



## RON SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

# The Analysis and Comparison of Footwear Impression Evidence

### Course Description

Many criminals are aware of leaving fingerprints at a crime scene and therefore take measures to minimize their risk of doing so. However, they typically don't consider depositing footwear impressions, thus leaving a wealth of evidence to be discovered. Sadly, footwear impressions are by far the most overlooked, improperly documented and under-collected types of forensic evidence, even though they may provide direct linkage between the victim, suspect and/or location.

It is well understood that footwear examiners must be well versed in all aspects of footwear evidence including detection, documentation, collection, examination, issuing reports and courtroom testimony. Therefore, this hands-on course will provide instruction and practical application on the necessary aspects of footwear documentation and collection to confidently detect, photograph, collect/preserve crime scene impressions and to create known standards. However, this class will spend the main portion of the class on the examination of footwear evidence. All students will acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities from this class to better perform their job as a footwear examiner.

### Target Audience

This course is appropriate for all forensics professionals involved in the examination of footwear impression evidence including both novice and experienced examiners. Footwear examiners of all experience levels will benefit from course content covering current issues, research, processing techniques and other resources to help remain current in the field. This course should be considered for any forensic professional who supervises, conducts or is interested in examining footwear impression evidence. A foundational knowledge of forensic evidence is beneficial prior to attending this course.

### Must Bring to Class

Students should wear appropriate business casual clothing for both indoor/outdoor practical exercises. There is the potential (but not likely) for clothing to be ruined during the practical exercises due to the type of work being conducted. Students are asked to bring the following: writing instruments of several colors (highlighters or pens), magnifying glass (for comparison exercises), calipers or measuring device, digital camera with instruction manual (SLR preferred), lens, batteries for camera and flash, digital media, off-camera flash and instruction manual, remote cord, tripod, and laptop computer with Adobe Photoshop. These items are not required to attend class but are strongly recommended to enhance the learning experience.



**Class instructor:**  
**Jon S. Byrd, MSFS,**  
**CLPE, CFWE**



### Course Logistics

**When:**

**Class Times:**

**Where:**

**Tuition:**  
\$600.00

***This course approved for  
I.A.I. Certification & Re-certification***

### Local Contact

# Daily Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
8-9	Registration Course Overview Introductions	Photography and Scanning of Footwear Impressions Lecture	Comparison Exercises	Extreme Wear Lecture	Report Writing Lecture
9-10	Terminology	Photography Exercises	Comparison Exercises	Comparison Exercises	NAS Report / OSAC's Lecture
10-11	Footwear Impression Evidence Lecture Detection	Manufacturing Variables Lecture	Comparison Exercises	Comparison Exercises	Court Testimony and Admissibility Lecture
11-12	Preparation of Footwear Standards Lecture	Manufacturing Videos	Review of Comparison Exercises	Review of Comparison Exercises	Courtroom Presentations
12-1	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
1-2	Preparation of Footwear Standards Exercises	Introduction – Class, Wear, Individual Characteristics (RAC's) Lecture	Digital Imaging / On Screen Comparisons	Impressions on Skin	Final Written Exam Review
2-3	Collection Methods 2D Impressions Lecture	Examination of Footwear Evidence	On Screen Comparison Exercises	Complex Casework	Final Written Exam
3-4	Collection Methods 3D Impressions Lecture	Documentation and Case Notes / Analysis Lecture	Review of Comparison Exercises	Complex Casework	Review of Exam and Course Evaluations
4-5	Chemical Processing / Enhancement	Footwear Conclusions	Automated Footwear Searches	Conclusions Lecture	Presentation of Certificates

## Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, the students should be able to:

- \* Discuss and understand the significance of footwear evidence
- \* Discuss and understand the proper use of terminology in footwear examinations
- \* Discuss and understand the nomenclature of shoes
- \* Discuss and understand the effects of surface type, substrate, matrix, and the environment on the quality of footwear impressions
- \* Discuss and understand the proper collection techniques and their impact on the examination process
- \* Discuss and understand the different types of impressions (2D, 3D, Mirrored and Negative)
- \* Discuss and understand the different methods for collecting known standards (2D and 3D)
- \* Discuss and understand the importance of examination quality photographs and their impact on the examination process
- \* Discuss and understand the different types of footwear manufacturing techniques
- \* Discuss and understand how manufacturing techniques and their impact on the examination process
- \* Discuss and understand the use of class and individual characteristics during the footwear examination process
- \* Discuss and understand the use of ACE-V methodology in the comparison process
- \* Discuss and understand the difference between variations and distortions
- \* Discuss and understand the weight given to different characteristics during the examination process
- \* Discuss and understand the range of conclusions and when it's appropriate to use them
- \* Discuss and understand how to arrive at the appropriate conclusion and how not to overstate conclusions
- \* Discuss and understand the use of automated searching
- \* Discuss and understand the elements of proper case documentation
- \* Discuss and understand how to write footwear reports
- \* Discuss and understand the OSAC Guidelines
- \* Discuss and understand how to present a footwear comparison and opinions in court.

## Recommended Reading

*Bodziak, William J. Footwear Impression Evidence: Detection, Recovery, and Examination, 2nd Edition. CRC Press LLC, Boca Raton, Florida. 2000.*

## Helpful Lodging Information

*Although we cannot endorse any particular hotel property, we have confirmed that the following lodging is within a reasonable commuting distance to the training site.*

## Online Class Registration

Visit us at: [www.RonSmithandAssociates.com](http://www.RonSmithandAssociates.com) and register today!

## IAI Approved Training Hours

This course provides 40 training hours and is approved for IAI Certification and re-certification. Training certificates will be presented at the end of the course.