

# Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

As you plan to attend the annual AAFS meeting in Washington D.C. do not forget to take advantage of the events the AAFS holds each year. Attending the section sessions is a good way to meet people in your field and provides opportunity for continuing education. At an additional cost the AAFS also holds many workshops, workshorts, special sessions and breakfasts targeting relevant, interesting and pertinent continuing education topics each year. If you plan to attend any of these events, do not forget the AAFS has a continuing education program. With this program you can receive general education credits as well as continuing education credits for other organizations to which you may already be a member. Please review all upcoming registration materials carefully ensuring you make the most of your meeting experience.

The 2008 YFSF Special Session planning is well underway. We plan to hold our scientific session on Tuesday February 19, 2008 from 8:00-5:00 pm. We will also continue the tradition of the annual YFSF Poster and Slides Sessions to be held on Tuesday February 19, 2008 from 7:00-8:30 pm and Wednesday February 20, 2008 from 5:30-7:00 pm, respectively. If you would like to present a poster or brief slides presentation please contact the chairs for these sessions with a title and brief abstract for your submission. Finally, we will hold our breakfast session on Thursday February 21, 2008 from 7:00-9:30 am. If you are interested in participating in the breakfast session events please contact Jeannette Perr, the YFSF Secretary. All of these events are included with registration for the YFSF Special Session.

To keep the cost of these events low for our target audience, students and forensic sciences professionals new in their careers, we ask for donations and sponsorships each year to supplement the cost of our events. The AAFS works with us and potential sponsors to keep registration to our session at a reasonable cost to attendees. With a low cost to the YFSF Special Session we hope this will allow meeting registrants to

attend other events at the AAFS meeting. If your group or organization is interested in donating to the YFSF, please contact the YFSF Sponsorship Chair Robin Bowen at robin.bowen@mail.wvu.edu.

Finally, if you are a student please take advantage of the wonderful grant opportunities the Forensic Sciences Foundation has to offer. Each year they offer travel grant funding for students to supplement costs to attend the AAFS meeting. Also, the FSF provides funding for research projects (\$500-5000) annually. Please do not hesitate to apply for these grants at any stage of your undergraduate or graduate research. If you would like more information please visit their website at <http://www.forensicsciencesfoundation.org/grants/TravelGrant.htm>. If you plan to present your research at the AAFS meeting you may also want to consider applying for the Emerging Forensic Scientist award. Your poster or slide presentation will be reviewed by members of the FSF at the meeting and if selected you will receive an award to cover all expenses to attend the 2009 meeting. For more information please see [http://www.forensicsciencesfoundation.org/news/fs\\_award.htm](http://www.forensicsciencesfoundation.org/news/fs_award.htm).

— *Marrah E. Lachowicz MFS, GCCP*  
*YFSF President*

## Forensic Science in the Public Eye Continues!

Greetings Young Forensic Scientists! By the time you read this article the lineup will be set for the 2008 Young Forensic Scientists Forum! All of your YFSF program co-chairs have been working hard to plan a highly successful session for your education and enjoyment in Washington D.C. In the last newsletter we announced that this year's theme would be "Forensic Science in the Public Eye" and told you that we wanted to look behind the scenes at the post-CSI, highly publicized, world of forensic science. Our goal was to bring you a group of professionals who could relay their experiences in dealing with the public and the media through

various career aspects such as working high profile cases, hosting television programs and writing fictional novels and non-fictional forensic science books. I am pleased to announce that these goals will be more than fulfilled at the 2008 meeting when we will be joined by an array of extremely successful, talented and hardworking forensic scientists! As of the deadline for submitting this article, the following people have agreed to share their experiences and knowledge with our group:

- > Dr. Michael Baden-forensic pathologist, author, lecturer and host of HBO's Autopsy series
- > Ms. Linda Kenny Baden-attorney, author, lecturer and legal commentator for CNN, MSNBC, CNBC and Court TV
- > Dr. Henry Lee-forensic scientist, author, lecturer, consultant and host of Court TV's Trace Evidence: The Case Files of Dr. Henry Lee
- > Dr. Kathy Reichs-forensic anthropologist, professor, author and novelist of *Deja Dead* and the entire series of *Temperance Brennan* novels upon which FOX's *Bones* television series is based
- > Ms. Natalie Shirley-winner of the 8th Annual Emerging Forensic Scientist Award for her age determination from the clavicular epiphysis work in forensic anthropology
- > Ms. Dayle Hinman-criminal profiler, homicide investigator, lecturer and host of Court TV's Body of Evidence: From the Case Files of Dayle Hinman
- > Dr. Robert Powers-toxicologist for the Connecticut Department of Public Safety
- > Dr. Lynn Kimsey-entomologist, professor and expert witness in the Bakersfield, CA trial of Vincent Brothers

