

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

A Letter from the YFSF President

It has been just over two months since the AAFS 66th Annual Scientific Meeting and the Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) is already preparing for next year's 67th Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL!

In the next several months, you will begin to see requests from YFSF Committee members looking for presenters for the YFSF Special Session, YFSF Breakfast Session, YFSF Bring Your Own Slides, and the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster events. All of these sessions are great ways to get your name out to the forensic science community as well as to showcase your work.

The upcoming YFSF newsletters will announce special session speakers as the information becomes available. If you are interested in speaking or presenting at the YFSF Special Session, the YFSF Annual Breakfast, the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides, or the YFSF Bring Your Own Posters, feel free to contact the YFSF president or any of the session chairs.

Lara Newell begins her first year as YFSF President and is looking forward to seeing the plans for the 2015 YFSF Special Session unfold!

If you have any questions about the YFSF, please do not hesitate to contact **Lara Newell** at lafra86@gmail.com.

Lara Newell, MA
YFSF President

A Note from the YFSF Secretary

The YFSF hopes everyone enjoyed this year's annual meeting in Seattle, WA. If you were unable to attend, we encourage you to attend the AAFS 2015 Meeting in Orlando, FL. The theme of the meeting will focus on the forensic science family and should be a warm and welcoming environment for first-time meeting attendees, as well as, those who have attended past annual meetings. The YFSF looks forward to a great Special Session at the 2015 meeting and encourages all young forensic scientists to attend. It is a great way to meet fellow young forensic scientists and veterans.

The YFSF is happy to announce that all of the 2014-15 committee appointments have been made to include several new members this year.

Throughout this newsletter, you will be introduced to each member, new and old, of the YFSF Committee. The committee members strive to provide the young forensic scientists with a great forum in 2015.

Sarah Ellis and **Brianna Bermudez** fill the positions of Secretary Chair and Assistant Secretary respectfully this year. Sarah (Trainee Affiliate, General Section) has an MS in Forensic Science from Towson University and is currently working at West Virginia University Forensic and Investigative Science Outreach, but will be starting a new position with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation this month. Brianna (Student Affiliate, Criminalistics Section) is currently pursuing a BS in Forensic Science at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. She recently attended her first

AAFS meeting in Seattle, WA, and is excited to be a part of the YFSF!

Sarah J. Ellis, MS

YFSF Secretary
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Brianna Bermudez

YFSF Assistant Secretary
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Financial Liaison

Every year, the YFSF relies on the financial contributions and support from the forensic science community to make the special session possible. On behalf of the YFSF, the Financial Liaisons would like to thank the following sections of the Academy for their generous contributions to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum for the upcoming year:

- Anthropology Section - \$500
- Criminalistics Section - \$1,500
- General Section - \$500
- Jurisprudence Section - \$500
- Pathology/Biology Section - \$2,000

The YFSF Financial Liaisons are responsible for reaching out to the Academy sections, FEPAC universities, and various forensic science vendors to support the activities organized by the YFSF. **Katie Knurek** and **Betzaida “Betsy” Maldonado** will be serving as the Financial Liaison Chair and Co-Chair this year. This is Katie’s third year as the financial liaison for the YFSF. Katie is currently employed with the state laboratory in Ohio as a forensic scientist and is excited to continue in her position. Betsy joined the YFSF committee this year as co-chair. Betsy holds a Forensic & Investigative Science Bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University and is currently pursuing a Master’s of Science in Forensic Science at Marshall University. Katie is a Trainee Affiliate and Betsy is a Student Affiliate, both in the Criminalistics Section. Katie and Betsy look forward to the upcoming year and are eager to make it a success! If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum as a financial contributor, please contact either Katie or Betsy at their email addresses below.

Katie Knurek, BS

YFSF Financial Liaison Chair
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Betsy Maldonado, BS

YFSF Financial Liaison Co-Chair
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YFSF Special Session

The YFSF is pleased to announce the theme for the 2015 YFSF Special Session: *YFSF 20th Anniversary: The Past, The Present, and Our Future*. In honor of the YFSF 20th Anniversary, the 2015 YFSF Special Session speakers will reflect on their personal experiences, present unique casework, improvements made during their careers, and contributions they have made to the different fields of forensic science.

Christina Hayes is the YFSF Special Session Chair. Christina has a BS in Chemistry from the University of Illinois at Springfield and is working on completing a Master’s of Natural Science in Forensic Chemistry from Southeast Missouri State University. She has worked at the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department for the last three years as a drug chemist. She is ABC certified as a Fellow in Drug Analysis. She is also an Associate Member in the Criminalistics Section and served as the YFSF Special Session Co-Chair last year. She looks forward to the upcoming year in planning the special session with **Jessica Smith**.

Jessica Smith is the YFSF Special Session Co-Chair. She has a BS in Forensic Science from the University of Findlay and is pursuing her Master’s in Forensic Chemistry at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. She is working as a Formulations Scientist for Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories at the Eli Lilly site in Indianapolis. Jessica is a Student Affiliate in the General Section and hopes to promote to Trainee Affiliate status in the future. She looks forward to being involved in the YFSF and to being the special session’s co-chair.

Those who are interested in speaking at the YFSF Special Session and sharing their experiences should contact the program chairs at yfsfss@gmail.com.

Christina Hayes, BS

YFSF Special Session Chair

Jessica Smith, BS

YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

YFSF Breakfast Session

Planning has begun for next year’s YFSF Breakfast Session, a morning focused on professional development for young forensic scientists.

This year, **Alicja Lanfear** and **Tiffany Saul** will organize the session. Alicja recently earned a PhD in Anthropology from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She currently holds a postdoc position at the Forensic Institute for Research and Education at Middle Tennessee State University and is an Associate Member in the Anthropology Section. This is the second year that Alicja has served on the YFSF Committee; she previously served as the Assistant Secretary.

This is Tiffany’s first year serving on the YFSF committee. She is a Student Affiliate in the Anthropology Section and is working on her PhD in Anthropology at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Both Alicja and Tiffany are excited to take on the new challenge of planning the YFSF Breakfast Session.

The Breakfast Session Chairs are always looking for qualified presenters and résumé reviewers. If you or someone you know can help with professional development for the next generation of forensic scientists, please contact yfsf.breakfast@gmail.com.

Alicja K. Lanfear, PhD

YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

Tiffany B. Saul, MS

YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair

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Bring Your Own Slides Session

Greetings from the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) Committee! The YFSF is very excited to find young forensic scientists who would like to seize the opportunity to present their research at the AAFS 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting during the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session in Orlando, FL.

Returning as the Chair of bring your own slides session is **Lindsay Saylor**. Lindsay is a senior at Loyola University Chicago, majoring in Criminology & Criminal Justice, with a minor in Psychology of Crime & Justice. She is a Student Affiliate of the General Section. After this year, Lindsay plans to continue her education by attending law school.

This year's YFSF BYOS Co-Chair, **Kate Lesciotto**, is a new Student Affiliate of the Anthropology Section. She is currently a first-year student at Mercyhurst University, working towards an MS in Forensic and Biological Anthropology. Kate previously earned her BS in Biological Science and Zoology, with a minor in Biomedical Science as well as her JD from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. She returned to school after practicing as a litigation attorney for four years in Chicago and is thrilled to begin working with the Young Forensic Scientists Forum.

Lindsay Saylor

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair
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Kate M. Lesciotto, JD

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Co-Chair
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YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session

The YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session (BYOP) is the perfect opportunity for students and young forensic scientists to share their research. Being involved in the YFSF BYOP Session will provide young forensic scientists with the opportunity to network with other forensic scientists of all disciplines. The YFSF BYOP Session also helps students and young forensic scientists become more involved with the AAFS.

Jennifer Curnow, the YFSF BYOP Session Chair, is excited to help everyone get involved in the AAFS 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting. This is her second year serving on the YFSF committee. She received her Master's Degree in Forensic Science from Chaminade University of Honolulu. Jennifer currently works as a Latent Fingerprint Technician for Oak Ridge Associated Universities. She is looking forward to working with interested students and young forensic scientists.

Melanie Boeyer, the YFSF BYOP Session Co-Chair, received her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology with a Forensic Concentration from Western Carolina University. Currently, Mel is pursuing her Master's Degree in Forensic and Biological Anthropology at Mercyhurst University. This is her first year serving on the YFSF committee and she is very excited to see what new adventures the YFSF committee will bring this year.

Jennifer Curnow, MS

YFSF Poster Session Chair
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Melanie Boeyer, BS

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