

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

Forensic Science in the Public Eye

Greetings from your YFSF program committee! We are excited to announce our final line-up of speakers for the 2008 YFSF Special Session! Planning for the DC meeting has been underway for several months now, and we are excited to see a session full of interesting and exciting topics. This year's theme is *Forensic Science in the Public Eye*. Throughout the day we will hear from a variety of different speakers from a wide range of forensic science disciplines.

- Dr. Michael Baden, *Death is My Teacher*
- Ms. Linda Kenny Baden, *Searching for Justice*
- Dr. Henry Lee, *Lessons Learned From High Profile Cases*
- Dr. Kathy Reichs, *Forensic Anthropology: From Crime Lab to Crime Fiction*
- Ms. Natalie Shirley, *Re-evaluating Methods in Forensic Anthropology: Age Determination From the Clavicular Epiphyses*
- Ms. Dayle Hinman, *Criminal Profiling*
- Dr. Robert Powers, *Forensic Toxicology*
- Dr. Lynn Kimsey, *Forensic Entomology in the Public Eye: The Vincent Brother's Case*.
- Dr. Allison Curran, *Canine Forensics*

Our nationwide lineup of speakers is sure to catch your interest with the fascinating work they have accomplished in their fields. The presenters are eager to share their memorable forensic experiences as well as touch on how they do their jobs when the world is watching. Register now for the YFSF Special Session and please note that admission includes one free lunch, one free breakfast session, a poster session, and a bring your own slides event! So, mark your calendars for February's meeting, stay tuned for more updates, and get ready for another great YFSF Special Session in Washington, DC!

—Jennifer W. Mercer, BS
YFSF Program Chair

YFSF Poster Session

The YFSF would like to invite new forensic scientists and students to present their research at the 2008 Poster Session. The YFSF strives to bring new and exciting aspects of forensic science to students. At the YFSF session, students will learn about the different sections of AAFS and the specialties within the forensic community. The Poster Session occurs during the AAFS annual meeting, which is in Washington, DC. Along with the YFSF Poster Session, there are many other events that will exhibit research and casework of new forensic scientists. The goal is to bridge the gap between students or new scientists and professionals. These events include the Bring Your Own Slides Session and the YFSF Breakfast.

In the past, there has been a large turnout for both the YFSF Poster Session and Bring Your Own Slides Session. The poster session is scheduled to occur on February 19th. The poster session is an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to present their research or casework. If you have already decided to present in one of the AAFS poster sessions, take the opportunity to present with the YFSF as well.

To participate in the poster session please register by January 1, 2008. You can register by submitting your curriculum vitae and a 1-2 paragraph abstract to YFSFPoster@gmail.com. Please feel free to also submit any questions you may have. The poster session strives to represent many different aspects of forensic sciences and many institutions. All types of research are welcome so please don't hesitate to submit your abstract. There are limited boards available so submit your abstract soon!

—Arliss Dudley-Cash
YFSF Poster Session Chair

2008 YFSF Annual Breakfast

There has been serious brainstorming within the Young Forensic Scientist 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 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 ideas, questions, or suggestions please feel free to email **Jeannette Perr** at: AgntSpdr@aol.com.

YFSF Website

The YFSF website is being revamped under the leadership of **Amy Richmond Aylor**. Amy is looking for help and suggestions, so if you are interested in participating please feel free to email her at amyaylor@gmail.com.

— Amy Aylor
YFSF Website 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) and YFSF Secretary **Jeannette Perr** (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

And

the presenters of the YFSF
Bring Your Own Slides are...

you!

You are invited to present during the AAFS 60th Anniversary Scientific Meeting at the Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS Program)!

The festivities will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC, amongst friends, students, and co-workers.

you!

And in case you didn't know... the "Young" in Young Forensic Scientists includes all students - those who are new to the field, and those who have been in the field for five years or less!

you!

Those who wish to present an interesting case, a research project, or a new technology used at your lab, please RSVP to Erica Blais at Erica.blais@pol.state.ma.us or Missy Smith at msmith@ocme.nyc.gov.

