

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

A Letter from the YFSF President

As the temperature is getting cooler and the days are getting shorter, it is hard to believe another summer has come and gone! With that, the AAFS August 1 abstract submission deadline has passed. Furthermore, another important deadline is quickly approaching—the October 1 AAFS membership application and promotion deadline. For individuals who are not current AAFS members but are interested in holding a position within the YFSF, the October 1 application deadline is very important. In order to hold a committee position with the YFSF, you must be a current member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Membership status can be affiliate or member levels, although committee members must have less than five-year's professional experience. Completed applications submitted before the October 1st deadline will be reviewed and voted upon at the AAFS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Once membership is approved, the YFSF can offer committee positions. We are always looking for new members to join and to bring new ideas to the group! The YFSF is a great way to get involved and to interact with fellow forensic peers. If you are interested in becoming a committee member or would like more information on YFSF, please feel free to contact me!

Lindsey Crass, BS
YFSF President
lindsey.crass@mail.wvu.edu

A Note from the YFSF Secretary

As YFSF President **Lindsey Crass** mentioned, the AAFS membership and promotion deadline is October 1. AAFS membership will open doors to many new and exciting opportunities, one being the opportunity to become more involved with the YFSF! The YFSF provides an excellent platform for you to present your research, to network with your peers, and to gain exposure to multiple forensic disciplines. Moreover, if you missed the August 1 AAFS abstract submission deadline, the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides or Poster Sessions are for you! If you are interested in presenting your research, please do not hesitate to contact any one of the YFSF Chairs or Co-Chairs.

Lauren Pharr, MA **Lauren Bryan, PhD**
YFSF Secretary Chair *YFSF Secretary Co-Chair*
lpharr1@tigers.lsu.edu lbryan@nlcl.org

Financial Liaison

Each year the YFSF holds a special session for students and young professionals of forensic science. This special session includes a day-long scientific session, a working Breakfast Session, a Bring Your Own Slides presentation, and Bring Your Own Poster presentation. The importance of this special session is to help young forensic science professionals establish a foundation in the forensic science community by providing them with resources and networking opportunities both within and outside their own fields. Without the support and contributions of the forensic science community the YFSF Special Session would not be successful.

In the past, the YFSF has received both monetary and educational contributions and support from the AAFS sections, universities with FEPAC accredited programs, and various forensic science vendors. Organizations and individuals can contribute to the YFSF in a variety of ways, which include donation of materials, financial contributions, or financial support of the YFSF luncheon or breaks.

If you or your group is interested in supporting the 2013 YFSF Special Session, please contact **Lara Frame** (lafra86@gmail.com) or **Katie Knurek** (k-knurek@onu.edu).

Lara Frame, MA **Katie Knurek**
YFSF Financial Liaison *YFSF Financial Co-Liaison*

YFSF Breakfast Session

The YFSF Breakfast Session typically focuses on professional development, which is very important for our members, students, and young forensic scientist professionals. It is important for young members to learn the tools necessary to succeed within the forensic science community. This year, our breakfast session will focus on the requirements of expert testimony as a forensic scientist and what it means to be an expert. Specifically, we plan on having three-twenty minute talks focusing on: 1) the importance of knowing what cited sources you used, speaker **Sandra Koch** from the FBI; 2) how to prepare for cross-examination by a defense attorney, speaker **Roderick Kennedy** from New Mexico Court of Appeals; and, 3) the role of a forensic scientist as an expert witness, speaker **Anjali Swienton** from SciLawForensics.

As in previous years, the YFSF Breakfast Session will be organized to include a resume review session with a distinguished forensic scientist panel following the initial presentations. We currently have AAFS Past President and Gradwohl Laureate **Barry Fisher**, Past President **Joseph Bono**, **Vincent Desiderio**, **Robert Gaffney**, Eugene Peters, **Gregory G. Davis**, and **Lucy Davis** signed on to be part of the resume review panel. This discussion time will help to specifically address such questions as: "What should be included on your resume and is it structured properly?" If this sounds helpful to you, well then, this is the session for you! If you have any questions, please contact **Jennifer Malone** (jennifer.malone@wyo.gov) or **Ashley Moulton** (amoulton2010@yahoo.com).

