President’s Message

As I look back at the past few months, there have been an unusual number of issues in forensic science which have garnered media attention including a series of articles on bitemark evidence, a study of FBI hair analysis cases disclosing a high proportion of errors, changes in the leadership of the Washington, DC, Department of Forensic Sciences as a result of DNA mixture interpretation, and errors in the FBI’s Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) allele frequency database. Many seem alarmed and I have my own issues with some of the reports, but I believe that in general these can be considered healthy developments. Although perhaps painful, in large measure we are correcting or improving our practices. What does not kill you, makes you stronger! Like the 2009 National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NAS/NRC) Report, collectively these various issues demand attention and provide grist and impetus for the advances in the forensic sciences that we have been seeking. Another way of saying this is that we should not let a serious crisis go to waste! The truth is that for years we have been working up to the many changes that are transforming our world, such as the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS), the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), and reform legislation calling for national standards, accreditation, certification, and more research. Although the 2009 NAS/NRC Report might have initiated these, the recent events can help them become reality.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee has announced its list of nominees for the 2016-17 officers:

- **Betty Layne DesPortes, JD, MS** - President-Elect (Jurisprudence)
- **Jeri D. Ropero-Miller, PhD** - Vice President (Toxicology)
- **John L. Young, MD** - Vice President (Psychiatry & Behavioral Science)
- **Susan M. Ballou, MS** - Secretary (Criminalistics)
- **Zeno J. Geradts, PhD** - Treasurer (Digital & Multimedia Sciences)

The Nominating Committee is composed of the three immediate Past Presidents—**Daniel Martell** (Chair), **Barry Logan**, and **Robert Barsley**—and the immediate past section chairs: **Ann Ross** (Anthropology), **Lawrence Quarino** (Criminalistics), **Douglas Lacey** (Digital & Multimedia Sciences), **Carol Erikson** (Engineering Sciences), **Alan Boehm** (General), **Andrew Sulner** (Jurisprudence), **Paula Brumit** (Odontology), **J.C. Upshaw Downs** (Pathology/Biology), **Christopher Thompson** (Psychiatry & Behavioral Science), **Carl McClary** (Questioned Documents), and **Dwain Fuller** (Toxicology).

In accordance with AAFS Bylaws, nomination for any elected office of the Academy may be made by petition delivered to the Nominating Committee in care of the AAFS headquarters no later than September 1. Nomination petitions should state the name of the nominee, the office sought, a certificate stating that the candidate is a Fellow in good standing, and the signatures and printed names of 50 Fellows and full Members. Nominations for any elective office may be made from the floor during the Academy’s Annual Business Meeting, February 24, 2016, in Las Vegas, NV.
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Future AAFS Annual Meeting Dates

February 22-27, 2016  February 18-23, 2019
Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino The Baltimore Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV Baltimore, MD

February 13-18, 2017  February 17-22, 2020
Hyatt Regency New Orleans Anaheim Convention Center
New Orleans, LA Anaheim, CA

February 19-24, 2018  February 15-20, 2021
Washington State Convention Center George R. Brown Convention Center
Seattle, WA Houston, TX
LEGISLATION

Source: Victor W. Weedn, MD, JD, AAFS 2015-16 President

At the end of May, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations approved a $54.1 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bill that made significant cuts to several Department of Justice assistance programs for state, local, and tribal law enforcement and did not fund others. At the time of drafting this article, the bill was en route to the floor of the House. Of most significance to our community, the Committee chose not to fund the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program; however, it has not done so for many years—yet it has receded to the Senate mark. In FY 2015, this program was funded at $12 million, but the FY 2016 House bill does not fund this valuable grant program. We are aggressively working with the Senate on this funding. The Coverdell program provides grant funding to states, law enforcement agencies, local governments, and the forensic community to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. This has been a pattern over the past few years, with the Senate restoring funding—but this is not guaranteed.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is working on the next iteration of the Leahy-Cornyn legislation and we continue to provide input. Again, the major thrust of it is a Forensic Science Board within an Office of Forensic Science at the Department of Justice (DoJ), mandatory accreditation and certification, standards setting through National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) (in the amended version), and research grant support.

The Senate Commerce Committee is working on a redraft of the Rockefeller bill to support the NIST efforts and scientific research.

Recent news stories on forensic science (bitemarks, FBI hair analysis, Washington, DC, labs, Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) allele frequency database) have fueled interest in calls for forensic science reform.

NCFS COMMITTEE REPORT

Source: Dean M. Gialamas, MS, AAFS NCFS Committee Chair

The National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) held its sixth meeting April 30-May 1 in Washington, DC. The latest meeting offered several new work products and updates from Commission subcommittees. Some highlights from the meeting include:

Recharter & Commission Business: The NCFS has been re-chartered for another two years and the digital evidence has been added to the scope of purview (previously restricted in the last charter). Also of note was the creation of a Bylaws Subcommittee for the NCFS operations. There was some discussion at the meeting about certain members of the Commission functioning in an “executive-like” role. The Commission voted to appoint four Commissioners to work on this subcommittee along with the Co-Chairs, the Designated Federal Official, and the President’s Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and address areas such as: executive duties and functions to support the Commission activities, policy on replacing commission members, life cycle requirements of subcommittees, and reviewing and strengthening policies on voting and public comments.

Work Products Approved: The NCFS voted to approve the following work products:

• Directive on universal laboratory accreditation
• Views Document on inconsistent terminology
• Views Documents on working definitions

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Transformation: Embracing Change

Pathology/Biology Section

Source: Jim Caruso, MD, Section Secretary

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles contained in the Academy News are those of the identified authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Academy.

As members of the Pathology/Biology Section, the vast majority of us have backgrounds that include, well...biology. It is very difficult to get through a biology course, at least at the basic level, without an exposure to evolutionary theory. President Victor Weedn has declared the theme of the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas to be Transformation: Embracing Change, and would you really expect anything different from a pioneer in the DNA field? Change and transformation are the very basis for evolution. Organisms that can adapt or have a selection advantage more compatible with the changing environment thrive. And those that cannot adapt to change reside in display cases at natural history museums.

The multiple disciplines included in the family of forensic sciences are all changing, some more quickly than others. For the Pathology/Biology Section, one only needs to look at examples such as postmortem radiographic imaging, DNA technology, postmortem genetic testing, and even the manner in which our trainees learn their trade. Also affecting our practices are changes occurring in collegial disciplines such as toxicology, anthropology, and trace evidence analysis. Those areas continue to evolve, with some older, tried-and-true methodologies becoming obsolete and cast aside in favor of newer, more precise analytical procedures.

As scientists, we can choose to fight the transformation or, as President Weedn has encouraged, embrace it. That is much easier said than done in many instances. Embracing change requires an open mind and a willingness to accept that some long-held beliefs that may have been very useful approaches in the past may be partially or entirely flawed. It is an uncomfortable feeling to realize that dogmatic statements in our field may have minimal or no scientific basis.

One of the best examples I can recall of an open mind disproving a long-held theory in forensic pathology was passed along to me by a Fellow of our section, Steven Campman. Steve is presently a medical examiner for San Diego County. When I was a fellow in forensic pathology, Dr. Campman was a staff forensic pathologist for the military. There was a long-held belief that if you saw certain injury patterns on the hands and feet of victims of an aircraft mishap, you could not only differentiate between the crew and the passengers, but you could even tell which pilot was in control of the aircraft at the time of impact. This theory, known as the principle of control surface injuries, was deemed somewhat infallible among forensic pathologists, flight surgeons, and aircraft mishap investigators.

Steve, who did not buy entirely into the theory, decided to take a critical look at control surface injuries. Perhaps he was guided by advice offered by Carl Sagan who wrote, “Once you are open to questioning time-honored rituals and practices, you find that one question leads to another.” After a detailed review of the autopsy reports and photographs from scores of military aircraft mishaps, Dr. Campman proved that the presence or absence of control surface injuries has about the same predictive value as a coin toss. I am still asked about control surface injuries every so often and my response is to cite the study that challenged the status quo by taking a critical look at the data with an open mind.

I suspect there are several other beliefs and convictions in our field that may not stand up to the scrutiny of a well-designed research endeavor. Then there are those areas where much more insight and research are sorely needed. Unexplained infant deaths, abusive head trauma in children, sudden deaths associated with seizure disorders, and the phenomenon of excited delirium come to mind to make up a short list.

By the time you are reading this, the August 1 abstract submission deadline for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting will be only weeks away. Perhaps you are working on a presentation of your research that will result in a change in the approach to an important area of the forensic disciplines. I hope that is the case and I encourage you to share it with the rest of us in February. And in this situation, we will have to make an exception to one long-held policy. What happens in Las Vegas need not stay in Las Vegas! Section Chair Kathy Haden-Pinneri and I look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas and this year’s program chair, Joyce deJong, is awaiting your abstract submission. Don’t be late!

The way forward is to embrace change and be a part of the transformation or risk becoming a dinosaur.
This is an exciting and challenging time for forensic science as substantive changes are being proposed for all disciplines with the formation of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSACs). All forensic scientists should be paying close attention to the activities of the NCFS. Information can be found at www.justice.gov/ncfs. Meeting notices, agendas, and meeting materials are posted that allow for public comment. Work products that continue to evolve in both scope and depth can be found on the website as well. Be sure to continually check for updates as things are moving at an unprecedented rate.

