Douglas Rohde
Lake County Crime Laboratory
Wednesday 9/30/15

"Skill Sets for the Forensic Chemist
(Or Whatever Else You Hope to Be)"

Noon-1:15pm Room A255 Science Center

Merriam-Webster defines skill as "a learned power of doing something competently, a developed aptitude or ability." Having the ability to perform your work competently is certainly important in any career, but especially so in the field of forensic science. The objective of this presentation is to provide an overview of skill sets that future forensic chemists will need to develop in order to be successful in the crime laboratory and in court. Three primary skill set categories will be discussed: Knowledge-based skills, Transferable (interpersonal) skills and Soft skills (personality traits/attitude). Practical examples within each skill set will be given (meaning I will tell you how to avoid having your promising forensic career suddenly change into a bloody crime scene right before your eyes). Generational differences in the laboratory will also be covered.

"Application of Chemistry in Forensic Investigation:
The Cleveland Cyanide Murder Case"

4:45pm W201 Physics Building

On February 24, 2005, a married, 38 year old mother of two, driving to a movie theater, called a friend to say she was feeling nauseous. Shortly thereafter the driver was involved in a low speed automobile accident and was rushed to a local hospital. At the hospital, she exhibited shallow breathing, an erratic heartbeat, was unresponsive, but had no major signs of trauma. The attending physician pronounced her dead within an hour. An autopsy revealed little, and the coroner was unable to determine cause of death and awaited toxicology results. Routine toxicology testing, including OTC, prescription, and illicit drug screens, did not reveal any unusual substances in the decedent’s system. Ultimately, five years later, the husband was found guilty of murder. How did the investigation and crime laboratory work lead to this conclusion?

A reception will be held at 4:30 in the Upper Craig Lounge
Supported by the Steiner Fund