



The Center For

Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research

Provider of the Florida Integrated Network for Data Exchange & Retrieval



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2008

INSIDE THIS SEPTEMBER ISSUE:

- LETTR Hosts Workshop 1
- Introducing the LETTR Board 1
- FINDER on Air 2
- Spotlight Agency: Winter Park PD 2
- New Users Accounts 3
- Notes from the Crime Analyst Workshop 3
- Behind the Scenes 3

Special Announcement:

The next consortium meeting will be held at the LETTR offices on Tuesday, Oct. 7th from 10:00am-12:00pm

LETTR
12201 Research Parkway
Suite 223
Orlando, Fl. 32826
Phone: 407-882-1590

LETTR Hosts Crime Analyst Workshop

One of the goals of the Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, and Research is to become a leader in the development of training workshops and informational courses for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The purposes of offering these events are to provide a low cost solution for learning about new technologies in law enforcement and to give participants a

chance to connect with one another. This month, LETTR, in conjunction with the Florida Crime and Intelligence Analysts Association (FCIAA), hosted its first workshop, which was especially designed for Crime Analysts. The objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for Florida's crime, intelligence, and investigative analysts to conduct a needs assessment with regards

to analytical tools. This Crime Analyst Workshop was met with enthusiasm, with crime and investigative analysts from around the state filling all available seats within days of the workshop's announcement. The morning of the event opened with a continental breakfast provided by LETTR; during this time, the analysts were asked to complete an anonymous survey designed to *(continue on page 3)*

Meeting LETTR's Board Of Directors

When the Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research (LETTR) first laid plans for its directorate, the inclusion of a representative from the University of Central Florida (UCF) was never in question. The unique relationship between the two entities led to UCF having a seat on LETTR's Board of Directors, a position currently held by Joe Giampapa. Giampapa serves UCF as the Director of Technology Transfer; Giampapa explains that his role is to "direct [UCF's] activities in translating research into commercial goods and services." Giampapa's efforts at UCF directly aided in the creation of LETTR; in 2004, Giampapa

helped LETTR seek and obtain the intellectual property rights to FINDER, giving way to the creation of LETTR to oversee the maintenance and development of the system. Giampapa's Technology Transfer Office had a direct hand in the negotiations and he personally assisted in the development of LETTR. However, Giampapa's interest in the project continued long after the technology transfer was completed. "What captured my attention about FINDER," says Giampapa, "was that it seemed to really work. My market research showed that there were several alleged 'software solutions' out there for law enforcement - but they were expensive and police

officers in the know characterized them as 'vaporware.' FINDER, on the other hand, was inexpensive and was making in-roads based on word-of-mouth referrals. I was told on more than one occasion that the reason FINDER was succeeding where others had failed was purely because of the 'cop-to-cop' sales strategy. As a former small business retailer myself, I've always believed that word-of-mouth is one of the best and most effective forms of advertising." Giampapa further states that, "The genius underlying FINDER is [its ability] to convert what were once long, arduous, and time-consuming manual tasks, into automated *(continue on page 2)*



LETTR Board Member: Joe Giampapa

procedures.” Giampapa's support of FINDER and of LETTR, led to an invitation to serve on the board of directors. “I serve on LETTR's Board of Directors because UCF was designated one seat; I accepted because I believe FINDER should be rolled out beyond the borders of Florida. It's a good tool to catch bad people.” Giampapa states that his greatest contribution to LETTR is his knowledge and experience in the business realm. “I think

my greatest contribution to the LETTR Board is to provide strategic guidance. Having degrees in engineering, business finance, and law, coupled with an entrepreneur's instinct for business opportunities, I have become adept at 'connecting the dots' to create and direct growing businesses.” Giampapa anticipates wide growth for both FINDER and LETTR. “We envision FINDER as a solution for law enforcement data sharing statewide. Then

on into neighboring Southeastern states (like Georgia and Tennessee), the Southeast Region, and the rest of the country. We have begun a dialogue with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, so there is international interest too.” Joe Giampapa has definitely been an ardent support of the FINDER system and of LETTR. Due, in part, to his efforts at UCF, the concept of LETTR became a reality; he is certainly an respected member of the LETTR board.

*“FINDER improves the investigative efforts by law enforcement agencies to identify and to locate criminals...”
-Captain Art King*

UCF TV Puts FINDER On Air

UCF TV recently visited the LETTR office and interviewed Detective Jim McClure, LETTR's Program Director, for a TV news spot detailing FINDER. Detective McClure provided an overview of the FINDER application, which will air on the UCF Knightly News, a University of Central Florida based broadcast. Discussed during the video-taped inter-

view was the relationship between UCF and FINDER. McClure stated that FINDER is a project that created a unique nexus among technology, academia, and public safety, which lead to the development of an information sharing network that is both low cost and effective and that, due to it's success, has now drawn national attention. McClure added that, “UCF

set the gold standard for criminal justice research; we were able to harness that aspect and utilize graduate students who wanted to work in a practical environment.” The goal of the Knightly News piece was to showcase FINDER as an example of a successful academic-public endeavor. The spot will air September 23rd on Bright-house network, channel one.