The website allows you an opportunity to comment on the transformation that is being proposed within the forensic sciences. These proposed changes will impact all forensic facilities and practitioners; however, the number of public comments posted is remarkably minimal, 108 as of this writing. Now is your chance to be heard! The AAFS membership exceeds 6,000 and there are thousands of additional forensic practitioners. Take the time to thoughtfully craft a response after thoroughly reviewing proposed work products that are open for public comment. It’s important for the AAFS voice to be heard, both collectively and individually. As noted by Thomas Vastrick in the March/April 2015 issue of the Academy News Meeting Theme Article, Questioned Documents Section: Don’t Forget the Brake Pedal – Cognitive Bias; “Myth’ing the Point, “history teaches us that substantive changes lead to unintended over-swings of the pendulum that result in counterproductive, unforeseen actions.” Pay attention to what is going on. It’s our responsibility to make sure that the transformation is reasonable and strategic.

Additionally, NIST OSAC information can be found at http://www.nist.gov/forensics. The OSACs are progressing in the development of standards and guidelines. Be sure to view this site often as well and provide feedback when given the opportunity.

The theme for the 2016 Annual Meeting, Transformation: Embracing Change, offers a wide array of possible topics for presentation in Las Vegas. Collaborate with other sections or members to provide information regarding innovative research or validation of techniques or methods; to highlight cutting-edge technology that transforms forensic science practices; to demonstrate multi-disciplinary approaches; to showcase how to impact the justice system; and to share those unique case studies that provide scholarly insight for your colleagues.

Whatever topic you choose, remember that the August 1 deadline for abstract submissions is just around the corner and is firm. Every year we think that there is plenty of time to write an abstract or coordinate a workshop at the conclusion of the annual meeting, but summer quickly approaches and soon the deadline is upon us! More than 95% of abstracts are submitted on July 31, which bogs down the system.
A Word From Your 2016 Program Co-Chair cont.

the system. The online submission process is open and ready for input, so be sure to look at it so you can plan ahead and gather the required items, such as CVs and financial disclosures from presenting authors. Keep in mind that your abstract will be a published document, so take the time to put your best effort forward while elevating the forensic sciences! The scientific program depends on the endeavors of the membership.

Program Chair Andrew Baker and I are more than happy to help answer questions, discuss ideas, or assist in any way possible. Don’t hesitate to contact us.

The 2016 annual meeting promises to be exciting as the AAFS community embraces the tide of change!

AAFS Policy On Abstracts and Presentations

Presentations at AAFS Annual Scientific Meetings and corresponding abstracts must be formulated to promote education and to elevate accuracy, precision, and specificity in the forensic sciences. Presentations or abstracts which promote a commercial product, company, entity, or service are not allowed at AAFS Annual Scientific Meetings. Presentations by commercial entities shall be limited to the science and not to an advertisement or promotion of their products over that of a competitor. Any abstract or presentation that is perceived by a section program chair or the Academy Program Chair as a product endorsement will not be approved for presentation at the meeting. A presentation given at a meeting that, in the opinion of the section program chair or the Academy Program Chair, is a product endorsement may result in the presenter and corresponding company being barred from making presentations at future AAFS meetings.

Under the pre-condition that, in the submission process, authors must still disclose any specific references to products with commercial names, presentations and abstracts are allowed to mention a product by name only in the context of describing a scientific methodology or the source of sample. For example, specimens often have unique physical or chemical properties that are the key to their identification or analysis (e.g., Dacron fibers, Glock rifling, 3M tapes, explosive formulations, coating materials, etc.). It is appropriate for those materials to be specifically identified since they are the relevant to the scientific results or references to specific reagents or instrumentation validated for use in the analytical procedure being presented where the use of a different product may affect the outcome of the analysis (e.g., Identifiler™ Amplification Kit, Agilent 5860 GC, HP-1 column, Olympus BHP microscope, etc.).

AAFS reserves the right to remove commercial references not disclosed by the author.

AAFS Continuing Education Needs Identified

Attendees at the 67th Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL, identified the following comprehensive list of recommended abstract topics needed for the upcoming annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV:

- Research in the area of civil forensic psychiatry;
- Sociology and demography of criminal behaviors;
- Forensic pathology workshops;
- More interdisciplinary areas (e.g., pediatric head trauma with pathology & engineering);
- Equivocal cases (two sides of the same case would be helpful);
- Possible asphyxia associated with law enforcement restraint/altercation;
- Updates on new drugs that are difficult to detect;
- More case reports with pertinent literature review;
- American Board of Pathology, Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for Forensic Pathology;
- Workshop on specialized autopsy dissection techniques;
- Scene investigation from stand points of medicolegal death investigators;
- Workshop on presenting information to a jury - Toxicology;
- Pain management toxicology; and,
- Civil procedures that use forensic science in court.
Academy News

FSF Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant: July 31 Deadline

Purpose: The Jan Grant Award is to provide Graduate Students with financial assistance to complete their thesis or independent research project as required for a graduate degree in Criminalistics/Forensic Sciences. The thesis or research project must be in the field of Criminalistics/Forensic Sciences.

Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Eligibility Requirements:

• The applicant must be a full- or part-time student completing his or her graduate degree requirements by conducting a research project at an educational institution accredited in the U.S. by a recognized academic body.
• This project must, in the opinion of the FSF Awards Committee, make a significant scientific contribution to the field of Criminalistics/Forensic Sciences.

Grant Amount: The Jan Grant Award is $1,700. In addition, up to $1,300 is available for travel expenses to attend a future AAFS Annual Meeting where the awardee has an approved platform presentation of the completed research. The funding must be used to complete the research project.

Application: Please complete the application (on page 36) and submit with the required attachments outlined in Part II on the application form.

All submissions must be received and completed by July 31. Please submit the aforementioned Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Eligibility Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The FSF will confirm receipt of all submissions within two business days. If confirmation is not received within two business days, the applicant should contact Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org.

FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship for International AAFS Annual Meeting Attendees: August 1 Deadline

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements:

• Only members or affiliates of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences who have never attended an annual meeting and who reside outside of North America are eligible for the Scholarship Award.
• The member or affiliate awardee must, at a minimum, have been voted into the AAFS at the preceding meeting (if not previously) and must have at least one year of experience in forensic science.
• The applicant must have submitted an abstract for the AAFS 2016 program through the online submission system or Call For Papers form. In the awards section, check the box indicating “the paper should be considered for the FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship.” Once requested, the abstract will be reviewed by the FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Amount: The FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship is $1,000.

The committee chair will notify the AAFS no later than October 25, and the Awardee notification will be transmitted no later than November 1.

FSF Student Affiliate Scholarships: August 1 Deadline

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) will fund a limited number of AAFS Student Affiliate registrations for the 2016 American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Scientific Meeting through a “Scholarship Program.”

To qualify for the scholarship, AAFS Student Affiliates must submit an abstract for the AAFS 2016 program through the online submission system or Call For Papers form. In the awards section (5b), check the box indicating “FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship.” Applicants for the Student Affiliate Scholarship may apply only once each year (e.g., the applicant must designate only one abstract as the SA Scholarship entry in the submission system). The abstract will then be reviewed by the FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship abstracts need not be selected for presentation at the meeting, though this could be deemed advantageous by the selection committee. The scholarships will be awarded through the committee’s evaluation of the quality and relevance of the abstracts to the advancement of forensic science by AAFS Student Affiliates. The deadline for submission is August 1.
The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to offer Travel Grants for students to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV. The FSF Board of Trustees has allocated $12,000, not to exceed $1,500 per student, including complimentary meeting registration. This is a wonderful opportunity, and members are encouraged to promote it.

Travel Grant Eligibility Requirements:
1. Prior Student Travel Grant award recipients are not eligible to reapply.
2. The applicant must either be an AAFS member/affiliate or an AAFS applicant for membership.
3. The applicant must have submitted an abstract either as a presenter or co-author for the annual meeting he/she will be attending.
4. The applicant must be a fourth-year undergraduate or a graduate student at an accredited four-year college, university, or professional school whose accreditation is acceptable to the FSF Board of Trustees.
5. The applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor or professor.
6. The applicant must submit a 400-600 word essay explaining how attendance at an AAFS meeting will impact his/her career decision.
7. The applicant must submit a curriculum vitae to include specifics regarding their involvement in forensic science and their current grade point average.

All submissions must be completed and received by October 15. The deadline is firm with no extension. Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed. Please submit the aforementioned Travel Grant Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The FSF will confirm receipt of all submissions within two business days. If confirmation is not received within two business days, the applicant should contact Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org.

FSF/CRC Press Student Travel Grant and Book Prize

In collaboration with the FSF, CRC Press will fund the top-scoring FSF Student Travel Grant candidate as determined through the FSF selection process outlined above. In addition to funding the $1,500 travel grant, CRC Press will donate an “instant library” of $1,500-worth (list price) in pre-selected books to the student at the annual meeting. The “FSF/CRC Press Student Travel Grant and Book Prize” will have an overall value of $3,000.

68th Annual Scientific Meeting
February 22-27, 2016
Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV
Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Application

Please print legibly or type all information. Add additional sheets as necessary.

**PART I - Background Information***

Last Name_________________________  First Name_______________________  M.I.___  Social Security No.__________________

Mailing Address____________________________  City________________  State_____ Zip_________  Country_________________

Home Phone_________________  Daytime Phone________________  Cell Phone________________  Email____________________

Marital Status (optional)_________  # of Dependents (optional)_____  Date of Birth_________________  Citizen of _______________

Employment - May include permanent or part-time employment, internships, military experience, or volunteer work.

