

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

YFSF Kick Off 2010

This year we are starting early. Due to our determined and skilled committee members, much of the planning for next year is already underway. The 2010 Young Forensic Science Forum Special Session promises to be even better than last year! We are constantly raising the bar in the hopes that we can fully meet the needs of the young forensic scientists who attend the meeting. I want to say thank you again to all of those who made our 2009 special session a success and also to those who have already volunteered their time for the 2010 meeting! If anyone is still interested in helping us make the 2010 Special Session a success please contact me at dudleycash@gmail.com.

*Arliss I. Dudley-Cash, BA
2010 YFSF President*

The 2010 YFSF Officers would like to introduce themselves. We're very excited to bring you a new and exciting year. If you have any interest in working with the YFSF, please do not hesitate to contact any officer for more information.

YFSF Secretary

I would like to introduce myself; I am Jennifer Mercer, YFSF Secretary, and beginning this year I will be assisted by Kelly Brown, our new Secretary Co-Chair. I am completing my PhD studies at West Virginia University in Chemistry and hope to graduate this year. I attended my first AAFS conference in 2005, where I attended the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session. I really enjoyed the variety of speakers the session offered, although my favorite part of the session was the resume review at the Breakfast Session. I had the opportunity to have my resume reviewed by a DEA chemist who gave me great feedback. I

decided I had to become a part of this group so I could continue meeting professional scientists and helping other students find out more about forensic science. In the past, I worked with the special session and was especially excited to recruit speakers for the topics of Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology. Joining the YFSF Committee has allowed me to meet many enthusiastic new forensic scientists and network with AAFS leadership. As an avid writer, I have found my niche to be writing and editing articles for our group and I am excited to fill the role of Secretary for a second year. If you are interested in writing for our newsletter or in YFSF membership information, you can contact me at Jennifer.W.Mercer@gmail.com.

YFSF Special Session Program Chair and Co-Chair

I would like to introduce myself; I am Tanisha Henson, Program Chair, and I will be assisted by a new Special Session Co-Chair, Rachael Lehr, this year. I was very fortunate to have worked with Rachael last year as the BYOS Chair and am excited to be working with her again. I am currently working on my Masters degree in Forensic Sciences at National University and hope to graduate in 2010. I attended my first AAFS conference in 2006, and became a part of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session in 2008. I really enjoyed the variety of speakers the session offered because I felt it offered me the opportunity to really hear what the other forensic disciplines had to offer. Joining the YFSF Committee has allowed me to network with new and exciting people from all sections of the AAFS. It is always fascinating to hear what other people are doing and how it can relate to what my job is; it even offers new ways to look at how I am

doing my job so that I can do a better job. Rachael and I look forward to putting together a fabulous program for you in Seattle.

Greetings from the magnificent state of Minnesota! My name is Rachael Lehr, and I am the YFSF Special Session Co-Chair. I will be assisting Tanisha Henson to organize and arrange presenters for the special session at the 2010 AAFS meeting in Seattle. I attended my first AAFS meeting in 2008 when I was a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the forensic science program. After attending the YFSF in 2008 and helping in 2009 with the YSFS Bring Your Own Slides event, I'm proud to continue serving in an organization dedicated to the future of forensic science. I currently work as a Forensic Scientist (Biology) for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory in Minneapolis, MN. Please don't hesitate to contact Tanisha (T.V.Henson@hotmail.com) and me (Rachael.Lehr@gmail.com) with any questions you have for the YFSF Special Session, or even if you have general questions about forensic science jobs or graduate school. I would love to offer advice, insight, and motivation to other young scientists.

YFSF Contributor Liaison

Hello Everyone! I am Samantha Neal, the YFSF Contributor Liaison. I currently work as the Instructional Coordinator for the West Virginia University Forensic Science Initiative. I attended my first AAFS conference in 2006 and my first YFSF Special Session in 2007. I enjoyed the variety of presentations and events that the Young Forensic Scientists Forum provided throughout the week and I wanted to get involved. This is my second year on the YFSF Committee and it has been a great experience. For more information on how you can help support or to contribute to the YFSF, please contact me at Samantha.Neal@mail.wvu.edu.

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair and Co-Chair

My name is Dade Chisler, and I will be assisting Casandra Hernandez with the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session as the Co-Chair. I am a Forensic Science Technician at the West Virginia University Forensic Science Initiative. I attended my first AAFS conference in 2009 in Denver, CO where I was part of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session and YFSF Breakfast. The speakers were very informative and most were quite entertaining. It was nice to see that those who have been in the field for many years were once in our shoes and can offer some words of wisdom to all of us. I am excited to help with the YFSF in the year to come by assisting Casandra in recruiting speakers to present their research and casework slides. I look forward to the opportunity to interact with new forensic scientists and those who have been in the field for many years. If you are interested in presenting please contact Casandra (Casandra.L.Hernandez@gmail.com) and me (Dade.Chisler@mail.wvu.edu) for more information.

YFSF Poster Session Chair and Co-Chair

My name is Anthony Sutter and I will be serving as the 2010 YFSF Poster Session Chair, with Stephanie Crider working alongside me as Co-Chair. After being an attendee in 2008 (in my favorite city - Washington, DC), the 2009 meeting was my first meeting where I was involved in the actual planning of the YFSF session. Currently, I am finishing my BS in Chemistry and BA in Archaeology at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. While forensics (specifically firearms and toolmarks) is the area that I plan on entering as a career, I am always very interested in finding new ways to put forensic techniques into use for field archaeology. I hope you are all getting excited for the meeting in Seattle in February and I'm looking forward to seeing all of your research at the poster session! If you are interested in presenting please contact me (ASutter@gwu.edu) and Stephanie (SCrider@lsu.edu) for more information.

YFSF Breakfast Session Chair and Co-Chair

It is a new year for the YFSF Breakfast committee and we thought we would introduce ourselves. My name is Jenna Oakes-Smith and I am this year's Breakfast Session Chair. I am employed as a Criminalist in the DNA section of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Crime Lab. I attended my first AAFS meeting and YFSF session two years ago in Washington, DC. I really enjoyed the presentations at that meeting and when the organizers announced that they needed help planning for the next year I gladly volunteered. I became the Co-Chair for the Breakfast Session and helped recruit members for a resume panel. It was an enjoyable experience and gave me the opportunity to network with personnel from other labs and other disciplines. I enjoyed the time so much I am back again this year.

The Breakfast Session Co-Chair is Melissa DeBerry. Melissa works in the Technical Assistance Section of the Mississippi Crime Laboratory accepting items of evidence from different submitting agencies. She attended her first AAFS meeting this last year in Denver and met a member of the YFSF committee. We enthusiastically recruited her to join the YFSF and she volunteered to serve as the Breakfast Session Co-Chair. I think Melissa is still trying to figure out what she has gotten herself into, but she is looking forward to the breakfast session in Seattle, as am I.