

# FORENSIC SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS COMMISSION (FEPAC)



*Pre-Registration Not Required — Open to All Meeting Attendees*

## Accreditation of Forensic Science Academic Programs Through the FEPAC

**Tuesday**

**February 20, 2018 — 8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

**Educational Objectives:** Upon completion of this session, the participant should be able to understand the process of accreditation through the AAFS FEPAC mechanism and be able to participate in the process as a reviewer of academic programs. Attendees from academic programs will also learn about the process of accreditation from different perspectives.

*Chair:*

**Matthew R. Wood, PhD**  
Ocean County Sheriff's Department  
Forensic Science Laboratory  
Toms River, NJ

*Commissioner:*

**Jeffrey K. Tomberlin, PhD**  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX

*Commissioner:*

**Daniel E. Katz, MFS**  
Maryland State Police  
Forensic Science Division  
Pikesville, MD

**Program Description:** This session has been developed to assist academic institutions offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs in forensic science and forensic digital evidence to prepare for the accreditation process through the FEPAC. This session will also assist future on-site evaluators (academic and practitioners) to prepare for on-site evaluations of academic programs. Successful completion of this one-day session will qualify participants for consideration to serve as on-site evaluators for FEPAC in the future (please note that participants must still meet other FEPAC requirements, such as membership in the AAFS and designation as either a practitioner or academician).

The FEPAC is a standing committee of the AAFS with a membership that includes five educators, five forensic laboratory directors, and a public member as voting members. The mission of the FEPAC is to maintain and enhance the quality of forensic science education through a formal evaluation and recognition of college-level academic programs. The primary function of the committee is to develop and maintain standards and to administer an accreditation program that recognizes and distinguishes high-quality undergraduate and graduate forensic science programs. Forty academic programs have successfully completed the accreditation process since 2003 (<http://fepac-edu.org>).

### Program:

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Introduction and Welcoming Remarks Module 1: Accreditation, Mission, and History of FEPAC <i>Matthew R. Wood, PhD</i>
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Module 2: Overview of FEPAC Process, Policies, and Procedures <i>Daniel E. Katz, MFS</i>
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Module 3: Review of Undergraduate Standards <i>Jeffrey K. Tomberlin, PhD</i>
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Module 4: Review of Graduate Standards <i>Jeffrey K. Tomberlin, PhD</i>
10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Module 5: Questions and Answers <i>Matthew R. Wood, PhD; Daniel E. Katz, MFS; Jeffrey K. Tomberlin, PhD</i>
11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Module 6: The Role of the On-Site Evaluator <i>Daniel E. Katz, MFS</i>
11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Module 7: Scenario and Evaluation <i>Matthew R. Wood, PhD; Daniel E. Katz, MFS; Jeffrey K. Tomberlin, PhD</i>
12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Questions and Answers <i>FEPAC Commissioners and Director of Accreditation</i>



## EVENING SESSION

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### Forensic Science in the Public Eye: Diversity, Research, and Communication

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 — 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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#### *Speakers*

*Chair:*

**Christine Funk, JD\***  
Saint Paul, MN

**Lucy A. Davis, BHS**  
LDH Consultants, LLC  
Pikeville, KY

**Ryan Gabrielson\***  
ProPublica  
Oakland, CA

**Aretha Marshall, BA\***  
Peacock Productions NBC News  
New York, NY

**Kevin Oliver, BA\***  
WNorml  
Seattle, WA

**Anjali A. Ranadive, JD**  
SciLawForensics, Ltd  
Brookings, SD

**Michelle Richmond, BA\***  
New York City, NY

**Educational Objective(s):** The goal of this presentation is to provide information, based on the experience of national leaders in media, activism, and advocacy, regarding how the use of communication, research, and a commitment to diversity can move the objectives forward and enhance the view of forensic science in the public eye.

**Impact on the Forensic Science Community:** This presentation will impact the forensic science community by revealing how the national news media and political activists influence public opinion. The community can apply the experiences, perspectives, and skills demonstrated to implement new methods of accurately presenting the work of forensic scientists in a manner lay people can understand.

**Program Description:** “A reporter, an activist, and a producer walk into a bar ...” Please join us for a slightly different twist on this year’s meeting theme, *Science Matters*. The focus of the AAFS 2018 program is diversity, research, and communication in forensic science. By tapping resources from other professions, this presentation seeks to broaden the understanding of how media plays a pivotal role in the general public’s *perception* of forensic science and the criminal justice system. This session’s speakers come to the table (or bar) bringing their unique experiences regarding how to communicate the work of forensic scientists, their research, and their diversity to affect change in society.