Current (or last) Employer ________________________________________  Position Held___________________________________

Employer’s Address __________________________  City________________  State_____ Zip________  Country________________

Supervisor’s Name___________________________  Work Phone________________________  Email__________________________

Education - List your education accurately and completely.

Name of Undergraduate School ________________________________  Full/Part Time _____  Hours Earned Sem ______  Qtr ______

Major ________________________________  Dates Attended From (mo/yr) ___________________  To (mo/yr) _________________

Level of Degree Earned_________________________  graduation Date (mo/yr) _________________________

Name of graduate School _____________________________________  Full/Part Time _____  Hours Earned Sem ______  Qtr ______

Major _________________________________  Dates Attended From (mo/yr) __________________  To (mo/yr) _________________

Level of Degree Earned_________________________  graduation Date (mo/yr) _________________________

Name of Graduate Advisor _____________________________  Address __________________________________________________

Advisor’s Phone ___________________________________  Advisor’s Email _____________________________________________

*The applicant must be a full- or part-time student completing his/her graduate degree by conducting a research project at an educational institution accredited in the USA by a recognized academic body.

**PART II – Thesis/Research Information**

(Attachment I) Provide a concise three (3) to six (6) page double-spaced thesis/research proposal which addresses the following:

*Title

*Introduction, background, and significance of the proposed research

*Experimental procedure

*Expected results and contributions to the criminalistics (forensic science) knowledge base

*Budget for the total project

*Description of how support from the grant would contribute to the completion of the project

(Attachment II) Provide a concise one (1) to two (2) page double-spaced statement of qualifications explaining why you believe you will be successful in completing your research. Include reasons why you require financial assistance to complete your research.

(Attachment III) Curriculum Vitae. Provide your curriculum vitae of no more than three (3) pages.

(Attachment IV) Letter of Recommendation. Provide a letter of recommendation from your research advisor.

(Attachment V) Most recent cumulative college/university transcripts for your undergraduate and graduate degree(s). Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

**PART III – Certification/Acknowledgement**

Statement of Applicant

I, the undersigned, certify that all information provided by me in this application is true and factual. I further agree that should I receive a “Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Grant,” I shall acknowledge the grant in any publication resulting from the research supported by the grant.

Signature of Applicant ___________________________      Date ______________________________

Academy News
PURPOSE: To nurture a productive dialogue between emerging judicial and forensic standards of reliability and validity, the Forensic Sciences Foundation is pleased to offer the 17th Annual Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. The award will be presented to the author of the best paper on any topic focusing on the reliability and validity of techniques, processes, or methods in a forensic area of the author’s choice.

HOW TO ENTER: Entrants should submit an abstract of the proposed paper to the AAFS Program Committee by August 1, in compliance with AAFS abstract criteria, and indicate that the abstract is submitted for the Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. Initial review and acceptance/rejection of the abstract will be done by the AAFS Program Committee which will focus specifically on the abstract’s treatment of reliability and validity issues. Multiple abstracts may be submitted for the Program Committee’s review; however, once the Program Committee approves abstracts for presentation, one abstract must be designated by the presenter as an EFSA entry. If multiple abstracts are submitted for review and one abstract is not designated by the presenter as an EFSA entry, none of the abstracts will be considered by the EFSA Review Committee.

SELECTION PROCESS: Abstracts accepted by the AAFS Program Committee and the EFSA Program Committee will be scheduled for presentation during the scientific session of the section which accepted the abstract, and evaluated by representatives of the Multidisciplinary Awards Committee appointed by the Forensic Sciences Foundation Board of Trustees. Announcement of the winning entry will be made in the Academy News following determination of the winner by the Awards Committee. The Award will be presented during the 2017 AAFS Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

CRITERIA TO ENTER: An eligible entrant need not be an AAFS member. However, entrants who are AAFS members must be a Student Affiliate or Trainee Affiliate. All entrants must be within three years of completion of formal training (must submit proof from laboratory director or university professor) at the time the paper is presented in 2016. Only the presenter is eligible for the award; no substitutions will be accepted after the application is submitted. The decision of the Awards Committee is final and the amount of the award is firm. The form below must be completed and sent with the abstract submission to the AAFS office by August 1.

THE AWARD: The award will cover the expense of the recipient’s attendance at the 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, LA, including registration, up to $1,000 for airfare, lodging while in attendance at the annual meeting not to exceed five nights, and up to $75 per diem. A commemorative plaque will also be presented to the award winner at the 2017 AAFS Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans.

FSF EMERGING FORENSIC SCIENTIST AWARD ENTRY FORM

I am submitting an abstract to the FSF Review Panel to be considered for the Emerging Forensic Scientist Paper Award. The AAFS Section in which I wish to present is: ______________________________________.

I entered the field of forensic science in __________.

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________

Employer ______________________________________________________________________________________

Street Address __________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Province ______________________________________________________________________________

Postal/Zip Code ___________________________ Country ____________________________________________

Telephone __________________ Fax __________________

Email _________________________________________________________________________________________

Send this form by August 1 to: AAFS 2016 Program Committee
410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and comply with the requirements noted above and that the information provided is true and correct. Attached is a letter from my affiliated laboratory/university. My resume and completed “Call For Papers” form also are attached.

_________________________________________________    ______________________
Signature                          Date
The 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) will be held February 22-27, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Program Committee solicits the submission of abstracts on topics of interest to the forensic science community. August 1, 2015, is the deadline for the submission of abstracts.

Scientific papers selected for presentation will be divided into two groups:

• Platform Presentation (standard scientific session)
• Poster Session

The Program Committee will select appropriate abstracts from those submitted by the August 1, 2015 deadline.

Abstracts of papers must be submitted on the official abstract form which accompanies this announcement. Specific format and content requirements for the abstracts are noted on the form. A current copy of the presenting author’s curriculum vitae must be attached to the original abstract form.

To submit your abstract online, go to the AAFS website at: www.aafs.org.

Notification of Acceptance

Notification of Acceptance will be mailed to all presenting authors by November 15, 2015. Meeting registration materials will be sent to presenting authors.

Oral Presentations

Time

The final determination as to the length of time that will be allocated to a specific paper rests with the Section Program Chair. However, 15 minute presentations are standard.

Preparation

Authors have complete freedom to choose ways of displaying their information in figures, tables, text, photographs, etc. However, they should avoid crowding too much information into a limited space. The poster may be augmented by the use of manuscripts and sketch pads with marking pens.

General Information

Abstract Length

A single spaced, one page length document containing a minimum of 400 words to a maximum of 700 words is required. Please attach additional sheet(s) if needed.

Key Words

Each author is to provide three key words or terms in the space provided on the abstract form.

Oral Presentation

Each scientific session meeting room will be equipped with a lighted pointer, podium, microphone, LCD projector, and screen.

General Information cont.

Requests for additional audio-visual equipment will be reviewed by the Program Committee and are subject to approval by the Section Chair. Speakers will be notified of the disposition of their requests.

Poster Presentation

Each author selected for poster presentation will be provided with a 4’ x 8’ tack board on which to display material related to his/her presentation. Thumb tacks will be provided. If material is better suited as a table top display, please indicate on the abstract form.

Illustrations

All tables and graphs should be converted to grayscale.

Meeting Registration

All speakers and presenters (oral or poster) are required to register for the annual meeting. If your abstract is accepted for presentation, you will be required to pay the basic registration fee for the annual meeting.

Commercial & Conflict of Interest

Commercial Interest

Commercial Interests are any proprietary entity producing goods or services, as well as any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services, used on, or consumed by, patients. Providers of clinical service directly to patients are not considered commercial interests.

Conflict of Interest

Circumstances create a conflict of interest when an individual has an opportunity to affect CME content about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a financial relationship.

Journal of Forensic Sciences

The Journal of Forensic Sciences encourages authors to submit all previously unpublished reports and papers presented at the Academy’s annual meeting. Please submit your manuscripts electronically to http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jofs.

AAFS Abstract Policy

Presentations at AAFS annual meetings and corresponding abstracts must be formulated to promote education and to elevate accuracy, precision, and specificity in the forensic sciences. Presentations or abstracts which promote a commercial product, company, entity or service will not be allowed at AAFS annual meetings. Presentations by commercial entities shall be limited to the science and not to an advertisement or promotion of their product over that of a competitor. Any abstract or presentation that is perceived by a section program chair or the Academy Meeting Program Chair as a product endorsement will not be approved for presentation at the Meeting. A presentation given at a Meeting that in the opinion of the section program chair or the Academy Meeting Program Chair to be a product endorsement may result in the presenter and corresponding company being barred from making presentations at future AAFS meetings.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION & LCD PROJECTION

Presentations and abstracts will be allowed to mention a product by name only in the context of describing a scientific methodology or the source of sample. For example, specimens often have unique physical or chemical properties that are the key to their identification or analysis (e.g., Dacron fibers, Glock rifling, 3M tapes, explosive formulations, coating materials, etc.). It is appropriate for those materials to be specifically identified since they are the relevant to the scientific results. Or references to specific reagents or instrumentation validated for use in the analytical procedure being presented where the use of a different product may affect the outcome of the analysis (e.g. Identifier™ Amplification Kit, Agilent 5860 GC, HP-1 column, Olympus BHP microscope, etc).

