President’s Message

My year of being entrusted with the presidency of the most respected forensic science organization in the world is coming to an end. This year’s theme has focused on the advancing of the relevant, reliable and valid forensic sciences which have been and will continue to be the cornerstone of the judicial system. In my speech to the membership at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting, I promised that I would collaborate with those whom we serve to achieve consensus building, cooperation and consultation to improve the entire profession.

If there was one lesson I will never forget from the past year, it is this: The opinions of the leadership of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences carry great weight. There have been more requests to speak at national meetings than time has afforded me. Over the past 11 months, I have spoken in scientific and legal forums in New York, California, Texas, Indiana, Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Vermont, Missouri and Washington, DC. In every one of these venues, the audience consisted of both scientists and lawyers, including judges. Even the International Educational Outreach Program to France included a session with the Chief Magistrate in Montpellier, France. I have encouraged those trained in the law to learn more about the sciences; I have encouraged those trained in the sciences to learn more about the law. For the past 35 years I have listened to statements related to the incompatibility and resulting collisions of science and law in the courtroom. Maybe it’s time to change the rules of the road for those who continue to collide with one another. The perceived incompatibility of science and the law can be minimized if, and only if, we recognize that neither side holds all the answers. Opening one’s eyes to what lies ahead is usually a good way to avoid future crashes. The courtroom has always been perceived as an adversarial environment which threatens most scientists. The worlds of chemistry, molecular biology, pathology and toxicology have always been perceived as technical environments which intimidate those trained in the law. My suggestion to those who insist that there is no middle ground for acknowledging value in the opinions of the “other side”: Try a little bit harder to get over it. There is always another side.

Consensus building with those who question what forensic scientists do in the laboratory has been my goal from day one. I have urged those with whom I disagree to seek some scintilla of merit in the views of others, and to build from the inside out as opposed to tossing verbal grenades across a chasm of mistrust. Throughout this year, the Board of Directors has been a part of every continued on page 3

THE 2011 AAFS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION FORM IS PROVIDED IN THIS ISSUE OF THE ACADEMY NEWS, ON PAGE 20. ATTENDANCE AT ALL SPECIAL FUNCTIONS (BREAKFAST SEMINARS, LUNCHEONS, SPECIAL SESSIONS, AND WORKSHOPS) IS AVAILABLE BY PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY.

The deadline for pre-registration is January 26, 2011. The deadline is firm.

Pre-registration forms received after January 26, 2011, will be processed as on-site registrations which will VOID your registration/attendance for all special functions (breakfast seminars, luncheons, special sessions, and workshops). To ensure your full participation, don’t delay! Mail or email your registration form today, or go to the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) and register online! Fixed registration forms are no longer accepted.
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Future AAFS Annual Meeting Dates

February 20-25, 2012
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, GA

February 18-23, 2013
Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, DC

February 15-20, 2016
Rio Las Vegas Hotel
Las Vegas, NV

February 17-22, 2014
Washington State Convention & Trade Center
Seattle, WA

February 16-21, 2015
The Peabody Orlando
Orlando, FL

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President’s Message cont.

decision impacting the Academy. Most of our decisions were not easy; however, they involved deliberative processes wherein everyone had an opportunity to provide input.

I remember reading a quote many years ago regarding what those in positions of responsibility leave behind when the time comes to pass the gavel. It goes something like this: No one will remember your name; no one will remember what you looked like; no will probably remember what you did; however, most, will remember how you made them feel. I’m not talking “warm and fuzzy” here. I am talking about the recognition of their contributions to our profession and encouragement to overcome adversity. If my colleagues in this Academy are able to look back to 2010-11 as the year when they experienced a reaffirmation of the importance of their profession in the judicial system we serve, little else will matter.

We have endeavored to strengthen the forensic sciences by looking forward, not backward; we have acknowledged that we don’t even know all the questions, much less all the answers; we have attempted to bring others into the process of looking inward for solutions, rather than outward at whom to cast blame. By at least considering some of these factors, we might make time to recognize what must be done to strengthen forensic science. Not only must we continue to educate those around us who claim to have knowledge of forensic science, yet have no practical laboratory experience, we must simultaneously continue to educate ourselves and develop new methods to enhance what we do. If we do not pick up the ball and run with it, I will guarantee that someone else, perhaps less qualified, will.

To those who continue to insist that our sciences are faulty, I respectfully request that we work together to identify with specificity what must be done to improve the accepted analytical methods and reporting protocols currently in place. Some believe that science is a collection of facts and equations; I believe that science provides a mechanism for interrogating the world around us by asking smarter questions to arrive at the truth. While there are those who rely on criticism of forensic science more as an instrument of self-affirmation than as a source of improvement, some of that criticism must be evaluated in the proper context. Forensic science cannot be strengthened unless we are willing to address those criticisms which are justified. Considering our present day capabilities as compared to what we understood 20 years ago will provide some vision related to what the norm will be 20 years into the future. Our profession is only as strong as the confidence others have in what we do today and in what we will accomplish in the future. Though many reading this article weren’t even born in 1977 when the words below first appeared in print, please consider the advice of the “poets” who published under the name Fleetwood Mac: “Don’t Stop Thinking About Tomorrow.”

Finally, I would like to again thank Anne Warren and the Academy staff for their expertise in making my year as president flow smoothly. Nothing occurs in the Academy without their able assistance. As for what lies ahead, there was a reason why I requested that this year’s Academy News include a message from your President-Elect. I believe that the membership needs to acquaint themselves with their future leadership. As you have discovered by now, next year will bring great opportunities for accomplishments within this organization. Incoming AAFS President Doug Ubelaker is one of the most qualified and credible people I have ever known and the Academy will continue to thrive under his leadership. Doug, I wish you well.

I would be honored to meet as many of you as possible at our meeting in February in Chicago, and to thank you personally for your support this year. Please feel free to approach me at the Hyatt and introduce yourselves.

Message from the Editor of the Journal of Forensic Sciences (JFS)

Since our transition to an online submission process for manuscripts, the number of submissions to the JFS has increased by almost one-third. This has resulted in a corresponding increase in the number of manuscripts accepted for publication and a delay in publishing these in the printed issue of JFS. I am pleased to inform you that with the help of Blackwell-Wiley, the publisher of JFS, and the support of the AAFS Board of Directors, we are publishing a Supplemental Issue of JFS in January 2011. This Supplement will be mailed along with the regular January issue.

For those of you who have manuscripts accepted for publication or submitted for review, and those who are planning to submit manuscripts for review, we are working closely with our publisher to decrease the turn around time between acceptance and publication in the online issue of JFS. This has improved considerably in 2010, and I anticipate continued improvement during 2011.

Thank you for your patience and support while we work through these issues, which truly are a reflection of the success of the Academy’s journal.

Michael A. Peat, PhD

December 2010
Kurt M. Dubowski to Receive Gradwohl Medallion

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that Kurt M. Dubowski, PhD, Fellow in the Toxicology Section, has been named R.B.H. Gradwohl Laureate—the Academy's highest honor. Dr. Dubowski will receive the Gradwohl Medallion during the Annual Business Meeting in Chicago, IL, on Wednesday, February 23.

The Gradwohl Medallion is conferred upon only those persons who have attained exceptional distinction in the advancement of the forensic sciences, who have given outstanding service to the AAFS over a long period of time, and who have achieved outstanding recognition in a public position through service to the forensic science profession. Gradwohl Laureates are not named regularly, but rather only when recognizing an individual of exceptional distinction. Since the award was established in 1974, only 11 other professionals have been given the honor.

Three Distinguished Fellow Awards to be Presented in Chicago

The AAFS Board of Directors has named three 2011 Distinguished Fellows who will be recognized for their contributions to the Academy and to the profession during the 63rd Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. Mary Fran Ernst, BLS, Fellow in the General Section; Patricia J. McFeeley, MD, Fellow in the Pathology/Biology Section; and Richard Rosner, MD, Fellow in the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section, will be conferred with the honor of “Distinguished Fellow” during the Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, February 23.
In October, I journeyed to Copenhagen, Denmark to lecture in the Fourth European Workshop of Forensic Anthropology and the associated Fifth Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE) One-Day Symposium. These two events were well organized by FASE, a section of the International Academy of Legal Medicine, with special workshop effort by FASE President Eugénia Cunha of Portugal and Niels Lynnerup and colleagues of Copenhagen. Sixty participants were registered from 15 countries: Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, and the United States. This remarkable scholarly gathering focused on basic methodology in forensic anthropology as well as new techniques emerging through international research. Discussions during the week reinforced my impression that forensic science has become global in scope and is rapidly advancing through international research. Although these sixty participants represented diverse training and perspective, they shared a common goal: to explore advances in forensic science and to share that information internationally.

As some of you might recall, in the late 1980s and 1990s, I directed an annual one week intensive short course in forensic anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Each year, participants (mostly from North America) would come together to work with our collections, discuss topics of forensic science, and share their casework experience. Group size was limited to about 25 individuals, carefully selected to ensure that varied perspectives and training were represented.

Although all of these annual sessions at the Smithsonian were memorable and productive, the class of 1989 is especially noteworthy. Eric Baccino of France was among the many prominent current AAFS members in attendance that year. Dr. Baccino was sufficiently impressed with his experience at the Smithsonian that he invited me to work with him to organize a similar course in France for the European forensic community. The subsequent 1992 European Workshop in Forensic Anthropology held in Brest, France was so successful that we decided to continue them. After 1992, the site of the workshop alternated each year between the Smithsonian and France (initially Brest and then Montpellier). By 2003, many European scholars had participated in this workshop and momentum became firmly established in European forensic anthropology. This momentum led to the 2003 formation of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe and subsequent organized workshops as a function of FASE in various European cities, most recently in Copenhagen. These developments offer yet another example of the international nature and growth of forensic science, a theme AAFS will explore and celebrate in 2011-12.
The mid-term Congressional elections are over. Naturally there will be changes in the leadership in the House of Representatives. We will have to wait and see what happens to the long anticipated forensic science legislation contemplated in the aftermath of the NAS Report. That Report is nearly two years old yet despite earlier expectations of significant legislation, not much has happened. Congress is facing other pressing issues, specifically budget woes; it is hard to predict what may happen on the forensic legislative front right now.

The administration has moved ahead and formed a subcommittee to examine a number of issues raised in the NAS Report. Check out their website to follow their efforts: www.forensicscience.gov. Members of the various task groups consist of a number of AAFS members. The group that the subcommittee falls under, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) controls the process. Subcommittee meeting deliberations are not accessible for public scrutiny. Committee deliberations and outcomes remain unclear for now, but in any event, this process represents a positive step forward to address the issues raised in the NAS Report.

In the short term, the courts may be the most interesting place to watch events unfold. A few state and federal cases have been reported with the defense using the NAS Report to challenge the admissibility of certain types of pattern evidence: fingerprints and firearms evidence. Despite these efforts, nothing major can be reported at this writing although there is certainly activity.

I thought I would take an opportunity to discuss some Daubert background information that might help place some of the NAS issues into context. I was reviewing rule §7.02 of the Federal Rules of Evidence recently for a talk I am preparing. The notes were last revised in 1975, so they are not new but are none-the-less instructive. I’ve redacted a small portion for your review as they mirror, to some extent, the NAS findings:

“Daubert set forth a non-exclusive checklist for trial courts to use in assessing the reliability of scientific expert testimony. The specific factors explicated by the Daubert Court are (1) whether the expert’s technique or theory can be or has been tested - that is, whether the expert’s theory can be challenged in some objective sense, or whether it is instead simply a subjective, conclusory approach that cannot reasonably be assessed for reliability; (2) whether the technique or theory has been subject to peer review and publication; (3) the known or potential rate of error of the technique or theory when applied; (4) the existence and maintenance of standards and controls; and (5) whether the technique or theory has been generally accepted in the scientific community. The Court in Kumho held that these factors might also be applicable in assessing the reliability of non-scientific expert testimony, depending upon ‘the particular circumstances of the particular case at issue.’

These points represent a few of the issues the defense bar raises when they argue about the admissibility of some classes of forensic evidence. The underlying issue is the notion of reliability. The challenge for those who proffer pattern evidence testimony is: how can criticisms of forensic sciences be countered? There is also a public policy issue here: what will the Federal government do to help practitioners to respond to these challenges?

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Errors in Measurement are important because the “Error Rate,” as it’s called in the Daubert decision, is one of the determinants of admissibility in forensic proceedings, and because the National Academy of Sciences has been critical how some characterize the errors in their forensic analyses. In this brief article, I’ll discuss Measurement Error and, importantly, Measurement Uncertainty, and I’ll discuss these in the general context of forensic science. Here’s the executive summary:

Measurements vary from the actual value—the true value—of the thing being measured because of systematic error in the measuring system, called Bias, and because of the measurement’s random variation from the correct value, called Uncertainty. Bias can often be eliminated with calibration of the measuring system. The random, i.e., unsystematic and unpredictable variation of a measured value from the true value, called Measurement Uncertainty, cannot be eliminated, but can be estimated using statistical tools, including Confidence Intervals, which give upper and lower bounds within which—with a given probability of being correct—the true value will lie.

When possible, conduct tests developed by the ASTM or other full-consensus-standard-development organizations. Because consensus standards generally represent agreement among all interested parties, and because they often have Repeatability and Reproducibility quantified, their use gives one a leg-up in forensically qualifying test results.

**Measurement Error**, called Bias, is the difference between the average of an infinite set of measurements and the true value of the thing being measured. An estimate of the bias can be obtained using a realistically-sized sample. As a simple example of Bias, if you try to take measurements with a ruler that has a ding on the end, then all of your measurements will be off by the amount of that ding. If you know how big the ding is, say, by repeating some of the measurements with an undamaged ruler, you can ‘fix,’ i.e., remove the bias from your biased measurements, by adding or subtracting the amount the dinged ruler is off; this is known as Calibration. If you don’t (or can’t) correct for bias, or if you are unaware that your measuring system is biased, you may end up with measurements that may be precise, that is, having an impressive number of significant digits, but are not very accurate; precisely wrong, so to speak.

**Measurement Uncertainty:** One cannot measure anything with absolute accuracy. Every measurement is subject to some uncontrollable, random variation. It’s not error in the sense of being wrong; it’s just that measurements cannot have absolute accuracy. So if we wanted to measure how long a metal bar was, we could measure it with (an undinged) ruler, and determine its length to, perhaps within \( \frac{1}{10} \) inch. To do better, we could use a vernier caliper and get a measurement accuracy of within one-hundredth of an inch. To get the measurement even more accurately, we could use a micrometer and get the measurement to within a thousandth of an inch. There are even more accurate measuring instruments, but no measurement instrument has perfect accuracy. None. The best that one can hope to accomplish is to be able to accurately characterize the uncertainty and its implications. To accomplish that, we use statistical tools.

