

S&T Forensics

Announcements & Latest News

S&T link with Gardiner Fire Investigation

Gardiner Associates (gardinerassociates.com) and forensic engineering consultancy Hawkins (Hawkins.biz) have recently formed two new companies – ‘GATR Gardiner Associates Training & Research’ and ‘GFI Gardiner Fire investigation’.

Dave now sits on the board of GFI and he & Yvonne have recently been helping to set up the new company, train recruits and negotiate with prospective customers.

GFI aspires to become the leading provider of Forensic Fire Scene skills in the UK. The new service will provide an effective level of support for police and fire services, backed up by Hawkins’ eight strategically located regional offices.

GATR’s facility at Wethersfield will continue to provide fire investigation training courses to their many satisfied customers nationwide. These include theory classes and practical sessions using real fires in purpose built units.



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Selected Previous Events

In addition to the normal case work, court and training activities S&T have undertaken various other activities in 2011 & 2012, including the following:

2012:

December: Dave appointed Diploma Manager for the Forensic Science Society Diploma in Fire Investigation.

November: Yvonne cross-examined Glamorgan University's BSc Forensic Science students over a six week programme during court room skills training.

October: Yvonne & Dave delivered talks on forensic science at Cardiff University including fire investigation, blood pattern analysis and introduction to DNA.

September: Initiation of a collaborative research programme with University of Portsmouth assessing the resilience of DNA in fire situations at GATR.

July: Dave delivered the key note lecture to a fire seminar at Derbyshire Police HQ for GFI.

June: Dave attended the unique Forensic Fire Death Course (SLOFIST) in San Luis Obispo, California, which led to a programme of research with University of California.

June: Delivered a fire seminar at Avon & Somerset Police HQ for GFI.

May: Delivered a fire seminar at Hertfordshire Police HQ for GFI.

March: S&T were on site to discuss forensic issues with trainee Fire Investigators as part of a GATR training programme at Wethersfield.

January –September: Dave worked on a contract for LGC Forensics (through Forensic Access) on a programme of mentoring and casefile checking.

January: Dave & Yvonne delivered a mock court room training exercise for a group of Libyan MSc students at Huddersfield University including a spell for each of the students in the 'witness box' undergoing cross examination.

2011:

December: Dave attended a fatal fire seminar at Strathclyde University's Insight Institute organised by Professor Niamh Nic Daeid.

November/December: Dave & Yvonne took part in the training of a group of Libyan MSc students at Huddersfield University, teaching fire & explosion investigation and other forensic science skills.

November: Dave and Yvonne delivered forensic awareness training and fatal fire update at Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service's HQ.

November: Dave and Yvonne delivered forensic awareness training to the new Gardiner Fire Investigation staff at Wethersfield.

October: Dave continued delivering his annual series of lectures in forensic science at Cardiff University's Centre for Lifelong Learning.

September: Yvonne provided an update for Forensic Medical Examiners and Forensic Nurse Practitioners in Porthcawl, South Wales. The training was well received by a lively and enthusiastic group with a request to repeat the event.

September: Dave attended the internationally renowned John DeHaan's Fire & Explosion Course as part of his own professional development.

August: Yvonne and Dave visited Mauritius where they delivered a six week programme of training events to forensic scientists, forensic technologists and forensic technicians at The Mauritius Forensic Science Laboratory in Reduit. These comprised lectures and exercises on statement writing, to prepare for the increased presentations of DNA evidence in courts, avoidance of DNA contamination in the laboratory & at scenes, advanced DNA techniques, basic statistics, casework assessment & interpretation, blood pattern analysis and fire investigation.

The visit also included a series of training events with the Mauritius Police Force (MPF), including presentations to Senior Investigating Officers, DNA Submission Officers, Scenes of Crime Officers and Forensic Medical Examiners. In particular the latest DNA developments were covered, including the need for careful retrieval and submission of DNA evidence to avoid contamination. The team were also invited to speak at the historic Municipality Building in Port Louis to all the lawyers from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Commissioner of Police gave his personal appreciation and presented thank you gifts to Dave and Yvonne at the Police Headquarters at Line Barracks over a cup of the local beverage, vanilla tea. In excess of two hundred police staff received training and certificates. The collated feedback demonstrated the training was well received. The British High Commissioner held a reception at Government House to celebrate the sharing of training provided by S&T Forensics; many members of FSL and MPF attended. Dave also delivered a presentation on forensic science to over a hundred staff and students at the University of Mauritius.

June: Yvonne met scientists and police personnel in Mauritius to perform a training needs analysis and was also fortunate to visit the Supreme Court to observe current practice.

June: Yvonne provided psychometric questionnaires (MBTI) and subsequent feedback for Executive Board members at the Royal Hospital of Neuro-disability in East Putney.

March: Dave and Yvonne delivered forensic awareness refresher training to Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service's fire investigators.