Ryan Gabrielson is a journalist with the independent, non-profit investigative newsroom ProPublica that was awarded the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for public service. Mr. Gabrielson won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for stories that exposed how immigration enforcement in Maricopa County, AZ, undermined both emergency response and law enforcement investigations. Mr. Gabrielson’s reporting has called attention to the apparent failure of the criminal justice system to understand the difference between a presumptive roadside drug test kit and the certainty of confirmatory testing. This lack of communication between science, law enforcement, and the courts has resulted in countless people being unnecessarily detained, as well as documented cases of wrongful conviction. Mr. Gabrielson’s work has resulted in changes in policy and procedures in the criminal justice system throughout the country.

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# EVENING SESSION



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## **Forensic Science in the Public Eye: Diversity, Research, and Communication**

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Aretha Marshall is an executive producer at Peacock Productions, NBC's non-fiction production company, and is responsible for all aspects of talent development, casting for content, and programming. She previously worked as the managing editor for *Dateline*, winning the 2010 Emmy for Outstanding Coverage of a Breaking News Story in a News Magazine. Ms. Marshall's recent work as Executive Producer of *Booking* on the History Channel's *Navy Seals: America's Secret Warriors* demonstrates the importance of having appropriate, knowledgeable people supplying facts to televised documentaries.

Kevin Oliver is a Washington state cannabis activist. Mr. Oliver is the executive director of the Washington state National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and Political Action Committee (PAC). NORML's mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to legalize the responsible use of marijuana. During his career, Mr. Oliver has relied on grassroots organizing and providing information, based on data and research, to achieve legal reform and to ensure that consumers have access to safe, convenient, and affordable marijuana. In advocating individual legal rights, law reform, and best practices, he brings a different perspective to the forensic science point of view of cannabis identification and toxicology.

Michelle Richmond is a television news producer specializing in legal, crime, and justice news shows. She provided editorial guidance and post-production review for such non-fiction programs as MSNBC's *O.J. Simpson Chasing Freedom* and Lifetime's *JonBenet's Mother: Victim or Killer* to ensure the accuracy and quality of the productions. She also covered the Casey Anthony trial, analyzing witness testimony, motions, closing arguments, and jury instructions for news packages on *Good Morning America*, *World News Tonight*, and *Nightline*. Ms. Richmond routinely attends forensic conferences to develop storylines and content for news productions and brings in-depth knowledge regarding how forensic science is presented in the media.

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# ACADEMY CUP

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## Wednesday

February 21, 2018 — 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

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### *A Quiz Game to Test Your Knowledge of AAFS*

The AAFS 2018 Academy Cup will take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, before the Plenary Session. Teams meet at 8:00 a.m., an hour before the Plenary Session, for instructions and team strategy. The game will begin at 8:15 a.m. and consists of multiple-choice and true-or-false questions projected onto a screen to test each section's knowledge.

Each section's team is comprised of up to 11 members, including Past President/Past Vice President, Board Member and/or Officer, Chair, Secretary, Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YFSF) volunteers, as well as the section leader's other strategic choices. The YFSF volunteers will be assigned to sections on Tuesday at the YFSF Special Session. Teams will have 15 minutes to answer questions. Once all sections have turned in their answers, the answers to the questions will be presented.

The winning team will be announced and the trophy presented at the AAFS Annual Business Meeting at 4:15 p.m. Teams should be present at the Annual Business Meeting to discover who won and should be available at the conclusion to have a group photo taken.

If you just want to test your knowledge, the room is open for everyone. Feel free to join your section behind your flag to help cheer them on!

### **Academy Cup Committee:**

<b>Chair:</b>	Laura L. Liptai, PhD (liptai@biomedicalforensics.com)
<b>Co-Chair:</b>	Carla Miller Noziglia, MS
<b>Co-Chair:</b>	Winona J. Agbabiaka, JD
<b>Co-Chair:</b>	Matthew R. Wood, PhD

### **Academy Cup Team Leaders:**

<b>Anthropology:</b>	Kate Spradley, PhD; Jennifer C. Love, PhD
<b>Criminalistics:</b>	Vincent J. Desiderio, Jr., MS; Kristy Kadash, PhD
<b>Digital &amp; Multimedia Sciences:</b>	Marcus Rogers, PhD; Marla E. Carroll, BS
<b>Engineering Sciences:</b>	Michelle R. Hoffman, MS; Darren Franck, MSME
<b>General:</b>	Joanna L. Collins, MFS; Steven C. Clark, PhD
<b>Jurisprudence:</b>	Stephanie Domitrovich, JD, PhD; Pamela A.W. King, JD
<b>Odontology:</b>	Raymond G. Miller, DDS; Adam J. Freeman, DDS
<b>Pathology/Biology:</b>	Joyce L. deJong, DO; James L. Caruso, MD
<b>Psychiatry &amp; Behavioral Science:</b>	Dean M. De Crisce, MD; Christopher R. Thompson, MD
<b>Questioned Documents:</b>	Linton Mohammed, PhD; Jan Seaman Kelly, BA
<b>Toxicology:</b>	Fiona J. Couper, PhD; Nikolas P. Lemos, PhD

