

Young Forensic Scientists Forum *Newsletter*

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

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Editor: Jeannette M. Perr, BS

Editor's Notes

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) occurs during the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting. The Forum was founded in 1994 by **Diane Fraser**, **Tom Crist**, and **Scott Batterman**, under the guidance of **Steven Batterman**. The YFSF is dedicated to the education, enrichment, and professional development of young forensic scientists. The YFSF participants and organizers come from different sections within the AAFS. The Forum provides a medium to educate and to 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 its website (<http://www.aafs.org/yfsf/index.htm>).

Although next year's meeting is months away, it is time to start planning. The positions of President and Secretary have been filled by **Allison Curran, BS**, and **Jeannette Perr, BS**, respectively. Allison and Jeannette are both PhD students in the Chemistry Department of Florida International University in Miami, FL. If you would like to contact either of these two ladies to find more about the YFSF or to participate in organizing next year's session you can email them at allison.curran@fiu.edu or jeannette.perr@fiu.edu.

— *Jeannette Perr, BS*
YFSF Secretary

YFSF Breakfast

The YFSF Breakfast not only provides food to start your day off right but also entertains with interesting presentations of forensic science cases. There is also a traditional resumé review. Last year's review was hosted by the DEA and has led to job interviews and positions for several different participants. Who knows what next year's session will hold? Stay tuned to find out!

YFSF Special Session

Hello again everyone, and happy Spring to you all! Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is **Allison Curran** and I am the new President of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) for 2005-06. I have taken over this position from the beloved and respected **Claire Shepard**, who was President for the past two years.

Throughout my term as Program Chair for the YFSF, I incorporated some new communication avenues to the YFSF Special Session that I believe have been a success. This year will also bring some additions to the program. Two years ago I started the ever popular Young Forensic Scientists Forum Bring Your Own Poster Session and Social which has been a hit with attendees of both the YFSF and the Academy at large. I have also tried to integrate different styles of communication between young forensic scientists and the forensic science community during the Special Session. The incorporation of demonstrations as well as discussion panels provide the audience with a chance to interact with the presenters on a more personal and informal level. The past two year's detector dog demonstrations, coordinated by **Dave Kontny** of the Transportation Security Administration, have provided a unique opportunity all of us have enjoyed. This past February's detector dog demonstration was conducted by Sergeant George Rehage and his canine Rebel of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. These demonstrations have been a highlight of the day and provided attendees the chance to learn in a more hands-on way about an area of forensic science that is important to our national security.

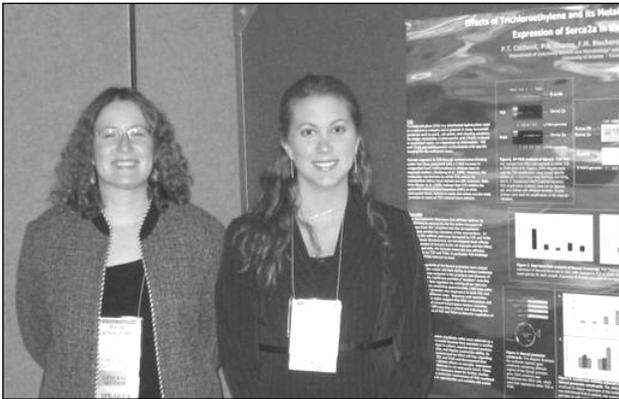
For 2006 we are again striving to incorporate new and innovative ways for young forensic scientists to gain valuable knowledge and experiences by attending the YFSF. For example, during the breakfast meeting we are planning to hold not only a resumé review but also a mini KSA writing and interviewing skills workshop hosted by a variety of lab directors who evaluate job applicants on a continual basis. On behalf of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum, I would like to thank all of you who made the trip to New Orleans, and for those of you who couldn't attend, hopefully we'll see you in Seattle for the 2006 meeting.

— *Allison M. Curran, BS*
YFSF President

YFSF Poster Session

The 3rd Annual Young Forensic Scientists Forum Bring Your Own Poster Session and Social will take place during the 2006 AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. The Young Forensic Scientists Forum strives to involve as many members of the Academy as well as prospective members. With this goal, we hope to enlist many more participants in the YFSF poster session. If you plan to start undergraduate, graduate, or independent research this year, please consider presenting your work at the upcoming poster session. We also encourage professionals new to the different forensic science fields to present interesting case studies at the poster session. For additional information regarding the 2006 poster session, please contact **Marrah E. Lachowicz** at GradPath@aol.com.

— *Marrah E. Lachowicz, MFS*
GradPath@aol.com



Marrah Lachowicz and Patricia Caldwell, a graduate student at the University of Arizona majoring in Pathobiology, take a moment at the YFSF Poster Session to pose for the camera

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

The YFSF Bring Your Own Slides is an excellent opportunity for a young forensic scientist in any field of forensic science to give a short 10-minute or less presentation to a diverse audience of their peers. The request for presenters begins now, so if you are interested in participating please send an email to Jeannette Perr at: jeannette.perr@fiu.edu. An overwhelming number of people wanted to present last year but couldn't because of time constraints. This year we are going to try to accommodate more presentations to make the session even more interesting, diverse, and exciting!

— *Jeannette Perr, BS*
YFSF Secretary

YFSF Feature Article

The Feature Article section of the YFSF newsletter is a new section that will be written by a professional in the forensic science field highlighting the diverse fields of forensic science, current education practices, interview suggestions, and tips concerning professional development. These articles will not only be interesting and educational but they will bridge the gap between the experienced forensic scientist's desire to dispense knowledge and young forensic scientist's thirst for knowledge. If there is a topic you would like covered or if you have any suggestions, please email Jeannette Perr at: jeannette.perr@fiu.edu.

Technology is constantly improving and so should the YFSF website! Please take the time to visit the YFSF website at: <http://www.aafs.org/yfsf/index.htm>. If you have suggestions on web design and/or content please email them to: jeannette.perr@fiu.edu. Look for the improved and updated website coming soon!

