



message from our public relations officer



Lettie Stander

A shoutout to everybody who helped read and spread our newsletter. Thank you so much for assisting us in our mission to reach out to a wider audience. We want to express our gratitude and hope to continue providing you with more valuable content. We would be grateful if you could share your thoughts on how we can improve the content of our newsletter. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

Involvements during March 2024

Wesco acted as one of the exhibitors at TLU's annual conference, which took place on the 15th of March at Voortrekker Monument. We would like to thank TLU for the opportunity!

Our CEO, Wessie van der Westhuizen, also appeared on Groot FM on the 18th of March for an interview. What a great interview it was!



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1686, a professor in Italy at the University of Bologna was one of the first people to earnestly analyze fingerprints. This professor, Marcello Malpighi, found fingerprints to have common patterns, including arches, loops, whorls, and ridges. However, these patterns would not be confirmed until 1823 when another professor, Johannes Evangelista Purkinje, documented nine different fingerprint patterns. Despite these findings, it would still be several more decades before fingerprints were found to be a viable form of identification. In 1858, the English began to use fingerprints more regularly. Sir William Herschel, the Chief Magistrate of the Hooghly district in Jungipoor, India, began using fingerprints on native contracts. These prints began as palm prints and later transitioned to prints of the right index and middle fingers. By 1880, fingerprints were starting to be used for identification purposes. Dr. Henry Faulds, a Tokyo physician, became interested in fingerprinting and conducted his own experiments to prove that fingerprints could be useful. Dr. Faulds successfully matched fingerprints left on a stray bottle with a laboratory worker.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR CEO, WES VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, WILL BE ONE OF THE SPEAKERS AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE (SAAFS) CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE 5TH AND 6TH OF JULY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA.



Call us For more info



Wesco Fingerprinting Course: A Testimonial.

By Mr. Pitout.

One of the students who is currently training with Wesco Forensic Services.



A summary/review of the basic fingerprint course and its contents. The course was presented by Francois van der Merwe.

From the very beginning, the course laid a solid foundation by providing the main principles of fingerprint classification and identification. The instructor, Francois, covered both the basic and more in-depth details of fingerprint investigation in a very understandable and comprehensive manner, making it easy to keep up with the course content. Francois guided me through the complexities of different types of fingerprint ridge patterns, minutiae points, sweat pores, and many more aspects during the course.

director
at wesco.
forensic
scientist.
instructor.



Frans van der Merwe

What truly sets this course apart is the expertise of the instructor. Francois's wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of fingerprint analysis was evident throughout the course. He was always available to answer queries and provide guidance, greatly enhancing my learning journey. Francois also shared real-world cases he assisted on, providing a more in-depth and personalized experience throughout the entire course duration.

This course provided a deep dive into the world of fingerprint analysis, highlighting its importance in forensic investigations. A significant amount of information was gathered and compiled for this course, reflecting the time and effort put into its preparation. This results in long-term value as learners can revisit specific sections in the future for a quick refresher on fingerprint analysis.



Completion of this course enables individuals to identify, collect, and package potential fingerprint evidence at crime scenes for evaluation in the lab. The training course equips learners with the necessary skillset to maximize the collection procedure while minimizing contamination or destruction of fingerprints found at a scene or obtained from someone.

The course offers plenty of additional information that left me satisfied, not only with what was taught but also with how it was taught, providing a better understanding of the basics of fingerprint analysis and its importance in investigations. The blend of lectures, interactive exercises, and practical demonstrations was well-executed and significantly contributed to my overall understanding.



All personnel involved in the course put in a lot of effort to provide a high-quality learning experience. They were readily available for assistance and support whenever needed, which was greatly appreciated.



Overall, this course is highly recommended for those interested in forensic investigation or wishing to enhance their overall forensic knowledge, particularly in fingerprints. I am very satisfied with the course and believe that what I have learned will greatly benefit me in my future endeavors. I would like to express my gratitude to all those at Wesco Forensics for providing such an excellent experience.

IMPORTANT

Topic of the Month

documenting the crime scene: capturing the crime scene through a lense.

Forensic photography, or crime scene photography, is the application of photography in a legal context, primarily for documenting and analyzing evidence related to crime scenes or other legal matters. It plays a crucial role in law enforcement investigations, court proceedings, and forensic science. The goal of forensic photography is to accurately and objectively capture visual information that can aid in the investigation and solving of criminal cases.

Recording the crime scene is a skill that involves creating a precise replica of the crime scene for the benefit of the court or aiding in an investigation. This process is crucial for solving a case and the successful conviction of offenders. Accuracy is paramount, as the effectiveness of an investigation hinges on the thorough and meticulous processing of the crime scene.

Forensic photography takes the crime scene to the courtroom as it was encountered by the investigating team, allowing the court to experience it firsthand. Forensic photography "freezes a scene in time," as there is the possibility that the crime scene may change or deteriorate.



It is crucial for forensic photographers to recognize the important role of photographic evidence in solving cases. The images they capture often serve as critical pieces of evidence in criminal investigations and court proceedings, which is why forensic photographers must have a strong understanding of photographic techniques, attention to detail, and knowledge of legal procedure.

**TO GET A FULL ARTICLE ON
"DOCUMENTING THE CRIME SCENE
CAPTURING THE CRIME SCENE
THROUGH A LENS"
PART 1**
**CONTACT: Servamus Safety and Security
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- 1. In-House Training for Farmers, Neighborhood Watches, & Members of Private Groups Fighting Crime**
(This workshop aims to empower citizens to support law enforcement by preserving evidence and fostering swift responses to create safer communities.)
- 2. In-House Training for Attorneys and Advocates**
(Comprehensive training covering the intricacies of firearm analysis, tool-mark identification, and ballistic evidence interpretation.)
- 3. In-House Training for Security Members & Other Stakeholders**
(An opportunity to revolutionize your skills and protect crime scenes effectively.)





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Visit us!

*Be on the Look out for our article on Wessie van der Westhuizen,
"Unmasking the Mastermind Behind Forensic Excellence."*