The pattern of random variation of many, but certainly not all, measurements follow a bell-curve distribution, called the Normal Probability Distribution, which is completely specified by its (Population) Mean (analogous to the arithmetic average in a sample of measurements) and its (Population) Standard Deviation.\(^1\) If the measurements follow that bell curve, then about two-thirds of the measurements lie within one Standard Deviation of the average, about 95% of the readings will lie within two Standard Deviations of the average, and almost all of the measurements will lie within three Standard Deviations of the average. For example, if we take 200 measurements of the length of our metal bar, and the Arithmetic Average and (Sample) Standard Deviation of the measurements calculate to 3.7 inches and 0.05 inch (one-half of a tenth of an inch) respectively, then assuming the distribution of the measurements was Normally distributed, about two-thirds of the measurements (about 135) will fall between 3.65 and 3.75 inches (3.7±0.05 inch), about 190 measurements will fall between 3.6 and 3.8 inches (3.7±(2x0.05) = 3.7±0.1 inch) and all but perhaps one measurement will fall between 3.55 and 3.85 inches (3.7±(3x0.05) = 3.7±0.15 inch). If the pattern of your readings varies significantly from this, you probably don’t have a Normal probability distribution (and you’ll need to take my Issues in Measurement 201 course).

We’re going to turn all of this inside-out. That is, instead of starting with the true, known (Population) Mean and (Population) Standard Deviation of the measurement’s distribution and then exploring the distributional patterns of the multiple measurements that we take (that’s called probability analysis), let’s assume that we don’t know the Population Mean or Population Standard Deviation of the measurements, and use the measurements themselves to determine—to infer—what we can about the unknown true mean. (That, we call statistical analysis.)

Wait a minute! ... We don’t know the true Population Mean. What we can calculate is the Sample Average (also called the

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Reliable, Relevant and Valid Forensic Science: Eleven Sections—One Academy

View from the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section

Sources: Suzanne Yang, MD, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section and John L. Young, MD, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section Chair

Inspired by Academy President Bono’s request for an account by each section of its undertakings to promote the quality of the work of experts in its disciplines, four members of the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section took the discussion to the 41st Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) held in Tucson, AZ in October.

Suzanne Yang chaired the session sponsored by AAPL’s Research Committee and entitled “Towards a National Institute of Forensic Science?”

Dr. Yang opened with a summary of relevant points from the NAS Report, whose general purpose was to identify areas of need and principles of rigor that may be applicable across the forensic sciences. The term “forensic science” describes “a broad array of activities, with the recognition that some of these activities might not have a well-developed research base, are not informed by scientific knowledge, or are not developed within the culture of science.” The NAS Report acknowledges a great heterogeneity in forensic practices and keeps the definition broad and open, encompassing both highly tested as well as heuristically devised techniques. Uniformity in accreditation of laboratories or in certification of practitioners is lacking in many forensic disciplines according to the NAS Report, and to the extent that professional societies fulfill a regulatory role, these are discipline-specific, without harmonization across fields. The NAS Report describes a “fragmented” system with varying degrees of interface with academic or scientific communities. Although Federal regulation would necessarily be limited because most investigative work takes place within state and local agencies, Federal-level agencies can provide governance as well as leadership by example. The NAS Report therefore posits that a National Institute of Forensic Sciences (NIFS) is necessary, given that no existing Federal agency has the requisite scope and neutrality to balance the set of effective ties with the academic community, law enforcement, and local government that are required for ensuring these goals.

Dr. Yang noted that forensic psychiatry is not specifically addressed in the NAS Report (it is mentioned once in a table that summarizes training requirements in different disciplines), but many of the findings are directly relevant to psychiatric experts. A general problem noted in the NAS Report is the need for more robust information regarding error rates and reliability in almost all forensic sciences. Although general psychiatry has a strong evidence base of empirical research in many subspecialty domains that experts draw upon, forensic research per se within psychiatry is sparse, with many questions that remain unanswered or even unexplored. Furthermore, our scientific understanding of the cognitive processes involved in clinical judgment and the application of information from studies to the particular case is limited at this time. Nevertheless, on other points noted in the NAS Report as deficiencies, forensic psychiatry is in many ways advanced and may contribute useful guidance for the development of broad standards. For instance, certification standards are clear in our discipline, and accreditation of training programs is governed by national regulations issued by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), which sets standards for specialty medical training. Although there may be variation in how psychiatric experts write their reports, broad consensus exists regarding report format and content. This is in large part supported by work at the annual AAPL meetings, and the annual AAPL board review course, which together have served for decades as a unified source of continuing education on best practices in the field. Further efforts are needed to define areas where forensic psychiatry differs from other forensic sciences and to develop a research program that addresses specific practices in forensic psychiatry.

John Young, Section Chair, presented the role of psychiatry within the larger scope of disciplines in the AAFS and described the function of AAFS in providing some uniformity of standards as well as dialogue among the disciplines. The list of disciplines, as noted in the NAS Report, is fluid, overlapping and constantly growing as technology develops. One of the roles of AAFS is to coordinate work among disciplines, at the annual meeting and through the sharing of research findings in the Journal of Forensic Sciences.

Dr. Young also discussed how the presence of psychologists in the Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section provides an opportunity for collaboration and learning. The practice of psychology includes the use of standardized batteries of tests with known psychometric characteristics, which more closely approaches recognized criteria for scientific validity and reliability. Dr. Young indicated how this type of work has advanced the scientific basis of psychiatric assessments of violence risk over the past 30 years, allowing for increasingly precise evaluation of existing protocols. His presentation concluded with a question regarding areas that are currently unresolved: by what criteria can we scientifically evaluate the validity and reliability of an evaluation of competence to stand trial or criminal responsibility? Clearly concurrence of expert opinions with the legal outcome cannot be used as a research standard. Perhaps the methods involved in arriving at an opinion can be studied for their soundness and for agreement among experts.

