

## Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

### A Letter from the YFSF President

The August 1 abstract deadline is right around the corner and the Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) committee is hard at work planning for the AAFS 65th Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC! Although the AAFS abstract submission deadline is August 1, the deadline for the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) and Bring Your Own Poster Sessions (BYOP) is December 15<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>, respectively.

Presenting at professional meetings is an excellent way to build resumes, get involved, and make connections throughout the professional community. The YFSF offers two options for presenting: oral and poster presentations. Both sessions are sure to have excellent rounds of presentations and are great ways to present research, new trends, and case studies. Presenting is an outstanding way to promote growth and to make an impact on the future of forensic science as a young forensic scientist.

If you have questions on how to become involved or need presentation advice, please do not hesitate to contact any of the YFSF committee members!

**Lindsey Crass, BS**  
*YFSF President*  
[lindsey.crass@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:lindsey.crass@mail.wvu.edu)

### A Note from the YFSF Secretary

Summer is here! This means warmer weather and longer days, but it also means it is time to submit your abstracts. The YFSF officers encourage you to take this opportunity to present your research alongside your peers at either the YFSF BYOS Session or the YFSF BYOP Session. The Academy's Annual Meeting is one of the best platforms to present either your research or a case study, because, unlike other conferences, the AAFS Annual Meeting is a gathering of professionals from all disciplines of forensic science. Please do not hesitate to contact either **Lauren Pharr** or **Lauren**

**Bryan**, or any of the other YFSF Chairs if you have any questions or would like to know more information about YFSF.

**Lauren Pharr, MA**      **Lauren Bryan, PhD**  
*YFSF Secretary Chair*      *YFSF Secretary Co-Chair*  
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### Financial Liaison

Each year at the Academy's Annual Meeting YFSF hosts events that provide important information and education to forensic science students and young forensic professionals. These events range from a day-long special session, a BYOP Session, a BYOS Session, and a working Breakfast Session. The support and financial contributions of the forensic science community are vital to the planning of these YFSF events. Last year's contributions went towards the expenses of hosting the YFSF Program. Without the support and contributions of the forensic science community, the YFSF would be unable to host the special session, poster, and slide sessions, which provides educational opportunities for both young and established professionals.

In the past, the YFSF has received both monetary and educational support from universities with FEPAC accredited programs, various forensic vendors, and AAFS sections. These groups will be personally contacted over the next few months so that those interested in providing support will have the needed information on how to contribute to the YFSF.

If you or your group is interested in providing financial contributions or donation of materials for the 2013 YFSF Special Session, please contact either **Lara Frame** or **Katie Knurek**

**Lara Frame, MA**      **Katie Knurek**  
*YFSF Financial Liaison*      *YFSF Financial Co-Liaison*  
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## YFSF Breakfast Session

The YFSF Breakfast Session typically focuses on professional development, which is very important for members, students, and young forensic scientist professionals. It is important for young members and professionals to learn the tools necessary to succeed within the forensic science community. This year, our breakfast session will focus on the requirements of expert testimony as a forensic scientist and what it means to be an expert. Specifically, we plan on having three-twenty minute talks focusing on: (1) the importance of knowing what cited sources you used; (2) how to prepare for cross-examination by a defense attorney; and, (3) the role of a forensic scientist as an expert witness. Currently, **Anjali Swienton** from SciLawForensics is scheduled to speak. As in previous years, the YFSF Breakfast Session will be organized to include a resume review session with a distinguished forensic scientist panel following the initial presentation. We currently have AAFS Past President and Gradwohl Laureate **Barry Fisher** and Past President **Joe Bono** signed on to be part of the resume review panel. This discussion time will help to specifically address such questions as: "What should be included on your resume and is it structured properly?" If this sounds helpful to you, well then, this is the session for you! If you have any questions or are interested in being on our resume panel, please contact **Jennifer Malone**.

**Jennifer Malone, PhD**  
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair  
*jennifer.malone@wyo.gov*

**Ashley Moulton, BS**  
YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair

## YFSF Special Session

The 2013 YFSF Special Session theme has been chosen, "Applications of Education and Research to the Diverse Field of Forensic Science." The speakers at this year's Special Session will highlight the various applications of education and research, along with the vast career paths within the field of forensics through the presentation of unique casework experiences and career choices. This Special Session will expose both students and young professionals in the audience to the endless possibilities they may take their careers in the future.

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum is a great opportunity to present and inspire the next generation of forensic scientists. Professionals who are interested in presenting work, related to the 2013 YFSF Special Session theme above, are encouraged to contact *yfsfs@gmail.com* as soon as possible.

**Taryn Mead, BS**  
YFSF Special Session Chair

**Jennifer Newton, BS**  
YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

## YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

The YFSF BYOS Session is a wonderful opportunity to present your exciting casework observations and innovative research. What skills are necessary for a successful oral presentation? If you do not yet have the experience, here is some useful information:

- *Consider the audience.* Some members will be experts in your field, others will not. Try to include enough detail to interest the experts while not talking over the audiences' heads.
- *Set a goal.* What do you want the audience to take away from your talk? Perhaps to read a paper you wrote on the subject, or

- to look for similar exhibits in their casework, or to just be entertained. You decide and let it guide your presentation.
- *Keep it simple.* Stick to a few main points to help the audience understand and remember your presentation.
- *Edit.* Proofread your slides carefully and use a large font for ease of reading. Check that your file is compatible with and runs smoothly on multiple computers with different operating systems (e.g., Mac users should open their presentations on a PC prior to presenting to make sure the formatting transfers correctly).
- *Practice.* Make sure you know what you are going to say, how you are going to say it, and how long it takes. Be comfortable enough with the presentation to be able to look at the audience more than your notes. Use a video camera or a colleague for feedback.
- *Involve the audience.* Grab the audience's attention by putting key information at the beginning, use illustrations and anecdotes to clarify your points, and demonstrate confidence by making eye contact.

If you are interested in presenting at this year's YFSF BYOS session, **please submit a one page abstract and your resume or CV by December 15.** Feel free to contact Lindsay or myself with any questions you have.

**Ali Mostrom, MSFS**  
YFSF BYOS Slides Chair  
*alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov*

**Lindsay Saylor, BS**  
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Co-Chair  
*lindsaysaylor@gmail.com*

## YFSF Poster Session

The YFSF BYOP Session is an excellent opportunity for students and young forensic science professionals of all ages and disciplines to present their research or interesting cases. If you are interested in presenting at the YFSF Poster Session in Washington, DC, **the deadline to submit an abstract for your poster is December 1.** The YFSF BYOP Session is the ideal place to gain experience presenting your research, particularly if you will not be able to meet the AAFS abstract submission deadline of August 1st.

It is not too early to start thinking of presenting at the 2013 YFSF Poster Session! Become more involved at the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting by participating in the YFSF Poster Session!

If you are interested in presenting during this session or have any questions, please email *yfsf.postersession@gmail.com*.

**Amber Neitzel, BS**  
YFSF Poster Session Chair

**Jackie Jenkins, PhD, MSFS**  
YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair