



The NIRCL Update

Summer 2019

The Quarterly Report of the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory



President Clint Herdegen and Phil Kinsey with the NIRCL Presidents plaque at the Annual General Membership Meeting held at the serene Greenbelt Cultural Center in North Chicago.

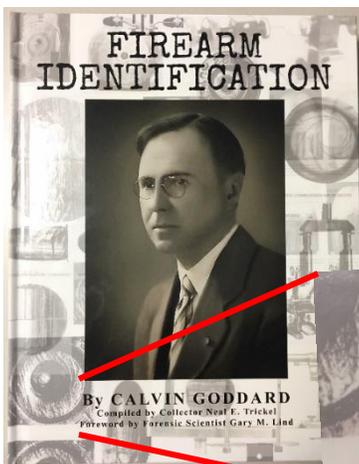
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Director's Message:

Thank you to Clint Herdegen for years of leadership and service to our laboratory. By the time our Executive Board Officers have cycled off the Board, they have spent 8 – 10 years in these very important roles. Thank you to all our **Executive Board Officers; President Steve Husak, Vice President Jamie Dunne, Treasurer George Carpenter, Secretary Marc Hornstein and Member-at-Large Steve Balinski** for the great work done on behalf of our laboratory.

Laboratory staff continue to provide presentations on a variety of subjects to local and regional groups including the Lake County Sheriff's Office Detectives, Lake County Sheriff's Citizen Police Academy by **Mark Milford**, Will County Sheriff's and State's Attorney's Offices by **Gina Havlik** (formerly Romano), Wilmette PD Open House by **Karen Duquette**, Lake County Major Crimes Task Force by **Gary Lind** and **Sarah Owen**. Thank you all for your dedication to our member organizations! Please look to the training corner section of this update for information about new offerings from the lab.



There was a recent publication of a historical documentation of the development of forensic firearms examination by pioneer Calvin Goddard entitled *Firearm Identification*. It features a foreword by the laboratory's own **Gary Lind** in which he states that, "As a firearm examiner, to stand on the shoulders of giants as Col. Calvin Goddard and expound upon his work in Firearms Identification is an honor."

By CALVIN GODDARD
Compiled by Collector Neal E. Trickett
Foreword by Forensic Scientist Gary M. Lind



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Congratulations to Nancy Keel for yet *another* grandchild! Roan Christopher was born July 24th.



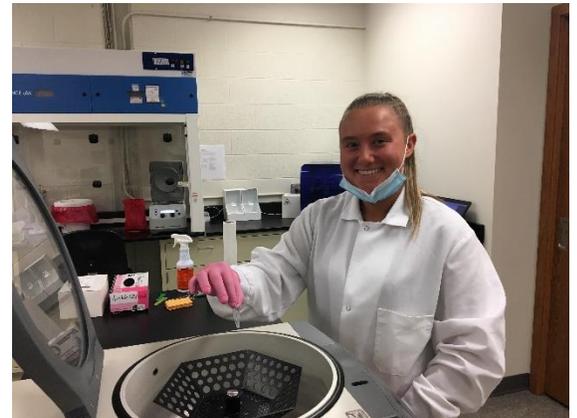
I hope everyone is making sure to take time to enjoy the summer. Thank you and thanks always for your support of the laboratory.

Philip T. Kinsey, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Staffing Update:

As shown in **Casework Trends** below, our current staffing level continues to excel at effectively processing the evidence submitted to the lab. As mentioned at our General Membership meeting, when the time comes, the next additional employee will likely be slated for our Firearms section. **Congratulations to our DNA section staff** for staying on top of casework duties as a new DNA profile interpretation software package is validated and brought on-line!

One of the benefits of being able to stay on top of our casework duties is that it affords the opportunity to work with young and upcoming forensic scientists. The lab was fortunate enough to host an outstanding Forensic Chemistry student from the University of Wisconsin, Platteville this summer. **Frances (Franni) Tempesta** spent the summer working with **Sarah Ozanick** and others in the DNA section performing validation studies that will help the section make better use of limited DNA samples and to reduce the cost of chemicals needed for some DNA tests. This has been a great experience for Franni and for the laboratory! We wish her the best of luck in the next school year and we hope to get to work with her again in the future.



Casework Trends:

With the transition into summertime weather we are starting to see the expected uptick in submissions to the laboratory. The good news is that all sections of the laboratory are great positions to be able to accommodate the increase in casework. Backlogged cases are at their lowest level in over a year and average turn-around times are either holding steady or are at their lowest in over a year as well! **Congratulations to all our scientists!**



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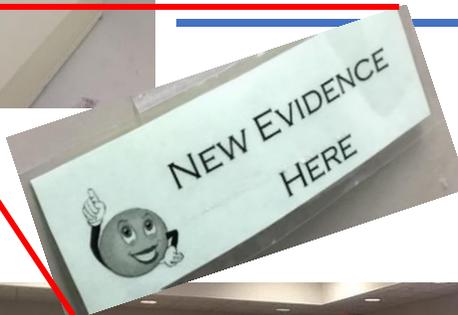
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	Requests Received		Requests Completed		Final Backlog		Average TATs (days)	
	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q1	2019 Q2
Chemistry	537	589	594	568	36	57	7	6
DNA	207	243	300	302	67	62	45	31
Latent Prints	299	341	436	374	119	87	59	33
Firearms	188	288	263	276	51	63	54	21
Toxicology	114	161	122	156	12	17	10	11



*Note the lack of backlogged evidence in the Chemistry section Pending Evidence drawer! Photo taken April 18, 2019 but occurred again on July 24th! More evidence was submitted later those days, but I'll bet this doesn't happen in any other crime lab! Way to go **Gina Havlik** and **Lindsay Simpson** with assistance from **Sarah Owen**!*



Training Corner:

A two-day training covering the Detection, Collection and Preservation of Latent Print Evidence was conducted in May. Training was provided by NIRCL Latent Print staff **Tony Spadafora** and **Barry Adams** with help from **Karen Duquette** at the **Lake Zurich Police Department Training Facility**. Thanks to the Lake Zurich P.D. for providing snacks, AV assistance and an outstanding facility for this training!





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To address the large number of requests for tours and basic information about the laboratory's capacities and capabilities, lab staff will be providing a regular **Overview of the Lab** presentation quarterly for our law enforcement partners. Our intent is to regularly provide information, opportunities to answer questions and to foster discussions to improve our services to our member agency personnel, task forces, attorneys and judges. We will start by providing 20- to 30-minute presentations for each major section of the laboratory; the entire overview, including discussions, should last 2 to 3 hours. We will provide these presentations at the Vernon Hills Police Department Training Room (**Thanks Chief Kreis and Deputy Chief Levicki**) each November, February, May and August. Please contact the laboratory (clerical@nircl.org) to reserve a space at the next presentation. Attendance may be limited.

Laboratory Communication:

Please take a few seconds to make use of the staff directory when calling the lab. We are still experiencing too many calls from people asking to speak to a specific person. This is the perfect circumstance to make use of that directory. If you would like a list of staff phone extensions, please contact us at clerical@nircl.org and we will be happy to send you one. **Thank you for supporting the lab in this regard!**

Thank you for continuing to use the clerical@nircl.org email address when requesting information for non-urgent matters. Please continue to let us know what you need along with any pertinent information that would help us get you your information more quickly. This has been very helpful in reducing interruptions to our scientists in the laboratory. As always, for urgent matters, please call the lab directly.

Impactful Evidence:

Our **drug destruction** project was completed successfully on June 26th. The lab transported **3.1 tons of drugs** this year! Special thanks to **Sherry Fleischhauer, Lindsay Simpson** and **Gina Havlik** for doing the heavy lifting for this



project. Due to a lack of communication from the destruction facility, they had to load, unload, repackage and then reload all **3.1 tons!!!** Who needs a gym membership?? We learned that the packaging and accounting of drugs for our next run

Pallets of drugs to be loaded onto the elevator platform (background) in preparation for destruction.

will change from previous years. We will keep you informed of any additional responsibilities your agencies will need to be aware of. Thanks to **Mark Milford** and **Tony Spadafora** for making the transportation run to Indianapolis; especially to **Mark** as he had to make the run twice in a week!



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Our **gun destruction** run was completed on July 19th. Thanks to **Gary Lind** and **Tony Spadafora** for checking in over **1,150 firearms** and other weapons. Because our destruction facility is primarily a steel smelting facility, we need to ask that “toy guns” (e.g. BB guns and other plastic toy guns, etc.) be segregated out of next year’s collection of guns and weapons for destruction.



Pictured left is a batch of guns being moved by a magnetic disc from the off-loaded pile and into a transfer bin (center) and on their way to the furnace (right) for destruction.

Safety Alert! – Modified Full-Auto Glock handguns encountered at the lab.

The Firearms Section has recently encountered 3 different styles/manufacture of auto sears on Glock® pistols. These auto sears are added after-market to the Glock® firearm allowing it to fire in full-automatic mode until the trigger is released.

The lab has come across both overt and covert styles of auto sears. The covert style was made of blued metal which is different than the factory black plastic backplate on Glock® pistols. The overt styles utilized a fake “Glock” logo along with “Made in Austria” and although there was a cross bar style selector, that selector only allowed for full-automatic fire.



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Either the covert or overt installation of the auto sear is illegal without filing of Form 2 paperwork (ATF Form 5320.2) with the ATF. Ownership of these auto sears constitutes the manufacture, reactivation, or importation of firearms and an individual must follow § 5841 of the National Firearms Act, Title 26, U.S.C. Chapter 53.



If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact

Phil Kinsey at pkinsey@nircl.org,
(847) 362-0676 x102 or (406) 493-8083.

Stay safe and thanks for reading!