Spotlight Agency: Winter Park, PD



The Winter Park Police Department began sharing data via the FINDER system in 2005. Since then, FINDER has become routine in the agency's business operations. According to Captain Art King, “FINDER is used to verify and identify information provided by subjects; it is also used to try and recover stolen property. Other than using FINDER to query serial numbers, our department also checks the names of all people that Field Contact Cards are completed on to

see if they pawned any property that could have been stolen from Winter Park. We also use FINDER to check serial numbers for six months after an item has been reported stolen. This has resulted in a few items being recovered that might not have been recovered otherwise. FINDER is also used to try and locate current contact information for suspects.” Captain King feels that the greatest benefit of FINDER to his agency has come from the “ability to now locate

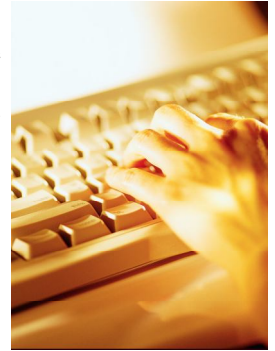
stolen property that has been pawned by a suspect in a crime.” Captain King further adds that FINDER has contributed to overall law enforcement by improving the process of information sharing among agencies across the state. Captain King elaborates that FINDER “improve[s] the investigative efforts by law enforcement agencies to identify and to locate criminals throughout the state who might have committed a crime within [their own] jurisdiction.”

Creating A New User Account

More and more users are being introduced to the FINDER system and, as such, are requesting new user accounts. In order for a new user to request an account, they must first access FINDER's main login screen and then click the "Request A New User Account" button/link. Once the user clicks the link, he/she will be directed to the "User Request Account" page. The first step is for the new user to read and accept the Privacy Policy, which details the various laws and guidelines of FINDER

use. Once the new user has accepted the privacy policy, he/she must then create a new profile; all of the information must be completed, including the creation of a unique username and password and the furnishing of a current email address. Once all fields have been completed, the new user clicks the "Create User" button. The user's request for a new account is then submitted to the FINDER system administrator for his/her agency. After the submission has been completed, the new

user will receive the first of two emails. The first email will let the user know that the account has been created and verifies that the request was sent to the system administrator. Once the system administrator at the user's agency approves the account, the new user will receive a second email indicating that the account has been created and that the user has been granted access FINDER. The user can now login to the FINDER system using the unique password that he/she created.



Notes From The Crime Analyst Workshop

gather information on the crime analysis process. The participants then broke out into small group sessions and shared in "focus group" discussions. During these focus groups, the analysts were asked to identify their current technological environment and to offer suggestions for any specific needs and possible analytical tools that would better assist them in their duties. The workshop

ended with a large group discussion, during which time the key results of the breakout sessions were detailed and summarized. All of the participants offered valuable insight and shared suggestions on tools and techniques that would improve their daily operations. The Crime Analysts Workshop was a definite success, with an overwhelming majority of attendees indicating that the workshop was

an excellent value to them. Of the key elements that the participants identified as being beneficial, the first was the learning aspect, with one analyst stating that she "was very impressed [with the workshop] and learned a lot." Another element was the networking aspect; one analyst remarked that "networking is so important; it helps us to learn new and better ways of doing analysis work."

All of the participants offered valuable insight and shared suggestions on tools and techniques that would improve their daily operations.

Behind The Scenes: Damir Krimer

Having been with the FINDER project since early 2005, Damir Krimer is a senior member of LETTR's programming staff. Originally from Serbia, Damir came to the University of Central Florida to study management in information systems, obtaining his masters degree in 2005. At UCF, a colleague, who worked for FINDER, introduced Damir to the project and, after just a short while, Damir knew that he was working on a something very different. Says Damir, "I knew early on that FINDER's main goal was to make it easier for law enforce-

ment agencies do their job. Success stories from all over Florida speak about the huge benefit of FINDER to the these agencies and to the community in general. The best part of it is that FINDER does all this without putting any extra overhead on either law enforcement agencies or the community. One of the things that makes me feel great is knowing that a project that I'm working on, on a daily basis, is actually being used out there in the real world and that a lot of people benefit from it." Damir's expertise is not just focused on

FINDER, he has also worked on other projects, including the development of the Sex Offenders module in the Crime-Net application. Damir enjoys his work with LETTR, saying that "LETTR gives us the freedom to work on different projects, not just one for months or years. This allows us to get exposed to different aspects of the law enforcement world, to learn and to use different technologies, to work with people from different backgrounds and, in general, to make our work more interesting and beneficial to our careers."





LETTR

**12201 Research Parkway
Suite 223
Orlando, Florida 32826
407-882-1590**

The Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research (LETTR) is a Florida, not-for-profit corporation. LETTR was formed in September 2007 by the University of Central Florida and members of the Florida Law Enforcement Data Sharing Consortium to consolidate the intellectual property and other resources associated with FINDER, the Florida Integrated Network for Data Exchange and Retrieval. FINDER is a set of computer applications that enable automated information sharing between police agencies.



**For comments or story suggestions, please
contact this newsletter's creator and author,
Dr. Jennifer Sumner, at
JSumner@mail.ucf.edu**