



**New College of
Interdisciplinary
Arts and Sciences**
**Arizona State
University**

THE FUTURE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE INITIATIVE

Powered by the Schools of Social and Behavioral & Mathematical and Natural Sciences

COURSES & WORKSHOPS

Dr. Jonathan Parrott and colleagues at the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences are creating a new Online Forensic Science Bachelor Program to launch in Fall 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Dr. Lauren Weidner** who has been appointed President-Elect for the North American Forensic Entomology Association and is also now the Lead Director of the Forensic Science program at ASU.

WELCOME

Dr. Laura Smalarz is welcoming two new graduate students to her lab this year - Taylor Lebensfeld and Kylie Kulak. Welcome!

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Fall 2020 issue of the Future of Forensic Science Initiative newsletter. As we enter the new semester, we are all finding new and creative ways to join forces to conduct new and exciting research on the cutting edge of forensic and behavioral science research. In this issue, we touch on some of the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our research, but also celebrate the wins we've had in spite of it!

This Fall also holds the 7th Annual [Forensic Science Week](#) from September 20-26. As part of the celebrations, we will be holding a Forum to bring together practitioners and academics to discuss the burning issues in forensic science. Please RSVP [here!](#)



In March 2020, we held the first ever FFSI Working Group - bringing together an international team of forensic scientists, psychologists and lawyers from Arizona State University and the University of New South Wales to discuss everything from humanitarian forensics to DNA evidence interpretation.

LATEST NEWS

Dr. Brian Bornstein, Dr. Scott Barclay, Dr. Rebecca Sandefur and **Dr. Jon Gould** have received a Dissertation Grant Program (#2016661) from the National Science Foundation. Together, they will administer a national program to incentivize and nurture interdisciplinary research projects generated by doctoral students across many fields, from

anthropology, criminology, data science, economics, empirical legal studies, forensic science, political science, psychology, and sociology. The award will benefit graduate students at major research universities across the United States, including funding up to 12 doctoral students a year to conduct their research.



Have anything you want featured in the next newsletter?

Submit your news or research here:

SUBMIT

RESEARCH AND GRANTS

Dr. Lauren Weidner has been awarded a Lucas Grant for a new project *How Hot is Too Hot? Analyzing the Effects of Extreme Temperatures in Arid Environments on Insect Colonization* awarded by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Dr. Jonathan Parrott was awarded a New College Internal Seed Grant to for a project examining the size effect of DNA barcoding on forensically important blow flies.

Dr. Shirly Montero Quesada is a technical consultant on a new project *Strengthening the Technical-Scientific and Quality Control Framework of the Judicial System in Costa Rica: from Crime Scene to the Expert Opinion in Courtroom* funded by Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (Award Number S-INLEC-20-CA-3120 to West Virginia University).

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Michael Saks has a new publication in *Health Matrix: The Journal of Law-Medicine* entitled *The paradoxes of defensive medicine*.

Dr. Laura Smalarz has several new publications, including *Do multiple doses of feedback have cumulative effects on eyewitness confidence* in the *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, and *Eyewitness-identification decisions in Brady material: Disclosing information about prior decisions affects evaluations of eyewitnesses* in *Psychology, Public Policy & Law*.

Dr. Lauren Weidner has several new publications, including *Analysis of Alternative Food Sources for Rearing Entomological Evidence* in *Journal of Medical Entomology*, and *Towards understanding how to instruct students in*

dichotomous identification keys in a mixed STEM forensic science environment in the *Journal of Forensic Science Education*.

Dr. Hank Fradella has several new publications, including *Study of criminal defendants adjudicated non-restorable to competency to stand trial in a rural southwestern county* in *Criminal Law Practitioner*, and *Assessing LGBT people's perceptions of police legitimacy*.

MEDIA

Dr. Laura Smalarz wrote a [popular-press article](#) about a wrongful conviction case in Texas where six eyewitnesses all mis-identified an individual accused of murder.

Dr. Tess Neal was interviewed for [NPR's Hidden Brain podcast](#) about the misuse of psychological assessment evidence.



"It's a fact that eyewitnesses make mistakes. There have been hundreds of cases in which mistaken eyewitness identification testimony led to the conviction of innocent people."

Dr. Laura Smalarz
The Conversation
4 July, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

FUTURE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE FORUM

Tuesday, 22 September, 2020
at **3PM MST**

We want to hear from you! The Future of Forensic Science Initiative at Arizona State University is holding a virtual forum in Forensic Science Week to hear from **you**– the practitioners. We want to know what research ideas and problems you think are most important in the world of forensic science. The forum will be a one hour virtual event where we will be giving a brief introduction to the forensic science research program at ASU New College, and then hear from you about how we can make our program of research more helpful to practitioners and maybe even contribute to helping you develop yours! If you would like to attend, please RSVP below.

RSVP Now

FFSI in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Lauren Weidner was fortunately able to keep her lab up and running - although with staggered schedules and reduced hours. Her lab has collected an uncommon forensically important species and has been rearing it since March. Fortunately this has led to much more time to write!

Dr. Shirly Montero Quesada's lab construction was unfortunately delayed due to the pandemic, but has fortunately been able to piggyback into Dr. Tom Cahill's lab in the meantime!

Dr. Hank Fradella has written two articles about stay-at-home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic in the [American Journal of Criminal Justice](#) and [ConLawNOW](#).