

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter



La Villita on the San Antonio River Walk

the members of the YFSF 2007 Program Committee for all of their hard work planning such a great conference.

We will begin planning the Washington, DC. events within the next few months. We would like to hear your comments and feedback regarding this year's session to help us plan the session next year. A main goal of the YFSF is to ensure that this group has a broad scope and encompasses the interests of every section of the Academy. With that, we plan to continue holding multi-disciplinary events that are educational to young forensic scientists who may be students or just starting their careers.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the YFSF please contact **Amanda Frohwein** at frohwein@dps.state.ia.us or **Marrah Lachowicz** at gradpath@aol.com. Thank you all for your participation in the YFSF!

— Marrah E. Lachowicz, MFS

YFSF 2007 Day Session

Along with the beauty of San Antonio and the hospitality of the southwest, we had a very successful year with over 120 session participants at the Young Forensic Scientists Forum program at the AAFS meeting. I also had the chance to meet briefly with the AAFS Board of Directors during the conference share some thoughts with them regarding our group. I hope that this will promote open dialog between the YFSF and all of the sections, chairs, committee members, and officers within the Academy with the ultimate goal of having each section of the AAFS involved with the YFSF events.

We all would like to extend our deepest thanks to all of the session participants, especially all of our distinguished speakers from our day session including: **James Young, Heather Walsh-Haney, James Adcock, Scott Batterman**, Sini Panicker, **Laurel Freas, Gregory Hill, Jason Byrd**, Special Agent **Scott McMillion**, and **Richard Rosner**. I would also like to make a special thank you to all of

YFSF 2007 Poster Session

The 2007 YFSF Poster Session was a great success. This year we were able to accommodate 25 presenters (almost double the 14 presentations in 2006). The YFSF Poster Session is growing steadily and the 2007 Co-chairs (**Jennifer Mercer** and **Melissa Ely**) would like to thank the many AAFS members who attended. Traffic at each poster was steady. We received great feedback from our presenters who received advice, research ideas, and even a few internship offers. Eleven universities and one crime lab were represented and topics included drug facilitated sexual assault, micro fluidic systems, postmortem interval, DNA extraction by filtration, detection of pesticides, canine scent detection, breath testing for drugs, detection of explosives, and DNA bar-coding. Work will soon begin planning for next year's session and interested presenters or volunteers can contact the 2008 YFSF Poster Co-chairs **Arliss Dudley-Cash** and **Jennifer Beach** at yfsfposter@gmail.com.



The YFSF Slide Session Participants for 2007

YFSF 2007 Slide Session

The YFSF Bring Your Own Slides session had many great presentations this year! Missy and I would like to thank all of you who participated and made this year one of the best BYOS sessions to date. We hope that everyone gained some insight into the projects that different universities and laboratories are conducting. We hope to see you all again in 2008 in Washington DC. If you or someone you know would like to be involved in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

— Robin Bowen, BS, MA
Robin.Bowen@mail.wvu.edu

YFSF 2007 Breakfast Session

I'd like to start off by thanking all of the attendees at this year's YFSF Breakfast Session. It's your participation that makes this and every other session such a success. It's amazing to see so many people at 7:00 o'clock in the morning. We had some tasty food thanks to the generous sponsorship of Virginia Commonwealth University.

A special thanks to this year's presenters. Juan Osteguín from Crime Scene Cleaners gave an interesting and informative presentation about what goes on after the crime scene has been processed. I think we were all engorged with his videos! **Marilyn Miller** from Virginia Commonwealth University presented a dismemberment case which proved to be highly entertaining. For those of you who didn't get an armadillo, sorry! But how fun was that?!

I would also like to thank Beth Saucier and Sherri Menendez of the Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory for all their help reviewing resumes. This can prove to be a timely task, but if it wasn't for their hard work and suggestions, the resume review portion of our session wouldn't have been complete. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions about any edits we may have made.

Lastly, I would like to express a big THANK YOU to **Amanda Frohwein** for guiding me through my first breakfast session. And congratulations to the rest of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum members for doing such a wonderful job planning this year's events.

If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute to next year's session, please don't hesitate to notify us. We look forward to seeing you all at our Nation's Capitol next year!

— Erica Blais



José Almirall accepting the 2007 YFSF Founder's Award from AAFS President Jim Young on behalf of the International Forensic Research Institute.



Congratulations to 2006-07 FSF Emerging Young Forensic Scientist Award recipient Laurel Freas!