THE ART OF FORENSICS
SOLVING FLORIDA'S COLD CASES

10.16.15 at the USF TAMPA CAMPUS INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES BUILDING (ISA) – 7TH FLOOR
THE ART OF FORENSICS
SOLVING FLORIDA’S COLD CASES
The Art of Forensics workshop has been an inspiring time here at the University of South Florida. For the past week, forensic artists have been working on cold cases with the help of the Florida Institute for Forensic Anthropology and Applied Science (IFAAS), which is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences. This is the type of work that we aspire to do. Our College exists at the intersection of the natural and social sciences, and the liberal arts. Through world-class research, teaching and community service, the College seeks to provide solutions to difficult and complex social problems.

“I AM SO VERY PROUD OF THE WORK THAT DR. ERIN KIMMERLE AND HER TEAM ARE DOING.”

I am so very proud of the work that Dr. Erin Kimmerle and her team are doing. Dr. Kimmerle is just one of the many outstanding professors in the Department of Anthropology who conducts community- and lab-based interdisciplinary research. The Art of Forensics workshop is a prime example of how our faculty roll up their sleeves and work alongside community partners to address some of our society’s most pressing questions. This type of applied research is what makes USF truly special among research universities.

Thank you to the many talented artists who worked tirelessly to help put a face to unsolved cold cases in Florida. I am hopeful that everyone’s efforts will lead to closure for the families affected by these unsolved crimes.

IN BULL PRIDE,

Eric M. Eisenberg

Eric M. Eisenberg, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Communication
CASE 1 1981

Two boys walking in a ditch between U.S. 98 and the railroad tracks at Tuskegee Avenue in Dade City, Fla., discovered the skeletal remains of an unidentified, white male between the ages of 40-50 years old.

CASE 2 1990

Pasco County Detective Rodney Bishop was conducting an area search of an unrelated murder when he discovered the remains of a white male aged 40-60 years old, approximately 0.25 miles south of SR 54 on the east side of Smith Road in Wesley Chapel (now the north exit of Meadow Point Neighborhood).

CASE 3 1972

A teenage boy passing along a wooded area of High Corner Road in Brooksville, Fla., discovered the remains of a woman 25-40 years of age in a white bra and white, bikini-style underwear. A couple of days prior, a light colored ’61-’62 Ford Falcon was seen with three people entering the woods – only two came out.

CASE 4 2009

A citizen walking in a wooded area near the intersection of Palmetto Road and Surona Road in Hillsborough County discovered human skeletal remains of a Hispanic juvenile who was determined to have been dead anywhere from six months to five years.

CASE 5 1988

A citizen walking in a wooded area at Wilderness Park Flatwoods, on the west side of Morris Bridge Road and approximately 1.2 miles north of the Hillsborough River discovered the remains of a black male between the ages of 30-40 years old with two bullet holes in the skull.
CASE 6 1990

A county worker was mowing the property located behind the Loughman Community Park at 6302 Old Kissimmee Rd. when he noticed buzzards in the adjacent field. As he got closer, he discovered the unclothed remains of a white female between the ages of 30-45, next to a medium-sized pink sweatshirt.

CASE 7 1979

A Florida Forest Service employee was responding to a small brush fire in a heavily wooded area of Alachua County. After the fire had been extinguished, the forest ranger discovered a clothed skeleton underneath a tree while doing a perimeter check. A small rope was found adjacent to the body with a noose. The remains of a 25-40-year-old, white male were present. He also had many healed rib fractures from prior injuries.

CASE 8 2009

An unidentified, juvenile male was driving a stolen 1986 Chevrolet Corvette northbound on Interstate 75 in Alachua County when he struck a concrete barrier, flipped over into the oncoming lane and struck a semi-tractor trailer head-on. The Corvette ignited into flames, completely consuming the driver beyond recognition and destroying any evidence that might have been in the vehicle. Witnesses reported the driver was a 16-17-year-old white male.

CASE 9 1967

Two hunters discovered the remains of a female of mixed African and Hispanic ancestry between the ages of 25-40, off an unmarked road approximately 4.25 miles southeast of Fort McCoy, off of Highway 315. The time of death is approximately the same year as the discovery of the remains.

