

In Memoriam: Bryan Found

The 2016 Linton Godown Award for Research Recipient

Linton Mohammed

Dr. Bryan Found passed away suddenly at his home on October 23, 2016. Bryan was a Corresponding Member of ASQDE with a global reputation as a prolific researcher and writer. Along with Doug Rogers at La Trobe University, he supervised several doctoral dissertations in signature and handwriting examination and was involved in several other PhD studies. Three of his former students Drs. Carolynne Bird, Tahnee Dewhurst, and Linton Mohammed, are all ASQDE members.

Studies co-authored by “Found & Rogers” are ubiquitous in the QD literature and have been useful in many Daubert hearings. Bryan was heavily involved in research and was an active participant in several working groups, including the NIST sponsored Human Factors in Handwriting Examination project and Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science. In 2016, Bryan’s work was recognized by the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners with the *Linton Godown Award for Research*, a coveted award bestowed on members 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. This was followed by receipt of a Life Member Award from the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society.

At the time of his untimely passing, Bryan was the Chief Forensic Scientist with the Victoria Police Forensic Services Department. He was also Adjunct Professor in the Program in Expertise, Evidence and Law, Faculty of Law, at the University of New South Wales, Adjunct Professor at the La Trobe Law School College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Commerce, and Adjunct Professor in the School of Psychology and Public Health, College of Science, Health, and Engineering at La Trobe University.



Bryan held a Bachelor of Science, a Graduate Diploma in Education, a Graduate Diploma in Neurosciences, and a Doctorate in Philosophy. He was a member of the European Academy of Forensic Sciences, the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, the Association of Forensic Document Examiners, and the International Graphonomics Society. Bryan was an Editorial Board member of the Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners and the Journal of Forensic Document Examination (USA), and was a reviewer for several other journals. Bryan had served as President of the Victorian Branch of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society as well as Chairperson of the Victorian Chapter of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences

Over the past 28 years Bryan provided invited workshops on forensic handwriting examination and on cognitive factors at conferences or training programs in 20 countries throughout Australasia, Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas. His research interests included the characterization of the probative value of expert opinions on pattern evidence, human factors and cognitive bias, and the objective assessment of forensic practitioner skill characteristics. Very passionate about handwriting examination, Bryan began his forensic career in DNA, but transferred to QD as he found handwriting examination to be a more fascinating and challenging area. Signatures were of special interest to him. At conferences and other meetings, he could always be found discussing handwriting examination. Many of these discussions often went on into the wee hours of the morning.

A great raconteur, Bryan was always fun to be around with his appreciation of good food, good red wine, and good music. He was quite witty and had a great sense of humor. He was a kind man who shared his intellect, time, and spirit generously.

Bryan’s passing leaves a huge void in the field of forensic handwriting examination and forensic science. He will be missed dearly both professionally and personally by his many colleagues and friends. Bryan leaves to mourn his parents Sylvia and Barry, his brother Stephen and his family, and his partner Kaye. May he Rest in Peace.