

Chemistry Seminar

“Latent Fingerprint Identification through Ninhydrin and Cyanoacrylate Chemical Testing”

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(Internship presentation)

Wednesday, January 26

12:00 p.m.

WSB-122

Latent fingerprint processing has been one of the most successful resources for determining identifications of individuals since the early 1900s. The Saint Cloud Police Department has been utilizing fingerprint processing for the past few years and continues to increase latent print identification through chemical processing. By using ninhydrin chemical processing and ethyl cyanoacrylate fuming, latent prints are becoming more visible on a larger variety of surfaces. By chemically looking further into these processes, explanations to the appearance of fingerprints can be further understood. Additionally, improvements of these methods are being accelerated and tested to ensure proper latent fingerprint identification. While identification of latent fingerprints is continuing to grow through chemical testing, automated systems and state databases have enhanced these processes through ensuring proper identifications of unknown fingerprints with known fingerprint samples. By looking at all of the aspects of latent fingerprint processing, an overall picture of fingerprint identification can be obtained.