General Instructions

Content of Abstract
Your abstract should be informative, containing:
1. Abstracts should NOT be written in the first person.
3. The Learning Objectives.
4. A sentence statement of the paper’s hypothesis or proposition.
5. A brief synopsis of the content, or statement of the methods, whichever is pertinent.
6. A summary of the results obtained, if pertinent.
7. A general statement of conclusion, if possible.
8. A minimum of one-half page single spaced (approximately 700 words) in length. Abstracts exceeding the full page maximum will not be printed in the AAFS Proceedings.
9. Three key words.
10. A brief statement of how your presentation will impact the attendees in terms of: competence (ability), performance (competence put into “action”), or patient outcomes (if applicable).

Format of Abstract
Your abstract must be typed and submitted in a legible format following the instructions provided below:
1. The title, names of authors with respective degree(s), and addresses must be stated exactly as you wish them to appear in the program. Indicate with an asterisk (*) who will be presenting.
2. Type abstract single spaced, 10 point type size, and return it along with a copy on disk.
3. Type all copy, including title, in upper and lower case; capitalize and punctuate exactly as you wish the abstract to appear.
4. Exercise care in preparing the abstract. If unsuitable for publication as received, the abstract will be returned to the author for correction, revision, or completion.

LCD Projection
A LCD projection unit will be available in the Speaker Prep Room. Please make certain your presentation is compatible with the computer provided for your session and that all is in working order and tested before your presentation.

Below are recommended guidelines for preparing your presentation:
- Dark background and light text give good contrast and show up well in the meeting room; however, a background too dark may blacken the room too much. Avoid color combinations such as red and blue, yellow, and green, etc.
- Arial Bold is the recommended font style. Avoid using fonts that project poorly because the line width is too thin.
- Use as large a font as possible. Anything below 24 pt. is too small. Suggested font sizes are Titles: 48-54; Main text titles: 32; Smallest text lines: 24.
- Do not crowd the frame. Limit the number of text lines per frame to a maximum of seven.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions. Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines unless they are very bold and black.

- Avoid backing up the projector. If you need a frame twice, make a duplicate frame.
- Check your computer resolution by going to your computer’s control panel, selecting “Display” then “Settings.” Recommended resolution is 1024 x 768 (XGA).

Specific Instructions

1. Complete attached form.
2. Follow instructions provided in typing abstract.
3. Proofread all information provided.
4. Attach one current electronic copy of presenting author’s curriculum vitae to original abstract form. Return the original abstract, with attached c.v., and a copy on disk, by August 1, to:

Mailing Address: AAFS
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Sample Abstract

Injury Pattern Analysis in Fatal Traffic Crash Investigation

Michael D. Freeman, PhD, DC, MPH*, Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine, 3071 Dogwood Drive South, Salem, OR 97302; and Clifford Nelson, MD, Medical Examiner Division, Oregon State Police, 301 Northeast Knott Street, Portland, OR 97212-3092

After attending this presentation, attendees will understand some principles of crash investigation, the necessary elements for the application of Injury Pattern Analysis, characteristic injury patterns of certain types of crashes, and an example of a practical application of Injury Pattern Analysis.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by serving as a key aspect of fatal crash investigation as it can augment traditional means of investigation in a systematized format via interdisciplinary communication and collaboration.

Reconstruction of a fatal crash can be augmented, in certain circumstances, by information gleaned from the postmortem evaluation. Further improvement of the scope and accuracy of an investigation can result from evaluation of the injuries of crash survivors, taking into account the conformity of individual vehicle interiors as well as the movement of the occupants during the crash.

The term “Injury Pattern Analysis (IPA)” is proposed as a description of a fatal crash investigation technique that utilizes accident investigation, and reconstruction techniques, occupant kinematics, postmortem records, hospital and healthcare provider acute injury records, and other evidence as an adjunct to the investigation of homicides resulting from fatal crashes.

The authors will present a case study in IPA as an example of the practical application of the technique. It is recommended that medicolegal death investigators become familiar with the principles of IPA.

Crash, Fatal, Investigation
Complete all of the Following Information

NOTE: In order for your paper to be considered for presentation you are required to complete ALL areas of this form. Incomplete information will be returned to the author for completion. To submit his/her abstract online, go to the AAFS website at: www.aafs.org.

1. Presentation Choice:  □ Oral  □ Poster  □ Breakfast Seminar  □ Luncheon

2. Section Selection: Please circle the session in which you desire to present a paper: Anthropology, Criminalistics, Digital & Multimedia Sciences, Engineering Sciences, General, Jurisprudence, Odontology, Pathology/Biology, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science, Questioned Documents, Toxicology, Last Word Society.

3. Amount of Time Required: ____________________________

4. Presenting Author, Name, & Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________

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7. Has this paper been presented or published before?  □ Yes  □ No

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8. Audio/Visual Requirements: Each room will be equipped with a screen, electronic pointer, lectern microphone, and an LCD projector. All additional equipment must be requested and is subject to approval by the Section Chair.

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   It is the policy of the Continuing Education Program of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences to ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all its educational activities. All faculty participating in these programs are expected to disclose to the program audiences: (1) any real or apparent conflict(s) of interest related to the content of their presentations, (2) discussion of unapproved (unlabeled) uses of pharmaceuticals/medical devices, and (3) ongoing research (preliminary) data. The intent of this disclosure is not to prevent a speaker with a financial or other relationship from making a presentation, but rather to provide listeners with information on which they can make their own judgments about the presentation. Additionally, disclosure for you and/or your spouse should include any relationships with entities that resell, distribute, and/or market health care products used on or by patients. It is also the policy of the AAFS that all speakers must disclose whether non-FDA approved uses of pharmaceutical products or medical devices are included in the presentation. In keeping with this procedure, the faculty or presenter is required to complete and sign the following disclosure statements:

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Type abstract, single spaced, 10 point size (or on attached separate page following format provided in Sample Abstract).

Do not type in all capital letters. Type all copy, including title, author names, and addresses in upper and lower case; capitalize and punctuate exactly as you wish the abstract to appear.

A single spaced, full-page length document (minimum 400 to 700 words) is required. Please attach an additional sheet if required.

Please state what the attendee can expect to learn, retain, or implement into his or her practice.

Please state how your presentation will impact the attendees in terms of: competence (ability), performance (competence put into “action”), or patient outcomes (if applicable).
FSF Warren-Young Scholarship and KISS

During the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting, Academy members conducted an Evening Session entitled “Keep It Simple, Stupid.” Topics included Knowledge, Investigation, Sharing, and Spirit (ethics); to add a bit of whimsy, the panel dressed in authentic KISS costumes.

Afterward, members of the audience who wished to have photos taken with the “KISS” presenters were asked to make a donation to the FSF Warren-Young Scholarship in any amount of their choosing. In all, $700 was donated for the scholarship fund which is designed to encourage forensic science education at the middle and high school level. Below are photos (l-r) of Dr. John Young (Psychiatry & Behavioral Science) and 2014-15 President Dan Martell with “KISS” presenters.

Thank you to those who participated in the impromptu fundraiser in Orlando, and thanks to everyone who has contributed thus far!

The announcement of the first winner of the FSF Warren-Young Scholarship, Nancy Iaukea, may be found below.

FSF Warren-Young Scholarship Winner Announced

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to announce the first winner of the 2015-16 FSF Warren-Young Scholarship: Nancy Iaukea, MEd. Ms. Iaukea is a science teacher at Pahoa High and Intermediate on the Big Island of Hawaii. She teaches grades 7-12 in a community that has faced many challenges due to lack of infrastructure, public transportation, and utility services; high unemployment, drug use, and crime rates; as well as natural disaster threats. The Warren-Young Scholarship will afford the opportunity to incorporate forensic science into the curriculum. Congratulations!

The Warren-Young Scholarship is designed to encourage forensic science education at the middle and high school level and is intended to provide funds, not less than $1,000, for teachers to purchase supplies, equipment, or reference materials to support forensic science education in teaching basic scientific principles. In addition to the $1,500 award, the FSF Executive Committee has approved the provision of a scholarship to attend one of the 2015-16 Forensic Science Educational Conferences.
The Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made to the Foundation and its Endowment Fund. Please accept our apologies if your name does not appear below and contact the AAFS office as soon as possible with the correction. This listing reflects contributions received from 07/01/14 through 06/01/15.

The Fund’s balance through 06/01/15 was $1,013,814.01. Additionally, the FSF Endowment Fund has provided $258,302.00 in awards and grants since its inception in 1990.

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Thank you for your commitment to the forensic sciences.
Anthropology

Source: Angi M. Christensen, PhD  
Section Secretary

Angi Christensen, Nick Passalacqua, and Eric Bartelink are pleased to announce that their recent book, Forensic Anthropology: Current Methods and Practice, has received the “Most Promising New Textbook Award” from the Text and Academic Authors Association (TAAA). The award was conferred at the TAAA annual conference in June.

Mary Manhein officially retired as Director of the Louisiana State University Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services (FACES) Lab on April 30, after nearly 30 years of service. Giness Listi has been named Interim Director through June 2016. Dr. Listi and the current staff will continue the FACES mission of service to Louisiana law enforcement agencies, building and maintaining the state Repository for Unidentified and Missing Persons Information Program, education, and research.

Criminalistics

Source: Kristy Kadash, PhD  
Section Program Co-Chair

As scientists, we appreciate that our fields are constantly evolving. New information leads to improved understanding of what evidence can tell us. And as scientists, we are accustomed to the process of peer and technical review before our results are presented. This provides an opportunity to double check the reliability of our test methods and the soundness of our conclusions. Unlike scientists in other realms, however, forensic scientists have an additional challenge – the legal system. Forensics has been in the public eye for long enough that we are starting to witness an increase in the criticism of the science that was presented in court decades ago. How do we convey to the courts and the public that our testimony today, while accurate and correct, may be less discriminating than future science can provide? For example, no present-day jury would be satisfied with a simple blood type result to tie an individual to a crime scene. They want the DNA result. DNA profiling may have superseded the antiquated blood type test method, but it does not invalidate the accuracy of the original result. To extend this example, who knows what technology may be in place down the road that could make current DNA testing methods insufficient in the courtroom. Fortunately, our field is taking action on multiple fronts to make substantial improvements as we head into the future.

At the beginning of this year, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) launched into action with the first in-person meetings. Each of the 24 subcommittees began to identify standards that can be used to train scientists, to validate methods, to identify proper terminology, and to clearly report conclusions. The first work products from this effort should be available for public discussion before the next AAFS meeting. Similarly, the Department of Justice National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) has been working to establish Policy Recommendations and Views

continued on page 22
Section News cont.

documents since early 2014. I encourage all of you to participate in one of these venues, whether going to the NCFS public meetings, responding to requests for comments, serving on an OSAC subcommittee/task group, or just talking with colleagues about the work being done in these groups. Together, we can improve how we conduct science in the lab and how we convey science to the public.

Building on the 2016 AAFS annual meeting theme, Transformation: Embracing Change, this year’s Criminalistics Section program will test out a couple of new features, primarily “selected abstracts” and “special sessions.” These changes are intended to spotlight the most promising research developments in our various disciplines and to invite interactive discussions about the issues that concern us the most. If successful, this format may be adopted for future meetings. One of the Special Sessions will focus on the hot topic of DNA mixture interpretation and statistical evaluation (“Town Hall Meeting on DNA Mixtures”). A panel of approximately six members, consisting of practitioners, researchers, and academicians, will be on hand to answer questions and identify key aspects of the interpretation process. If you have any general questions and/or a problematic mixture to share with the panel, PLEASE send them to Section Program Co-Chair Kristy Kadash (kkadash@co.jefferson.co.us). These inquiries will be compiled and presented for discussion during the Town Hall session.

In preparation for this year’s annual meeting in Las Vegas, we are looking for volunteers to serve as moderators and presenters. Contact the Section Program Chair Vincent Desiderio (vfornsic@yahoo.com) and Co-Chair Kristy Kadash if you wish to get involved. One more reminder that the deadline to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations is just a few short weeks away – AUGUST 1. Please see the Announcement and Call For Papers in the newsletter and/or visit the AAFS website for instructions and additional details.

Digital & Multimedia Sciences

Source: Marcus K. Rogers, PhD, Section Secretary

As we roll into the dog days of summer, there has been some pretty interesting activity related to our section. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Digital/Multimedia Section Program Chair Steve Chancellor and Co-Chair Melissa Connor are looking forward to a program that reflects quality and diversity of our section membership. The 2016 meeting theme is Transformation: Embracing Change. Oral presentations, posters, workshops, luncheons, and breakfasts can be submitted through the online abstract submission system at www.aafs.org. It is time to begin abstract preparation for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas. Those submitting abstracts are encouraged to adhere to the general rules for abstracts as found on the AAFS website. In addition to these general rules, please consider crafting the abstract so that all subsections prominently convey a high level of scientific or engineering excellence. Hallmarks of high-quality abstracts will include, for example: (1) prefatory disclosure of the basic scientific or engineering principles exemplified in the presentation; (2) explicit communication of the means by which rigorous application of these principles enabled development of new forensic knowledge; and, (3) data and scientific or engineering principle-driven conclusions that qualitatively and quantitatively answer the clearly defined initial question or hypothesis.

Abstract submitters are reminded that their paper or poster, when presented, must adhere to the aims and objectives stated in their abstract and conform to the ESS policy for excellence in scientific- and engineering-based forensic analyses. Additional abstract preparation instructions will be forthcoming in the formal “Call for Abstracts” soon to be distributed.

ESS members, as well as nonmembers considering abstract submissions for ESS sessions, are asked to please look for subsequent ESS news feed announcements on the AAFS website as well as section mailings. The abstract submission deadline for the next annual meeting is August 1. Abstract submitters who have questions or need advice should contact David Pienkowski at pienkow@uky.edu.

General

Source: Joanna L. Collins, MFS, Section Secretary

While many of us are still sharing stories and pictures from Orlando, it is time to get serious about planning for the 2016 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV (February 22-27). The August 1 deadline for presentations will be here before you know it. Section Program Chair Steve Chancellor and Co-Chair Melissa Connor are looking forward to a program that reflects quality and diversity of our section membership. The 2016 meeting theme is Transformation: Embracing Change. Oral presentations, posters, workshops, luncheons, and breakfasts can be submitted through the online abstract submission system at www.aafs.org. It is time again to solicit nominees from the General Section who have gone above and beyond in furthering the field of forensic sciences and for exceptional service to the General Section. Nominations for the John R. Hunt Award and the Paul W. Kehres...
The John R. Hunt Award is intended to recognize sustained superior contributions to the General Section, AAFS, and the forensic science community. The nominee must be a Fellow of the section for the last consecutive three (3) years when this award is bestowed; must have attended 50% of the section business meetings in the past six (6) years; must have presented a scientific paper, poster, plenary session, breakfast seminar, or workshop within the past five (5) years; must have published at least once in the Journal of Forensic Sciences; and should have served in an elected position within the section in an official AAFS capacity for at least one (1) year, as a committee chair for at least one (1) year, or as a member of a committee for at least three (3) years; or, in the absence of one of the above, potential candidates shall have made a significant contribution to the forensic science community not reflected by a specific section or AAFS effort.

Additionally, for those of you who will be submitting abstracts for presentation in Las Vegas at the 2016 Annual Meeting, please consider nominating your presentation for the Robert Gaffney Achievement Award when you submit via the online system. This award is given to promote continual professional growth in the forensic sciences and technologies and to encourage new forensic sciences professionals in their occupational specialties. Any Trainee Affiliate, Associate Member, or Member of the General Section is eligible for this award provided he/she has been a registered participant within the AAFS for no more than four (4) years and provided he/she has proffered a paper at the General Section Scientific Session or Poster Session.

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) has several awards and scholarship opportunities with deadlines of August 1. The Emerging Forensic Scientist Award is available for consideration to Student Affiliates or Trainee Affiliates who self-nominate in the online abstract submission system. Additionally, the FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship is available for consideration to those who self-nominate upon abstract submission. Requirements for both are outlined in the FSF Policy and Procedures Manual at www.aafs.org/resources/fsf.

Lastly, the committee members have been assigned and mentioned above or outlined below. Don’t hesitate to contact them if you have any questions.

Disciplines Chair: Dave Zeliff
Nominating Chair: Alan Boehm
Policy and Procedures Chair: William Andrews
Reception Chair: Sharon Plotkin
Regional Representative Chair: Crystal Wagoner-Eckberg
Long Term Planning Chair (Ad hoc): Paul Kish
Communications Chair (Ad hoc): T.L. Williams

JURIDPRUDENCE

Source: Christine Funk, JD, Section Chair

Roderick Kennedy chairs an ad hoc committee looking at the structure of the Academy and is soliciting ideas anyone might have, regardless of how far-fetched or impossible those ideas may be. Plural section membership is a topic that has come up recently with members having primary and secondary memberships in sections to keep up on their own interdisciplinary practices. Reorganizing Academy leadership may be a topic. Ideas are actively solicited – please share your ideas by contacting Rod (forensiclass@me.com).

The Forensic Science Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) held The Roles of the Courts in Improving Forensic Science Symposium on April 10 at Northwestern School of Law in Chicago, IL. The recordings and materials of the successful program are available on the Judicial Division website. Participants included Jurisprudence Secretary Stephanie Domitrovich, Past Secretary and Chair Andrew Sulner, and Past Program Chair Don Sheldon, all of whom presented.

Stephanie Domitrovich, as chair of the Forensic Science Committee, wrote a letter of support on behalf of the ABA supporting the application for grant funding for the establishment of a Forensic Science Center of Excellence to be based at Iowa State University. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced the award recently.

Finally, please take a moment to reflect on your talents and experiences. Consider whether you have a topic of note to share at the Academy meeting. The Jurisprudence Section welcomes presentations from all sections of the Academy. Section Program Chair Lauri Traub (lauri.traub@pubdef.state.mn.us) and Section Co-Chair Ted Vosk (tvosk@comcast.net) are available should you have any questions.

ODONTOLOGY

Source: Adam J. Freeman, DDS, Section Program Chair

As you know, AAFS President Victor Weeden has selected the theme Transformation: Embracing Change for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting. This proves to be an appropriate theme as the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSACs) have been populated with well-qualified experts in the field, with many members of
Section News cont.

the AAFS a part of that population. AAFS Past President Robert Barsley is chair of the Odontology OSAC.

Part of adopting change and transforming our field is the dissemination of information. I encourage all of you to consider presenting a paper or poster at the scientific session. To all of you who took the time to present last year, I thank you. Everyone who participates is the backbone of a successful annual meeting.

By submitting an abstract and presenting a paper or poster, you stimulate the transformation that Dr. Weedn discusses. Whether you are a grizzled veteran or a novice, we can all learn from each other. The deadline for submission is August 1; this is a firm deadline and there is no leeway for extensions. The submission process is online at www.aafs.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at AFreeman@abfo.org. Additionally, if you are interested in moderating during the scientific sessions, please email me and I will try and accommodate your request.

I would like to thank those who have come before me, Ray Miller, Iain Pretty, and Paula Brumit to name a few, and who have for the past six years made our section meetings and scientific sessions stellar.

American Society of Forensic Odontology (ASFO) President Roger Metcalf and ASFO President-Elect David Senn are working hard to make sure the ASFO program will again be interesting and well attended. Visit www.ASFO.org to register.

The American Board of Forensic Odontology (ABFO) will be offering two workshops in Las Vegas. The Dental Identification Workshop will take place Saturday, February 20, 2016, and the Civil Litigation Workshop will take place on Sunday, February 21, 2016. Those participants who successfully defend the civil litigation case will receive one testimony credit toward the requirements to be able to challenge the board. Those participants who attend the ID workshop can receive credit for up to five identifications toward the requirements to be able to challenge the board. There is still availability for participants as well as observers. For more information and to register, go to www.ABFO.org.

It is difficult to believe that the deadline for abstract submission is less than one month away. To submit an abstract online, go to www.aafs.org, or you can submit an abstract with the forms located in the July 2015 online Academy News.

On behalf of Section Chair Iain Pretty and Section Secretary Ray Miller, we look forward to serving you over the next year and to a successful and transformative meeting in Las Vegas.

PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Source: Dean De Crisce, MD, Section Secretary

We are looking forward to creating a fantastic meeting this coming February 22-27, 2016, at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas! The theme, chosen by AAFS President Victor Weedn, is Transformation: Embracing Change. As you know, the paper/poster submission is due by August 1, so as the time approaches, make sure to update your AAFS Web Account and consider contact with other sections for interesting multidisciplinary presentations. If you are interested in moderating sessions or otherwise participating, please contact Section Program Chair Gregg Dwyer or Section Secretary Dean De Crisce and we can help direct you. Psychiatry & Behavioral Science, perhaps more than any other field, has been rapidly changing and transforming, so this is a great topic for us.

In section news, Carla Rogers, a clinical associate professor at Cooper Medical School (a new institution in New Jersey which will be graduating its first medical school class in 2016). Along with one of the psychiatry residents from Cooper, Dr. Will Rivera presented a workshop, “Improving Access to Care for Dangerous Patients Before They Commit Violent Crimes,” at the World Psychiatric Congress in Madrid, Spain, this past September 2014. The workshop was very well attended with standing room only.

On June 15, AAFS Fellow and forensic psychiatry pioneer, Robert Sadoff, published a new book (Oxford University Press), titled The Evolution of Forensic Psychiatry: History, Current Developments, Future Directions. A number of members of AAFS, including Richard Rosner, contributed to this work which includes the history of the development of fellowships in forensic psychiatry and the original American Board of Forensic Psychiatry, a joint effort by AAFS and the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL).

Section Program Chair Gregg Dwyer was appointed to a second term as Sexual Disorders Section Editor of Current Psychiatry Reports and has recently published two new articles: “Sexually Violent Predators and Civil Commitment: Is Selection Evidence-Based?” in the Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology, and “Assessment of Problematic Sexual Interests with the Penile Plethysmograph: An Overview of Assessment Laboratories” in Current Psychiatry Reports.

In other section news this month, Section Chair Karen Rosenbaum is presenting on “Capital Punishment and Forensic Psychiatry: Ethical Implications” at the International Academy of Law and Mental Health conference in Vienna. Board of Directors Section Representative Christopher Thompson is now the Vice President of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law.
Be sure to explore our new AAFS News Feed which will replace the Academy News newsletter. This News Feed can be accessed at http://news.aafs.org/ and is an impressive resource, including up-to-date events of relevance to the forensic community, information on each section, job postings, and course information.

We continue to welcome the submission of news items for the AAFS News Feed and this column from our members. Please submit these items to Dean De Crisce, Section Secretary, at decrisce.md@gmail.com. As always, if you are aware of colleagues or trainees who may be interested in our organization or participating in our conferences, please encourage them to apply.

TOXICOLOGY

Source: Sarah Kerrigan, PhD, Section Chair

By now, we hope you are beginning to prepare for the upcoming AAFS Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, February 22-27, 2016. Section Program Chair Fiona Couper and Co-Chair Nikolas Lemos are hard at work assembling what is sure to be a spectacular program! This year, the section will be proposing a workshop on the value of diversity, inclusion, and equality which, if selected, would tie in nicely with the theme of the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Abstracts for all papers, posters, and special sessions must be submitted by the deadline. Don’t leave this until the last minute and please remember that the deadline is strictly enforced. If you have ideas or suggestions for workshops, it’s not too late. You can reach the Section Program Committee at Fiona.Couper@wsp.wa.gov and nikolas.lemos@sfgov.org. Mark your calendars now and if you have not already begun to work on your abstracts, workshop proposals, or other submissions – now is the time to do so. The deadline to submit is fast approaching – August 1!

Please also remember that nominations for Toxicology Section awards and scholarships are due August 1. These awards are a great way to recognize outstanding members of the forensic toxicology community for their contributions as new investigators, practitioners, analytical achievements, or career-long service. Contact Graham Jones, Chair of the Awards and Scholarship Committee, (Graham.Jones@gov.ab.ca) to nominate a deserving member.

Finally, please encourage your co-workers and especially new employees, colleagues, and students to apply for Student Affiliate, Trainee Affiliate, or Associate Member membership before the October 1 deadline. Requests to promote to Member and Fellow must also be received by this date. Please don’t forget that service to the organization is a consideration for promotion. If you would like to volunteer for activities or become more involved with the 2016 annual meeting, now is your chance to let one of the section officers or program chairs know. Philip Kemp, Chair of the Student Academy Committee, is seeking additional committee members. This is a great opportunity for early-career forensic scientists as well as more experienced members. If you are interested in getting more involved in this committee, please email Philip Kemp at Philip.Kemp@faa.gov.

Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas!
Perhaps the most sweeping effort rocking our world is the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) OSAC. It now appears that the Academy will proceed with plans to become a Standards Development Organization (SDO) and more specifically an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standards Developer (ASD) that can promulgate American National Standards. The idea is that we can become an option for the NIST OSAC subcommittees to choose, if they so desire. Currently, the primary choices appear to be the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the American Dental Association (ADA), and the NIST internal canvass process; we would become a fourth option. We are hoping to secure funding that would allow us to distribute standards free of charge. Of course, the OSAC subcommittees are already interested in advancing some existing standards and we will want to get up and running as soon as possible. Lucy Davis is chairing a committee that is wrestling with issues for us to accomplish this, but we understand that hiring expert staff will be a critical element of our success. I see this as strategic for our organization.

The AAFS Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center continues to gather momentum under the direction of AAFS Past President Douglas Ubelaker. The Center seeks to utilize the assets of the AAFS to promote the application of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles to global humanitarian and/or human rights projects requiring special forensic assistance. The Center has four committees: (1) Publications and Documents chaired by Marilyn Huestis (Toxicology); (2) Laboratory and Analysis Protocols chaired by Sabra Botch-Jones (Toxicology); (3) Education chaired by Dawn Mulhern (Anthropology); and, (4) Equipment chaired by Ronald Singer (Criminalistics).

The International Affairs Committee (IAF), chaired by Zeno Geradts, will be sending out a poll to the international membership to determine if they would prefer to continue with the Annual Breakfast on Wednesday mornings or substitute an International Reception on Monday evening. Cost factors along with meeting space have been coordinated with AAFS staff.

The Ethics Review Committee, chaired by John Gerns, has been diligently at work to develop a clearer and more transparent process of how the Ethics Committee operates to include definitions of various sanctions associated with violations of AAFS Ethics Standards. Its findings and recommendations will be discussed at the mid-year Executive Committee meeting for presentation to the Board of Directors.

In May, President Victor Weedn and President-Elect John Gerns attended the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP) meeting in Washington, DC. The CSSP is a unique organization representing the breadth of science and engineering research disciplines through its member societies and federations. CSSP member societies are represented by their presidents, president-elects, and recent past presidents of leading scientific societies and federations whose combined membership is more than one million. We both found it an invaluable experience that greatly enhanced our knowledge and understanding of some of the fantastic research and development occurring across the wide spectrum of science.

The AAFS International Educational Outreach Program (IEOP) to Croatia and the AAFS panel at the 9th ISABS Conference on Forensic and Anthropologic Genetics is quickly approaching. Every year the president of the Academy leads a delegation somewhere in the world; John Gerns will take us to New Zealand next year. The American Bar Association 6th Annual Prescription for Criminal Justice Forensics is also taking place. I hope to report on these activities in the next newsletter.

In my prior addresses, I have failed to mention a special session of the last annual meeting in Orlando. Jamie Downs, Carla Noziglia, Anjali Ranadive, and Jennifer Downs (Jamie’s daughter) gave an evening session entitled “Keep It Simple, Stupid.” We discussed Knowledge, Investigation, Sharing, and Spirit (ethics). For more information on the special session, please see page 15 for additional information regarding the Warren-Young Scholarship and KISS.

The Academy News is going green with the brand new AAFS News Feed online. This means AAFS-related news becomes fully text searchable, categorized, and easily accessible whenever you need it and wherever you go.
Policy cont.

(Note: In previous meetings, the NCFS had already adopted directives on accreditation and certification of Medicolegal Death Investigators (MDI), called for a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) survey for forensic providers and a Views Document on scientific literature.)

**Work Products Being Drafted:** The draft documents include: root cause analysis, pretrial discovery, use of the term “reasonable degree of scientific certainty,” national code of professional responsibility, electronic network for Medium-Dependent Interface (MDI) (Medical Examiner/Coroner Information Network (MECIN)), Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) interoperability, and increasing the supply of forensic pathologists.

**Vacancies:** There are five vacancies anticipated on the NCFS due to voluntary resignations. The application period closed on May 28. Those positions will be filled in the near future with Commissioners of similar educational and professional backgrounds.

**New Designated Federal Official:** A new Designated Federal Officer (DFO) was announced at the last Commission meeting. Andrew Bruck will be replacing Brette Steele as the Commission’s DFO.

The next Commission meeting will be held on August 10-11 in Washington, DC. To stay up to date on the activities and work products of the Commission, members are encouraged to visit www.justice.gov/ncfs.

**OSAC COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Source:** Barry K. Logan, PhD, AAFS NIST SAC Ad Hoc Committee Chair

**Activity at the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) at NIST – Our First Year**

We are now almost a year into the initiation of the OSAC process begun by NIST designed to promote the development of registries of standards and guidelines for the professional practice of forensic science. Ultimately, the goal is to have the standards adopted by accrediting and certifying organizations to increase quality, consistency, and public confidence in the reliability of forensic science.

The OSAC was formed in 2014 in response to the 2009 National Academy of Science’s Report on forensic science, which was critical of the lack of consensus standards in many forensic science disciplines and questioned the underlying science that supported some techniques used in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Prior to the establishment of the OSAC, Scientific Working Groups (SWG) ran independently with some support from the FBI to promote best practices, provide technical community resources, and encourage alignment in approaches to forensic casework. However, the work of the SWGs was inconsistent, and while some had developed standards (“musts” and “shall”) or guidelines (“may” and “should”), most had not followed a recognized standards development process, such as that outlined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). There was also no clear path to formal adoption of the SWGs standards by accrediting or certifying organizations.

The ANSI standards development process requires diversity of input in the creation of the standard and an opportunity for public comment from stakeholders, which for forensic science would include scientists in other disciplines, prosecutors, defense attorneys, the judiciary, academic forensic scientists, researchers, professional organizations, government agencies, funding organizations, and others. It also has diversity in terms of the agencies represented by the participants throughout local, state, and federal government forensic science organizations, private sector forensic laboratories, academia, and industry, including instrument manufacturers. Finally, the proposed standard and the feedback received needs to be evaluated by a body with its own diversity of perspective including statistics, human factors, and the law. This process helps to ensure that the standards developed are authoritative and anticipate challenges and issues of interpretation before they are implemented, rather than afterward.

The OSAC process is very heavily driven by forensic science practitioners. The structure of the organization is described in detail on the NIST website (http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm). Under NIST’s leadership, more than 400 forensic science practitioners in 24 discipline subcommittees are teamed with researchers and statisticians and have additional legal, human factors and quality infrastructure resource committees to call on for input during the standards development process. The subcommittees can create their own standards from scratch, but are encouraged to look at existing U.S. and international standards and guidelines documents, including much of the work previously done by the SWGs, to serve as a basis for creating new standards documents that can go through an ANSI-compliant standards setting process.
Once formally reviewed and accepted by the Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) of the OSAC, the standards will be published in a NIST registry of FSSB-approved forensic science standards which, together with guidelines documents, will form a Forensic Science Code of Practice.

The FSSB consists of 17 individuals, 13 of whom are forensic science practitioners including representatives of AAFS, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT), the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE), and the International Association for Identification (IAI). The group includes two past presidents of AAFS, myself, and Dr. Douglas Ubelaker (http://www.nist.gov/forensics/first-forensic-science-standards-board-062614.cfm). Twelve of the 17 FSSB members are Members or Fellows of the AAFS.

During its first year, the FSSB under NIST’s leadership has appointed more than 500 individuals to its various committees, subcommittees, and resource committees; has developed terms of reference and roles and responsibilities documents for those committees; in January, facilitated two weeks of kick-off meetings for all 24 technical subcommittees in Norman, OK; and held the first public meetings of the Scientific Area Committees (SAC) to report on the process to the public and the forensic science community. These meetings took place during our AAFS Annual Meeting in Orlando and the video recordings of the event are available at: http://www.nist.gov/forensics/aafs-2015-webcast.cfm.

The current work of the OSAC is focusing on educating the organizations’ committee and subcommittee membership on the ANSI-compliant standards development process; reviewing a catalog of existing international forensic science standards, guidelines, and best practices documents compiled by NIST; and creating a public website where all approved policies and procedures, presentations, meeting minutes, and webcasts of the OSAC committees and subcommittees are posted (https://workspace.forensicosac.org/kws/public/documents?view=all-documents). The subcommittees have also established Task Groups to work on specific documents and projects that represent opportunities for scientists not currently appointed to OSAC committees to participate in the standards development process. If you are interested in participating and have not previously applied, please do so at: https://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac-application.cfm.

As the AAFS representative to the FSSB, I have been asked by President Victor Weedn to chair an AAFS Liaison Committee for the OSAC. The membership of the committee is Heidi Eldridge (Criminalistics), Christopher Fabricant (Jurisprudence), Bruce McCord (Criminalistics), Keith Pinckard (Pathology/Biology), and Sandra Rodriguez-Cruz (Criminalistics). The mission of the committee is to facilitate communication of the activity of the OSAC to the AAFS membership and to provide a channel to the membership for providing questions or input on the OSAC process back to the FSSB.

Among the activities we have discussed for this committee is to prepare FAQs from the membership about the organization and how it works, to develop key contact information, to report progress on standards adoption, and explain how to access information about the organization. Please direct these questions to the committee members listed above, or to me directly, and they will be addressed through the AAFS News Feed, email blasts with emerging news of opportunities for joining OSAC on a subcommittee or task group, letters, and on the AAFS website. In addition, the committee will discuss other ways of highlighting the OSAC and its activities during the AAFS annual meeting.
The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1 will be considered for approval at the February 22, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting. Due to space constraints, AAFS does not list members who are applying for promotion to Fellow or to Member; however, a list of these individuals is found on the AAFS website under “Quick Links.” Comments or concerns regarding an applicant should be submitted in writing to: Cheryl Hunter, Membership Coordinator, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904; chunter@aafs.org. Comments must be received by February 5, 2016.

Applicants

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- Lisjak, Rene, PhD, Kailua, HI
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- Parks, Connie L., MA, Quantico, VA
- Reineke, Robin C., PhD, Tucson, AZ
- Sciotto, Cortland O., BA, Aiea, HI

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Karp, Jennifer L., BS, Stony Brook, NY
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In Memoriam

William J. Collier, BS
Fellow of the Criminalistics Section, March 2014
Godfrey Isaac, JD
Fellow of the Jurisprudence Section, May 2015
Anita K.Y. Wonder, MA
Retired Fellow of the Criminalistics Section, May 2015
A Letter from the YFSF President

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) is hard at work planning for the AAFS 68th Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas, NV! The Academy’s August 1 abstract deadline is steadily approaching and the YFSF has important abstract deadlines in December.

The YFSF has several committees dedicated to providing presentation opportunities to students and young scientists. For details and deadlines, look for information in the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) and YFSF Bring Your Own Posters (ByOP) sections below. Presenting at professional meetings is a great way to build your résumé, to get involved, and to make connections throughout the professional community. If you are interested in participating in either the YFSF BYOS or BYOP Sessions, please contact the YFSF committee chairs for more information.

If you have any questions on how to become more involved or need presentation advice, please do not hesitate to contact any of the YFSF committee members!

Lara Frame-Newell, MA
YFSF President

A Note from the YFSF Secretary

In preparation for the upcoming annual meeting, the YFSF will be reaching out to universities to encourage students to attend the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Special Session. This forum provides attendees with the opportunity to learn about AAFS membership as well as network with experienced professionals throughout the annual meeting. This is a rewarding experience for young professionals and students alike. Please read up on what is happening with the YFSF below and feel free to contact any of the committee members if you have questions. We hope to see you in Las Vegas!

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YFSF Secretary
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Jacob Griffin, BS
YFSF Assistant Secretary
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THINGS EVERY YOUNG FORENSIC SCIENTIST SHOULD KNOW

Importance of Higher Education in Forensic Science

Source: Amanda R. Hale, MA

Forensic science is a unique amalgamation of both apprentice-like training and advanced degree attainment. Depending on the discipline, a student could find him or herself training on-scene or meandering the halls of academia. There can be value in both, I think. In addition, many forensic disciplines specialize in specific areas of the “hard” sciences; these can vary from odontology to entomology. These sub-specialties require advanced scientific or medical training as well as certifications and continued education. Thus, in this instance, they are little distinguished from cardiologists and dentists, yet we expect these practitioners to have gained the most education and training possible. Should forensic practitioners be different?
Higher education contributes to the training of forensic scientists in many positive ways to include understanding the underlying scientific basis for forensic testing, applying new information from general science fields to forensic issues, and the ability to identify the biases and error that can contribute to the validity of forensic evidence. These conspicuous features of higher education also allow for a more fine-tuned analysis of forensic data and instruction on the limits of interpretation, which has likely been a contributing factor in the many instances of laboratory fraud that have arisen in recent years. As noted by the 2009 National Academy of Sciences Report, higher education, in particular PhD programs, has a positive effect on basic research proliferation as well as advancing new methods and mentorship that is unmatched in day-to-day application and apprentice-like training. Research is also the general mission of most academic programs, and limited grant funding is typically awarded to academic-based research. Graduate programs also supply eager and fresh graduate students to challenge conventions and validate current research regimes. This inspires more rigorous approaches and less “science fiction” in the research world. Current programs also benefit students as they are commonly introduced to multiple fields with different resources and methods that have benefited a number of areas in forensic science including, but not limited to, postmortem interval estimation, positive identification, and tool mark analysis.