Jennifer Malone, PhD **Ashley Moulton, BS**
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair *YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair*

YFSF Special Session

Forensic science is a diverse field, and each section is interesting in its own unique way. Ongoing education and research in every section advances the field as a whole, and with that, the potential directions to take your career in forensics expands as well. This year's Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session,

Applications of Education and Research to the Diverse Field of Forensic Science, will highlight the various applications of education and research, along with the vast career paths within the field of forensic science. This special session will provide the audience with the countless paths they may take in their future careers. If you think forensic science is interesting now, just wait until you attend the YFSF Special Session!

The day of speakers will consist of professionals discussing their unique casework experiences and career choices. We have speakers from a variety of disciplines, including Criminalistics, Toxicology, Questioned Documents, Physical Anthropology, Jurisprudence, and much more. We are very excited for all the speakers who will be presenting. More detailed speaker information will be available in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum November newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding this year's special session, please contact yfsfss@gmail.com.

Taryn Mead, BS **Jennifer Newton, BS**
YFSF Special Session Chair *YFSF Special Session Co-Chair*

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS)

The upcoming 2013 American AAFS Anniversary Meeting in Washington, DC, will be the perfect opportunity for you to gain presentation experience and to meet with your peers within the forensics community.

Whether a novice or a pro, if you are interested in presenting your research at the 2013 YFSF BYOS Session, please email a one page abstract and your resume or CV to **Ali Mostrom** at alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov and/or to **Lindsay Saylor** at lsaylor@luc.edu. Documentation must be received by **December 15**. All research disciplines are welcomed and encouraged.

Ali Mostrom, MSFS **Lindsay Saylor, BS**
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides *YFSF Bring Your Own Slides*
Chair *Co-Chair*

YFSF Poster Session

Hello young forensic scientists! The February meeting is just around the corner, which means you should now be thinking about submitting an abstract for the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster (BYOP) Session. If you missed the August 1 abstract submission deadline for the Academy's poster session abstract submissions, you can still present your research or interesting cases by participating in the YFSF BYOP Session.

The YFSF BYOP Session is looking for presenters that can share the following information: 1) research that contributes to the field of forensic science; or, 2) a case or an important topic from which young and emerging forensic scientists would benefit.

continued on page 36

Young Forensic Scientist Forum cont.

Do not miss this fantastic opportunity to contribute to your field and gain experience in presenting. If you are interested in presenting, please send an abstract and your CV to yfsf.postersession@gmail.com. Abstracts and CVs should be submitted by **December 1**.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Amber Neitzel, BS
YFSF Poster Session Chair

Jackie Jenkins, PhD
*YFSF Poster Session
Co-Chair*

The AAFS Membership Application is Online!

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences online membership application system will allow: 1) current members and affiliates to complete an application to upgrade your status; and, 2) non-members to complete the membership application process to become an Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate.

Members

If you are currently a member or affiliate of the Academy and wish to upgrade your status, you may complete your application online at www.aafs.org. You will need to log into your AAFS Web account (if you are unsure as to your login information, please email the Membership Department at membership@aafs.org). Currently, all of the required documentation (e.g., references, CVs, case reports, etc.) will need to be emailed (membership@aafs.org), mailed, or faxed separately to AAFS.

Non-Member Authors/Co-Authors

If you are not a member of the Academy, but you have served as an author or co-author on a presentation (oral or poster) at an AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting, an AAFS Web account was established for you when your presentation was submitted. An email was sent to you with your login information. Please use this information to log into your "Author" account to start your membership application. If you are unable to obtain your login information, please contact the Membership Department at membership@aafs.org.

AAFS Annual Meeting Attendees, Exhibitors, and Volunteers

If you have attended, exhibited, or volunteered at an AAFS Annual Meeting, you should have an account on record with AAFS. Please contact the Membership Department for your identification number at membership@aafs.org.

If none of the above apply, please go to <https://data.aafs.org/application/apply/start.aspx> and click option C.

Please send your questions to Cheryl Hunter, Membership Coordinator, at chunter@aafs.org.