

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

A Letter from the YFSF President

The time has come for the Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) to begin planning the events for the AAFS 66th Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA, in February 2014! Over the next few months, keep an eye out for requests from the YFSF committee members looking for poster and slide presenters for the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster and Bring Your Own Slides Sessions. In addition, there is still space on the YFSF Committee for this year. These three options are a great way to network and to get more involved in AAFS! If you are interested in joining the YFSF Committee, please send in your CV or resume. I am very excited to be serving as YFSF President for a second year and look forward to working with the committee over the next year to put on a wonderful 2014 YFSF Special Session! If you have any questions about YFSF or the committee positions open, please send inquires to lec385@gmail.com.

Lindsey E. Saunders, BS, YFSF President

A Note from the YFSF Secretary

For those of you who were not able to attend this year's YFSF Special Session at the AAFS 65th Anniversary Meeting in Washington, DC, YFSF would like to encourage you to attend the events that will be offered at the AAFS 2014 Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. The YFSF Special Session exposes young forensic scientists to a variety of forensic disciplines in a warm and welcoming environment, allowing an easy transition into the AAFS community. If you would like to become more active in AAFS, please feel free to contact any of the YFSF officers.

This year, the committee is excited to have several new members on the YFSF committee. Throughout this newsletter, you will be introduced to all the members, new and old, of the YFSF committee. The committee members hope they can provide the young forensic scientists with a great forum in 2014.

This year **Sarah Ellis** and **Alicja Lanfear** will fill the positions of Secretary and Secretary Co-Chair, respectively. Sarah has an MS in Forensic Science from Towson University and is working at West Virginia University Forensic Science Initiative. She is a Trainee Affiliate in the General Section. Alicja recently earned a PhD in Anthropology from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She holds a postdoc position at the Forensic Institute for Research and Education at Middle Tennessee State University and is a Student Affiliate in the Physical Anthropology Section. She will be applying for Associate Member status this year. Both Sarah and Alicja are looking forward to working with all the members of the YFSF this year.

Sarah J. Ellis, MS, YFSF Secretary
sarahjellis2@gmail.com

Alicja Lanfear, PhD, YFSF Secretary Co-Chair
alicja.lanfear@mtsu.edu

Financial Liaison

Another AAFS meeting has come and gone, and what a success it was! As the YFSF Financial Liaison, **Katie Knurek** would like to thank the following sections for their generous contributions to the Young Forensic Scientist Forum for the

continued on page 44

Young Forensic Scientist Forum cont.

upcoming year:

Criminalistics Section	\$1,500
General Section	\$1,000
Odontology Section	\$500
Pathology/Biology Section	\$2,000
Physical Anthropology Section	\$500

Without the support from the sections, our annual special session would not be possible. Thank you! If you would like to become more involved in the YFSF as a financial contributor, please contact Katie (kknurek6490@gmail.com). This is Katie's second year with the YFSF having served as Financial Liaison Co-Chair last year. She has recently completed an undergraduate degree in forensic biology at Ohio Northern University and is currently employed at a county lab in Ohio as a Criminalist. Within the Academy, Katie is a Trainee Affiliate in the Criminalistics Section. She is excited and honored to be a part of this special organization and is looking forward to the upcoming year!

Katie Knurek, BS, YFSF Financial Liaison

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, **Ali Kidder-Mostrom** will be organizing the session. Ali is a Forensic Chemist for a Federal Law Enforcement Agency and an Associate Member of the Criminalistics Section. She has served on the YFSF Committee for three years, planning the Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) Session. This being her last year as a "young" forensic scientist, she is excited to take on the new challenge of planning the YFSF Breakfast Session for the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA.

The breakfast session chairs are always looking for qualified presenters and résumé reviewers; please contact yfsf.breakfast@gmail.com if you or someone you know can help with professional development for the next generation of forensic scientists.

Ali Kidder-Mostrom, MSFS, YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

YFSF Special Session

The YFSF is pleased to announce the theme for the 2014 YFSF Special Session: *The World of Forensic Science: the Future of Education and Research*. The speakers at the 2014 YFSF Special Session will highlight new research, up-and-coming techniques, unique casework, and will help guide students and new professionals through the varied world of forensic science. Those who are interested in speaking at the YFSF Special Session and sharing their experiences should contact the program chairs at yfsfs@gmail.com. **Lara Newell** and **Christina Hayes** will be planning this year's YFSF Special Session. Lara has an MA in Anthropology from East Carolina University with a focus in forensic anthropology. She has worked for two years at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Richmond, VA, as Medicolegal Death Investigator and is ABMDI

registered. She is a Trainee Affiliate of the General Section and served as the YFSF Financial Liaison last year. She is looking forward to this new role and planning the special session with Christina.

Christina, special session co-chair for the YFSF, 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 works as a drug chemist for the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department, a position she has held for two years. She is a Trainee Affiliate in the Criminalistics Section, but hopes to move up to Associate Member status during the 2014 Annual Meeting. She has attended four AAFS annual meetings and is looking forward to being the YFSF Special Session Co-Chair this year.

Lara Newell, MA, YFSF Special Session Chair

Christina Hayes, BS, YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session

Hello everybody! The YFSF is very excited to find young forensic scientists who would like to seize the opportunity to present their research at the AAFS 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting during the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session in Seattle. This year's Bring Your Own Slides Chair, **Lindsay Saylor**, is a Student Affiliate of the General Section of AAFS, and begins her second year working with the Young Forensic Scientists Forum. She is currently a junior at Loyola University Chicago, working on her BS in Forensic Science with minors in Chemistry and Psychology of Crime and Justice. She is honored to be the chair of the YFSF BYOS and is looking forward to another exciting year.

Lindsay Saylor, YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair
yfsf.byos@gmail.com

YFSF Poster Session

Aloha! The YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session is a wonderful opportunity for students and young forensic scientists to share their research. Participating in the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session is an excellent way to become more involved with the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting. **Jennifer Curnow**, the YFSF BYOP Session Chair, is eager to read everyone's abstracts. If you have any questions, please feel free to email her at yfsf.postersession@gmail.com. This is Jennifer's first year serving on the YFSF committee. She received her master's degree in forensic science from Chaminade University of Honolulu. She has worked for the Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory at Tripler Army Medical Center as a certified Forensic Toxicology Technician and interned with the Honolulu Police Department's Crime Scene Unit. Jennifer is eager to start work as a Latent Fingerprint Technician for Oak Ridge Associated Universities. She is grateful to have this opportunity to become more involved with AAFS through the YFSF.

Jennifer Curnow, MS, YFSF Poster Session Chair