And that is just a sampling of the experiences and accomplishments that our various speakers will bring to the 2008 YFSF Special Session! We are still working to bring you a presentation on the DC area sniper shooting cases, the list is almost complete as our August 1st deadline quickly approaches! From the Special Session through the BYOS, Posters and Breakfast Sessions, we hope you are all starting to get excited for another great YFSF year! We'll keep you posted with more updates as the months move on, as always, feel free to contact us at any time: Amanda Frohwein (frohwein@dps.state.ia.us) and Jennifer Mercer (Jennifer.w.mercer@gmail.com).

— Amanda Frohwein, BS  
YFSF Program Chair

### YFSF Poster Session

The YFSF would like to invite new forensic scientists and students to present their research at the Poster Session. The YFSF strives to bring new and exciting aspects of forensic science to students. At the YFSF students will learn about the different Sections of AAFS and the specialties within the forensic community. The Poster Session occurs during the AAFS annual meeting, which is in Washington, DC. To participate in the Poster Session please register by January 1, 2008. You can register by submitting your curriculum vitae and a 1-2 paragraph abstract to YFSFPoster@gmail.com. Please feel free to also submit any questions you may have. The Poster Session strives to represent many different aspects of forensic sciences and many institutions. All types of research are welcome so please don't hesitate to submit your abstract. There are limited boards available so submit your abstract soon!

— Arliss Dudley-Cash  
YFSF Poster Session Chair

### 2008 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

It's that time to begin planning for the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides and presenters are needed! YFSF Bring Your Own Slides is a great opportunity to share with the forensic community case studies, research, or future interests. These presentations are short and casual providing a great way to build your resume and hone communication skills. Last year was filled with great research topics ranging from paints/dyes to an animal hair database and numerous case study evaluations. If you are interested in presenting please contact Missy Smith at msmith@ocme.nyc.gov or Erica Blais Erica.Blais@state.ma.us. See you in DC!

— Missy Smith  
YFSF Program Co-Chair

### 2008 YFSF Annual Breakfast

There has been serious brainstorming within the Young Forensic Scientist Forum as we prepare to bring another session worthy of your attendance. In the past the YFSF Annual Breakfast has traditionally covered what happens during the interview process, how to apply for forensic scientist positions, what education is necessary, as well as a resume review. That has been well received in the past and is always useful to aspiring forensic scientists. This year we are having actual young forensic scientist discuss their careers as well as some scientist that have advanced into management and others that have become seasoned on the bench discuss their thoughts. There will also be a resume review with follow up after the discussion. If you have an idea, question, or suggestion please feel free to email Jeannette Perr at: Jeannette.Perr@gmail.com.

### YFSF Website

The YFSF website is just starting to be revamped under the leadership of Amy Richmond Aylor (amyaylor@gmail.com). Amy is looking for help and suggestions so if you are interested in participating please feel free to email Amy.

— Amy Aylor  
YFSF Website Co-Chair

### About the YFSF

The YFSF is dedicated to the education, enrichment, and professional development of young forensic scientist. YFSF participants can be non-AAFS-members while organizers must be AAFS members from any section within the AAFS. The Forum provides a medium to educate and network with young forensic scientist to facilitate their establishment within the forensic science community. The YFSF is composed of a Special Session, a Poster Session, a Bring Your Own Slides Session, and a Breakfast Session during the AAFS Annual Meeting. Outside the Academy meeting the YFSF works to further the endeavors of young forensic scientists through the YFSF newsletter and the YFSF website (<http://www.aafs.org/yfsf/index.htm>). YFSF President Marrah E. Lachowicz MFS, GCCP (Gradpath@aol.com) and YFSF Secretary **Jeannette Perr PhD** (jeannette.perr@gmail.com) can answer any questions about the YFSF and are looking to many different levels of young forensic scientist participating this year's session.

— Jeannette Perr, PhD  
YFSF Secretary