

# Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

## A Letter from the YFSF President

Roughly three months stand in between now and the AAFS 66th Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA! Now is the time to make your airline travel plans and hotel reservations! The AAFS website provides all the necessary information for planning travel, hotel, and meeting events. The Young Forensic Scientist Forum (YFSF) Program Committee has been providing updates of what to expect for the 2014 YFSF Special Session throughout the year and we hope the updates have sparked young forensic scientists' interest in the event! In order to attend any of the scientific sessions, workshops, breakfast seminars, or luncheon seminars at the annual meeting, this includes the YFSF Special Session; those interested must pre-register for these events. The YFSF Special Session registration includes the full-day special session, bring your own poster and slides events, and the breakfast session. Detailed information for each of the events can be found in the following sections of the YFSF newsletter. All events are sure to include informative and interesting information for those who attend as well as serve as a great arena to network with fellow professionals and foster mentor relationships!

Now is also a good time to decide if you are interested in joining the 2014-2015 YFSF Program Committee. For those interested, bring your CV/resume to the YFSF events. The program committee appointments will be finalized by mid-March 2014 and will begin working on the 2015 YFSF events immediately. Questions regarding the 2014 Young Forensic Scientist Forum registration and becoming a committee member can be directed to [LEC385@gmail.com](mailto:LEC385@gmail.com).

The 2013-14 YFSF officers look forward to seeing you in Seattle, WA!

**Lindsey E. Saunders, BS**  
*YFSF President*

## A Note from the YFSF Secretary

The YFSF Special Session has a lot to offer a forensic scientist with five years or less of paid forensic science work experience. The special session will be a full-day session with presentations from various forensic disciplines and opportunities for networking. Registration for the special sessions will also allow registrants to attend the YFSF Breakfast Session. The breakfast session will focus on career enhancement by allowing attendees the unique opportunity of having forensic experts review their resumes and CVs. Other valuable opportunities provided by the YFSF are the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides and Poster Sessions. These sessions allow young forensic scientists the opportunity to showcase their research or a case study in a friendly environment. This is a great way to become better at public speaking. Please contact the BYOS and BYOP Program Chairs to learn more about presenting at the 2014 AAFS meeting.

**Sarah Ellis, MS**      **Alicja Lanfear, PhD**  
*YFSF Secretary Chair*    *YFSF Secretary Co-Chair*  
[Sarahjellis2@gmail.com](mailto:Sarahjellis2@gmail.com)    [Alicja.Lanfear@mtsu.edu](mailto:Alicja.Lanfear@mtsu.edu)

## Financial Liaison

The YFSF would like to take this opportunity to thank those who responded to our requests for contributions for the 2014 AAFS Annual Meeting! Your assistance helps to make our program possible and continue to help students and young professionals advance in their careers.

Universities with FEPAC-accredited programs have received letters from the YFSF, which will also be sent out to forensic vendors, asking for a financial contribution or a contribution of resources for the YFSF Special Session. The YFSF relies on this support to hold our events at the AAFS Annual Meeting each year! If you would like to donate to the YFSF Special Session luncheon, poster/slide sessions, or breakfast session, please contact the YFSF Financial Chair. With the meeting just

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around the corner, the YFSF is finalizing the planning for the annual meeting and needs your support!

**Katie Knurek**  
*Financial Chair*  
[Kknurek6490@gmail.com](mailto:Kknurek6490@gmail.com)

## YFSF Breakfast Session

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) is looking for experienced forensic professionals to pass their knowledge on to young forensic scientists. As the 2014 AAFS Annual Meeting focuses on mentorship, the YFSF Breakfast Session will provide young professionals with the opportunity to interact with veteran forensic scientists. To make this the best session possible, we are looking for experts from all forensic disciplines who can provide résumé feedback to those at the beginning of their careers. Please consider volunteering for this opportunity!

This year's YFSF Breakfast Session will provide fun, food, and information to young scientists interested in professional development, whether students or practicing professionals. Attendees will learn networking, personal branding, and career preparation skills as well as have an opportunity for resume review and find out about certification. The breakfast session is included in the registration for the YFSF Special Session, so all young forensic professionals should consider taking part.

Contact [YFSF.Breakfast@gmail.com](mailto:YFSF.Breakfast@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer as a résumé reviewer. See you in Seattle!

**Ali Kidder-Mostrom, MSFS**  
*YFSF Breakfast Session Chair*

## YFSF Special Session

The AAFS Annual Meeting will be here soon! The Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session has put together an informative and fun session that will surely please students and young professionals alike. Professionals who have experience in forensic science ranging from digital forensics to cold case homicides will be showcasing their unique casework and the future of their field in the YFSF Special Session, *The World of Forensic Science: The Future of Education and Research*.

The YFSF is an important resource for all students and young professionals who may have just started their careers or who may not have chosen a field. We encourage participation from everyone, as the special session is an excellent way to network.

The YFSF Special Session would like to thank those who have agreed to speak during the session as well as those who have been supportive and involved in the process of putting the special session together.

If you have any questions regarding this year's Special Session, please contact [yfsfss@gmail.com](mailto:yfsfss@gmail.com).

**Lara Newell, MA**  
*YFSF Special Session Chair*

**Christina Hayes, BS**  
*YFSF Special Session Co-Chair*

## YFSF Poster Session

The annual AAFS meeting is just around the corner! If you missed the August 1 submission deadline for the Academy's poster sessions, don't worry; you can still participate in the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session (BYOP).

The YFSF BYOP Session is looking for young forensic scientists and students to present their research or an interesting case. The YFSF BYOP Session is a great opportunity to gain experience presenting and to contribute to the research in a forensic field.

Please submit a one-page abstract and CV by **December 1** if you would like to participate in the Bring Your Own Poster Session. Early submissions are encouraged. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Cumow at [yfsf.postersession@gmail.com](mailto:yfsf.postersession@gmail.com).

**Jennifer Cumow, MSFS**  
*YFSF Poster Session Chair*  
[curnow.jen@gmail.com](mailto:curnow.jen@gmail.com)

## YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

WANTED: Young Forensic Scientists!

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum Bring Your Own Slides Session is looking for young forensic scientists to share their research at the AAFS 2014 Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. Come share research, case studies, and experiences with fellow forensic science peers. All disciplines are welcomed.

Please submit a one-page abstract and CV to [lsaylors@luc.edu](mailto:lsaylors@luc.edu) and/or [YFSF.BYOS@gmail.com](mailto:YFSF.BYOS@gmail.com) by **December 15**.

Please feel free to contact either email address with any questions or concern.

**Lindsay Saylors**  
*YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair*