

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

A Letter from the YFSF President

Excitement is in the air as the 64th AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta approaches. The YFSF Program Committee has been hard at work planning a fabulous session. Registration is now open which means you can register for the YFSF Special Session. If you have not heard of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF), the YFSF is specifically geared towards students and NEW professionals with 5 years or less of work experience, and is the only place where you will find a special session, poster session, bring your own slides session, and breakfast session - all focused on you!

The YFSF Special Session registration includes the following:

Tuesday Morning & Afternoon (02/21): Day-long event which includes lunch

Tuesday Evening (02/21): the YFSF Bring Your Own Posters Session

Wednesday Evening (02/22): YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session

Thursday Morning (02/23): YFSF Breakfast Session

In the past, we have filled every seat, so do not wait to reserve yours. The registration deadline is January 25th! At the end of the meeting, we are always looking for new volunteers to help plan the next year's events and we would love to find a way to get you even more involved in the YFSF! Looking forward to seeing you all in Atlanta!

Tanisha V. Henson, MFS, YFSF President
Tanisha.Henson@yahoo.com

A Letter from the YFSF Secretary

One of the best ways for you to become more involved in the Academy and to learn about the various forensic disciplines and career opportunities is for you to join us at the YFSF Special Session at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. By including speakers from all disciplines of the Academy, the YFSF Special Session allows attendees to broaden their forensic knowledge regardless of their level of expertise in their specific discipline. The ability to network with other forensic scientists outside of your study area is one key to enhancing your marketability as you either search for or begin your forensic career.

If you are interested in enhancing your forensic knowledge and networking skills, please visit www.aafs.org/aafs-2012-annual-meeting to register for the 2012 YFSF Special Session.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact **Lauren Pharr** at lpharr1@tigers.lsu.edu with any questions you may have about the YFSF and the benefits the YFSF has to offer.

Lauren R. Pharr, MA, YFSF Secretary

Financial Liaison for the YFSF

The YFSF relies on the support and contributions of the forensic community to make our special session a success each year. Events held at each meeting include a day-long scientific session, a working breakfast session, a Bring Your Own Slides presentation, and a poster session. These sessions are critical in the professional development of young scientists trying to establish a solid foundation in the field of forensic science.

In the past we have received both monetary and educational support from AAFS Sections, universities with FEPAC accredited programs, and various forensic science vendors. We would like to thank our current financial contributors who have pledged their support for the 2012 YFSF Special Session:

AAFS Criminalistics Section

AAFS General Section

AAFS Pathology/Biology Section

IUPUI Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program

Lisa A. Franklin, DDS

Taylor & Francis/CRC Press

If you or your group is interested in providing support for YFSF, whether through a financial contribution or donation of materials, please contact **Jackie Jenkins** at j.jenkins71@gmail.com.

Jacquelyn M. Jenkins, PhD, YFSF Financial Liaison

YFSF Breakfast Session

The year is coming to a close and registration for the annual meeting has opened. With only a few weeks left until the Academy meeting in Atlanta, excitement and anticipation are growing. Please join us for the fun and informative 2012 YFSF Breakfast Session.

The guest speakers have many years of experience working in crime labs and reviewing resumes. Our first speaker will be **Jenna Oakes-Smith**, who is an administrator with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. She will discuss "lab life" and what it means to have a job in a forensics lab. Some people may have a misguided view of what a crime lab actually does due to forensic shows on television.

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Mrs. Oakes-Smith will also discuss the differences between public and private labs. This will be very informative for those attendees who are not sure which direction they want to go.

Our second speaker will be **M. Lee Goff**, Director of the Forensics Science Program, Chaminade University of Honolulu. Throughout his academic career, Dr. Goff has reviewed numerous resumes from perspective employees, graduate students, and witnesses. He also has had the opportunity to assist his own students in producing their own resumes. According to Dr. Goff, he has seen what should be done, should not be done, and on occasion seen a “What the heck is that there for?” This talk will be quite enlightening.

As always, we will have a resume panel following the speakers. This year the YFSF Breakfast Session will have a representative from every section participating on this panel, and the YFSF officers are expecting a large turnout for the 2012 YFSF Breakfast Session. If you have any questions, feel free to email them to **Melissa DeBerry** at mdeberry@mcl.state.ms.us. I look forward to seeing everyone in Atlanta!

