



# Crime Lab News

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## A Message from our Director



As the Director of the laboratory, I know the importance of continuing to be a better and more effective leader. Recently, my top management team and I had the opportunity to take part in a leadership training program that focused on being values driven, informed, and passionate leaders. It also reminded us how important our roles are and the impact we have on others. It goes without saying that our employees, the ones that are on the front lines doing the job, are our most important asset we have. Without them we are unable to make effective, continual improvements. We all must learn to lead from the bottom up, listen to our staff, and promote engagement in order to be successful. I personally want to wish you a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!

*James B. Channell*

## Current Turn Around Times

### Drug Chemistry

- Little Rock 2 months
- Hope 4 months
- Lowell 4 months

### Toxicology

- DUI/DWI (LR) 41 days
- DUI/DWI (Lowell) 2 months
- Coroner (LR) 2 months
- Coroner (Lowell) 47 days
- Medical Examiner 49 days

### Latent Prints

- Comparisons (Homicide) 30 days
- Comparisons (Other) 60 days

### Firearms

- Comparisons (Homicide) 11 months
- Comparisons (Other) 45 months
- NIBIN 50 days

### Digital Evidence

- Computers 7 months
- Mobile Devices 7 months

### Trace Evidence

- Ignitable Liquids 25 days
- Primer GSR 25 days

### Serology

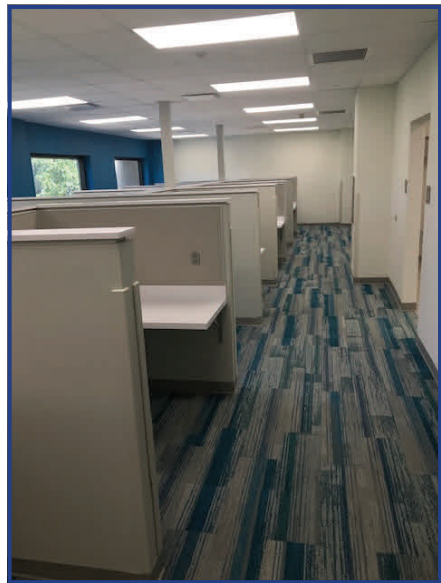
- Homicide 37 days
- Sexual Assault 49 days
- Property/Other 20 Months

### DNA

- Homicide 5 months
- Sexual Assault Kits 5 months
- Property/Other 45 months

## DNA Office Space Renovation

We are happy to announce that construction is complete and our Forensic DNA section has moved into their new office space! Last summer the Serology section relocated from this area to the first floor, allowing Phase II of renovation plans at the Crime Lab to begin. Construction began in late April and employees were able to start relocating mid-September. The additions that were made include: new report writing stations for each analyst, an office for the DNA Technical Leader and Section Chief, and a break room. This renovation allows for all the DNA analysts to accompany the same office space instead of being separated into different areas around the building. Also, all analysts are now closer to their lab space which allows for greater efficiency while working cases.



## Reminder: ASCL Online Training Classes Offered on ACADIS

The following classes are offered online through ACADIS:

- DNA & CODIS (1 hour)
- Evidence Packaging, SA Kit Tracking, and Body Submission (2 hours)
- Firearms & Latent Prints (1 hours)
- Forensic Chemistry & Toxicology (2 hours)

## Visits from Management

We know how important face-to-face meetings can be even during these uncertain times. In order for us to keep lines of communication open, we want our partners in the Criminal Justice community to have the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns with the Director and Assistant Director of the laboratory. These meetings give us the ability to improve the services we provide and help us understand your needs. If you would like to schedule a meeting, either in person or by GoToMeeting, please contact the Director at (501) 227-5952, otherwise we will contact you when we are in your area.



## Section Focus — Evidence Receiving

The Evidence Receiving Section plays a crucial role in the day-to-day operation of the laboratory. This section is responsible for receiving, storing, transferring, and releasing all evidence that is submitted by the numerous agencies in the state. Safeguarding each piece of evidence while maintaining an accurate chain of custody related to the 30,000+ cases that are received is a massive undertaking. The employees comprising the section act as the face of our agency by consistently interacting with law enforcement forming relationships and answering questions. We have 7 Evidence Receiving Technicians in Little Rock, 2 in Hope and 2 in Lowell. If you have any questions on how to package or submit evidence, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Hope Regional Laboratory—Accepting ALL Case Types Feb. 1, 2021

The Hope Regional Laboratory, located on the campus of the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope (UACCH), offers testing for cases involving suspected controlled substance violations (drug cases). Starting February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 the regional laboratory will accept all criminal cases. Cases not involving drug analysis will be transferred to the Little Rock



Laboratory by Crime Laboratory personnel for testing. Once analysis is complete, the evidence will be returned to the Hope Regional Laboratory for pick up by the respective law enforcement agency. These services will enable local law enforcement agencies to remain in their jurisdiction and eliminate the need to deliver/pick up evidence in Little Rock.

