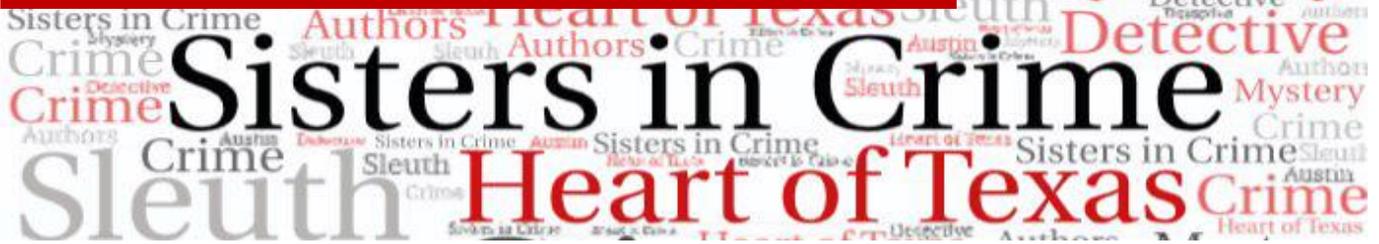


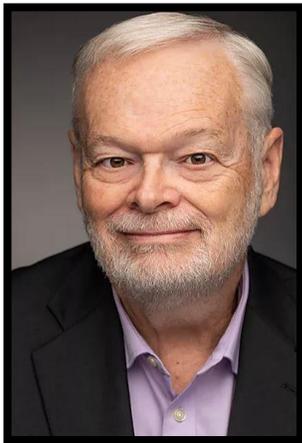
March 2020

HOTSHOTS!

sinc-heartoftexas.com



MARCH MEETING – THRILLING!



Walt Gragg, author of *The Red Line*—which was named the 14th Annual American Book Fest Best Book Award Winner—and was a 2018 International Thriller Writer’s Best First Novel Finalist, will speak to us about the Art of Writing the Thriller. He will also sign books at the end of our meeting Bring your notebooks and questions!!

For details on past meetings, visit our website’s [Past Meetings](#) section.

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OFFICERS & CHAIRS

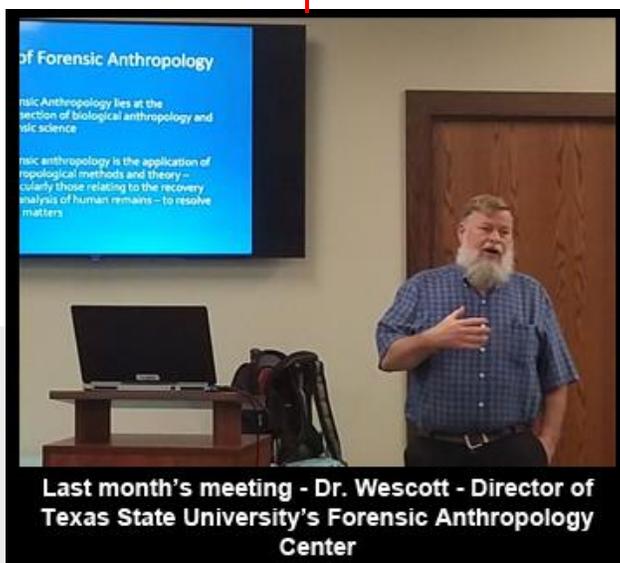
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LIGHTS ARE ON AND SOMEBODY'S DEAD

By Kelly Cochran



After a few glasses of Cabernet Sauvignon, late at night, in the woods behind my hotel, I found I wasn't alone. What could have become an unfortunate event in a murder mystery, was in reality something very cool. Not only was I not alone in the woods, I was with a large group of writers. We were all there to experience what it would be like to view a crime scene under various levels of light. The show and tell was all part of the 2014 Writers' Police Academy held in Jamestown, North Carolina. I learned that night about lighting and its sights and sounds. This article is from my blog and shares what I learned that night about the sights and sounds of lighting.

FLASHLIGHTS

The flashlight is the smallest yet most targeted way of viewing a crime scene. See the details, not the big picture. We were able to identify jewelry and a gun hidden by the leaves. While I learned what it would be like to use a flashlight to search for evidence, I also learned what it would feel like to shine a light on a body. As the writer of amateur sleuth novels, I could imagine what my main character might feel like if she were to walk upon a scene like this with only a flashlight. After spotting the foot, I know the fear and suspense would grow inside her as she moved the flashlight upward in search of a face. And if all she found was a leg, a single part of a dismembered body? She'd run for her life.

Flashlight showing part of body



Flashlight showing face



FLOODLIGHTS

Scene exposure increases with floodlights, but as you can see in the first picture to the right, there are still a lot of dark areas beyond the scene. In the second picture to the right a flashlight was added, which helped pick up more details like the prescription drug bottle next to the victim's face.

The floodlight required a generator and listening to the hum brought back memories of when I lived in the last house on a dead-end road across from Piscataway Creek in Maryland. One night when I came home, the police were blocking the road to my driveway.



Continued

CONTINUED - LIGHTS ARE ON AND SOMEBODY'S DEAD

I joked with my then husband that they'd probably found a dead body. The police officer stopped us. It turned out that it wasn't a joke. They had actually found a dead body. The crime scene was kept lit and throughout the night as I lay in bed, I could hear the hum of the generator.

BALLOON LIGHTS OR 360 LIGHTS

Lit up like a football field! The light used – [Airstar Sirocco](#) – is portable and fits in a bag, but still needs a generator. Compared to the floodlights, the Balloon light lit up a larger area including the shrubbery surrounding the body. However, it did create shadowy pockets around the body.

The large amount of light allows for more immediate investigation of the surrounding area, provides a level of safety for personnel working the scene, and doesn't leave many places to hide (something criminals and often times my main character like to do).

P.S. No real people were killed to stage the crime scene.

This article is from the blog of Kelly Cochran, for additional articles visit kellycochran.com/index.php/blog/



2020 Writers' Police Academy/MurderCon

Attending the Writers' Police Academy in 2014 was so interesting and exciting. And it has only gotten bigger and better over the years. As like last year, this year a lot of the training is being provided by [Sirchie](#) who provides training to police organizations. Registration has opened and the conference generally sells out quickly. Check it out! writerspoliceacademy.com

Writers' Police Academy Golden Donut Contest

Win the coveted Golden Donut Award and free registration to a 2021 Writers' Police Academy event. Word limit is 200 words including the title and must be based on the photograph they provide on their website. Entry fee is \$25. You do not have to be present to win. For all the details and to check out the photo – visit

writerspoliceacademy.com/golden-donut-writing-contest/

BULLETIN BOARD SWAG

Don't miss a meeting! Print this page and stick it to your bulletin board! We can't wait to see you!



2020 SINC MEETING SCHEDULE

March 8, 2020 – Art of Writing a Thriller – Walt Gragg

April 19, 2020* – Locksmithing for Writers – Tex Thompson

May 17, 2020* – Forensic Locksmithing – Tex Thompson

*Special Date – Third Sunday of the month instead of 2nd Sunday



If you have the time, our organization could use the human-power! Please contact N.M. Cedeño (Noreen) and let her know how you are willing to help.
noreenmariecedeno@gmail.com

DO YOU BLOG?

If you blog and have a post that might be of interest to our members and would like to have your post appear in our newsletter, send an email to kelly@kellycochran.com !
We'll publish it and provide a link back to your blog!

Win an eReader and 25 Humorous Mysteries –

**Last day to enter
February 26th!**

Click on the image to enter 

Bundle includes chapter member Kelly Cochran's *Book Buying Time!*

