TWIMC:

My name is Joe DeMaro. I graduated in 2017 from the Forensic Science Master’s Degree Program at Marshall University specializing in Crime Scene Investigation and Forensic DNA analysis. Previously, I completed my undergraduate Biology degree at Purdue University in 2015 dual specializing in Genetics and Neurobiology and Physiology with minors in Psychology, Russian, and Forensic Science.

It was at Purdue under the direction of my mentor Patrick Jones that I discovered my passion for incorporating imaging with forensics. While working with Mr. Jones, aside from attaining knowledge on a wide variety of forensic techniques and topics, I headed a research project that employed a camera mounted on a turret used to take panoramic photographs of buildings. Photos were assembled using specialized software into panoramas. Panoramas were ultimately combined to provide a photographic representation of the building that was imaged. Panoramas of both outside and inside of buildings would provide valuable information to law enforcement and other first responders in the event of an active shooter situation or other incident. The panorama project offered valuable protection for first responders and also student, faculty and staff.

Currently, I am working with the Marshall University Forensic Science Program Director, Dr. Terry Fenger to develop an active shooter response plan for the Marshall University Forensic Science Center. The plan includes the development of medical and lockdown kits for use by students and teachers in the event of a shooter or shooters. Our project would serve as a model for other institutions.

Additionally, for my thesis project, I am developing protocols to allow investigators to access crime scenes with an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV or drone). A drone is highly suited for use in forensics because of its simplicity and cost-effectiveness. My thesis project required not only a high level of problem-solving, but also the ability to communicate ideas, concerns, and questions clearly to a wide variety of audiences ranging from experts to lay individuals.

I believe I am a strong candidate for many imaging and forensics positions due in part to my strong scientific research background as documented in my resume. Throughout the course of my work in research, I was tasked with developing novel solutions to problems using readily available materials including lab provided resources. Forensic Science is not cut and dry; rarely are the circumstances surrounding an event readily apparent: determining the sequence of events requires a high degree of critical thinking to begin to unravel and place events in order. The development of new methods for the examination of evidence as well as determining the sequences of events requires a substantial amount of background knowledge and the skills to apply that knowledge. I am highly skilled at applying my knowledge to solve complex problems such as those that are encountered daily in forensic science.

Thank you very much for your time,

­­­­Joe DeMaro B.S.