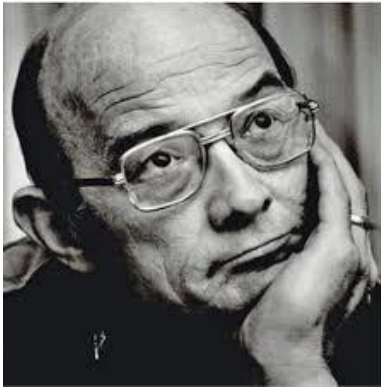


THE OK-IAI EXAMINER

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DIVISION REMEMBERS FIRST PRESIDENT HARRY STEGE

Harry W. Stege was one of the founders and first president of the Oklahoma Division of the International Association for Identification, chartered in 1966. His father, Harry L. Stege was also a member of IAI as far back as the 1940's. As a third generation in law enforcement, Stege began his career with the Tulsa Police Department in 1955. In the 70's, Stege was part of the ID unit, which specialized in crime scene investigations. He would go on to be appointed and serve as Chief from 1978-1983. After his retirement, Stege remained dedicated to solving crimes. He aided in the establishment of the International Association of Cold Case Investigators in 2009, along with former Tulsa PD detectives, Mike Huff and Mike Nance. "He was a rare breed. He led the Department into the 20th century." Nance said. Stege remained invested in the OK-IAI and attended the 50th Anniversary Conference and banquet in 2016 with five other founding members. Stege battled Alzheimer's later in life and passed away on January 30, 2021 at the age of 86. Even after death, Stege continues to help others by donating his body to Alzheimer's

research. In his honor, the OK-IAI made a donation to the Alzheimer's Association. His dedication to forensic science and the organization will always be remembered.

OK DIVISION OF IAI HARRY STEGE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in honor of Harry Stege, the Oklahoma State Division of IAI's first president. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance to members of the Division to aid them in attending the Annual OK-IAI Educational Conference.

The scholarship shall be awarded to no more than ten members per year. Individual scholarships granted shall be in the amount of the current Educational Conference "Member" base registration fee, not to include elective activity fees.

Applicants for funding shall be **Active, Life, or Associate members in good standing** from a department having 25 or fewer officers. Members may apply in their first year of membership.

Scholarships are awarded by the Oklahoma Division of IAI Scholarship Fund Board of Trustees based on financial need. The deadline for applications this year is May 19th. Recipients of the Harry Stege Scholarship will not be eligible for funding to attend OK-IAI educational conferences for two consecutive years.

NEW MEMBERS OF OK DIVISION OF IAI

Oklahoma Division of the International Association for Identification has added 60 new members since May 2017:

Betty Stickley, University of Central OK (Student)
Elizabeth Molina, Dallas PD
Heather Martin, University of Central OK (Student)
Whitney Mayfield, University of Central OK/Student
Christopher Garinger, Logan County Sheriff's Office
Benjamin Wolery, Owasso PD
Stephen Holland, Lone Grove PD
Jenna Pickle, Oklahoma City PD
Susan Pedregon, Oklahoma City PD
Jeremy Walters, Lawton PD
Candace Brown, OK State Bureau of Investigation



Leroy Johnson, OK Chief Medical Examiner
Jeremy Benavides, OK Chief Medical Examiner
Amy Waters, OK Chief Medical Examiner
Janice Wilkinson, OK Chief Medical Examiner
Jodi Dillon, OK Chief Medical Examiner
James Delbridge, OK Chief Medical Examiner
Kathy Valentine, OK Chief Medical Examiner
Jason White, Tulsa PD
Lindsay Nowlin, Midwest City PD
Preston Westerman, University of Central OK (Student)
Jason Lewellyn, Edmond PD
James Sheltman, Edmond PD
Heather Antonsen, Oklahoma City PD
David Adney, Stillwater PD
Sherae LeJeune, Stillwater PD
Mary Kellison, Stillwater PD
KariAnna Baber, Tulsa PD
Caitlyn O'Bryant (McElreath), Oklahoma City PD
Jessica Ford, Midwest City PD
Therese Miller, University of Central OK (Student)
Sydney Baber, University of Central OK (Student)
Jeff Griffin, Moore PD
Austin Kress, Edmond PD
Chrystal Brehm, Oklahoma City PD
Taylor Nabors, Oklahoma City PD
Jennifer Walker, Oklahoma City PD
Dustin Underhill, Norman PD
Jessica Cotton, Broken Arrow PD
Heather Cropper, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Amanda Gilson, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Amy Davila, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Chris Davis, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Meghan Jones, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Shana Wilson, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Stacy Hirschman, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Matthew Wallace, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Brian Exinia, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Lindsey Adamson, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Travis Smiddy, OK State Bureau of Investigation
William Hedrick, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Jenny Virden, OK State Bureau of Investigation
John Graham, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Jim Skelton, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Janell Daggett, OK State Bureau of Investigation