FOR FULL INFORMATION ON THE CASES, PLEASE VISIT:
www.usf.edu/forensicseven

This website will be updated on Friday, Oct. 16, and will include photos of the finished busts, as well as updated information about the victims' age, ancestry and geographic origins.
Eric Eisenberg, Ph.D. is dean and professor of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Florida. Eisenberg joined the Department of Communication faculty in 1994 and has served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since 2008. His primary areas of expertise are organization and health communication, with a focus on the strategic uses of communication to promote positive organizational change.

His current research investigates the role of communication in preventing medical error in hospital emergency departments. He is the author of “Strategic Ambiguities: Essays on Communication, Organization and Identity” and co-author of the textbook “Organizational Communication: Balancing Creativity and Constraint.”

Erin H. Kimmerle, Ph.D. is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and the director for the Florida Institute for Forensic Anthropology and Applied Science (IFAAS) and the Forensic Anthropology Laboratory at the University of South Florida. Her research is in the areas of human rights and forensic anthropology. Specifically, it is focused in the areas of trauma and pathology, identification, and human variation.

Currently, she oversees a number of large, statewide projects including the Tampa Bay Cold Case Project and the Investigations into Deaths and Burials at the Former Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in Marianna, Fla. She is the co-author of the book, “Skeletal Trauma: Identification of Injuries in Human Rights Abuse and Armed Conflict” (with Jose Pablo Baraybar, CRC Press, 2008) and she has written and presented more than 150 articles, book chapters, case reports and scientific papers.
Mark A. Ober, J.D., is the State Attorney for the 13th Judicial Circuit of Florida. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Florida in 1973. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the South Texas College of Law and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1977, when he began a career as an assistant state attorney. In that capacity, he worked his way through the ranks to become Felony Bureau Chief, Chief of the Major Crimes Division, Chief of the Career Criminal Division and Chief of the Homicide Division.

Ober entered private practice in 1987 and specialized in criminal defense law until his election to the office of State Attorney in November 2000, by the largest margin seen in more than over a decade for that office. He is recognized in the legal community as a top criminal attorney, having personally chaired over 250 criminal jury trials, including over 40 first-degree murder convictions.

Jeff Peake began his law enforcement career with the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office in January 1998 and worked in all three districts as a patrol deputy. He also has held investigative and leadership assignments in Property Crimes, Economic Crimes, Major Crimes, Special Operations, School Resource, Professional Standards, Field Training Officer Program and the Crisis Management Team. As a native resident of Pasco County, he attended Ridgewood High School and continued his education to obtain a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Additionally, he received his Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of South Florida.

He now serves as an adjunct professor teaching criminology courses. Captain Peake has been recognized as Detective of the Year along with meritorious service awards for his leadership in the Field Training Officer Program and his success leading an innovative burglary suppression team. He also has been recognized for his role in developing the Cyber Crimes Unit. Capt. Peake currently leads the Major Crimes Division.
Sheriff Chris Nocco earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Delaware. He is a graduate of the National Sheriff’s Association, 101st National Sheriff’s Institute, the FBI, National Executive Institute, Graduated FBI Executive Leadership, 30th Session, Graduated 2015 Post Naval Academy, Executive Leadership Program, attended leading Innovation with Existing Organizations, McCombs School of Business, University of Texas at Austin and Effective Negotiations at the University of Central Florida Executive Development Center, and is the National Sheriff’s Association’s representative on the CORE lab’s social network analysis program. Nocco served with the Philadelphia Public School Police, the Fairfax County Police Department in Virginia, and as a deputy with the Broward Sheriff’s Office. He was a first responder to the attacks of 9/11, the Washington Sniper Incident, the anthrax attacks and numerous demonstrations and large protests in the nation’s capital. He was a staff director to Rep. Marco Rubio in the Policy and Procedures Office (and was responsible for domestic security, criminal justice, economic development and transportation issues) and served as deputy chief of staff to the Speaker of the House Marco Rubio. Nocco also served as chief of staff for the Florida Highway Patrol, assisting with the reorganization creating greater efficiencies, cost savings and information sharing. He also served both as captain and major of the Joint Operations Bureau of the Pasco Sheriff’s Office before being appointed sheriff in early 2011.

