

Supplement to the *Academy News*
November 2012
Editor: Lauren R. Pharr, MA

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

A Letter from the YFSF President

With only a few months remaining before the AAFS 65th Anniversary Meeting in Washington, DC, it is time to make travel plans and meeting accommodations! The AAFS website provides all the necessary information for planning travel, hotel, and meeting events. The Young Forensic Scientist Forum (YFSF) Program Committee has been providing updates of what to expect for the 2013 YFSF Special Session throughout the year, and we hope the updates have sparked young forensic scientists' interest in the event! In order to attend any of scheduled sessions, workshops, or breakfasts at the annual meeting, including the YFSF session, those interested must pre-register for the events they would like to attend. The YFSF Special Session registration includes the full-day special session, bring your own poster and slide events, and the breakfast session. Detailed information for each of the events can be found in the following sections of the newsletter. All events are sure to include informative and interesting information for those who attend as well as a great arena to network with fellow professionals!

Now is also a good time to decide if you are interested in joining the 2013 YFSF Program Committee. For those interested, it is suggested that a CV/resume be brought to the YFSF events. The program committee appointments will be finalized by mid-March 2013 and will begin working on the 2014 YFSF events immediately. Questions regarding the 2013 Young Forensic Scientist Forum registration and becoming a committee member can be directed to

lindsey.saunders@mail.wvu.edu. The 2012-13 YFSF officers look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC!

Lindsey (Crass) Saunders, BS
YFSF President

A Note from the YFSF Secretary

If you are a forensic scientist with five years or less paid forensic work experience, then take advantage of the many benefits the YFSF Special Session has to offer. The YFSF 2013 session includes a series of presentations from experts within the various Academy sections. This day-long event is a wonderful way to learn about the various forensic disciplines and offers participants the chance to network with peers and experts. To reiterate the YFSF President's message, if you register for the 2013 YFSF Special Session, you will also be able to attend the Breakfast Session which focuses on career enhancement and provides attendees with the unique opportunity to have forensic experts review their resumes and CVs. Likewise, the YFSF Slides and Poster Sessions provide an invaluable method for young forensic scientists to showcase either their research or a case study. If you are intimidated by the thought of public speaking, you are not alone. One goal of the Slides and Poster Sessions is to allow young forensic scientists to gain experience speaking publicly to their forensic peers. The more you present your research and forensic work, the better you will be at speaking in front of future AAFS audiences, your boss, and jurors in

the courtroom. Please contact the BYOS and BYOP Program Chairs to learn more about presenting at the 2013 AAFS meeting.

If you already have more than five years paid forensic work experience, then please consider donating to the YFSF so that this annual event can continue to grow and educate young scientists. Donations can be financial, tangible objects, or time spent speaking to YFSF attendees. Please send all donation inquiries to the YFSF financial officers.

Lastly, the YFSF is excited to announce that the officers will be gathering participation data on attendees' forensic interests at this year's meeting. The collected data will allow the YFSF officers to ensure that each of the Academy disciplines is being represented at future YFSF Special Sessions. The data will also allow the YFSF officers to assist young forensic scientists wishing to pursue AAFS membership and will allow the individual sections to be more informed about up-and-coming young forensic scientists within the 11 forensic disciplines. Please monitor the AAFS website for more information on the 2013 meeting and to register for the YFSF Special Session. Do not hesitate to contact the secretaries with any question you have concerning the YFSF.

<i>Lauren Pharr, MA</i> <i>YFSF Secretary Chair</i> <i>lpharr1@tigers.lsu.edu</i>	<i>Lauren Bryan, PhD</i> <i>YFSF Secretary Co-Chair</i> <i>lbryan@nlcl.org</i>
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Financial Liaison

As the 2013 AAFS Annual Meeting draws near, the YFSF Financial Liaisons would like to thank everyone who responded to our requests for monetary and/or educational contributions. We would also like to thank those section chairs who have already agreed to allow a YFSF committee member speak at the section business meetings in Washington, DC. The YFSF relies on support from the Academy to provide educational and professional support to new professionals in the forensic field.