Alan Fekhous, immediate past Vice President of AAFS and a Past President of AAPL, focused on diagnostic assessment as one of the key scientific tasks in forensic psychiatry. He described the different types of scientific validity: face validity, descriptive, predictive, and construct validities, and how systems of classification have evolved over the long history of psychiatry as a

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The Leica FS M comparison macroscope offers straightforward manual control of the stages, comparison bridge, and illumination for flexibility and convenience. The system can be configured for dual viewing, and the comparison bridge provides split, full left, full right, and superimposed imaging. In less than one second, the user can continuously adjust the viewing field and imaging modes.

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A Word From Your 2011 Program Co-Chair

The New Year is upon us and 2010 has become a memory. I hope your holidays were festive and relaxing. As we reflect on the past twelve months, we ask ourselves where has the year gone? Some of us may have been involved in high-interest investigations while others spent their time supporting the day-to-day requirements. Regardless of the notoriety of the case or the level of support, we are all striving to ensure justice prevails through the proper use of the forensic sciences. Whether our investigative endeavors exonerate or implicate, the key factors underlying our success is our objectivity, professionalism, and attention to detail. As we begin the New Year, we should take the time to reaffirm our commitment to excellence.

This will be the last newsletter before the AAFS meeting in Chicago. I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to submit an abstract and congratulate those who had their abstracts accepted for presentation. However, now is the time to ensure you follow through with your commitment to share your knowledge with your fellow forensic scientists. I encourage all speakers to review your presentations one last time. Spelling mistakes portray unprofessionalism and detract from the quality of your presentation. As I have said before, the success or failure of the annual meeting depends on you. Cancellations should be the exception and not the rule. I realize none of us can predict what tomorrow will bring. If you realize you will not be able to attend the meeting, perhaps a co-author can give your presentation. If this is the case or if you have no substitute, please ensure Academy staff (abstracts@AAFSp.org) as well as your section program chair are aware of the change as early as possible. Your audience deserves nothing less.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago. The weather will be cold but the meeting atmosphere will be warm and inviting. The hotel block is nearly full (over 75% of the block has been reserved). If you haven’t made your hotel arrangements yet, make sure you make your reservations by January 16, 2011, to get the AAFS conference rate. Take care and travel safe.

2011 Annual Scientific Meeting Dates To Remember:

- **Hotel Registration Deadline:**
  - Hyatt Regency - January 16, 2011
  - Swissôtel - January 20, 2011

- **Meeting Pre-Registration Deadline:**
  - January 26, 2011
63rd Annual Scientific Meeting Award Presentations

The R.B.H. Gradwohl Laureate Medallion and the Distinguished Fellow Awards will be presented on Wednesday, February 23, during the AAFS Annual Business Meeting. Join us in acknowledging your most distinguished colleagues as they are presented with these prestigious awards.

R.B.H. Gradwohl Laureate Medallion Honoree

Kurt M. Dubowski, PhD

Distinguished Fellow Honorees

Mary Fran Ernst, BLS
Patricia J. McFeeley, MD
Richard Rosner, MD

Section Awards will be presented during Section Business Meetings, on Wednesday, February 23, at 2:00 p.m. The Section Award recipients will be acknowledged again before the entire membership during the AAFS Annual Business Meeting along with the presentation of the Gradwohl Medallion and the Distinguished Fellow Awards.

2011 Section Award Honorees

Criminalistics Section’s
Paul L. Kirk Award
Special Meritorious Service Award
Mary E. Cowan Outstanding Service Award

Digital & Multimedia Sciences Section’s
Outstanding Research Award

Engineering Sciences Section’s
Founders Award
Andrew H. Payne, Jr., Special Achievement Award

General Section’s
Achievement Award
John R. Hunt Award
Paul W. Kehres Meritorious Service Award

Odontology Section’s
Odontology Section’s Lester Luntz Award
Reidar F. Sognnaes Award of Excellence in Forensic Odontology

Pathology/Biology Section’s
2010 Best Resident Paper Award
2010 Best Resident Paper Award Honorable Mention
2010 Best Resident Paper Award Honorable Mention

Physical Anthropology Section’s
T. Dale Stewart Award
J. Lawrence Angel Award

Questioned Documents Section’s
Ordway Hilton Award

*Posthumous

continued on page 12
The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has selected United Airlines as the official airline carrier for the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago. The meeting ID number for United Airlines is 585WH and should be used when booking travel on United.

The same code (585WH) may be used by international travelers. Reservations may be made through United's Meetings Plus Reservation System or a travel professional. In the U.S. or Canada, contact United's Meetings Plus reservation service at (800) 521-4041. For international travel, contact your local reservation office.

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**Need a Car in Chicago? Rent From Hertz**

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has selected Hertz® (www.hertz.com) as the official car rental agency for the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting to be held February 21-26, in Chicago. To reserve a vehicle at our special meeting rates, go to the AAFS website at www.aafs.org:

1. Click on the “Meetings” tab.
2. Click on “AAFS Annual Meeting.”
3. Click on the “Ground Transportation” button.
4. Click on the Hertz® logo to go to the Hertz® website.
5. Make sure the “I have a discount (CDP, PC, Coupon or other code)” box is checked and the code 04E70002 is entered in the “Convention Number - CV” box.

You may also provide the CV# (04E70002) to your corporate travel department or travel agent when making reservations. You can also make reservations online at Hertz.com or call Hertz directly:

- In the U.S. and Canada: 1-800-654-2240
- Other: 1-405-749-4434

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**2011 Section Award Honorees cont.**

**Toxicology Section’s**

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<th>Irving Sunshine Award</th>
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<td>Ray Abernethy Award</td>
<td>Daniel T. Anderson, MS</td>
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**2010-11 FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Honoree**

The FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award will be presented on Wednesday, February 23, during the Annual Business Meeting. You’ll want to be present to congratulate recipient:

*Jordan C. Brough, MFS*

**2010-11 FSF Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant**

The FSF Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant will be presented on Wednesday, February 23, during the Criminalistics Section Business Meeting. You’ll want to be present to congratulate recipient:

*Elizabeth L. Emerson, MS*

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**United Selected as the Official Air Carrier for Chicago 2011!**

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has selected United Airlines as the official airline carrier for the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago. The meeting ID number for United Airlines is 585WH and should be used when booking travel on United.

The same code (585WH) may be used by international travelers. Reservations may be made through United’s Meetings Plus Reservation System or a travel professional. In the U.S. or Canada, contact United’s Meetings Plus reservation service at (800) 521-4041. For international travel, contact your local reservation office.
**Make Your Hotel Reservations Soon!**

**AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting**  
**February 21-26, 2011**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
Chicago, Illinois  
**Single/Double: $169**

*Headquarter Hotel*

**Reservation Instructions:** For hotel availability during the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting, there are two ways to make your reservation online: 1) go to the AAFS website (www.aafs.org); click on “Meetings,” “AAFS Annual Meeting;” then click on the “Accommodations” button to be transferred to the Hyatt Regency Chicago’s reservation system; or, 2) enter the following website address in your browser: https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AAFS2011. You will be taken directly to the online reservation system.

By using this link, you will receive the group rate for your stay during the AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting. In order to receive the meeting rate, you must make your reservations through the online system or by calling (888) 421-1442. The hotel does not accept reservations by fax. Be sure to book your hotel reservation by **January 16**. After this date, the conference rate will no longer be available.

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**Swissôtel Chicago**  
323 East Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601  
(312) 268-8226  
Fax: (312) 268-8222  
www.swissotel.com  
U.S.A.

**Reservation Instructions:** For hotel availability during the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting, go to https://resweb.passkey.com/go/aafc to make your online reservations at the Swissôtel Chicago. By using this link, you will receive the group rate for your stay during the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting. In order to receive the meeting rate, you must make your reservations through the online system or by calling (888) 73SWISS or (312) 565-0565 no later than **January 20**.

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**Badge Alert!**

It is the policy at AAFS annual meetings for attendees to have name badges in order to enter special sessions, workshops, breakfasts, luncheons, and scientific sessions. Please note, **ALL** functions will require a name badge in order to enter, including the Exhibit Hall. All attendees, guests, and the press will not be allowed to enter to any function without a badge. This policy will be strictly enforced, so please come prepared.

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**Want to Win a Complimentary Meeting Registration? Attend the AAFS Annual Business Meeting**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fellows and Members of AAFS will be held on Wednesday, February 23, at 4:15 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, IL. It is essential for all Fellows and Members to attend this very important meeting in order to reach a quorum for the voting process. Agenda items include the election of the 2011-12 Officers, recognition of all Members being promoted to Fellow status, presentation of the Gradwohl Medallion and Distinguished Fellow Awards, and proposed amendments to the AAFS Bylaws. You will also be briefed on AAFS activities during the past year and plans for the future.

As an incentive to attend, all Fellows and Members present will automatically be entered in a drawing to receive a complimentary meeting registration to attend the 2012 AAFS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
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 will not be 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 product 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 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 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.

Guidelines for Poster Presentations

Each poster session presenter will be provided with a 4 ft. (height) x 8 ft. (width) poster board and an ample supply of push-pins. The board will be labeled with the presentation title and pre-assigned AAFS presentation number. Presenters are responsible for posting their material at least one hour prior to the opening of the session and removing the material before leaving the presentation area or within one-half hour after the session closes if still presenting. Volunteers will be available to assist the presenters. AAFS is not responsible for material posted early or left after the session is over. Materials left will be disposed of after presentation hours.

2011 AAFS Poster Presentation Format Are As Follows:
- Presenting authors are asked to have their posters ready for display at 9:00 a.m. for attendee viewing.
- Presenting authors will be required to be present from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to answer questions.
- Posters should be removed no later than 1:15 p.m.
- AAFS or its representatives will verify poster presentations during the hours of 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Authors who display a poster but do not present materials during required hours will not get credit for the poster presentations.
- **Presenters should make arrangements with a co-author to cover lunch or breaks or presenting author should lunch or break before or after the 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. time period.**
- Authors are also encouraged to bring reprints for distribution during the session and may wish to bring sign-up sheets for attendees who desire additional information.