Bradley Knight, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Aungela Spurlock, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Ryan Woolley, OK State Bureau of Investigation
Tommy Handke, Carter County Sheriff's Office
Eli Turley, OK State Bureau of Investigation

Applications for student, active and associate memberships can be found on the Division's website, theokiai.org, and submitted to the Division secretary. The application requires the signature of a current "recommending" member and a membership fee/application fee.

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS HONORED AT 53RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE



2017-2019 OK-IAI President Everett Baxter (middle) with Distinguished Members (left to right), Angela Berg, Kent Buehler, Mike Nance, and Jimmy Stokes

Distinguished Membership may be conferred only on a Member by a majority vote of the OK-IAI Board of Directors in recognition of the Member's superior efforts in the furtherance of the aims and purposes of the I.A.I. A Distinguished Member retains all the rights, privileges, and obligations of the class of membership he or she held prior to being designated as a Distinguished Member. Nominations should be sent to the Division Secretary.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC EFFECTS ON OK-IAI

Due to the health and safety concerns of the COVID-19 virus, the OK Division followed suit with the Parent Body of the IAI and cancelled the 2020 Annual



Training Conference for the first time in the history of the organization. This was a unanimous decision by the Board of Directors and Officers. This year's conference has not been immune to the effects of the pandemic - no pun intended. For years, the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) Forensic Science Institute has graciously provided a venue for the conference at no cost to the organization. As an institution accommodating thousands of students, faculty, and staff, UCO is still maintaining strict COVID-19 restrictions. This includes facemask requirements in the presence of others, social distancing guidelines, and limitations of food and drinks in certain areas of the campus. Although the conference will look a little different this year, we are confident that members

appreciate the opportunity to network and learn from our fantastic speakers. The OK-IAI 55th Annual Training Conference will be held June 2-4, 2021. To register and for updates, go to <https://www.theokiai.org/conference>.

OSBI SPECIAL AGENT FRANCIA THOMPSON TO PRESENT ON SOLVED COLD CASE



Francía Thompson is a Special Agent in the Investigative Division of the OSBI. She has been an agent since 2005 and has focused her career on crime scene and cold case investigations. Thompson is currently assigned to the Cold Case Investigation Unit, after spearheading a new initiative to help solve cold cases in Oklahoma, through the Cold Case Playing

Cards Program. This program, which has proven successful in other states, features missing persons, unsolved homicides, and unidentified remains cases on playing cards, which are distributed through the Oklahoma Department of Corrections prison system, in hopes that inmates will recognize the cases and provide information. Since its inception in 2017, the program has yielded numerous tips on unsolved cases. Within two months of transferring to the Cold Case Unit, Thompson was instrumental in solving a homicide from 2013 and bringing three defendants to custody, who were all out of state and had committed numerous other violent crimes. Agent Thompson is the current OK-IAI Division Vice President. She and OSBI Criminalist Kate Millar will be presenting on the 2013 homicide of Charles Nieman at this year's training conference. Nieman was a 77 year old man from Ada, Oklahoma that was traveling to New Mexico with his wife for vacation. Nieman and his wife stopped at a convenience store in Boise City, OK. Nieman was shot and killed outside the store as he was helping his wife get out of the vehicle. The case went cold, and it was assigned to the Cold Case Unit in November 2018. A shell casing was re-ran in the IBIS system, generating a "hit." This led to an investigation throughout 5 different states to track down and arrest three suspects, who were finally located in Colorado and Alabama. All three suspects pled guilty in 2019 and were sentenced to life in prison.

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Committees are the perfect opportunity for members to serve the Division. Below is a list of standing OK-IAI Committees:

- Certification
- Auditing Finance
- Conference Planning
- Publicity
- Constitution and Bylaws

Additional information and duties for each of these committees are described under Section 8 of the bylaws, which are located on the organization's website, theokiai.org.

WEBMASTER NEEDED

Are you a member who is tech savvy? The Division is looking for the next webmaster to manage the organization's website, theokiai.org. If interested, contact the Division Secretary.