

# Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

## A Letter from the YFSF President

Happy New Year! With a new year comes a new AAFS Annual Meeting! The AAFS 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting is quickly approaching and will be here before you know it. Over the last year, the YFSF committee has worked hard to develop a great session. The meeting registration is now open as well as the registration for the YFSF Special Session. The Special Session registration fills up each year, so if interested in attending, register soon. The YFSF Special Session is a three-day event geared towards an audience with five years or less professional experience.

## Registration for the YFSF Special Session includes:

- **Tuesday Morning and Afternoon (2/18):** A day-long session of speakers covering a variety of forensic science related topics.
- **Tuesday Evening (2/18):** The YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session.
- **Wednesday Evening (2/19):** The YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session.
- **Thursday Morning (2/20):** The YFSF Breakfast Session.

The details for the above listed sessions are listed in the *Advance Program* as well as in the following sections of the newsletter. During the events of the special session, please express any interest you may have in serving on the 2014-15 committee. The YFSF has a number of positions available and the committee is a great way to get involved in AAFS and to network with your forensic peers. That being said, this will be my final year as YFSF President. I have had a wonderful time serving and look forward to my last YFSF event which is sure to be wonderful! YFSF looks forward to seeing everyone in Seattle, WA!

Lindsey E. Saunders, BS  
*YFSF President*  
LEC385@gmail.com

## A Note from the YFSF Secretary

The AAFS 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting is quickly approaching; hopefully, your travel arrangements have been made. If not, remember that hotel accommodations become limited the closer we get to the meeting. Be sure to book your room as soon as possible. Not sure where to stay? Look on the AAFS website ([www.aafs.org/aafs-66th-annual-scientific-meeting-seattle-wa-2014](http://www.aafs.org/aafs-66th-annual-scientific-meeting-seattle-wa-2014)) and click the accommodations button.

The meeting is also a wonderful opportunity to market yourself to future employers and co-workers, so keep this in mind as you attend the receptions and the employment forum. It is a good idea to carry copies of your curriculum vita (CV) and/or business cards and to “dress for success” as you never know whom you may meet! Please feel free to stop by the Bring Your Own Slides and the Bring Your Own Posters events even if you have not registered to attend the YFSF portions of the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle. These events are open to all registered meeting attendees and are a great opportunity to meet new people and see what your peers are doing.

Sarah Ellis, MS  
YFSF Secretary Chair  
[Sarahjellis2@gmail.com](mailto:Sarahjellis2@gmail.com)

Alicja Lanfear, PhD  
YFSF Secretary Co-Chair  
[Alicja.Lanfear@mtsu.edu](mailto:Alicja.Lanfear@mtsu.edu)

## Financial Liaison

The Academy's Annual Meeting is fast approaching! The YFSF is making preparations for our Special Session, Breakfast Session, Poster Session, and Slide Session. These sessions are made possible by the contributions from individuals and organizations that support the YFSF. The Young Forensic Scientists Forum is a group that helps first-time meeting attendees and young forensic professionals get the most out of their first academy meeting. We are able to help these individuals because of the support we have received. Thank you to those who have contributed money or resources to the YFSF.

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# Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter cont.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the YFSF or have any questions, please feel free to contact Katie Knurek.

## **Katie Knurek, BS**

Financial Liaison

[Kknurek6490@gmail.com](mailto:Kknurek6490@gmail.com)

## YFSF Special Session

The theme for this year's day-long YFSF Special Session is *The World of Forensic Science: The Future of Education and Research*. The YFSF Special Session chair **Lara Frame-Newell** and Co-Chair **Christina Hayes** have planned an informative and interesting session on Tuesday, February 18, during the AAFS 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA. The 2014 YFSF Special Session has invited professionals from various fields in forensic science to share unique research, unusual casework and the future direction of their fields.

Special session attendees will begin the day with AAFS President, **Barry Logan**, who will speak about developing career paths and leadership. AAFS President-Elect, **Daniel Martell**, will discuss highlights of the 2015 meeting and what opportunities are available for young forensic scientists in the forensic behavioral field. **Cheryl Hunter**, AAFS Membership Coordinator, will explain the membership process and what benefits are available to AAFS members. **John Kenney**, Odontology Fellow, will discuss what is required to become a member of the Odontology Section, the history of forensic dentistry, cases where odontology has been used to perform identifications, and unique cases involving bitemarks.

**Robert Middleberg**, a Fellow in the Toxicology Section and Laboratory Director for National Medical Services, Inc., will begin the second part of the morning's session by discussing the ancient history of toxicology, the educational requirements to become a toxicologist, and the future of the field of toxicology. **Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar** and **Marcus Rogers**, Trainee Affiliate and Fellow respectively, of the Digital & Multimedia Sciences Section will introduce the attendees to digital forensics and cybercrime as well as discussing the merging of behavioral sciences and digital evidence. **Ann Ross**, Fellow in the Physical Anthropology Section and professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North Carolina State University will give a brief overview of educational and professional requirements to become a forensic anthropologist as well as discuss mentorship within the field.

The afternoon session will begin with **Shawn Silver**, a Student Affiliate in the Pathology/Biology Section, who will introduce the field of forensic pathology and give advice to students who are on the path to becoming forensic pathologists. **David Pauly**, Member of the General Section and assistant professor and director of the Applied Forensic Science program at Methodist University, will discuss cold case investigations, what constitutes a cold case, and why they go "cold." **Victoria Nelson**, a Trainee Affiliate in the Criminalists Section and a criminalist with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in New York City, will speak about the evolving role of forensic science in mass fatality incidents, including her own personal experience.

