

LEVA training is going global

BY JAN GARVIN

LEVA is proud to announce the newest addition to its training arsenal: the Mobile Digital Multimedia Evidence Processing Lab.

LEVA's ability to take training anywhere in the world is made possible in part by the continued support of Ocean Systems, which made its new state-of-art mobile Multimedia Evidence Training Lab available to LEVA.

Many potential students, particularly outside of North America, are hampered by travel restrictions, lack of funding, and even political obstacles. With this mobile lab, more international students will get an opportunity to attend the same courses that are offered in Indianapolis at LEVA's Digital Multimedia Evidence Processing Lab.

The mobile lab consists of 12 high-performance mobile systems loaded with the latest versions of Ocean Systems dTective, Avid Media Composer, and Ocean System ClearID image clarification suite for Adobe Photoshop CS3.

Plans include providing LEVA's specialized forensic DME and video production training courses throughout North America. It's anticipated that conducting LEVA training at strategic locations on various continents can result in a marked growth of applicants to LEVA's Forensic Video Analyst certification program. Currently, 16 analysts have earned that title.

Ocean Systems approached LEVA with a proposal to partner in the creation of this resource. Why? Partly because of the success of the LEVA Lab in Indy, which is populated with Avid systems including Ocean Systems software. But it's way more than that.

"Ocean first supported LEVA over 10 years ago at their annual conference, hosted by the North Carolina Academy of Justice in Raleigh," recalled Angelo Guarino, president of Ocean Systems. "Back then, LEVA was mainly comprised of video professionals who were responsible for producing training and public relations content for their agencies. At that time, 1997, Ocean Systems was focused on manu-

facturing mobile video editing systems for the military and other government agencies, so we were showcasing our mobile editing system called The Luggable.

"I can't recall all the specifics, but there was a video that needed to be finished for LEVA's Friday Award Banquet. People were a bit frantic, so I volunteered to help using the Luggable I brought. LEVA board members were bringing me videos through dinner and into the night until we got the job done."

According to Guarino, as his company continued to interface with LEVA and its members, it became apparent that tools were needed to help them work on video evidence. "Being the 'video experts' of their departments, LEVA members were being brought more and more tapes by investigators, but they didn't have the proper tools to process it. Out of this need, dTective was born.

"Since that time, LEVA has created a holistic and broad curriculum, standard operating procedures, and eventually a forensic video analysis certification program. I know that we at Ocean are all very proud in the knowledge that we've been part of something very important that enhances law enforcement's capabilities."

LEVA will be hard at work in 2008 with its training program in Indianapolis, planning for the annual conference this October in Orlando, and launching the possibilities with its Mobile Digital Multimedia Evidence Processing Lab. ★

Jan Garvin is the forensic video training vice president for LEVA. Contact him at training@leva.org.

"I can't describe the feeling we get when we receive a call and hear that our tools helped solve a crime. Contributing to the safety of our communities, not just in the states, but also around the world, makes it all worthwhile."

—Angelo Guarino, Ocean Systems



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