

Dr. Philip D. Bouffard: The 2009

Mary W. Kelly

The **Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence** was created to recognize those individuals who have contributed above and beyond what is expected of a Society member.

The criteria for the ASO Award are as follows:

A. The recipient must be a living member in good standing of the ASQDE and may be either a Regular, Specialist, Corresponding, Life or Life Corresponding member at the time of the nomination.

B. The recipient must have been active in the field of questioned document examination for a period of at least 25 years and must have been a member of the ASQDE for a period of at least 20 years.

C. The award shall only be bestowed on persons who have attained exceptional distinction in terms of:

1. Cumulative activities, such as professional research or literary accomplishments which advance the field of questioned document examination, and

2. Outstanding service to the ASQDE over a long period of time, such service resulting in generally recognized and beneficial improvements in the Society.

Please email Farrell Shiver at president@asqde.org to nominate someone for the 2010 award. You must include information citing how the nominee meets the ASO criteria and it must be received by **January 1, 2010**.

Dr. Philip Bouffard took a rather circuitous route to his career in forensic document examination.

He began his education at Birmingham Southern College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He then headed north to the University of Michigan and earned a master's degree, then a doctorate, both in chemistry. His professional work included 15 years with the NCR Corporation in Dayton,



At the time, there was a great deal being written about forensic science, especially in light of the Clifford Irving case that was then making the news. Dr. Bouffard read an article in *Chemical Engineering News* on forensic science. It included a listing of universities that offered training in the various fields. Included among them was a program at Georgetown University. He telephoned the number listed; and when a gentleman answered the phone, "English," Dr. Bouffard incorrectly assumed that he had dialed the wrong



Phil Bouffard (far left) and group of international document examiners in the Georgetown University training program.

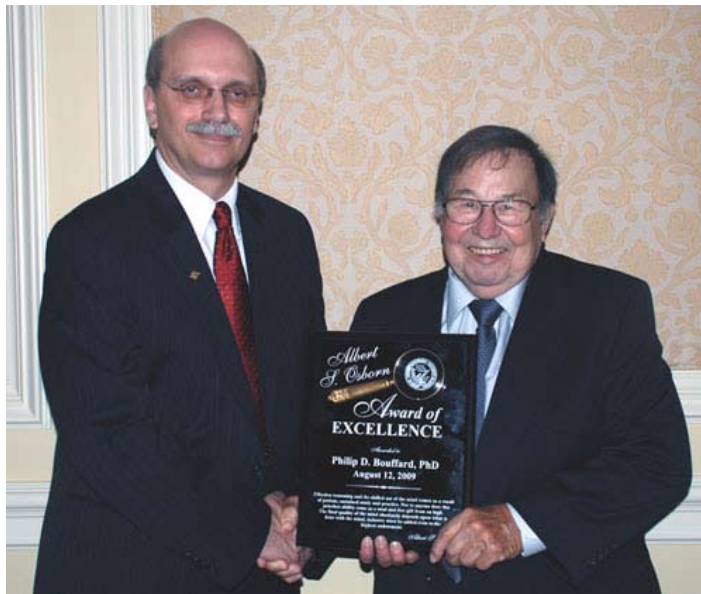
Ohio. During his tenure there he helped develop the no-carbon required paper system that is still in use today. When NCR announced the closing of its chemical research division, it was time for Dr. Bouffard to consider what career options lay ahead.

number and had reached the English Department. In fact, he dialed correctly and had reached his soon-to-be mentor, Professor Joseph English. Dr. Bouffard went for a visit and soon relocated to begin his training at Georgetown.

Albert S. Osborn Award Recipient

The program at Georgetown had been started by Joseph English in 1972. Professor English had been a document examiner with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for over 25 years. The program was started through the Criminal Law and Procedure Center at Georgetown University. It was based upon the ever-present need for quality training in the field of forensic document examination. Examiners from the United States and around the world, including Saudi Arabia, Libya, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Chile, and Nigeria, participated in the program. Approximately 15 examiners received their training through the Georgetown course. Sadly, the program ended sometime around 1976, with the passing of Joseph English. He will long be remembered for his tremendous contribution to the training of so many qualified examiners, and perhaps even more for his vision of a university-based course of education for forensic document examination.

In 1974, upon completion of his training in document examination, Dr. Bouffard relocated to Painesville, Ohio to establish a regional forensic laboratory. He served as forensic document examiner and director there until his retirement in 2000. Dr. Bouffard began the laboratory as a one-man operation and left it on its way to being accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors and employing nine scientists.



President Farrell Shiver congratulates Dr. Bouffard on his well-deserved honor.

Throughout his career, Dr. Bouffard has made many significant contributions to the field of forensic document examination, but his greatest remains his work with typewriter classification. He introduced "TYPE," a typewriter/type-style computer classification system in 1995. He presented over 11 papers on the subject of typewriting and conducted numerous workshops

demonstrating his typewriter classification program. In 2001, he graciously provided the "TYPE" classification system to the ASQDE and its members.

In 1994, Dr. Bouffard was honored with the *Ordway Hilton Award* presented by the Questioned Document Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) in recognition for his outstanding contributions to forensic document examination. In 2003, he was presented with the

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners *New Horizon Award*. It was given in recognition of his outstanding contributions for the advancement of forensic document examination through scientific research.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Philip D. Bouffard, the 2009 Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence recipient.



Andy Szymanski, Dr. Phil Bouffard, and Mary W. Kelly