The second part of the afternoon session will begin with **James Hopkins**, the 2013 FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award winner, who will share his research on sequencing DNA to identify soil evidence. The session will conclude with a discussion by **Carlton-Jane Beck-Findley**, Member of the General Section and Crime Scene Investigator Field Training Officer with the Lake County Sheriff's Office, on professionalism in the workplace, focusing on the "dos and don'ts" of how you look and how you act in job interviews and at the workplace.

This is a day full of great information and a great chance to meet someone in your section. The special session is a great networking opportunity, whether with other young professionals or more experienced and established professionals in your field. Bring your business cards, your confidence, and your smile! The YFSF Special Session is only one day out of a week-long meeting. For those who have never attended an AAFS meeting before it is recommended that you wear comfortable business clothes and very comfortable shoes.

In order to attend the YFSF Special Session (S2), please register before the pre-registration deadline of January 22. Registration for the YFSF Special Session includes lunch on Tuesday, the YFSF Poster Session on Tuesday evening, the Bring Your Own Slides presentation on Wednesday evening, and the YFSF Breakfast Session on Thursday morning, where you will have the chance to speak to professionals in various forensic fields and get tips and advice on how to polish up your resume! The AAFS website ([www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)) will have links to register for the meeting as well as the most up-to-date meeting information.

## **Lara Frame-Newell, MA**

YFSF Special Session Chair

[yfsfs@gmail.com](mailto:yfsfs@gmail.com)

## **Christina Hayes, BS**

YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

[yfsfs@gmail.com](mailto:yfsfs@gmail.com)

## YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session

The Annual AAFS meeting is right around the corner! All AAFS meeting attendees are encouraged to attend and support the presenters for their hard work to make this session great. The 2014 YFSF Poster Session will be held on Tuesday, February 18, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The poster session will include posters from numerous forensic disciplines presented by students and young forensic science professionals.

The YFSF Poster Session is a wonderful opportunity to learn and make new contacts. Your participation in this year's YFSF Poster Session is much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts for the YFSF Poster Session. If you have any questions please contact **Jennifer Curnow** at [yfsf.postersession@gmail.com](mailto:yfsf.postersession@gmail.com).

See you all in Seattle!

## **Jennifer Curnow, MSFS**

YFSF Poster Session Chair

[curnow.jen@gmail.com](mailto:curnow.jen@gmail.com)

### YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

This year's Young Forensic Scientists Forum Bring Your Own Slides Session will be held on Wednesday, February 19, at 6:00 p.m. All AAFS meeting attendees are invited to attend and to hear about all of the new research taking place by the industry's young forensic scientists, from a variety of disciplines.

A special thank you to all who you submitted their abstracts. Please contact [lsaylors@luc.edu](mailto:lsaylors@luc.edu) if any questions or concerns arise. We look forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting in Seattle, WA.

#### Lindsay Saylors

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair

### YFSF Breakfast Session

We have an excellent panel of speakers for this year's YFSF Breakfast Session, "Navigating Success: Career Skills for the Journey." **Tanisha Henson**, Chief Medical Examiner for the Alberta Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, will discuss networking, making a positive

impression, and the importance of getting involved. Attendees will also hear about career preparation in the fields of forensic science and forensic psychology from Seattle University's Jacqueline Helfgott and **Matthew Hickman**. Representing the American Board Criminalists, **Kristin McDonald**, will speak about certification. Additionally, **Raymond Kusumi**, from the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory, will share his insights on personal branding and social media. Finally, professionals from varied disciplines will join us to provide resume assistance and feedback to attendees.

We're excited for a session that brings experienced and new forensic scientists together to keep the focus on developing necessary, professional skills for the next generation of forensic scientists!

Contact [YFSF.Breakfast@gmail.com](mailto:YFSF.Breakfast@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer as a resume reviewer. See you in Seattle!

#### Ali Kidder-Mostrom, MSFS

YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

## Do You Remember When?

Source: Kenneth S. Field, MBA, *Retired Fellow, General Section*

### 1973...

...At the 1973 AAFS Annual Business Meeting in Las Vegas, the membership formally approved the acceptance of the Forensic Sciences Foundation as its research and education arm. That acceptance was most welcome because, as a 501(c)(3) corporation, the FSF could accept tax-free donations and could apply for Federal research, educational, and implementation grants. The Academy, as a 501(c)(6) organization, was ineligible to engage in either activity. In anticipation of the acceptance of the Foundation, Jim Weston, Secretary-Treasurer of the AAFS and Ken Field, Executive Director of FSF, had already prepared and submitted a grant proposal to the Department of Justice to "Assess the Personnel in the Forensic Science Profession." That proposal was approved and began in the summer of 1973. It was the first of many research and education grants jointly involving the two organizations.

### 1983...

...The Plenary Session at the 1983 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati addressed a still newsworthy, 58 year-old crime - the Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping/Bruno Hauptmann Case. It is fair to say that the presentation covered the topic from every conceivable angle. Thirteen speakers discussed the specifics of the crime under the following headings: the investigation, evidence (ransom notes, footprints, ladder), skeletal remains (after cremation), odontological findings, the one-page autopsy report, psychiatric profiling, "creative" prosecution, death, politics, and Mrs. Hauptmann's persistent protest that her husband was innocent.