



International Forensic Research Institute

Frontiers in Forensic Science Seminar Series

Seminar Title: Recent advances in the use of instrumental methods for analyzing documents

By: Antonio Cantu, Ph.D., US Secret Service Research Laboratory, Retired

When: October 27, 2016 - 3-4 P.M.

Where: AHC4 – Room 202, MMC Campus, Florida International University

Speaker Bio: Dr. Antonio A. Cantu was the chief forensic scientist for the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) until he retired in 2007. Since then he has been under contract to support the USSS, DARPA, and CTTSO. Currently, he is still supporting the USSS. His expertise includes the chemistry of documents, particularly the dating of documents via ink and paper analysis, and the chemistry of fingerprints, particularly developing methods for visualizing latent fingerprints on diverse surfaces.

Seminar Abstract: This presentation will focus on recent optical methods for analyzed documents such as hyperspectral imaging and reflectance transformation imaging; recent chemical methods for dating inks such as those that analyze for the solvent components (e.g., via thermal desorption or solvent extraction) and those that study the dye components (e.g., dye degradation). Finally a theoretical reason is given that explains unusual ink aging curves (e.g., those that don't necessarily decrease smoothly with time).

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