## Little Rock PO Box Being Eliminated

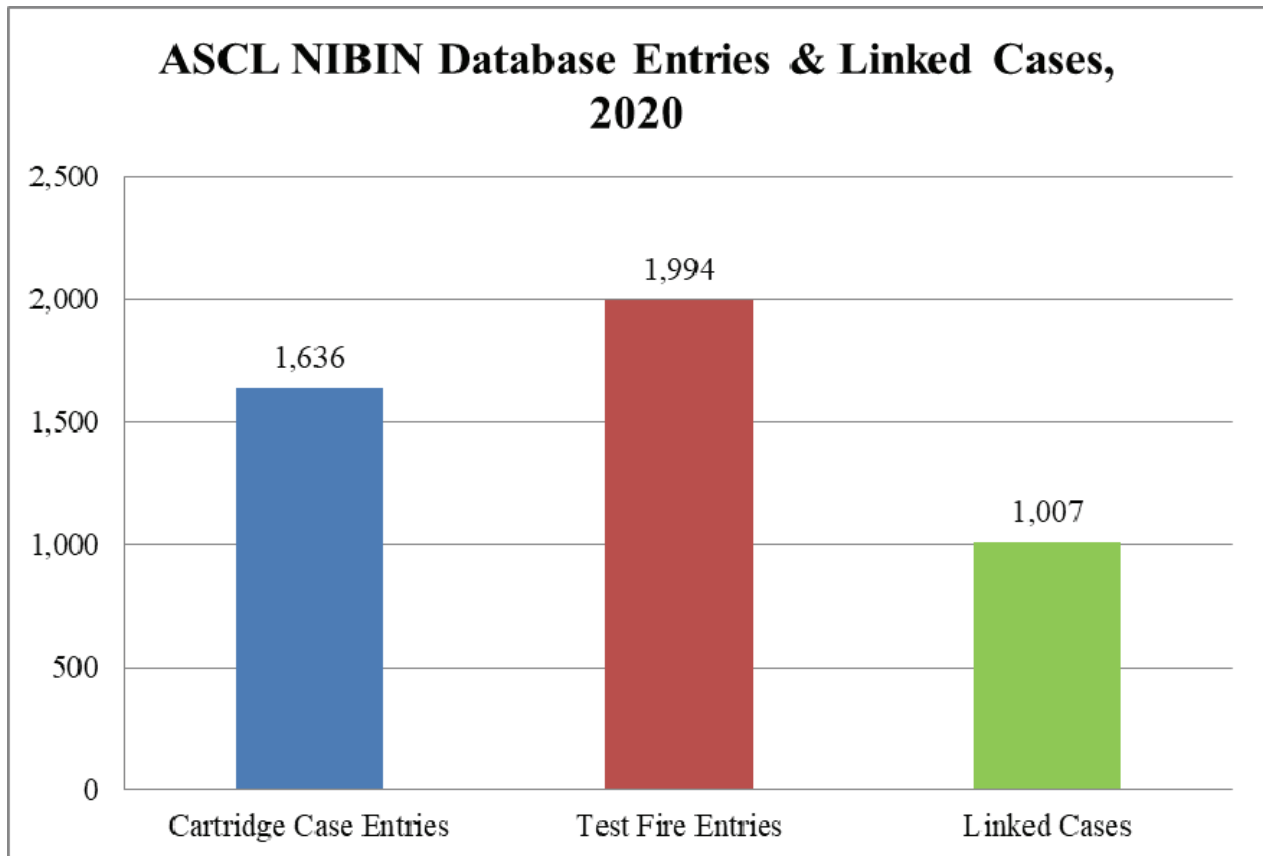
The Little Rock laboratory accepts items of evidence that are mailed, instead of delivered by the submitting agency. Although this practice is not encouraged, the lab realizes that based on available staffing, mailing evidence might be the only option for the law enforcement agency. The laboratory is discontinuing the use of the P.O. Box 8500 at the end of ***March of 2021***. If your agency has the need to mail evidence to the laboratory, please use the lab's physical street address: #3 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Swift at (501) 683-6100 or [andrea.swift@crimelab.arkansas.gov](mailto:andrea.swift@crimelab.arkansas.gov)

## NIBIN Statistics

The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) is a computerized system that compares evidence cartridge cases and test-fired cartridge cases from recovered firearms with the purpose of linking incidents involving the same firearm. When a possible association is made between two or more cases, this is called a “NIBIN Lead” and the involved agencies will be notified through a “NIBIN Hit Letter” that can be accessed on iResults. A physical comparative examination of the evidence would need to be conducted by a Firearm examiner to confirm a NIBIN Lead.

