

Brian Lindblom:

The 2014 Linton Godown Award for Research Recipient

Jim Green

The Linton Godown Award for Research was presented to Brian Lindblom on behalf of the Society, at the annual banquet during the 2014 meeting in Honolulu.

Brian is only the third recipient of the award, created to recognize those individuals who have contributed above and beyond what is expected of a Society member. Specifically, "The award shall only be bestowed on persons who have attained exceptional distinction in terms of producing a body of research which has been of benefit to the profession or demonstrating innovation which has created valid techniques or instrumentation."

The nominator provided a well-prepared submission establishing Brian was clearly qualified for the award. Listed contributions by Brian to the Society, and the profession, included the following:

Development of Write-On software

"One of Lindblom's proudest achievements is his involvement in the development of Write-On, from conceptualizing this computer program to finding a programmer to create the software; to assisting with development and testing; through to introducing the final product to the forensic document community." (*Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents*, Kelly and Lindblom, 2nd Ed., 2006, p. vi.)

Mr. Lindblom was instrumental in the development of this innovative software, which allows a document examiner to locate and compare images of text anywhere within the questioned or known evidence.

The licensees now number more than 100, with users in the US as well as Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, France, India, Ireland, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, and The Netherlands.

Contributions to the ASQDE Fax Font databases

In 1992, a paper was presented by examiners James Davidson and Diane Tolliver on facsimile TTIs, initiating a reference standard which has been very useful in attempting to date the preparation of a faxed document. Subsequently, there have been six editions with coordination and participation efforts including other members. Brian was involved with most of the updates as well as the latest (Fax Font Project VI), in which he coordinated the efforts of the group, bringing the collection to almost 1,000 samples.



Promoting ESDA sequencing in North America

The technique of determining whether indentations on a page came before or after the writing was discovered by examiner Robert Radley in the early 1990s (Radley, *JFSS*, Vol. 33, No. 2, 1993, and *Science & Justice*, 1995, Vol. 35, No. 4). It can be useful in determining the sequence of handwritten or hand printed entries, especially bound documents with entries on both sides. Brian used the technique in casework, encouraged other examiners to use it, conducted workshops on the subject, and assisted Mr. Radley in publishing an update on the technique in the *JASQDE*.

The nomination concluded with the comment that while many of the projects were accomplished with the involvement of others, Brian clearly demonstrated a vision and talent to bring the contributors together for a common purpose.

The Executive Committee agreed the research projects were major contributions to the Society and profession. Congratulations to Brian for the well-deserved award.