Jeff Earley was 9 years old when his mother disappeared from New Port Richey, Fla. She had moved from Michigan with new husband William Hurst. After almost 30 years, Earley found a website dedicated to missing persons, which posted photos, sketches, facial composites, descriptions of clothing, locations, dates and any other relevant information for bodies found in hopes that family members or law enforcement can identify them. Earley found a posting for a woman found in the Gulf of Mexico Sept. 5, 1982, a few months after he had last heard from his mother. The description included details such as, “three blue plastic bracelets were found on her left arm and two silver-turquoise rings were located on her left hand and she wore a beaded necklace.” Earley recalled his mother’s love of turquoise jewelry, but it was the body’s wrapping that triggered his memory about important information. The body was wrapped in an Afghan blanket and a green comforter with a rope tied around the woman’s waist, attached to a cement block. He instantly recognized the pattern on the Afghan as the one his grandmother used to make and give out to all the family members. The family still had a matching one. DNA tests determined that the woman was Amy Hurst and that she had died from blunt-force trauma to her head. Her death was declared a homicide. The family believed the killer was her new husband, William Hurst. Pasco County detectives tracked down William Hurst living in Kentucky and determined after an interview that they had enough information for his arrest on charges of first-degree murder.
Joe Mullins is a forensic imaging specialist with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He has more than 16 years of experience in the field of forensic art. He creates images to assist law enforcement in the areas of age progressing long-term missing children, facial reconstructions of unknown skeletal remains, soft tissue reconstructions and fugitive updates. Mullins has done presentations, workshops, demonstrations and assists in the training of other forensic artists. He has received training at The FBI Academy, University of Oklahoma, and the University of Dundee.

His educational background is in graphic design and fine art. He studied at the Savannah College of Art and Design and has a degree from James Madison University. Mullins also teaches forensic art classes at the New York Academy of Art, in Tribeca, N.Y., George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and The Art League in Alexandria, Va., where he hopes to inspire the next generation of forensic artists.

Colin McNally is a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate of James Madison University with a concentration in painting and drawing. After graduating in 2009, he began working in the Forensic Imaging Unit at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. While working at NCMEC, McNally has received forensic imaging training at the FBI Forensic Facial Imaging lab in Quantico, Va., and studied digital facial reconstruction from skeletal remains using Freeform at the University of Dundee in Scotland. He primarily works with three other artists in the NCMEC Forensic Imaging Unit to create age progressions for long-term missing children, as well as facial reconstructions from skeletal remains and post-mortem photographs. They also provide instruction to law enforcement with their forensic artist techniques.
Julia DeCleene is a native Floridian and currently a senior at the University of South Florida. Her major is studio art, with a focus on sculpture and ceramics. DeCleene prefers to work with clay sculpture as her medium, and she looks forward to the forensic clay facial reconstruction workshop. This workshop will give her an opportunity to enhance her artistic techniques, and she hopes to potentially assist in the identification of unknown decedents.

JULIA DECLEENE

Born in Brazil and raised in France, Paloma Joana Galzi graduated with a degree in fine arts illustration from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. She then moved to Scotland to pursue a Master of Science in Forensic Facial Imaging at the University of Dundee, which is the only place in the world offering this graduate program. She is currently an intern at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and volunteers for “Can You Identify Me” on forensic cases.

PALOMA GALZI

Detective Sergio Soto has been in law enforcement for about 10 years. For the majority of that time, including today, he works as a major crimes detective investigating numerous deaths and homicide cases. About prior to law enforcement, Soto attended Ringling Art School as an illustration major and was employed as a freelance illustrator. Soto earned a master’s degree in graphic design and communications from the New York Institute of Technology.

SERGIO SOTO

Emily Kline graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design with a bachelor’s degree in graphic design. After working in graphic design for several years, she merged into a position that focuses on photography and Photoshop compositing in order to create age progressions and regressions. Kline has been doing this type of work for four years in Washington, D.C., and shadowed NCMEC artists earlier in 2015.

EMILY KLINE

Samantha Molnar provides analytical support to special agents, detectives, investigators and other analysts during investigations of homicide, narcotics trafficking, public corruption, fraud, theft, etc. She manages the Missing Children’s Clearing House, and also assists law enforcement with child abduction cases and combatting human trafficking. She earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice, law enforcement and forensic science from Tiffin University in Tiffin, Ohio in 2014.