**CONTENT**
The poster presentation should cover all key aspects of the work and contain the following items:
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- References

**PRESENTATION FORMAT**
- Extensive narratives are not necessary. Short, “bulleted” statements are preferred.
- Results presented in the form of figures, diagrams, graphs, etc., are preferred, but may be presented in clear, concise tabular format.
- Statistical data should be titled and summarized in a clear, concise format.
- Material should be displayed in a logical sequence from top left to bottom right. Number all poster panels or use arrows so that the sequence of presentation is clear.
- All type should be a minimum of 14 pt and readable from a distance of three to four feet. Use standard type styles (e.g., Arial, Helvetica, Times New Roman).
- All poster panels should be printed with a laser or other high quality printer.
- The display does not need to be “artsy,” but the overall effectiveness of a poster presentation can be enhanced by using techniques such as mounting poster panels on colored paper or crescent board. Colors may be used to highlight important points.
AAFS Guidelines For Presentations Using An LCD Projector

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE:**
Computers will not automatically be provided by the AAFS. However, the Section you are assigned to present before may coordinate this effort and have a computer available for your use at the meeting. Otherwise, it will be your responsibility to provide a laptop computer for your presentation. All inquiries should be addressed to your presenting section’s program chair.

**PREPARING YOUR PRESENTATION:**
- Microsoft PowerPoint® 2003 or later is highly recommended. Other versions of PowerPoint and programs may be difficult to support at the conference. If the current version of Microsoft products is used to create the presentation, save the file as a PowerPoint 2003 version. If using MS Word, **do not** save the document as a “.docx” file (extension). Save the file as a “.doc” file (extension).
- Dark background and light text provide acceptable contrast and display well in the darkened meeting room. Avoid distracting or otherwise hard to read color combinations such as red and blue, and yellow and green.
- Arial, Times New Roman or Helvetica are the recommended font styles. Avoid using fonts that project poorly. Unusual or custom fonts may not be available on the host computer.
- Use as large a font as possible and fill the screen. Anything less than 24 is too small. Suggested font sizes are Titles: 48-54, Main text titles: 32, Smallest text lines: 24.
- Keep your presentation simple. Do not crowd the frame. Limit the number of text lines per frame to a maximum of seven lines, with no more than 30 characters per line.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions. Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines.
- Verify your computer resolution by going to your computer’s control panel, selecting “Display” then “Settings.” The recommended resolution is 1024 x 768.
- Avoid the use of commercial messages (e.g., logo), and video and audio clips unless requested previously in the abstract submission.
- Save your presentation on a CD-ROM or jump/flash drive. Always test your presentation on another computer to verify file compatibility, layout, and style.

**IF YOU PLAN TO USE YOUR OWN COMPUTER WITH THE LCD PROJECTOR AT THE MEETING:**
- Test your presentation with the LCD projection unit provided in the speaker ready room.
- You must report to your assigned room at least 30 minutes before the session is scheduled to begin (not your scheduled presentation time). Introduce yourself to the session moderators. Bring your presentation on a USB Drive or CD-ROM that is clearly labeled with your name. Please contact your presenting section’s Program Chair for these details.
- You will be given instructions on how and when to connect to the LCD projection unit.

**Special Accommodations**

If you have a disability that may impact your participation at the AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting, please check the appropriate box on the AAFS Pre-Registration Form (page 12), and include a statement regarding your special needs. A staff person from the AAFS headquarters will contact you prior to the meeting to discuss accommodations. Availability of appropriate accommodations cannot be ensured without prior notification of need.

**Do You Need to Share a Room in Chicago?**

If you would like to have more spending money to take in some of the “must see” sights while in Chicago during the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting, then share a room! The AAFS office is maintaining a list of meeting attendees who would like to share a room with a colleague. For more information, please contact the AAFS office at (719) 636-1100.
Guidelines For Toxicology Poster Presentations

Each poster session presenter will be provided with a 4 ft. (height) x 8 ft. (width) poster board and an ample supply of push-pins. The board will be labeled with the presentation title and pre-assigned AAFS presentation number. Presenters are responsible for posting their material at least one hour prior to the opening of the session and removing the material before leaving the presentation area or within one-half hour after the session closes if still presenting. Volunteers will be available to assist the presenters. AAFS is not responsible for material posted early or left after the session is over. Materials left will be disposed of after presentation hours.

2011 AAFS Poster Presentation Format Are As Follows:
Presenting authors are asked to have their posters ready for display at 7:00 p.m. for attendee viewing.

- Presenting authors will be required to present from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to answer questions.
- Posters should be removed no later than 9:15 p.m.
- AAFS or its representatives will verify poster presentations during the hours 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Authors who display a poster but do not present materials during required hours will not get credit for the poster presentations.
- Presenters should make arrangements with a co-author to cover breaks or presenting author should take their break before or after the 7:30 – 9:00 time period.
- Authors are also encouraged to bring reprints for distribution during the session and may wish to bring sign-up sheets for attendees who desire additional information.

Content
The poster presentation should cover all key aspects of the work and contain the following items:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- References

Presentation Format

- Extensive narratives are not necessary. Short, “bulleted” statements are preferred.
- Results presented in the form of figures, diagrams, graphs, etc., are preferred, but may be presented in clear, concise tabular format.
- Statistical data should be titled and summarized in a clear, concise format.
- Material should be displayed in a logical sequence from top left to bottom right. Number all poster panels or use arrows so that the sequence of presentation is clear.
- All type should be a minimum of 14 pt and readable from a distance of 3-4 feet. Use standard type styles (e.g., Arial, Helvetica, Times New Roman).
- All poster panels should be printed with a laser or other high quality printer.
- The display does not need to be “artsy,” but the overall effectiveness of a poster presentation can be enhanced by using techniques such as mounting poster panels on colored paper or crescent board. Colors may be used to highlight important points.