So far this year, over 3,600 entries have been made into the ASCL’s NIBIN system, resulting in 1,007 linked cases and 525 issued NIBIN Leads.

All firearm and cartridge case evidence submitted to the ASCL is evaluated for entry into the NIBIN system. Please see the *ASCL Case Management Guidelines* in the Education & Training section of the lab’s website for more information on what calibers and types of firearms are eligible for entry into the NIBIN system. If you have any questions regarding the NIBIN system, please contact our NIBIN Program Coordinator, Jenni Floyd, at [jenni.floyd@crimelab.arkansas.gov](mailto:jenni.floyd@crimelab.arkansas.gov).



## Forensic Science Week Recap—September 20th - 26th

The concept of a national *Forensic Science Week (FSW)* was raised during a meeting of forensic leaders in 2013 as a way to recognize and advance quality forensic science. Within a few months, National Forensic Science Week was transformed from a simple idea at a meeting to a true national event. This can only be explained by the importance of forensic science in modern criminal justice and the dedication of forensic professionals across the nation. This year was a huge success at the ASCL! We would like to send out a **THANK YOU** to Backyard Burger, Chick-fil-A, Chef Candace Cupcakes, Collector's Paradise, Dairy Queen, First Security Bank, Home Depot, Shorty Smalls, Splash Carwash, and Rock City MMA for their support by making donations. Also, **THANK YOU** to Chris Glaze, Senior DNA Analyst, for putting together the FSW video at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la7gP0gnnnQ&feature=youtu.be>



## New Hires & Role Changes

Welcome aboard! Congrats to our newest employees:

- ⇒ **Ashley Anderson**, Drugs
- ⇒ **Jacinta Crawford**, Lowell Drugs
- ⇒ **Courtney Mazique**, DNA
- ⇒ **Courtney Hamilton**, Hope Evidence Receiving
- ⇒ **Megan Kuchinski**, Lowell Evidence Receiving
- ⇒ **Jessica Szuba**, Lowell Evidence Receiving
- ⇒ **Debra Costello**, ME's Office



**PROMOTION**

Congratulations to:

- **Freddie Rivera** for his promotion to DNA Analyst
- **Nikki Elizalde** to Chief Field Investigator

Take Note

## Did You Know?

- The crime lab has new versions of evidence submission forms that can be found by visiting <https://www.dps.arkansas.gov/crime-info-support/arkansas-state-crime-lab/resources/forms/>.
- These versions give submitting officers more room to describe detailed information regarding the crime, the evidence being submitted, and the type of services that are being requested.
- Please be sure to check and make sure you are using these new forms!



# ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY

3 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Phone: (501) 227-5747



## Mission



To provide quality forensic services to the criminal justice community and the State of Arkansas in a timeframe amendable to our customers.

Support public safety by providing analytical results within thirty days of submission.

## Vision



**Clear Communication:** Communicate often, promptly, professionally and in person when appropriate

**Quality:** Excellence, getting it right the first time, consistent performance, continuous improvement, taking pride in one's work

**Professional Development:** Growing and engaging employees through training, mentoring, and providing leadership opportunities

**Safety:** Providing a safe work environment and educating employees on safety practices

**Accountability:** Holding oneself and others responsible for productive and ethical behavior.

**Teamwork:** Having a common vision, ensuring cohesiveness, assisting one another, supporting other sections, putting others interests first and making decisions based on what is best for the laboratory

## ASCL Performance Survey

Feedback from our customers is important in order to meet expectations. Continued feedback is necessary to remain aligned to goals, make important decisions, develop strategies, and improve relationships. Please take a moment to check out our **new** survey at:

<https://forms.gle/ps49najJmPKUeZ1aA>

A \$25 Amazon gift card is given out quarterly to one participant, so don't miss out!! Below are just a few comments from our customers:

- "Great staff. Super helpful "
- "Staff is extremely helpful and timely with answers to my questions."
- "The staff is very helpful and quick to respond back after leaving a message."
- Newsletter...."I love hearing what turnaround times are and making sure I am up to date on how evidence should be submitted."