

Gerald B. Richards: The 2010 Linton Godown Award Recipient

Farrell C. Shiver

The **Linton Godown Award for Research** was created to recognize those individuals who have contributed above and beyond what is expected of a Society member. The criteria for the award are as follows:

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

b. 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.

To nominate someone for the 2011 award, please email President Linton Mohammed. You must include information citing how the nominee meets the ASO criteria and it must be received by January 1, 2011.

Gerald B. Richards became the first recipient of the Linton Godown Award for Research at the 68th Annual Conference of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners in Victoria, British Columbia.

It is only fitting that Mr. Richards, better known as Jerry, is the first Society member to be honored with

the award. The award was named for Linton Godown because he was well known as an innovator and researcher. A particular interest of Mr. Godown was the infrared examination of inks. In those earlier days, such examinations were done photographically. An infrared examination of ink was a tedious matter. Jerry Richards developed a technique to do such examinations electronically. In 1977, Mr. Richards' research was published as "The Application of Electronic Video Techniques to Infrared and Ultraviolet Examinations" in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. His work was the basis for the Video Spectral Comparator and other similar electronic devices used by forensic document examiners across the planet.

Jerry Richards was educated at Southern Illinois University where he received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees. In 1970, he became a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was later assigned to the laboratory working in the areas of forensic document examination and photography. He held the position of Chief of the Document Operations and Research Unit and retired from the FBI as the Chief of Special Photographic Unit in 1993. After retirement, he began a private practice and also worked as a consultant to the government in various capacities.

Mr. Richards has presented and lectured extensively. For ten years he was an associate professor in the Forensic Science Department of George



President Farrell Shiver presented the award to Jerry Richards

Washington University and for the past seven years has been an adjunct instructor of questioned document examination in the Department of Forensic Sciences of Oklahoma State University.

Mr. Richards is a Regular Member of the ASQDE, a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners and Past President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists, and other professional organizations as well.

His other awards include National Intelligence Medal of Achievement, the Ordway Hilton Award (AAFS), the Outstanding Audiovisual Achievement Award (Association of Federal Photographers) and the Alumni Achievement Award (Southern Illinois University).