

# Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

## Forensic Science in the Public Eye

Greetings to all Young Forensic Scientists! It seems like we have just returned from San Antonio and yet it is time to start planning for Washington, DC, in 2008. The program chairs for all of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Sessions have been doing some heavy duty brainstorming to come up with another session full of interesting and informative speakers in hopes that all of you will join us at the next AAFS meeting. The theme for this year's YFSF will be *Forensic Science in the Public Eye*, and the possibilities are endless for a fantastic lineup of speakers! As the field of forensic science becomes more and more publicized and as more people become interested in the field due to media influences, we want to take the time to look behind the scenes at the real life people who work the cases you hear about, write the books you read, or perhaps host or write for the TV shows you watch. We are still at the beginning of the planning phase, but we are working hard to secure speakers that will make the YFSF a session not to be missed in 2008! Keep your eyes open for more updates throughout the year and feel free to contact your program chairs with ideas and suggestions; we love to hear from you! You can contact **Amanda Frohwein** at: frohwein@dps.state.ia.us, and **Jennifer Mercer** at: jennifer.w.mercer@gmail.com.

— *Amanda Frohwein, BS*  
*YFSF Program Chair*

AAFS  
60th Anniversary Meeting  
February 18 - 23, 2008

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel  
Washington, DC

## YFSF Update

We are very excited to start planning the 2008 YFSF Special Session. We have a large group of officers and planning committee members involved in the development of our session this year. We made a goal to ensure that the YFSF is more involved with the AAFS events, established members, and section meetings. An individual directly engaged in YFSF planning committee will be assigned to a section of the Academy as a "Section Liaison." Thus, AAFS members from a section are able to directly contact someone with any questions they have regarding the YFSF. Also, the section liaison will communicate with everyone involved with the YFSF when contacted by a section regarding our specific events. We anticipate open communication between the Academy's sections and the YFSF will allow for a more diverse group of YFSF members. We also hope by assigning a section liaison, it will assist any group in the Academy when they are interested in increasing their involvement with the YFSF. Within the last two years, YFSF officers and committee members made a firm commitment to be involved with the section to which we are an affiliate or member. We have all attended events put on by our sections and will continue to do so. By attending these events we are able to see what the Academy has to offer as far as continuing education and section involvement. We are also able to see the trends occurring in our respective fields and thus try to incorporate important topics into the YFSF events. We encourage all students, trainee affiliates, and meeting volunteers to attend events coordinated by the Academy's sections. As we start planning our session for the 2008 meeting in Washington, DC, we hope to attract a wide variety of participants to our session with interesting topics and beneficial continuing education events.

— *Marah Lachowicz BA, MFS*  
*YFSF President*

## YFSF Poster Session

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum Poster Session is a great way for young scientists in graduate or undergraduate programs to get feedback on their research as well as forensic scientists new to the field (independent of age) to get involved and present information on their laboratories, research, or casework. Through the poster session, young scientists have networked with professionals in their field while at the same time gained valuable experience. We want to make the 2008 Poster Session even better. Please contact 2008 YFSF Poster Chair **Arlis Dudley-Cash** with any questions or suggestions at [yfsfposter@gmail.com](mailto:yfsfposter@gmail.com). We look forward to your participation!

— *Arliss Dudley-Cash*  
YFSF Poster Session Chair

## 2008 YFSF Annual Breakfast

There has been serious brainstorming within the Young Forensic Scientists 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. Wanting to take it to another level, we decided to ask what would motivate you to get out of bed early? A mock testimony complete with critique? A panel of scientist discussing their careers in forensic science? If you have an idea, question, or suggestion please feel free to email **Jeannette Perr** at: [AgntSpdr@aol.com](mailto:AgntSpdr@aol.com).

## 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](mailto:msmith@ocme.nyc.gov) or **Erica Blais** [Erica.Blais@state.ma.us](mailto:Erica.Blais@state.ma.us). See you in DC!

— *Melissa E. Smith, BS*  
YFSF Program Co-Chair

## About the YFSF

The YFSF is dedicated to the education, enrichment, and professional development of young forensic scientists. 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 scientists 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 Lachowicz** ([Gradpath@aol.com](mailto:Gradpath@aol.com)) and YFSF Secretary **Jeannette Perr** ([jeannette.perr@fiu.edu](mailto:jeannette.perr@fiu.edu)) can answer any questions about the YFSF and are looking to many different levels of young forensic scientists participating at next year's session.

— *Jeannette Perr, PhD*  
YFSF Secretary

## YFSF Website

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

— *Amy R. Aylor, BS*  
YFSF Website Co-Chair

## Young Forensic Scientists Forum

Our Website is



Under Construction

We're looking for:

- Links to your websites
- Announcements about your research group

What would you like to see?

<http://www.aafs.org/yfsf/index.htm>

Contact Amy Aylor at  
[yfsfwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:yfsfwebmaster@gmail.com)