

## Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

### A Letter from the YFSF President

It is officially summer and the AAFS August 1 abstract deadline is right around the corner. The Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) is diligently organizing a special session for the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting in sunny Orlando, FL!

If this is your first time presenting or, conversely, if you love presenting, consider submitting an abstract for the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster (BYOP) and YFSF Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) sessions. The YFSF BYOP deadline is December 1, and the YFSF BYOS abstract deadline is December 15. Both of these options are excellent ways for showcasing your research, building your résumé, and networking inside and outside your forensic field.

**President Daniel Martell's** theme for this year *Celebrating the Forensic Science Family* focuses on mentors. A mentor once told me, "You get out of the meeting what you put in," which I believe to be true. Presenting early and often in your career makes people familiar with your name and will allow you to become more involved with the AAFS as a whole. Presenting a paper, getting involved with committees, and presenting a poster are all great ways to get involved and to be an active participant within the forensic science community.

If you have any questions about submitting an abstract for the YFSF BYOP or BYOS, or if you have any other questions, feel free to contact any of the YFSF Committee members. If you want to be more involved, but are not sure where to start, we are happy to help!

**Lara Newell, MA**  
YFSF President  
[lafra86@gmail.com](mailto:lafra86@gmail.com)

### A Note from the YFSF Secretary

Summer has arrived and that means it is time for abstracts to be submitted. The YFSF encourages you to use this opportunity to present your research, as the AAFS meeting brings together forensic scientists from all over the globe. The YFSF also encourages you to start early if you are planning to submit an abstract for the Academy-wide program, as the deadline is August 1. Please read the instructions carefully, so your submission has every chance to succeed.

The YFSF would like to remind you that the YFSF BYOS Session and the YFSF BYOP Session are both excellent platforms to present your research if you would like to present on a smaller scale. Please see the YFSF BYOP and BYOS sections of this newsletter for submission dates. If you have any questions, please contact either **Sarah Ellis** or **Brianna Bermudez**.

**Sarah Ellis, MS**  
YFSF Secretary  
[sarahjellis2@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjellis2@gmail.com)

**Brianna Bermudez**  
YFSF Assistant Secretary  
[briannabelen@gmail.com](mailto:briannabelen@gmail.com)

### Financial Liaison

Each year during the AAFS meeting, the Young Forensic Scientists Forum organizes a Special Session to help students and young professionals in the field of forensic science. Attending these events can help those wishing to pursue a career in forensic science, especially if it is their first AAFS meeting! The Young Forensic Scientists Forum is able to run these sessions each year because of the support and financial contributions that we receive from the forensic science community. The YFSF receives monetary and educational support from

FEPAC accredited universities, forensic science vendors, the AAFS sections, and their members each year. The Financial Liaisons of the YFSF will be contacting these groups throughout the summer months to seek out those who are interested in contributing to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum.

If you are interested in contributing resources to the 2015 YFSF Special Session, please contact **Katie Knurek** or **Betsy Maldonado**.

**Katie Knurek**                      **Betsy Maldonado**  
YFSF Financial Liaison      YFSF Financial Co-Liaison  
*Kknurek6490@gmail.com*    *Maldonado2990@gmail.com*

#### YFSF Special Session

The theme for the 2015 YFSF Special Session is *YFSF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: The Past, The Present, and Our Future*. The speakers at this year's session will reflect on their personal experiences, improvements made during their careers, and contributions they have made to different fields of forensic science. In this session, we hope to show students and young professionals how far forensic science has come and to celebrate the contributions made in forensic science. This session is also about looking to the future, detailing how the young forensic scientists will impact the future of the field, and inspiring them to make a difference with their own careers.

This is a great opportunity for young forensic scientists to connect with forensic science professionals and to learn about the all of the options available in forensic science. A schedule of presentations for the 2015 YFSF Special Session will be published in the fall. We look forward to seeing you in February and if you have any questions, please contact *yfsfss@gmail.com*.

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

#### YFSF Breakfast Session

Each year, the YFSF Breakfast Session focuses on professional development for those at the beginning of their journeys in forensic science. This year's session is titled: "Getting There: Unique Professional Journeys in Forensic Science." At the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL, the YFSF Breakfast Session will focus on achieving success in the sometimes daunting and difficult job market. Please plan on joining us for presentations from forensic science professionals who have unique and engaging stories of success.

The YFSF Breakfast Session will again include a résumé review component. In honor of the YFSF's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our goal is to have as many former YFSF Presidents serve on the résumé review panel along with other experienced forensic science professionals.

If you are an experienced forensic scientist, please consider serving as a résumé reviewer for the next generation of forensic science professionals. Please contact *yfsf.breakfast@gmail.com* if you or

someone you know can help with professional development for the next generation of forensic scientists.

**Alicja K. Lanfear, PhD**                      **Tiffany B. Saul, MS**  
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair      YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair

#### Bring Your Own Slides Session

The YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session offers the perfect opportunity for students and young professionals to present their research and casework studies at the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL. This is a unique opportunity where one can present student research as well as an opportunity to add presentation experience to your résumé.

You can present as much or as little as you would like in the given time slot. YFSF BYOS is currently accepting résumé and CV submissions through December 15. If you are interested in presenting at the AAFS 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, please submit a one-page abstract and CV to *yfsf.byos@gmail.com*. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Lindsay Saylor** or **Kate Lesciotto**.

**Lindsay Saylor**                      **Kate Lesciotto, JD**  
YFSF Bring Your Own      YFSF Bring Your Own  
Slides Chair                      Slides Co-Chair  
*lsaylor@luc.edu*                      *kmlesciotto@gmail.com*

#### Bring Your Own Poster Session

The YFSF Bring Your Own Poster (BYOP) Session provides the opportunity to get involved in the Academy's Annual Scientific Meeting. All students and young forensic science professionals are invited to present their research or interesting cases in Orlando in 2015. Presenting will provide you with an opportunity to network with numerous forensic scientists and to gain experience in public speaking.

Please submit a one-page, detailed abstract by December 1, to *yfsf.postersession@gmail.com*. If you have questions, feel free to email **Jennifer Curnow** or **Melanie Boeyer**.

**Jennifer Curnow, MS**                      **Melanie Boeyer, BS**  
YFSF Poster Session Chair      YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair  
*curnow,jen@gmail.com*                      *mboeye40@lakers.mercyhurst.edu*