SAMANTHA A.J. MOLNAR

Christine Ross has been working in law enforcement for the past 28 years, starting out as a police, fire and 911 dispatcher and composite sketch artist for numerous police departments in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties for 18 years. While at Boardman Township Police Department, Ross was transferred to the Detective Bureau and developed the department’s first Crime Analysis Unit. In May 2005, she was hired by Bureau of Criminal Investigation to work in the Criminal Intelligence Unit in London. Ross transferred to BCI’s Youngstown Office as the Senior Analyst in 2007. She attended Youngstown State University, majoring in fine art and criminal justice on a U.S. Army ROTC Scholarship. Ross holds numerous certifications, such as a crime and criminal intelligence analyst, geographic profiling analyst, forensic composite and facial reconstruction artist, police academy, fire academy and emergency medical technician.

CHRISTINE ROSS

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Margarette “Maggie” Florence received her bachelor’s degree in fine arts from James Madison University in December 2010. After college, she completed a volunteer internship at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children forensic imaging unit. Florence currently splits her time between working as a behavioral therapist for children with pervasive developmental disorders and as a professional artist in the Washington, D.C. area.

MAGGIE FLORENCE
Detective J.C. Johnson has been with the East Ridge Tennessee Police Department for 37 years. He spent his first three years as a dispatcher, and then the next 12 years as a patrol officer. Johnson has spent the last 22 years as a detective in the Criminal Investigation Division, working everything from theft and fraud to sex crimes and homicides. He received forensic art training in composite sketching from the FBI in Quantico, Va. Johnson creates composite sketches for his East Ridge Tennessee Police Department and, on occasion, for other departments. His experience with this type of work began with Identi-Kit composites, until he attended the FBI training. Johnson does not have formal art training, and most of his talent is self-taught using books and videos.

J.C. JOHNSON
Gerald Theckston has been a sworn member of the New Jersey State Police since 2006 and has spent the past five years as a detective in the Forensic Photography and Composite Artist Unit, where he has produced more than 300 forensic illustrations. Theckston is a self-taught artist who specializes in graphite and Photoshop illustration. He has attended several art courses at the college level, which focused on painting and portrait drawing. As one of only a few forensic artists in the state of New Jersey, Theckston is consistently busy producing composite sketches of criminal suspects. His responsibilities also include producing 2D reconstructions of unidentified human remains, post-mortem image touch-ups of unidentified deceased persons, and age progression images of wanted and missing persons.

GERALD THECKSTON
Beth Buchholtz earned a master’s in biological anthropology from Colorado State University and currently works as a Community Service Officer with the Detective Division of the Longmont Department of Public Safety in Longmont, Colo. Prior to her current position, she was employed as a medico-legal death investigator with the Boulder County Coroner’s Office for six years. For the past two years, she has been a project alert volunteer on the Biometrics Team for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. NCMEC Biometrics Team members travel across the U.S. to provide technical assistance and case review to law enforcement agencies, and to medical examiner’s offices for long-term, unidentified decedent cases.

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BETH BUCHHOLTZ
FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

GEORGE KAMENOV, PH.D.

George Kamenov, is an isotope geochemist at the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Florida and the Director of Geochemistry for IFAAS at USF. He manages the Inductively-Coupled Plasma Mass-Spectrometry laboratory at the department. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. His research is focused on using isotopes as tracers in earth and environmental sciences and anthropology. Although Kamenov is a geologist by training, his research interests often cross disciplines. He is interested in the geological processes that control the large-scale geochemical cycle of elements that ultimately lead to formation of ore deposits. He also is interested in tracing a number of these elements in the modern environment, all the way to the human body. He has authored and coauthored more than 65 peer-reviewed papers, including works on using isotopes for forensic investigations.

ELIZABETH M. WALTON, PH.D.

Elizabeth Walton earned her undergraduate degree in religious studies with minors in geography and biology at the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG). She earned her master’s and Ph.D. at UNCG in geography, specializing in geographic information science and technologies (GIST) and remote sensing. She used these technologies to detect upland habitat sites for the threatened bog turtle (Glyptemys muhlenbergii) and specialized in ecological niche modeling as a conservation tool to identify potential habitat sites for endangered turtle species for her dissertation research. Walton’s research interests include turtle population assessments and the use of GIST to study a variety of turtle-related topics. She is an invited member of the United Nation’s International Union for the Conservation of Nature, red list advisor for the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialty Group and a senior scientist for the North American Freshwater Turtle Research Group (NAFTRG). Currently, Walton is an instructor in the School of Geosciences at the University of South Florida where she teaches geospatial technologies, cartography spatial analysis and modeling.
**BARRY LIPTON, O.D.**

Dr. Barry Lipton is a General Dentist with more than 40 years of private practice experience. He earned his dental degree from Temple University School of Dentistry in 1971 and did post graduate work in anesthesia and pain control at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry. Lipton is the Chief Forensic Odontologist, Office of the Medical Examiner, for the 5th, 10th and 13th Judicial Districts, State of Florida and serves as a consultant to the State’s Medical Examiners Commission and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Lipton is an instructor for the FBI/CJIS Division’s workshops; training Dentists throughout the Country in Dental Coding for Missing, Unidentified and Wanted Persons. He serves on the FBI’s Law Enforcement Online (LEO) review panel for the National Dental Image Repository and was recently awarded the FBI’s Assistant Directors Award for “Exceptional Public Service”; The Attorney General’s Award for “Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety” and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s Commissioner’s Award for “Valuable contributions and commitment to the safety of Florida’s children”. Lipton became a Diplomate of The American Board of Forensic Odontology in February of 2004. He is a fellow in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, The Pierre Fauchard Academy and the American and International College of Dentists. He is a member of D-Mort-4, FEMORS, the Florida Association of Medical Examiners, the American Society of Forensic Odontology and the International Association for Identification.

**HOWARD KAPLAN, M.E.D**

Howard Kaplan’s research focuses on the pedagogy and cognitive science of creativity. He uses multiple aspects of visualization as a means of study and application, including its use as an educational tool and the application of creativity in learning in the context of sciences. Many of his visualization applications revolve around real-world data, 3D graphics and simulation, and 2D interactive media. He often uses instructional design techniques and graphics programming to provide students and educators with technology that fit with their class projects, course presentations and research needs. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ringling College of Art, and an M.Ed. from the University of South Florida. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D., in engineering science, biomedical and chemical engineering at USF. His unique skillset has allowed him to develop the Advanced Visualization Center at USF, which serves as a campus-wide resource. Howard’s work also has been featured in the journals Science, Wired.com, Siggraph, Discovery.com and Fox News. He also was selected by the Center for Digital Education as a Top 30 Technologists, Transformers and Trailblazers in 2014.
USF FORENSIC TEAM
GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

LIOTTA NOCHE-DOWDY  
Department of Anthropology

GENNIFER GOAD  
Department of Anthropology

KELSEE HENTSCHEL  
Department of Anthropology

KANIIQA ROBINSON  
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CARRIE LEGARDE  
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KIRSTEN VEROYSTICK  
Department of Anthropology

JAIME SYKES  
Department of Anthropology

PARTICIPATING LAW ENFORCEMENT 
& MEDICAL EXAMINER OFFICES

SHERIFF CHRIS NOCCO  
Pasco County Sheriff’s Office

SHERIFF AL NIENHUIS  
Hernando County Sheriff’s Office

SHERIFF CHRIS BLAIR  
Marion County Sheriff’s Office

SHERIFF DAVID GEE  
Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office

SHERIFF SADIE DARNELL  
Alachua County Sheriff’s Office

SHERIFF GRADY JUDD  
Polk County Sheriff’s Office

MEDICAL EXAMINER DISTRICTS 
5, 6, 10 AND 13
EVENT VOLUNTEERS

TAYLOR EMMONS
School of Art and Art History

GEORGETTE MASSOU BANDES
Department of Anthropology

KRISTEN KOEHLER
School of Art and Art History

NANDRIA STEVENS
Department of Anthropology

REBECCA CLENDINEN
School of Art and Art History

GILBERTO JAIMES
Advanced Visualization Center

MALISSA RETA
School of Art and Art History
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