Melissa DeBerry, BA, YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

YFSF Special Session

The YFSF Special Session Chair, **Martin Overly**, and Co-Chair, **Lindsey Crass**, are looking forward to the upcoming Special Session on Tuesday, February 22, at the annual meeting in Atlanta, GA.

This year’s event, “*Contemporary Topics in the Forensic Science Community*,” will focus on current developments and practices in the various forensic disciplines. Each speaker will highlight his or her role in the forensic community and discuss the rising trends common to his or her discipline. The special session is an all-day event (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), and each attendee will be given a booklet that includes the presenter’s bio, abstract, and PowerPoint slides. Lunch will be provided to those who register for the session. This is an excellent time to network with veteran scientists as well as other scientists with five or less years of experience.

The session will begin with current AAFS President **Douglas Ubelaker**, who will discuss global challenges and opportunities that are associated with modern forensic science. AAFS Membership Coordinator, Cheryl Hunter, will provide an overview of the benefits and the steps to take to become an AAFS member. **Mary Fran Ernst**, from the St. Louis County Medical Examiner’s Office, will discuss the role of the medicolegal death investigators, the issues they face, and current trends in their profession.

The morning will continue with forensic entomologist **Jason Byrd** who will discuss research in veterinary medicine and how this research can help enhance the field of veterinary forensics. **Golden Richard** from the University of New Orleans will discuss the ever-changing and broad world of digital forensics. We are also pleased to hear from the 2011 FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award winner, **Rolf Bremmer**. Rolf will present his PhD research on recognizing and determining the age of bloodstains using reflectance spectroscopy.

The afternoon portion will begin with **Robin Jones**, a forensic policy and strategy consultant, who will discuss her participation in the White House’s Forensic Science Subcommittee and Inter-Agency Working Groups, which was created to enhance forensic sciences through improvements in areas such as professional standards,

education, outreach, and ethics. The Laboratory Inspector for the National Laboratory Certification Program, **H. Chip Walls**, will discuss toxicology in the 21st Century. **Robin Bowen**, Interim Director of the Forensic Science Initiative, will present on professionalism and how it impacts the forensic scientist. The session will then close with **William Folson**. Mr. Folson is the chief forensic examiner at Folson Digital Forensics. He will provide an overview of video and audio analysis and how it helps in solving crimes.

Please email Martin Overly at martin.overly@mail.wvu.edu or Lindsey Crass at lindsey.crass@mail.wvu.edu with any questions that you may have.

Martin K. Overly, MSFS, YFSF Special Session Chair
Lindsey E. Crass, BS, YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

Looking for the edge of forensic science research at this year’s annual meeting? Look no further than the Young Forensic Scientists Forum - Bring Your Own Slides Session, which is being held **Wednesday, February 22!**

This year we have an exciting Bring Your Own Slides program planned. Thank you to all applicants—it is because of your commitment to research that we can have a wide range of presentations. If you are not presenting, then be sure to attend this session, which is open to all AAFS meeting attendees. It will be informative and it will be fun!

If you have any questions about this year’s YFSF BYOS session feel free to contact us: **Ali Mostrom** (alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov) or **Amber Neitzel** (aneitzel@email.arizona.edu).

We look forward to seeing you at the 2012 AAFS Meeting in Atlanta!

Alison P. Mostrom, MSFS, BYOS Chair
Amber R. Neitzel, BS, BYOS Co-Chair

YFSF Poster Session

All AAFS meeting attendees are welcome to attend the 2012 YFSF Poster Session. Last year’s YFSF Poster Session had a lot to offer, and this year’s session will be no different. The poster session will include a wide variety of forensic disciplines from students and young forensic science professionals. The Poster Session will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Be sure to attend!

Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts for the YFSF Poster Session this year! We all look forward to seeing your poster presentations in Atlanta.

As always, please email any questions to: yfsf.postersession@gmail.com.

Taryn M. Mead, BS, YFSF Poster Session Chair
Jennifer L. Malone, PhD, YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair