be invited. If you would like to have other representatives from your agency attend, please contact the lab early as space is limited. The cost for additional lunches will be \$30 per person.

Please forward any historical information, stories or pictures you may have related to the crime lab so we can share at the celebration!

Stay safe and thanks for reading!



The NIRCL Update

Spring 2018

NIRCL Fingerprint Submission Guidelines

For the most efficient processing of evidence in the latent print section, please remember the following when submitting evidence for examination:

- Evidence for processing, latent lifts and known impressions should all be packaged separately. However-
 - Multiple known impressions may be packaged together
 - Multiple latent lifts may be packaged together
- The submission of compact discs is necessary **only if** the images are of better quality than the lifted prints or if collecting a latent lift of the impression is not possible.
 - If a compact disc is submitted, please
 - submit the disc as a separate item
 - send images of friction ridge impressions only, not overall crime scene photos
 - place a scale in all friction ridge images (required for AFIS Searches)
- Please do not submit partially processed items of evidence
 - Certain techniques (ex. [powder on paper](#)) may limit what can be used at the lab
 - Powdered but not lifted friction ridge detail can be damaged in transport ○ Submit items in need of complex processing or evidence in serious crimes to the lab without prior processing
- Include requests for SID number comparisons on the electronic submission form or email requests to Mark Milford at mmilford@nircl.org
- **Please include laboratory case numbers** when cross referencing requests for comparisons to SID numbers or to known impressions from other lab cases
- Additional known impressions sent for comparison should be submitted as a subsequent submission to the original laboratory case number
- Please feel free to call the fingerprint section at (847) 362-0676 with any questions

April 12, 2018