Relatedly, this paucity of general forensic science graduate programs can be a drawback to specializing in forensics at the graduate level. As of 2015, the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) has 23 undergraduate, 22 graduate, and one (1) graduate certificate accredited, or conditionally accredited, forensic programs. Most students wishing to pursue research-based graduate degrees are usually enmeshed within fields like chemistry and biology and may have a major advisor who contributes part-time to the forensic sciences. The dearth of advanced programs is related to a lack of funding and the unusual inter-disciplinary nature of forensics. As a result, there is currently no central accepted standard for the advanced education of most forensic disciplines, making employment evaluation even more difficult. However, the development of FEPAC has begun to address some of these issues with requirements for program accreditation.

Some forensic scientists have suggested a divide between researchers and practitioners and have suggested many researchers are unaware of the practical needs of the field. However, I disagree. A perusal of the Journal of Forensic Sciences suggests much forensic research is case-driven due to the distinctive nature of forensics attempting to understand single instances of phenomena. This is enhanced by the involvement of most forensic researchers in assisting law enforcement or other legal bodies in forensic cases. Also, much research has been assessed from a meta-perspective that relies on real case reports and information in order to understand patterns that come directly from the forensics mission. Cadaver decomposition and postmortem interval research commonly capitalize on this approach. Thus, arguments that forensic researchers are out-of-touch with the needs of practitioners are, for the most part, unfounded.

All in all, higher education plays a vital role across all the forensic science sub-fields allowing it to expand and encouraging more fine-tuned analyses and technological advances. Higher education plays an important role in advancing fields such as public health, economics, engineering, and many more. Forensic science should want to achieve similar progress and proliferation in both scientific and legal arenas. Increasing the number of programs and requiring advanced education is one way to achieve this growth. More advanced education also lessens the financial burden for crime laboratories, state agencies, etc. in training forensic scientists. More collaboration among researchers and practitioners is also an avenue that can provide more auspicious research to be employed by practitioners on a day-to-day basis. Ultimately, higher education is necessary for the expansion of forensic science and the incorporation of more conversations between researchers and practitioners could strengthen this field by combining both innovation and practical approaches.

YFSF General Information

YFSF Financial Liaison

Each year at the AAFS Annual Meeting, the YFSF hosts a special session including a Breakfast Session, along with the BYOS and BYOP presentations. These events assist students and young professionals who are starting their careers in forensic science, entering the work force, or who aspire to work in the field one day. These events give students direction when starting out in the field and provide a wonderful learning and networking opportunity for all involved.

The YFSF would not be able to provide these opportunities without the support and financial contributions that we receive from the forensic science community. Each year, the YFSF receives educational and financial support from universities, forensic science vendors, AAFS sections and individual members. The YFSF Financial Liaison will be reaching out to these groups seeking support in order to continue to provide these invaluable experiences to young forensic scientists. If you are interested in contributing to the 2016 YFSF events, please contact Lindsay Saylors.

Lindsay Saylors, BS
YFSF Financial Liaison
lindsaysaylors@gmail.com

YFSF Special Session

The theme for the 2016 YFSF Special Session is Viva La Forensics. The speakers at this year’s session will focus on memorable forensic science cases during their careers. Speakers will give young forensic scientists insight into real forensic science and, in some cases, what it is like to testify in court.

We are pleased to announce that the majority of AAFS sections have already committed to speaking at the special session, providing a well-rounded program with a variety of different topics. We have a great line-up this year including: Raymond Miller and Gary Berman from Odontology, John Williams and
Joan Bytheway from Anthropology, Ja’Neisha Hutley from Criminalistics, Jamie Downs from Pathology/Biology, and more.

A schedule of the presentations for the 2016 YFSF Special Session will be published in the fall. We look forward to seeing you in February. If you have any questions, please contact yfsfss@gmail.com.

Sara Ellis, MS
YFSF Special Session Chair

Amanda Hale, MA
YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

YFSF Breakfast Session
The YFSF Breakfast Session focuses on professional development for students and new professionals in forensic science. This year, the breakfast session will still focus on professional development but will use a new format. The theme is Ask the Expert. Instead of speakers, there will be a panel of professional forensic experts from each of the different sections of the Academy. The panel will be there to answer questions from the audience as well as serve as the résumé review panel. This is a great opportunity for young scientists to have a one-on-one with established professionals in the field.

If you are an experienced forensic scientist, please consider serving on the panel as an expert and as a résumé reviewer for the next generation of forensic scientists. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Christina Hayes or Kelsey Carpenter.

Christina Hayes, BS
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair
cgh1184@gmail.com

Kelsey Carpenter, BS
YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair
kcarpe69@lakers.mercyhurst.edu

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session
The YFSF is currently accepting submissions through December 1. If you are interested in presenting at the AAFS 68th Annual Scientific Meeting, please submit a one-page abstract and CV to yfsf.byos@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Betzaida Maldonado or Jeremy Manheim.

Betzaida Maldonado, MSFS
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair
maldonado2990@gmail.com

Jeremy Manheim, BS
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides, Co-Chair
jmanheim@albany.edu

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YFSF Breakfast Session Chair
cgh1184@gmail.com

Kelsey Carpenter, BS
YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair
kcarpe69@lakers.mercyhurst.edu

YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session
The YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session (BYOP) is an ideal opportunity for individuals to share their research and gain invaluable feedback in a comfortable environment. Mentors, please encourage your students to present their term paper, research project, or interesting case at this year’s YFSF BYOP Session. The December 1 abstract deadline provides plenty of time for students and young professionals to put together their summer research projects or case write-ups.

Interested individuals should submit a one-page, detailed abstract by December 1 to yfsf.postersession@gmail.com. If you have questions, feel free to email Alicja Lanfear or Rebecca McKerlie. We look forward to hearing from you!

Alicja Lanfear, PhD
YFSF Poster Session Chair
alicja.lanfear@mtsu.edu

Rebecca McKerlie, BS
YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair
rlmckerlie1@catamount.wcu.edu
Meetings & Conferences

JULY 2015

6-31
Basic Fire Debris Analysis
Hosted by the National Center for Forensic Science. This is an online training course. Subject matter experts have developed this course for analysts new to fire debris analysis.
CONTACT: Erika Remley
erika.remley@ucf.edu
(407) 823-0842
http://ncfs.ucf.edu/ncfs-training/physical-evidence/basic-fire-debris-course/

20-23
Masters 16 - Advanced Medicolegal Death Investigators Training Course
Hosted by Saint Louis University SOM, Division of Forensic Path. To be held in St. Louis, MO. This conference is designed to provide the veteran, trained medicolegal death investigator with the Latest Advancements in the forensic sciences.
CONTACT: M. A. Tersigni-Tarrant, PhD or Tammi Mooshegian
mldi@slu.edu
(314) 977-7323
http://medschool.slu.edu/masters/Meeting Information

AUGUST 2015

31-Sept. 4
Digital Postmortem Illustration
Hosted by FACTS. To be held in San Marcos, TX.
CONTACT: Sophia R. Mavroudas
facts@txstate.edu
(512) 245-1900
www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/Digital-Illustration.html

31-Sept. 5
26th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics
Hosted by the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG). To be held in Krakow, Poland.
CONTACT: Tomasz Kupiec
tkupiec@ies.krakow.pl
http://isfg2015.org/

SEPTEMBER 2015

3-5
Advance Course in Forensic Anthropology 2015: Imaging and Forensic Anthropology
Hosted by the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE). To be held in Montpellier, France.
CONTACT: amltem34@gmail.co

14-16
Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course
Hosted by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office in partnership with the Case Western University School of Medicine. To be held in Cleveland, OH.
CONTACT: Daniel Morgan
dmorgan@cuyahogacounty.us
(216) 698-4089
Do you know someone who may be interested in AAFS membership?

Please provide the information below and AAFS will send an application to:

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________________________________________________

State: __________________________ Zip: __________

Please provide your name so the potential applicant will know who requested the application. AAFS will also recognize you by placing a Sponsor ribbon in your 2016 Annual Meeting registration packet. Please detach form and return to AAFS. Thank you.

Your name: ____________________________________________________________

AAFS promotes the advancement of the Forensic Sciences and Forensic Scientists

AAFS Benefits

Your inclusion in the AAFS will give you access to the most talented forensic scientists in the nation via personal contact, workshops, seminars, and the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held February 22-27, 2016, in Las Vegas, NV.

You will receive the Journal of Forensic Sciences devoted to the publication of original investigations, observations, scholarly inquiries, and reviews in the various branches of the forensic sciences. This is the official bi-monthly publication of the AAFS.

Your involvement will contribute to the advancement of the forensic sciences.

You will receive the bi-monthly Academy News which will keep you informed of professional issues, upcoming forensic meetings, and conferences, job opportunities, section news, and Forensic Sciences Foundation activities.

For more information:
Phone: (719) 636-1100
Fax: (719) 636-1993

New Applicant Services Only:
(800) 701-AAFS

Email: membership@aafs.org

Website: www.aafs.org