

Seminars in Emerging Science
Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
Chipley, Florida
Friday, January 11, 2008

Presenter Information

Charles P. Gerba, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Arizona

A microbiologist, Dr. Charles P. Gerba from the University of Arizona, has authored more than 400 articles and nine text books on the topics of environmental microbiology and pollution science. Dr. Gerba has also been a member of the editorial board for a variety of professional journals in the area of microbiology and served on an extensive number of task forces. He was a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Committee on the development of the "Guide Standard and Protocol for Testing Microbiological Water Purifiers," which forms the basis for testing the performance of water treatment devices used for outdoor recreation. He is a member of the U.S. EPA's Science Advisory Board Committees on Drinking Water and Research Strategies.

Dr. Gerba, a nationally known expert on household microbes and intestinal diseases, is one of the first microbiologists to intensely study bacteria counts in the workplace. He actively conducts research on the development of new disinfectants and drinking water treatment processes, new methods for the detection of waterborne pathogens, occurrence and fate of pathogens in the environment, and microbial risk assessment. Much of his work is done with industry in the areas of applied and environmental microbiology. The public knows Dr. Gerba best for his efforts on behalf of household hygiene. He has made frequent media appearances, including *Good Morning America*, *Today*, and *Dateline*, and has been quoted numerous times in international and national reports, magazines and newspapers.

Ginger Clark
Scientific Coordinator and Research Manager
Biotechnologies for Ecological, Evolutionary and
Conservation Sciences Genetic Analysis Laboratory
University of Florida

Ginger Clark, Scientific Coordinator and Research Manager at Biotechnologies for Ecological, Evolutionary and Conservation Sciences Genetic Analysis Laboratory at University of Florida, typically sequences DNA on wildlife; primarily to find poachers. In her work with the lab, Clark developed a technique, based on use of tissue samples or blood that can determine the species of deer. This special technique, developed to help game officials determine whether deer meat came from native Florida white-tailed deer or another species, can also be used to identify any hoofed species. She has also worked on cases involving suspected poaching of wild turkey hens, alligator snapping turtle meat and Florida black bear meet. Additionally, her lab has been involved in determining whether eggs sold as freshwater turtle eggs or from endangered sea turtles, instead and in determining whether white fish filets purchased by a Florida seafood dealer were from an illegal fish species. Ms. Clark has also done DNA sequencing to help identify human remains.

Anthony Falsetti, Ph.D.
Director, C. A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory
Co-Director, William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine
University of Florida

Anthony Falsetti, Ph.D. is Director of the C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory and Co-director of the William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine at University of Florida. The C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory is touted as the premier forensic anthropology laboratory in the country and one of the busiest. There, analyses of skeletal remains for all medical examiner districts in Florida and scientists associated with the laboratory are performed. Dr. Falsetti has been interviewed for shows on the Discovery Channel, Court TV and the National Geographic Channel. Due to popular demand for the subject matter, Falsetti's past case files are going to be the subject matter for a new television show on Court TV tentatively named "Positive ID: The Case Files of Dr. Anthony Falsetti."

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One of the most intriguing cases for Dr. Falsetti was assisting the Russians in developing a plan to locate and recover the two missing members of Czar Nicholas II's murdered family. In this work, he reviewed nine skeletons and concurred with Dr. Bill Maples, a former UF professor, that the bodies of Alexei and Anastasia must have been hurriedly burned while the Bolsheviks transported the bodies to a shallow grave. Dr. Falsetti also worked as a part of the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team after September 11, and traveled to Thailand in March, 2005, to help identify tsunami victims.