

Supplement to the *Academy News*
July 2010
Editor: Lauren R. Pharr, MA

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

A Letter from the YFSF President

Greetings Young Forensic Scientists! The Young Forensic Scientists Forum's program committee is deep into the planning phase for a fantastic meeting next February. The 2011 Special Session promises to help broaden the minds of new and young forensic scientists. In addition to attending the special session on Tuesday, everyone is encouraged to participate by presenting a case at the Bring your Own Slides Session on Wednesday night or present fascinating research at the Bring Your Own Posters Session on Tuesday night. To round off a fantastic week with the Young Forensic Scientists, come to the Breakfast Session on Thursday morning. Have more questions answers? Participate in a resume review panel and hear a couple more amazing speakers. One of the biggest goals of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum is to help new and young forensic scientists discover the many opportunities available to them. One way for new and young forensic scientists to become familiar with some of the many opportunities available to them is to visit the American Academy of Forensic Scientists website at www.aafs.org. The website not only provides information about membership, how to become a member, how to upgrade membership but also about education and training opportunities, as well as employment opportunities. As you familiarize yourself with the various sections of AAFS, please stop by the YFSF website and see how you can become more involved with us. A link for YFSF can be found on the AAFS website under resources. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact the YFSF President (tanisha.henson@yahoo.com).

For those new to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum, I would like to introduce myself: my name is **Tanisha Henson** and I am the current President of the YFSF. I am currently completing my Masters in Forensic Science degree at National University. I attended my first AAFS meeting in Seattle, WA in 2006, attended my first YFSF meeting in San Antonio, TX in 2007, and have been involved ever since. With each passing year I grow more and more impressed at how the YFSF continues to raise the bar.

*Tanisha Henson, BS
2011 YFSF President*

A Note from the YFSF Secretary

Greetings everyone! I hope you had a happy spring and are having a wonderful summer. With the sun staying out longer and the temperatures getting warmer, you may find yourself spending most of your free time outdoors rather than inside in front of your computer. However, I want to remind you that the August 1 deadline for abstract submissions will be here before you know it. Young Forensic Scientists, I encourage you to share your research with your peers either at the YFSF Poster Session or the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session; please do not hesitate to contact me (lpharr1@tigers.lsu.edu) or the other officers if you have any questions or concerns about either presenting at or attending the upcoming meeting in Chicago. Until we meet again, take care, happy researching/writing, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

*Lauren Pharr, MA
YFSF Secretary*

Financial Liaison

Show your support for the YFSF by making a financial contribution! For more information on how you can help support or contribute to the YFSF, please contact me at jjenkins71@gmail.com.

*Jackie Jenkins
YFSF Financial Liaison*

YFSF Breakfast Session

Plans for the 2011 YFSF Breakfast Session are currently underway. Details pertaining to the breakfast session will be provided in upcoming newsletters, so stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions or suggestions related to the 2011 Breakfast Session, please contact me at mdeberry@mcl.state.ms.us.

*Melissa DeBerry
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair*

Special Session Co-Chairs

Science has always been a very collaborative subject with researchers working together to develop new experiments and theories. Forensic science is no different as multiple analysts work together to put together a case for court. It can be hard to remember how collaborative forensic science can be, however, when bent over a bench focusing on a particular piece of evidence.

This year, the Young Forensic Scientists Forum will be highlighting the collaborative aspect of forensic science in our program “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Solving Crime in Forensic Science.” The program will include speakers who will not only share information about their own work, but also discuss how that work builds upon, or fits in with, other disciplines. The special session will culminate with a lawyer discussing how many different disciplines can come together in a single court case. Be sure to watch for details about program speakers and topics in upcoming newsletters. Feel free to send any questions or comments to the special session co-chairs **Jenna Oakes-Smith** (jloakes-smith@slmpd.org) and **Amanda Kittoe** (akittoe@gmail.com).

*Jenna Oakes-Smith and Amanda Kittoe, BA
YFSF Special Session, Co-Chairs*

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

Hello everyone! We are now in the planning phase of next year’s Bring Your Own Slides event. The YFSF is looking for individuals who are willing to present their research, case studies, or any other relative information at next year’s meeting in Chicago. The Bring Your Own Slides Session is a fantastic way to build your C.V., sharpen communication skills, and make important connections and contacts in the forensic community.

In addition, I am also pleased to announce that the BYOS has a new co-chair.

Greetings from Chicago—home of the 2011 AAFS Annual Meeting! My name is Ali Mostrom; I am a Forensic Chemist at the DEA North Central Laboratory and must say that I love my job. In 2009, while pursuing my MSFS degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, I attended my first AAFS meeting (Denver, CO) and took part in the YFSF programming. I am very excited to help plan the Bring Your Own Slides event and to see the amazing research and casework being done by so many of you.

If you are interested in presenting or have any questions, we would love to hear from you—contact us at either martin.overly@mail.wvu.edu or alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov.

*Martin Overly and Ali Mostrom, MS
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides, Co-Chairs*

YFSF Poster Session

There is still time to submit your abstracts for the 2011 Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Poster Session! The YFSF Poster Session is a great way for undergraduate and graduate students to showcase their research and get feedback from peers and academy members alike. If you have an abstract you would like to submit for the 2011 Poster Session, please email it to crider_sm@yahoo.com.

*Stephanie M. Crider, MA
YFSF Poster Session Chair*