

## Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

Greetings Young Forensic Scientists! I am sitting down to write this update just minutes after I had a great sigh of relief from hitting the “submit to AAFS” button for our 2009 Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session abstract proposal! I guess I should save the sigh for when the letter of approval comes, but as those who must meet that August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline know, it’s awfully nice to have everything planned and submitted! What that one little click of the “submit” button represents is months of hard work by the planning committee of the YFSF. Your program chairs have been securing a great line-up of speakers for the 2009 session entitled *AAFS at a Glance: Experience the Forensic Sciences*. Please check out the articles from your chair and co-chair of each of these sessions to see what they have in store for you in Denver, you won’t want to miss it!

So as not to repeat everything that you will read in the other updates, I will move on to some different topics here, one being membership in the AAFS. By the time you get this letter the **October 1<sup>st</sup>** deadline for applying for AAFS membership will be near. Please consider joining the organization as a crucial step in taking an active role in the forensic science field. Application materials and requirements can be found on the AAFS website under the membership tab, we encourage all of you to join the organization and to get involved with the YFSF.

The YFSF is a great way to transition into the Academy, to get involved in planning events, and to do some serious networking with other planners and with distinguished members of the forensic science field who participate in our sessions. As you know, the theme for the overall 2009 AAFS conference is *Forensic Science: Envisioning and Creating the Future*. Those of you reading this column should realize that this

theme is speaking directly to you-you as a young forensic scientist are the future of the forensic science field and of this organization! I recently talked with AAFS president **Carol Henderson** about the importance of this group and of the students and professionals with 5 years or less experience that it represents. It is inspiring to know that the president, leaders and members of this organization are looking to help you in any way possible! For this year’s breakfast session the AAFS president herself has set up a panel of speakers to teach you exactly what you need to do to get involved in forensic science research and how to obtain grants that are out there just waiting for you to put to good use! **Jay Siegel** has also volunteered to present to us on the upcoming report from the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Needs of the Forensic Science Community. This report is being submitted to Congress at the end of the year and will be a huge topic of discussion within the forensic science community-and one of the committee members wants to make sure that you, as a young forensic scientist are not left out of the loop because you are one of the needs of the forensic science community! You are needed to reduce backlogs, you are needed for research, you are needed to contribute to this field, and you are also needed to contribute to this organization! There are doors being opened for you and there are opportunities waiting for you, are you going to take the steps set out in front of you to get into this field and to contribute to this field? Some easy steps to make include applying for membership in the AAFS by the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, attending the YFSF special session, participating in the slides, posters and breakfast sessions and volunteering to help with these events in the future. There will be many difficult steps along your way in this field, why pass up the easy ones?! We are here for you from the planners of the YFSF all the way up to the president of the Academy, take advantage of it and get involved! Please feel free to contact myself (frohwein@dps.state.ia.us) or any of the

other organizers; we look forward to seeing you all in Denver for another great session!

*Amanda Frohwein, BS  
YFSF President*

### **AAFS at a Glance: Experience the Forensic Sciences Gets Fired Up!**

Welcome Young Forensic Scientists! The Schedule has been set for the 2009 Young Forensic Scientists Forum! We have all worked very hard to put together an interesting and informative program in Denver, CO. As you know, this year's theme is *AAFS at a Glance: Experience the Forensic Sciences*. This theme was chosen to show just how broad a field forensic science is. Our goal is to bring you a group of professionals who can relay their experience in research and case work to show the depth of the forensic science field. I am pleased to announce that this goal will be fulfilled at the 2009 meeting. We have a lineup of talented and engaging speakers from many different fields in forensic science. Our Speakers will be covering the topics of Anthropology, Pathology/Biology, Toxicology, Criminalistics and Odontology. And that is just a sampling, there will be many other topics covered during the special session. 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:

**Arliss Dudley-Cash** (dudleycash@gmail.com) and  
Erica Blais (erica.blais@pol.state.ma.us).

*Arliss Dudley-Cash, BA  
YFSF Program Chair*

### **2009 YFSF Breakfast Session**

This year's Breakfast Session has switched gears from professionalism to research techniques and tools. For many of our attendees, theses or dissertations may be on the forefront of the brain. We have excellent speakers lined up to provide information to help young forensic scientists keep current on the latest research techniques and the technological tools needed to do so.

**Jay Siegel**, Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and Director of the Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program at Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) will be speaking about the needs of the Forensic Science Community among other topics.

We have three speakers from The National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology, and the Law, NCSTL: Cynthia Holt, Catherine Bailey and Diana Botluk. They will introduce us to the NCSTL, the techniques to keep up to date on research in the field of Forensics, and the technological tools to aid in research.

**Jenna Oakes-Smith** and I are really excited about all of the presentations this year. We believe this will be informative and

extremely beneficial. We will also have a resume panel this year. If you would like to have your resume reviewed, please bring it with you to this year's AAFS meeting! If you have any questions, please contact either Jenna (jloakes-smith@SLMPD.ORG) or myself at msmith@ocme.nyc.gov. Thank you for all your comments and suggestions on issues to be addressed on professionalism. They were all great and will be used next year. See you all in Denver!

*Melissa E. Smith  
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair*

### **2009 YFSF Poster Session**

As an undergrad, graduate student, or new forensic professional are you interested in presenting at the 2009 AAFS conference in Denver? If so, the YFSF Poster Session is the perfect opportunity! Set on a smaller scale than the large AAFS poster sessions, it provides a great way to get your feet wet in presenting research to your professional peers. The posters topics can range from research in any of the forensic disciplines to interesting casework - but all research topics are welcome! With 39 posters presented at the last conference, we are hoping to get even more topics from more institutions at this year's event.

In order to register for the YFSF Poster Session, please submit your curriculum vitae and a 1-2 page abstract by January 1, 2009 to YFSF Poster Chair **Anthony Sutter** at yfsfposter@gmail.com. Should you have any questions, feel free to e-mail those as well. We're looking forward to a great poster session in Denver.

*Anthony Sutter  
YFSF Poster Session Chair*

### **2009 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides**

It's that time of year to begin planning for the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides and we are looking for great presenters! YFSF Bring Your Own Slides is a wonderful opportunity to share any interesting cases, and research you may have worked on. The presentations are short and casual and are a great way to build your resumes and your communication skills. If you are interested in presenting, please contact **Tanisha Henson** (t.v.henson@hotmail.com) or **Rachael Lehr** (rachael.lehr@gmail.com). See you in Denver!

*Tanisha Henson, BS  
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair*