

# Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

## A Letter from the YFSF President

It is hard to believe that another summer is winding down and the 2014 AAFS abstract submission deadline has come and gone! Although the Academy's abstract deadline has passed, there are still two opportunities for young forensic scientists to present. The Young Forensic Scientist Forum's (YFSF) Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) and Bring Your Own Poster (BYOP) chairs are accepting abstract submissions until December. For more information on how to submit abstracts, as well as the deadlines, please see the BYOS and BYOP sections of this newsletter.

In addition to presentation opportunities, the YFSF events at the AAFS 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA, are a great way to experience the meeting theme *Forensic Science Education and Mentorship: Our Path Forward* in action. The Special Session, BYOS, BYOP, and Breakfast Sessions are all excellent opportunities to meet and interact with experienced members of the forensic science community who can provide wonderful insight to education and career questions! The events will include speakers from the different academy sections who will present on topics pertaining to their exciting fields.

While the August 1 abstract deadline has passed, another important deadline is right around the corner. The deadline to apply for AAFS membership is October 1. YFSF will have a number of committee positions open after the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle. In order to serve on the committee, individuals must be a member of the Academy effective February 2014. The YFSF committee is a great opportunity for involvement in AAFS. For more information on joining the YFSF committee, please contact [LEC385@gmail.com](mailto:LEC385@gmail.com). YFSF looks forward to seeing you in Seattle!

**Lindsey Saunders, BS**  
YFSF President

## A Note from the YFSF Secretary

The last of summer is fading away and with it comes fall, bringing the AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle closer. The YFSF would like to remind everyone that the deadline for AAFS membership is October 1. This deadline is for those individuals looking to apply for new membership or for promotion to a higher membership status. AAFS membership is a great way to network and can lead to exciting opportunities. One of those opportunities is serving on the YFSF committee. Individuals who would like to serve on the committee must be members of AAFS effective February 2014. As our YFSF president stated, there will be several committee positions open in 2014, so those interested in joining the YFSF committee can contact us. The YFSF is a great way to become involved in the forensic science community. Individuals will be able to network with their peers, present their research, and enhance their knowledge in various forensic disciplines. Presenting is a big part of the YFSF and the deadline to submit abstracts for the YFSF sessions are as follows: BYOP - December 1; and, BYOS - December 15. Individuals who are interested in presenting their research or have questions may contact any one of the YFSF chairs or co-chairs.

**Sarah Ellis, MS**  
YFSF Secretary Chair  
[Sarahjellis2@gmail.com](mailto:Sarahjellis2@gmail.com)

**Alicja Lanfear, PhD**  
YFSF Secretary Co-Chair  
[Alicja.Lanfear@mtsu.edu](mailto:Alicja.Lanfear@mtsu.edu)

## Financial Liaison

Each year at the Academy meeting, the YFSF hosts a special session for forensic scientists just starting out in the field. Students and young professionals participate in our program to network with others in their field and to establish themselves in the forensic science community. This is achieved through a day-long educational session, a working Breakfast Program, a Bring Your Own Slides session, and a Bring Your Own Poster presentation.

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# Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter cont.

The YFSF has been able to continue to organize the session each year through monetary and educational contributions from the AAFS sections, universities, and various forensic science vendors. There are multiple ways to contribute to YFSF, including donating supplies, financial contributions, or by speaking and participating in the Special Session events.

Anyone interested in contributing to the YFSF program should contact **Katie Knurek** ([katherine.knurek@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:katherine.knurek@ohioattorneygeneral.gov)).

**Katie Knurek**  
Financial Chair

## YFSF Special Session – Tuesday, February 18

This year's Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session, *The World of Forensic Science: The Future of Education and Research*, will highlight the future trends in research and education regarding forensic science. This special session will provide the audience with a look at how the future of forensic science is evolving and changing over time. The speakers will provide unique casework experience, guidance, and mentorship for students and young professionals alike. This is an exciting opportunity to make contact with established professionals in the field as well as learning what different disciplines are doing to further the field of forensics!

The day of speakers will consist of professionals discussing future trends in the forensic field as well as providing unique and interesting case studies relative to their field. We have speakers from a variety of disciplines, including Criminalistics, Toxicology, Pathology/Biology, Odontology, and many more. We are very excited for all of the speakers who will be presenting. More detailed speaker information will be available in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum's November newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding this year's special session, please contact [yfsfs@gmail.com](mailto:yfsfs@gmail.com).

**Lara Newell, MA**                      **Christina Hayes, BS**  
YFSF Special Session Chair      YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

## YFSF Poster Session – Tuesday, February 18

Aloha, young forensic scientists! The YFSF Bring Your Own Poster (BYOP) Session is looking for forensic scientists in the early stages of their careers and students to present their research or an interesting case. Individuals interested in presenting should submit a one-page abstract and CV by December 1. Early submissions are encouraged. The YFSF BYOP Session is a great opportunity to gain experience presenting and to contribute to the research in the forensic community

Individuals with questions about presenting at the BYOP Session or on how to submit their abstract and CV should contact **Jennifer Curnow** at [yfsf.postersession@gmail.com](mailto:yfsf.postersession@gmail.com).

**Jennifer Curnow, MSFS**  
YFSF Poster Session Chair  
[curnow,jen@gmail.com](mailto:curnow,jen@gmail.com)

## YFSF Bring Your Own Slides – Wednesday, February 19

The 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA, will provide a great opportunity for students and young professionals to gain presentation experience and to connect with other students and professionals within the forensic community. Individuals interested in presenting their research at the 2014 Young Forensic Scientists Forum's Bring Your Own Slides Session should email a one-page abstract and CV to [YFSF.BYOS@gmail.com](mailto:YFSF.BYOS@gmail.com) and/or [lsaylors@luc.edu](mailto:lsaylors@luc.edu). All research disciplines are both welcome and encouraged.

The deadline for abstract and CV submissions is December 15.

**Lindsay Saylors**  
YFSF BYOS Chair

## YFSF Breakfast Session – Thursday, February 20

Bring your résumé and your business cards to this year's Young Forensic Scientists Forum Breakfast Session! Every year, at the Thursday morning Breakfast Session, the YFSF focuses on professional development. This year is no different. As the 2014 AAFS Annual Meeting looks to mentorship as the path forward, YFSF brings an exciting set of speakers to share their experiences with new forensic professionals and students.

Drs. Jacqueline Helfgott and **Matthew Hickman** from Seattle University will present on preparing for careers in forensic science and forensic psychology, including networking and expanding career options. Former YFSF President, **Tanisha Henson**, will provide insight on networking and the importance of being involved, while **Raymond Kusumi**, an established forensic scientist at the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory, will focus on personal branding and social media. Finally, **Kristin McDonald** will represent the American Board of Criminalistics, to talk to attendees about the process and importance of certification.

Following the presentations, Breakfast Session attendees will have the opportunity to interact with and receive résumé feedback from an experienced panel of AAFS members. Veteran forensic professionals interested in joining the résumé review panel should email the YFSF Breakfast Session Chair.

Contact [YFSF.Breakfast@gmail.com](mailto:YFSF.Breakfast@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer. See you in Seattle!

**Ali Kidder-Mostrom, MSFS**  
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair