



FDIAI Conference in Ft. Myers a Huge Success

Jim Kammerer

The 39th Annual Training Conference for the FDIAl was held the week of October 25th, 1998 at the Amtel Hotel and Marina in Ft. Myers.

In attendance were over 300 delegate, guests and exhibitors. This makes it the largest conference in FDIAl history. Delegate attended from as far away as California and New York. Although they all came to learn, and many have said they left having had the best time of their careers in addition to having received some outstanding training.

From the registration packets given to all attendees to the buffets and meals at the social events, everything was first class.

Our most successful training class is the *Evaluation and Comparison of Latent Prints*. This was the fourth anniversary of presenting this highly acclaimed class. It provides 40 hours of instruction to latent print examiners on nearly every aspect of fingerprint identification.

Other popular classes included a Forensic Art Workshop, Advanced Photography—Painting with Light, and a Chemical Processing Workshop instructed by John Fischer, a leader in the field of chemical processing. John has been involved with the FDIAl conference for many years and his workshops are always standing room only. Workshops are the most popular classes every year receive high marks on evaluations.

Some of the more popular lectures included Digital Imaging, OSHA Compliance and Safety, Clandestine Drug Laboratories, Excavation of Human Remains and Crime Scene Sketching to name a few.

There were more than 36 vendors from around the country that participated in the seminar. Most vendors have with the conference for many years.

The social events were the highlight of the day or should I say the evenings. The Presidents Reception was held the first

evening poolside and was hosted by President Jay Mullins were he showed us the proper way to “dance the chicken.” Jay surprised us all after with his dancing skills. A band and Caribbean buffet rounded out the evening.

An Exhibitors Happy Hour was held in the Exhibitor’s Room where delegates were invited to socialize with the exhibitors dining on hors d’oeuvres and wine. This traditional get together is very popular with our exhibitors as it gives them a chance to meet the delegates in a more casual and social atmosphere.

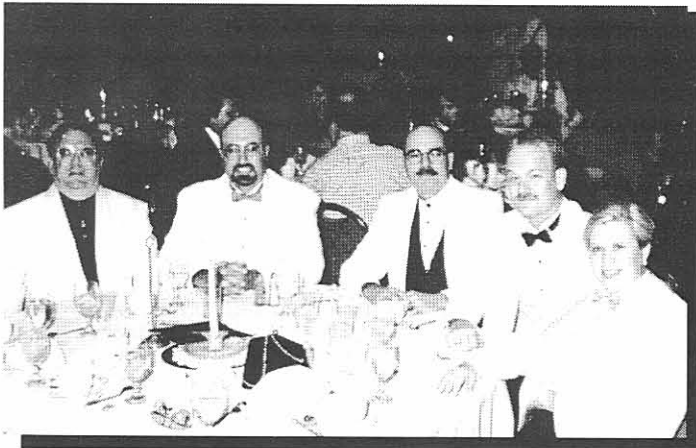
The Oktoberfest was one of the highlights of the week. Fantastic German food was served buffet style with some of the best music ever. Everyone danced this night. Even when the party was over there was still a large crowd begging the band to play longer.

Printrak is our largest supporter and this year assisted us with hosting the Presidents Reception. Eastman Kodak co-hosted the Oktoberfest.

The final event of the week was the Installation Banquet. Awards were handed out and new officers were ushered in. But when the ceremonies were over, the party began. As always, Julie Shoff outdid herself on this one. First class music and food was the theme for the night, not to mention plenty of blow up instruments.

It was a week to remember, a chance to learn about the latest in forensic technology and socialize with your peers from around the state and from around the country.

If this year’s conference in Melbourne is anything like the Ft. Myers conference, then it was be a real shame for anyone to miss it. This will be the 40th Annual Training Conference and it should be our largest ever. The Airport Hilton is beautiful and there are many things to do in the Melbourne area. It will definitely be the conference to attend if you have never been to one. We hope to see everyone there in October.



From left to right: Frank Shonberger, Tom Fadul, John Lazzaretto, Glen Calhoun, Julie Shoff (all Past Presidents)



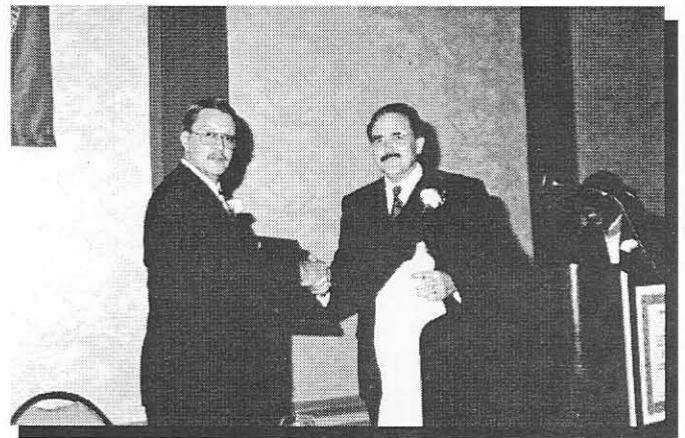
John Lazzaretto receiving an Appreciation Award



Installation Banquet Photographs



Outgoing President Jay Mullins (left) and in-coming President Jim Kammerer



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From left to right, Allen Clark (Editor) , Amanda Taylor (Sergeant-at-Arms) and Elaine Ralston (Historian)



Tim Whitfield receiving the Sustained Achievement Award from Jay Mullins



The new District Directors for 1999



Past Presidents performing at the Installation Banquet