

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2009

As I have reached the end of my term as President of the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) Board of Directors, I am happy to make two GREAT Announcements.

1. ABC has been reaccredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) and is the First organization to pass the reaccreditation process.
2. ABC is ready and able to comply with Recommendation 7, certification for forensic professionals, as delineated in the National Academy of Sciences report "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward."

These are exciting times for the Forensic Science profession and ABC.

During my tenure as ABC President, this organization has made great strides with our new examination format and the creation of an examination for forensic science students, the FSAT.

These things have been accomplished because many forensic professionals care about their profession and have volunteered their time and talents to help your organization improve and evolve. From its humble beginnings, ABC has prospered because people cared about putting together a good product that can measure a professional's knowledge and promote continuing education so we all can stay current in our field. I have seen that concern and dedication throughout my time on the Board of Directors.

I will be leaving the Board of Directors at the end of this year, but after nine years of service, I am more convinced than ever that people really do care about our Profession. I have had the privilege to have worked with many great people from all over our great country who all share the same ideal, professionalism in forensic science. ABC is RELAVENT and IMPORTANT to forensic science.

ABC still has things to do though. We have heard the concerns about filling out our Recertification Paperwork and the Board is continuing to try and improve the process. The National Academy of Sciences report will probably put new procedures in place and ABC may have to adapt to these potential changes, but the ABC Board is in the position to deal with those things in a timely matter. Our profession is not standing still and neither is ABC.

In June you will be hearing from the new ABC Board of Directors President Desiree Reid. I have had the great pleasure of working with Ms. Reid for many years and personally know of her great appreciation and concern for certification in general and ABC in particular. I wish her

and the current Board of Directors nothing but the best and continued success for themselves and ABC.

Although there are too many people to name and I do not want to omit anyone, I would like to thank all the present and past members of the ABC Board of Directors and Examination Committee I have had the great pleasure and honor to have worked with. I am also grateful to ALL of the Past Presidents of ABC for their counsel and encouragement. If not for the Registrar's Office, which really is the engine that runs our organization, I would not have kept my wits about me, so I am eternally grateful to Mike and Kathy Haas. Finally, I would like to thank all of the past and present members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS) who have allowed me to be their representative to the ABC Board of Directors these past nine years. It has been a distinct privilege and a unique honor to have worked with such great professionals and for a great organization, the American Board of Criminalistics.

Respectfully submitted

Michael M. Healy, F-ABC

Past President

Board of Directors

American Board of Criminalistics