

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

A Letter from the YFSF President

It is hard to believe the 2012 meeting has come and gone and we are on to planning the 2013 meeting! The Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) committee members are already hard at work planning for what is sure to be a wonderful session at the AAFS 65th Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC (February 2013). Over the next few months, keep an eye out for requests from the YFSF committee members looking for poster presenters for the YFSF Bring Your Own Posters Session and speakers for the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session. Both of these sessions will be great ways to get your name and hard work out to the forensic science community. Be sure to read upcoming YFSF newsletters as session themes and speakers will be announced when the information becomes available. The YFSF is always looking for new members and is excited to answer questions about the forum. In closing, I am very excited to be serving as YFSF President this year and look forward to seeing the 2013 YFSF Special Session come to life! If you have any questions about the YFSF please contact me at lindsey.crass@mail.wvu.edu.

Lindsey Crass, BS
YFSF President

A Note from the YFSF Secretary

For those of you who were unable to attend this year's YFSF Special Sessions and presentations in Atlanta, I encourage you to attend the events offered at the 2013 meeting in Washington, DC. The multidisciplinary backgrounds of the YFSF officers and participants offer an exciting array of forensic science information. Not only does the YFSF expose many topics of forensic interest to meeting attendees, but we also present these topics in a welcoming, non-intimidating manner. As a result, the YFSF provides participants with an easy transition into becoming active within the AAFS community. If you wish to become more active in the Academy, then do not hesitate to contact any of the YFSF officers.

Moreover, I am honored to welcome all of the new YFSF officers, but I am especially excited to welcome **Lauren Bryan**, the new YFSF Secretary Co-Chair. As the new secretarial team of Lauren P. and Lauren B., we would like provide you with brief introductions and our areas of forensic expertise.

My name is **Lauren Pharr**. I have been the YFSF Secretary for the past two years and am a Student Affiliate in the Physical Anthropology Section. I am currently a third year PhD candidate at Louisiana State University, and my dissertation research focuses on tracking the hourly locations of vultures in Texas to predict vulture scavenging locations and analyzing vulture scavenged skeletal remains. I received my BA in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee and my MA in Anthropology from LSU. My favorite aspects of the YFSF are the diverse expertise of the YFSF officers and the presentations at each Academy meeting, since both promote networking and allow participants to stay up-to-date on the various advances in the different forensic disciplines. The networking opportunities and array of knowledge offered through the YFSF are only two of the many benefits offered. I encourage you to join us at the 2013 YFSF Special Session so that you may take advantage of all the benefits the YFSF has to offer!

Greetings from Louisiana! I am **Lauren Bryan**, and I am the new Secretary Co-Chair of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum. While I find all disciplines of forensic science fascinating, I have always wanted to become a forensic DNA analyst. To that end, I graduated in 2004 with a BS in Biochemistry from Virginia Tech and in 2009 with a PhD in Biochemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University. After graduating in 2009, I began working at the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory in Shreveport, LA, as a DNA analyst. I recently became an Associate Member of the Criminalistics Section and am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as Secretary Co-Chair for the YFSF. The YFSF is such a great way for young

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forensic scientists to network, present their research, and to learn and develop valuable skills that will serve them later in their careers. I am looking forward to working with you all, and to another successful year of the YFSF.

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

Hello, everyone! My name is **Lara Frame**, and I am thrilled to be the 2012-13 Financial Liaison Chair for the YFSF. The 2012 Annual Meeting in Atlanta was my first AAFS meeting and YFSF Session, and I am pleased that I was able to get involved with both groups. Additionally, I was accepted into the General Section as a Trainee Affiliate! I received a BA in both Anthropology and Spanish from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (go Heels!!) and completed my Master's thesis in Anthropology from East Carolina University. Currently, I work as a Medicolegal Death Investigator (MDI) for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Richmond, VA. In Virginia, MDIs receive death calls from both police and hospitals and then use a series of questions to determine if the death falls under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner. Each state has its own statutes for what kinds of cases fall under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner. I also go the scenes of violent or unnatural deaths in the Richmond Metro Area.

I am looking forward to another fabulous AAFS meeting in Washington, DC, next year!

YFSF Financial Liaison Co-Chair, **Katie Knurek**, is a senior at Ohio Northern University where in May she will graduate with a BS in Forensic Biology and a minor in Chemistry. This is Katie's first year serving as a YFSF committee member; however, after attending the YFSF Special Session in Atlanta, she decided to get involved to help make next year's program exceptional. The YFSF Special Session in Atlanta was a very beneficial session for her and she hopes that even more participants take advantage of this informative event next year.

As the new financial liaisons, Katie and I would like to thank the following sections for their generous contributions to the YFSF for this upcoming year:

Criminalistics Section	\$1,500
General Section	\$1,000
Odontology Section	\$500
Pathology/Biology Section	\$2,000
Physical Anthropology Section	\$500

Thank you! The YFSF would not be possible without your generous financial support; your generosity is greatly appreciated!

If you would like to become more involved with the Young Forensic Scientists Forum as a financial supporter, please contact **Lara Frame** (lafira86@gmail.com) or **Katie Knurek** (k-knurek@onu.edu).

Lara Frame, MA
YFSF Financial Liaison

Katie Knurek
YFSF Financial Co-Liaison

YFSF Breakfast Session

The YFSF Breakfast Session typically focuses on professional development and aims to give both students and young forensic scientist professionals the tools necessary for succeeding within the forensic science community. This year, our main presentation will focus on the requirements of expert testimony as a forensic scientist and what it means to be an expert. Similar to previous years, the YFSF Breakfast Session will begin with a presentation and conclude with a resume review panel. The panel (e.g., reviewers) will consist of distinguished forensic scientists from the various Academy disciplines. The Breakfast Session will also address resume content and structure. If you think your resume may need a makeover, 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@wyo.gov).

Lastly, **Ashley Moulton** and I will introduce ourselves: My name is Jennifer Malone, and I am a Senior Forensic Scientist within the Trace Unit at the Wyoming State Crime Laboratory. I began my career in forensic science in January of 2009. Previously, I focused on cancer research in the Department of Pathology and Medical Oncology at the University of Colorado Denver as a junior faculty member. I am currently trained in headlamp, trace evidence collection and processing, GSR, hairs, and fibers. I am an Associate Member in the Criminalistics Section and am currently the Chair of the YFSF Breakfast Session. In 2012, I served as YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair. I also serve on the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists Publication Committee and as a grant reviewer for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). I received my PhD in Cell & Molecular Biology from Colorado State University in 2004 and my BS degree in Genetics and Cell Biology from Washington State University in 1999.

My name is **Ashley Moulton**. I am a master's student at the University of New Haven with a concentration in advanced investigation. I completed my undergraduate studies at Florida Gulf Coast University and graduated with a BS in Criminal Justice - Forensic Studies and a minor in Chemistry. I am a new Student Affiliate in the General Section. I have interned with the Medical Examiner's Office in Tampa, FL, and I am also a certified trainer in the Dobbert Model of Advanced Sexual Predator Analysis. I currently work for the Institute for the Study of Violent Groups as an AfPak Collector. I look forward to being the Co-Chair for the Breakfast Session of the YFSF.

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

Ashley Moulton, BS
YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair

YFSF Special Session

The YFSF is pleased to announce the theme for the 2013 YFSF Special Session: "Applications of Education and Research to the Diverse Field of Forensic Science." The speakers at the 2013 YFSF Special Session will highlight the various applications of education and research and the vast career paths within the field of forensics by presenting their unique casework experiences and career choices. Those who are interested in sharing their unique forensic

experience at the 2013 YFSF Special Session are encouraged to contact yfsfss@gmail.com.

Taryn Mead and **Jennifer Newton** will be planning this year's YFSF Special Session. Taryn and Jennifer work as DNA Criminalists at the San Francisco Police Department Crime Laboratory and are both Associate Members of the Criminalistics Section. For the last two years, Taryn has been involved with the YFSF as the Poster Session Chair. She is looking forward to her new role as the special session chair and is planning a very interesting session for the attendees.

Joining Taryn this year as the Special Session Co-Chair is **Jennifer Newton**. Jennifer became an Associate Member of the Criminalistics Section this past February and is diving right in, despite this being her first Academy meeting! She is currently in training as a DNA Criminalist at the San Francisco Police Department having relocated from the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Forensic Biology Unit in New York City. Jennifer is looking forward to contributing her experience, and gaining even more, as she helps plan the 2013 YFSF Special Session.

Taryn Mead, BS
YFSF Special Session Chair

Jennifer Newton, BS
YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

Greetings from the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) Committee! My name is **Ali Mostrom** and this begins my third year working with the BYOS Session. I look forward to seeking out young forensic scientists who are doing exciting research and would like to take advantage of this opportunity to present at a national meeting. I am an Associate Member of the Criminalistics Section and a forensic chemist working in the field of drug chemistry. Having worked with the YFSF BYOS for a while, I am especially interested in any feedback or new ideas, so if you have input or questions about the YFSF BYOS, please feel free to contact me at alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov.

Hello all. My name is **Lindsay Saylor**, and I am a sophomore at Chaminade University of Honolulu. I am currently working on my BS in Forensic Science with minors in both Chemistry and Criminal Justice. I am a Student Affiliate in the General Section and am both honored and excited to be the Co-Chair of the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session.

Ali Mostrom, MSFS
YFSF Bring Your Own 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 Poster Session is an excellent opportunity for students and young forensic science professionals of all ages and disciplines to present their research or interesting cases. We would like to encourage the students and young professionals from each section to become more involved at the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting by participating in the YFSF Poster Session. Deadline information for anyone interested in presenting at the 2013 YFSF Poster Session in Washington, DC, will be published in upcoming issues of the *Academy News* newsletter.

It is not too early to start thinking of presenting at next year's YFSF Poster Session! If you are interested in presenting or have any questions, please email yfsf.postersession@gmail.com.

Amber Neitzel, BS
YFSF Poster Session Chair

Jackie Jenkins, PhD
YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair