

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

Greetings Young Forensic Scientists!

As we work our way through the fall months, we get closer and closer to registering for the 2009 AAFS meeting! This is your first reminder to watch for the 61st Annual Meeting registration mid to late November. Make sure you register early to ensure your spot in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session! This session has been growing in popularity for a number of years and last year we had a waiting list for people to get into the session. We regret having to turn anyone away, but are limited by the size of the venue where the meeting is held. This year we are trying to accommodate as many people as possible but it's always a good idea to register early - we want ALL of you there! Check out the articles on session events from your program chairs and co-chairs, they have been working hard to put together another successful year!

In this newsletter, I also wanted to take a minute to mention AAFS President **Carol Henderson's** Five for Forensic Science Research Plan proposed in the September 2008 *Academy News*. The goal is to have 100% of the AAFS membership donate to this campaign, and that includes the Student Affiliates and Trainee Affiliates in our group! The donations received will go to the Forensic Sciences Foundation to further research and education in the forensic science field. Now who better understands the need for money to support forensic science education and research than those of us currently (or recently) involved in forensic science education and research? Take this opportunity to show that this cause is an important one to you and that it should be to everyone else in our field as well! With 100% participation from the thousands of AAFS members that make up our organization, a donation as small as \$5 per person really adds up. The successes of this campaign will be coming back to you so I hope you consider joining this effort to promote forensic science education and research!

Enjoy the rest of the year and get those meeting registration forms in; we're looking forward to seeing you all this February in Denver!

Amanda Frohwein
YFSF President

AAFS at a Glance: Experience the Forensic Sciences

Hello, to all the Young Forensic Scientists out there. We are excited to announce our final line up of speakers for the 2009 Special Session! This year's title is "AAFS at a Glance." Throughout our day of lectures you will become acquainted with most of the sections represented in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. We hope that giving you a broad point of view will peak your interest in unfamiliar fields. Our Special Session Speakers are as follows:

- ❖ **Heidi D. Nawrocki**, - Emerging Forensic Scientist Award, *Discrimination of Glass by Cathodoluminescence, Color Analysis, and Chemometrics*
- ❖ **Jane A. Lewis**, *Ten Cool Things about Forensic Document Examiners*
- ❖ **Douglas H. Ubelaker**, *Forensic Anthropology: An Overview*
- ❖ **John E. Gerns**, *Forensic Science: The Road to Resolution*
- ❖ **Karen B. Rosenbaum**, *The Underbelly of the Bronx: Diversion or Incarceration?*
- ❖ **Barry Lipton**, *An Overview of Forensic Odontology*
- ❖ **Vincent J. Desiderio Jr.**, *Extraordinary Journey through the Ordinary Analysis of Trace Evidence*
- ❖ **Vicki Watts**, *Forensic Toxicology*
- ❖ **Vernon J. Geberth**, *An Introduction to Practical Homicide Investigation*
- ❖ **Andrew M. Baker**, *Pathology/Biology Section Overview*
- ❖ **Whitney Hill, MS**, Emerging Forensic Scientist Award, *Forensic Applications of the Electron Microscope*
- ❖ **Rhesa G. Gilliland**, *Digital and Multimedia Sciences*
- ❖ **Laura L. Liptai**, *Engineering Sciences*

As you can see, the depth and breadth of our presenters is extensive. They are all eager to share with you what they love about forensic science and how you can become a part of it. Register for the YFSF Special Session and please note that admission includes one free lunch, one free Breakfast Session, a Poster Session, and a Bring

Your Own Slides event! We are excited to see all of you at the February event!

Arliss I. Dudley-Cash, BA
YFSF Program Chair

2009 YFSF Sponsorship

Every year the YFSF relies on the support and sponsorship of the forensic community to make our Special Session a success. The events held at each meeting include a day long scientific session, a working breakfast session, a poster presentation, and a "Bring Your Own Slides" presentation. The goal of the YFSF is to assist these scientists in establishing a solid foundation in their field; these sessions are critical in the professional development of our audience.

At previous annual meetings we have received donations, both monetary and educational materials (i.e., books), from various forensic science vendors. We would like to take a moment to thank our current sponsors for the 2009 YFSF Special Session:

- ❖ **Nikon** for support of the session luncheon.
- ❖ **Virginia Commonwealth University** for support of the breakfast session.
- ❖ **Bone Clones** for support of the breakfast session.
- ❖ **AAFS' Criminalistics Section** for a donation to the general YFSF fund.

If you or your group is interested in supporting the newest generation of forensic scientists by providing sponsorship for the 2009 YFSF special session please feel free to contact one of the Sponsorship Chairs, **Robin Bowen** at Robin.Bowen@mail.wvu.edu or **Samantha Huffman Neal** at Samantha.Huffman@mail.wvu.edu for more information.

Samantha H. Neal
YFSF Sponsorship Co-Chair

2009 YFSF Poster Session

Are you currently working on an interesting research project or case?

When an application asks for publication or presentation experience, do you wish you could fill in that space?

As an undergrad, graduate student, or new forensic professional are you interested in presenting at the 2009 AAFS conference in Denver?

If the answers to the above questions are yes, the YFSF Poster Session is the perfect opportunity! Set on a smaller scale than the larger AAFS poster sessions, it provides a great way to get your feet wet in presenting research to your professional peers. The poster topics can range from research in any of the forensic disciplines to interesting casework - but all research topics are welcome! With 39 posters presented at the last meeting, we are hoping to get even more topics from more institutions at this year's event.

In order to register for the YFSF Poster Session, please submit your curriculum vitae and a 1-2 page abstract by January 1, 2009, to YFSF Poster Chair, **Anthony Sutter** at yfsfposter@gmail.com. Should you have any questions, feel free to e-mail them as well. We're looking forward to a great poster session in Denver!

Anthony Sutter
YFSF Poster Session Chair

2009 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

We are looking for fabulous presenters for the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides! YFSF BYOS is a wonderful opportunity to share any interesting cases, and research you may have worked on. The presentations are short and casual and are a great way to build your resumes and your communication skills. If you are interested in presenting, please contact **Tanisha Henson** at t.v.henson@hotmail.com or **Rachael Lehr** rachael.lehr@gmail.com. See you in Denver, CO!

Tanisha Henson, BS
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair

2009 YFSF Breakfast Session

This year's Breakfast Session has switched gears from professionalism to research techniques and tools. For many of our attendees, theses or dissertations may be on the forefront of the brain. We have excellent speakers lined up to provide information to facilitate keeping current on the latest research techniques and the technological tools available to do so with the help of the internet.

Jay Siegel, Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and Director of the Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program at Indiana University Purdue University, Indianapolis will be speaking about the needs of the forensic science community among other topics.

We have three speakers from The National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology, and the Law (NCSTL): Cynthia Holt, Catherine Bailey, and Diana Botluk. They will discuss the resources available from the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law at Stetson University, College of Law to keep us abreast of the latest issues on scientific evidence. They will discuss resources that are available in regards to evidence submission and admissibility such as Daubert Tracker, CLP News and Yahoo Groups along with other sources that are available to remain up-to-date on forensic issues and concerns and the latest developments. Demonstrations on how to utilize various databases and online resources such as the NCSTL database, Cold Case Toolkit, Education Center, RSS feeds, micro-social networks, and more will be given as well.

Jenna Oakes-Smith and I are very excited about all of the presentations this year. We believe they will be informative and extremely beneficial. We will also have a resume panel this year. If you would like to have your resume reviewed, please bring it with you to this year's AAFS meeting! If you have any questions, please contact either Jenna (jloakes-smith@SLMPD.ORG) or me (msmith@ocme.nyc.gov). Thank you for all of your comments and suggestions on issues to be addressed on professionalism. They were all great and will be used next year. See you all in Denver!

Melissa E. Smith
YFSF Breakfast Session Co-chair