Internships Revisited

With a new academic year underway, now is an ideal time to look for a summer internship. If you are an undergraduate curious about pursuing a career in forensics or a graduate student requiring some local networking, a summer internship is ideal. Check with your academic advisor and professors for tips on the application process and local intern programs. Do not forget to update your resume or CV before applying. Also, with the advent of modern technology email tends to be the preferred method of communication.

However, do not forget that not all people prefer email. To improve your chances of selection in a competitive market remember a name associated with a face or a phone call may make you stand out from other applicants.

Here are a few interesting internships with corresponding application information. Contacting your local agencies for similar positions is also strongly encouraged. *(Please note that the YFSF has no affiliation with these groups nor does the YFSF endorse said entities.)*

The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department, Forensic Science Services Division

<http://www.oc.ca.gov/hr/volunteer/fssdesc.asp>

Accepting applications for 2008 summer internships. For earliest consideration, application should be submitted by March 1st. All intern positions with the Forensic Science Services Division are unpaid. Applicants are generally expected to have, or be close to obtaining, a baccalaureate degree (BS) in a natural science or a closely related field. Once an application is made, the selection process includes a review of application materials, an interview, and a thorough background investigation.

Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department
Forensic Science Services Division
320 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

Minnesota Department of Public Safety

<http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/lab/documents/Page-03.html>

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Forensic Science Laboratory,
Epstein-Rhoads Intern Program

To provide experience for university and college students who are seriously interested in entering the field of forensic science. This internship program offers the students opportunity for observation of forensic scientists at their work, as well as involvement in working on an assigned laboratory project.

Application Information must be received by:
Spring Internship - Last Friday in September
Summer Internship - Last Friday in February
Fall Internship - Last Friday in May

Judy Novotny, DPS Internship Coordinator
MN Department of Public Safety, Human Resources Division
444 Cedar Street, Suite 135
St. Paul, MN 55101-5135
Office: (651) 201-7379
Fax: (651) 296-5173
Email: judy.novotny@state.mn.us

Dublin Internship Program

<http://www.international-internships.com/dublin.php>

The professional practice internship, working 40 hours per week, begins with a one-week orientation designed to acclimate you to the city before beginning the work placement. It will include some social activities, an orientation to the city, and an interview with the internship sponsor. Placements are based on the skills, interests, experience and professional goals of each student, and the project needs and work cycles of the internship sponsors. On-site staff is available 24/7 to assist you as you adjust to your new surroundings. Dublin is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Ireland where you can work with internationally recognized companies and yet still experience the warmth of a small, vibrant metropolis. Originally founded as a center for the Viking slave trade, the city's growing economy is an ideal backdrop to experience the rich heritage of Ireland. See website for application information.

FBI Honors Internship Program

<http://www.fbijobs.gov/231.asp>

Each summer, a special group of outstanding undergraduate and graduate students is selected to participate in the FBI Honors Internship Program in Washington, DC, or at a Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory located throughout the U.S. (www.rcfl.gov).

Westchester County Forensic Laboratory

<http://www.westchestergov.com/labsresearch/ForensicandTox/intern.htm>
Applications ongoing throughout the academic year and during the summer.

Winter Intersession - Application due September 15
Winter Intersession period runs December - February
Spring Semester - Application due November 1
Spring semester period runs March - May
Summer - Application due February 1
Summer session runs June - August
Fall Semester - Application due June 1
Fall semester runs September - November

Westchester County Forensic Laboratory
c/o Internship Coordinator
10 Dana Road
Valhalla, NY 10595

Hennepin Sheriff's Crime Lab

<http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/portal/site/HCIInternet/search?int=internship>

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office is committed to advancing the training and education of students pursuing careers in forensic science. Internships are available with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office - Crime Lab Unit that will provide students the opportunity to observe several disciplines in forensic science and give them practical, hands on experience conducting an assigned research project. Internships at the crime lab are unpaid.

Summer internships - March 15
Winter internships - October 15

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
Crime Laboratory Unit
531 Park Ave. South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415
Attention: Internship Coordinator