

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

Forensic Science in the Public Eye

Greetings Young Forensic Scientists and welcome to 2008! By the time this article is published the countdown to the 2008 annual meeting will be winding down. With a registration deadline of January 23rd right around the corner, I would like to encourage all of you to register for the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session. The YFSF is specifically geared towards students and 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! This year's lineup of speakers follows, and as you can see it promises to be packed full of interesting topics and cases. While the Tuesday Special Session is the YFSF "main event," I want to make sure you all know that by registering for the Special Session you are registering for all four events (Special Session, Bring Your Own Slides, Poster Session, and Breakfast Session) as well as a free lunch! You just can't get a better deal, and to top it all off, you will have the opportunity to network with fellow "young" forensic scientists as well as experienced professionals. I hope you will take a minute to read through the articles on the different events we have to offer and not only register for the session, but consider participating as well! This is a great venue to both learn from others and gain some experience of your own. If you have any questions about the session please feel free to contact us at the email addresses listed below. All of the YFSF organizers have worked hard to put together another great session and we look forward to seeing you in Washington DC!

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session
Tuesday February 19th, 2008

- Dr. Michael Baden, Death is My Teacher
- Ms. Linda Kenny Baden, Searching for Justice
- Dr. Henry Lee, Lessons Learned From High Profile Cases
- Dr. Kathy Reichs, Forensic Anthropology: From Crime Lab to Crime Fiction

- Ms. Natalie Shirley, Re-evaluating Methods in Forensic Anthropology: Age Determination From the Clavicular Epiphyses
- Ms. Dayle Hinman, From the Case Files of Dayle Hinman: Criminal Profiling
- Dr. Robert Powers, Forensic Toxicology in the Public Eye
- Dr. Lynn Kimsey, Forensic Entomology in the Public Eye: The Vincent Brother's Case.
- Dr. Allison Curran, Canines in Forensic Investigations

— Amanda Frohwein, BS
(frohwein@dps.state.ia.us)

— Jennifer Mercer, BS
(Jennifer.w.mercer@gmail.com)
YFSF Program Co-Chairs

A Note from the YFSF President

The primary lesson I have learned while working with the YFSF is to continue to make the YFSF sessions dynamic and ever changing. We respond to what you - the audience - wants. We evaluate all comments from the session reviews. In the past two years, the largest received comment from repeat attendees was appreciation of the diversity of topics and they were able to see/learn something new each year. With only nine speaker slots in our day session and 1 spot we reserve for the Emerging Forensic Scientist Award recipient, we continue to miss the opportunity to include a speaker representing each of the ten Academy sections. With the goal of providing session participants something different every year it is difficult to ensure equal representation of the diverse backgrounds represented by the Academy Sections. This approach has been successful thus far.

My personal preference would be to ensure that the YFSF Special Session is democratic, by including every Academy section in our day session. However, we design our sessions based on the feedback from you, our audience. I urge to help us evaluate our sessions during the 2008 meeting. With your feedback we can brainstorm on ways to

improve the YFSF Special Session. One option would be to decrease the day session presentations from 45 to 30 minutes each to allow time for a representative from each Academy section to speak. Or, we can ensure equal representation of each section by including additional speakers at the YFSF Annual Breakfast. Finally, would you enjoy a special “YFSF Founders” segment in which those involved with the YFSF in the past speak on their integration into the AAFS? Please consider all of these suggestions as well as others you may have to help improve the YFSF Special Session. Feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

— *Marrah Lachowicz, MFS*
YFSF President

YFSF Poster Session

The YFSF would like to invite new forensic scientists and students to present their research at the 2008 Poster Session. The YFSF strives to bring new and exciting aspects of forensic science to students. At the YFSF, students will learn about the different sections of AAFS and the specialties within the forensic community. Along with the YFSF Poster Session, there are many other events that will exhibit research and casework of new forensic scientists during the annual meeting. Our goal is to bridge the gap between students or new scientists and professionals. These events include the Bring Your Own Slides Session and the YFSF Breakfast.

In the past, we have had a large turnout for both the YFSF Poster Session and Bring Your Own Slides Session. The Poster Session is scheduled to occur on February 19th. This session is an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to present their research or casework. If you have already decided to present in one of the AAFS Poster Sessions, take the opportunity to present with the YFSF as well.

To participate in the Poster Session please register by January 1, 2008. You can register by submitting your curriculum vitae and a 1-2 paragraph abstract to YFSFPoster@gmail.com. Please feel free to also submit any questions you may have. The Poster Session strives to represent many different aspects of forensic sciences and many institutions. All types of research are welcome so please don't hesitate to submit your abstract. There are limited boards available so submit your abstract soon!

— *Arliss Dudley-Cash, BA*
YFSF Poster Session Chair

2008 YFSF Annual Breakfast

There has been serious brainstorming within the Young Forensic Scientist Forum as we prepare to bring another session worthy of your attendance. In the past the YFSF Annual Breakfast has traditionally covered what happens during the interview process, how to apply for forensic scientist positions, what education is necessary, as well as a resume review. That has been well received and is always useful to aspiring forensic scientists. Wanting to take it to another level we decided to ask what would motivate you to get out of bed early? A mock testimony complete with critique? A panel of scientists discussing their careers in forensic science? There will be a talk on ethics in forensic science and another on engineering! More to come! If you have an idea, question, or suggestion please feel free to email Jeannette Perr at: AgntSpdr@aol.com.

YFSF BYOS!

Come celebrate the AAFS 60th Anniversary with those of us in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum. By providing an avenue for those students and forensic scientists who have been in the field for five years or less we have the opportunity to be around to see the next 60 years in the making. With your help, whether presenting a research project or an interesting case, the “young” forensic science community can only grow to become an even more successful medium between those school doors and the real world ahead.

We have a fantastic lineup of presentations for this year's event and hope that you are as excited as we are. If you are interested in presenting at this year's YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session that will be held on Wednesday February 20th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., we are actively awaiting your presentation submission. We prefer that you sign up before the meeting; however, presentations will be accepted during the meeting prior to the event for all those last minute attendees. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length with the preferred media being PowerPoint. If you are interested in presenting or have any other questions please feel free to contact Erica L. Blais at Erica.blais@pol.state.ma.us or Melissa E. Smith at msmith@ocme.nyc.gov. See you in DC!

— *Erica Blais and Melissa Smith, BS*
YFSF BYOS Co-Chairs

Scholarships Offered

George Washington University, as a National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education, offers full scholarships for U.S. students to study computer security and information assurance. In 2007-08, we expect to support 11 students to pursue their bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees with federal funding from the National Science Foundation and the Defense Department.

These grants are part of George Washington University's Partnership in Securing Cyberspace through the Education and Service (PISCES) Program. Over \$5 million in funding has been provided for two-year, full scholarships (tuition, books, stipend, and in most cases room and board) for students to study computer security at George Washington University or a partner university. After completing their coursework, students will help protect the nation's information infrastructure by working as security experts in a government agency for two years. Since 2002, 33 students have graduated with help from this program and have worked, as of July 2007, at the following organizations: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Institute for Defense Analysis, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Justice, National Security Agency, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, Defense Information Systems Agency, Naval Research Laboratory, Department of Commerce, Government Printing Office, Federal Reserve, MITRE, Government Accountability Office, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Department of Transportation, Department of Energy, Central Intelligence Agency, National Park Service, Federal Trade Commission.

For more information including how to apply, please visit: http://www.seas.gwu.edu/shared/scholarships_iasp.php.