### **Program:**

8:00 a.m.	-	8:15 a.m.	Instructions, Introductions of Team Leaders, and Team Strategizing
8:15 a.m.	-	8:30 a.m.	PowerPoint® Questions and Team Answer Sheet Turned In
8:30 a.m.	-	8:45 a.m.	PowerPoint® Answers

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# PLENARY SESSION



*Pre-Registration Not Required — Open to All Meeting Attendees*

**Wednesday**

February 21, 2018 — 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

2.5 CE Hours

*Welcoming Remarks*

**Science Matters**

**Betty Layne DesPortes, JD, MS**

**President**

**American Academy of Forensic Sciences**  
Benjamin & DesPortes, PC  
Richmond, VA



*Plenary Session Chair:*

**Nikolas P. Lemos, PhD**  
University of California, San Francisco  
Palm Springs, CA

*Plenary Session Co-Chair:*

**James Downs, MD**  
forensX, LLC  
Savannah, GA

*Speakers*

**Itiel Dror, PhD**  
University College London  
Department of Security and Crime Science  
London, England, UNITED KINGDOM

**Rush D. Holt, PhD**  
American Association for  
the Advancement of Science  
Washington, DC

**Rod J. Rosenstein, JD**  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, DC

**Overview:**

Forensic science is undergoing a dramatic shift. In contrast to just a few years ago when the role of the human examiner was basically non-existent as an issue in forensic science, today there is an understanding that the human examiner plays a critical role in forensic work. In most forensic domains, it is the human examiner who is the instrument of analysis, and the forensic result is dependent on his/her cognitive processing (e.g., perception, judgment, interpretation, and decision making). A whole range of cognitive issues underpin various aspects of forensic work, across many forensic disciplines. These are combined under the umbrella of the emerging field of cognitive forensics, the new frontier in forensic science. These include selection during recruitment, training, crime scene investigation, forensic decision making, verification, conflict resolution, reporting, the role of the forensic examiner, presentation in court, and judicial decisions. The scope and relevance of cognitive forensics will be presented, and the relevant research will be summarized to demonstrate its implication to forensic practice.

We are living in perilous times for science when ideological assertions are crowding out scientifically obtained evidence in public discussions of policy. This makes for perilous times for all undertakings that depend on evidence, including forensic science. The traditional American reverence for evidence is eroding. In much of public life, little distinction is made between opinion, wishful thinking, assertion, and methodically verified evidence. Nowhere is the importance of scientifically based evidence more important than in forensic methods and practice. Determinations derived through forensic methodology must be based on sound scientific process. When findings of guilt, innocence, or even life or death are poorly grounded in science, it is cause for alarm. In its 2009 Report, the National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine concluded that too often forensic science, as currently practiced, has “little systematic research to validate the discipline’s basic premises and techniques.” Fortunately, since 2009, there has been progress. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has established the Organization of

*(continued)*



# PLENARY SESSION

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## Science Matters

### Overview cont.:

Scientific Area Committees (OSACs) to set standards for forensic practice. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has published thorough evaluations of the current status of fire investigation and latent fingerprint examination, pointing out gaps in our knowledge. In 2016, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) examined the strengths and weaknesses of six investigative techniques. The National Commission on Forensic Science, before its elimination, promoted important reform techniques in the criminal justice system. As part of the necessary effort to restore public appreciation of the value of evidence in public policy and judicial procedures, steps must be taken to ensure that all people involved in forensic science and practice understand the importance of establishing the validity and reliability of forensic techniques.

### Program:

9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks <i>AAFS President Betty Layne DesPortes, JD, MS</i>
9:05 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	The Department of Justice's Commitment to Advancing Forensic Science <i>Rod. J. Rosenstein, JD</i>
9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.	What Can Cognitive Neuroscience Contribute to Forensic Science? The New Cognitive Forensics <i>Itiel Dror, PhD</i>
10:20 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.	Show Me The Evidence <i>Rush D. Holt, PhD</i>
11:10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Panel Discussion <i>Betty Layne DesPortes, JD, MS; Itiel Dror, PhD; Rush D. Holt, PhD</i>