Letters have been sent out to universities with FEPAC accredited programs, the Academy sections, and various forensic vendors asking for financial contributions or contribution of materials to the YFSF. Without your support we would not be able hold our special session each year! Remember, organizations can support the YFSF through financial contributions, contributions of materials, or by supporting the YFSF Special Session lunch, breaks, or breakfast. If you or your group would like to donate to the YFSF, please contact either of the YFSF Financial Liaisons.

<i>Lara Frame, MA</i> <i>YFSF Financial Liaison</i> <i>lafra86@gmail.com</i>	<i>Katie Knurek</i> <i>YFSF Financial Co-Liaison</i> <i>katie.knurek@cantonohio.gov</i>
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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 our young members to learn the tools necessary to succeed within the forensic science community. This year's 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 20-minute presentations focusing on: 1) the importance of knowing what cited sources you used (**Sandra Koch** from the FBI); 2) how to prepare for cross-examination by a defense attorney (**Judge Roderick Kennedy** from New Mexico Court of Appeals); and, 3) the role of a forensic scientist as an expert witness (**Anjali Swinton** 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**, **Vinny Desiderio**, **Robert Gaffney**, Eugene Peters, **Gregory G. Davis**, **Lucy Davis**, **Jenna Oakes-Smith**, and **Douglas Ubelaker** 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, this is the session for you! If you have any questions or are interested in being on our resume panel, please contact **Jennifer Malone** (*jennifer.malone@wyo.gov*) or **Ashley Moulton** (*amoulton2010@yahoo.com*).

<i>Jennifer Malone, PhD</i> <i>YFSF Breakfast Session Chair</i>	<i>Ashley Moulton, BS</i> <i>YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair</i>
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YFSF Special Session

The AAFS Annual Meeting is fast approaching and the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session has a lot to look forward to sharing with the young professionals who are attending. Everyone who attends will undoubtedly expand upon his or her knowledge in this jam-packed session! With experienced professionals from many different disciplines within forensic science, ranging from Questioned Documents to Firearms and Explosives, there will never be a dull moment in showcasing our theme, *Applications of Education and Research to the Diverse Field of Forensic Science*, through unique casework experience and examples.

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session is a very important tool in keeping young professionals up-to-date and well-versed in the extensive field of forensic science.

For those who are speaking during the YFSF Special Session, thank you for your on-going involvement and support.

If you have any questions regarding this year's Special Session, please contact *yfsfss@gmail.com*.

<i>Taryn Mead, BS</i> <i>YFSF Special Session Chair</i>	<i>Jennifer Newton, BS</i> <i>YFSF Special Session Co-Chair</i>
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YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

Calling all young forensic scientists! What are you contributing to forensic science research, casework and education? Share your experience with the community by presenting at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Anniversary Meeting in Washington, DC this coming February! Abstracts for the BYOS

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Young Forensic Scientist Forum cont.

Session are due December 15. If you are interested in presenting, there is still time to submit your research! This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the community and hone your oral presentation skills.

Please submit a one-page abstract and your resume or CV by **December 15** to alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov and/or lsaylors@luc.edu. Also, feel free to contact us with any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Ali Kidder-Mostrom, MSFS
BYOS Chair*

*Lindsay Saylors, BS
BYOS Co-Chair*

forensic science; or, 2) a case or an important topic from which young and emerging forensic scientists would benefit.

Do not miss this fantastic opportunity to contribute to your field and gain experience in presenting. If you are interested in participating in the YFSF BYOP Session, please send an abstract and your CV to us at yfsf.postersession@gmail.com. Abstracts and CVs need to 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*

YFSF Poster Session

The February meeting is just around the corner! If you missed the August 1 submission deadline for the Academy's poster sessions, you can still become involved in the meeting and participate in the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session.

The BYOP Session is looking for presenters who can share the following information: 1) research that contributes to the field of