The AAFS Section Business Meetings

The Sections of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences will hold their annual business meetings on Wednesday, February 23. This is your opportunity to participate! Please attend and contribute to your Section’s future plans. Specific times are noted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Criminalistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Digital &amp; Multimedia Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Engineering Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jurisprudence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Odontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pathology/Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Physical Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Psychiatry &amp; Behavioral Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Questioned Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Toxicology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Continuing Education Update

Continuing professional education credits are offered for physicians, dentists, attorneys, and chemists. Continuing education credit applications have been submitted for physicians, dentists, attorneys, and chemists. Nurses may use the AAFS CME Credit Reporting Forms for filing CERP hours with their state accreditation agency. Please check with your state agency for details.

In addition, AAFS offers a generic CE certificate which may be used for purposes not outlined above.

To register for continuing education credit, please complete the appropriate section on the Meeting Registration Form. An individual must be a registrant to obtain continuing education credits. Fees charged for continuing education credits are based on projected costs of supplies and other materials needed to comply with requirements of the various continuing education accreditation councils. The AAFS has adopted a user-pay approach so that those individuals who benefit from the specific continuing education program are responsible for the costs incurred.

In order to be in compliance with the various accrediting organizations, introductions, breaks, and lunches have been deducted from the total hours. Please note that continuing education credit is not available for all sessions. All continuing education credit recipients will receive documentation regarding the number of continuing education hours awarded. Attendance reports are supplied to the appropriate state or national agency, as required.

Chemistry: Application has been made to the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, Inc., for ACCENT® credit. Credit will be awarded on an hour-for-hour basis.

Dental:

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is designated as an approved PACE Program Provider by the Academy of General Dentistry. The formal continuing dental education programs of this program provider are accepted by AGD for Fellowship/Mastership and membership maintenance credit. Approval does not imply acceptance by a state or provincial board of dentistry or AGD endorsement. The current term of approval extends from 1/1/09 to 12/31/12.

Legal: The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has applied to the states of Colorado and Illinois for Accreditation of a Continuing Legal Education Activity. Continuing legal education credit will be awarded on an hour-for-hour basis.

Medical: The American Academy of Forensic Sciences designates this live activity for a maximum of 60 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

CE Helpful Hints

A few reminders about Continuing Education (CE) procedures which may be helpful to meeting attendees:

• If you would like to receive CE credits for medical, dental, legal, chemistry, or general attendance, you must check Box 4 on your AAFS 63rd Annual Meeting Registration Form. Only registrants may request continuing education credits.

• Continuing Education materials will NOT be in your registration materials, but will be available at the Registration Desk.

• The Continuing Education Packet must be completed and returned to AAFS by March 11, 2011.
As a sponsor of continuing education, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences must insure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all its educational activities. All faculty participating in a sponsoring activity are expected to disclose to the activity audience any significant financial interest or other relationship: (1) with the manufacturer(s) of any commercial product(s) and/or provider(s) of commercial services discussed in an educational presentation, and (2) with any commercial supporters of the activity. (Significant financial interest or other relationship can include such things as grants or research support, employee, consultant, major stockholder, member of speaker’s bureaus, etc.) The intent of this disclosure is not to prevent a speaker with a significant financial or other relationship from making a presentation, but rather to provide listeners with information on which they can make their own judgments. It remains for the audience to determine whether the speaker’s interest or relationships may influence the presentation with regard to the exposition or conclusion. The executed Financial Disclosure Forms are on file in the AAFS Office.

To serve on the 2010-11 Program Committees, it is required that relevant AAFS staff members, program committee members, and/or reviewers to complete a Financial Disclosure form before they were provided access to review submissions for the program. For continuing education accreditation purposes, the disclosed relationships are published below so that learners are aware of the nature of any relationships that may impact the selection of presentations for the program. If a committee member failed to provide complete disclosure of a relevant financial interest or relationship, the committee member or reviewer was not allowed to serve.

A
Holly A. Adams, BS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Sanford A. Angelos, MEd – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

B
Andrew M. Baker, MD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Susan M. Bailou, MS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
William R. Belcher, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Derek C. Benedix, PhD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Gregory E. Berg, PhD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Alan F. Boehm, MFS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Samuel I. Brothers, BBA – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

D
Thomas J. David, DDS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Lucy A. Davis, BHS – Committee Member
Applied Biosystems, Inc. (Consultant)
Melissa DeBerry, BA – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Stephanie Domitrovich, JD, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Sondra B. Doolittle – AAFS Staff
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Jason P. Doyle, MFS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

E
Paul D. Emanovsky, MS – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

F
Kenneth E. Ferslew, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Laura C. Fulginiti, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Christine Funk, JD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

G
John E. Gerns, MFS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Saletta Grant – AAFS Staff
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Amy C. Gruzecki, DO – Committee Member
American Forensics, LLC (Owner/Employee).

H
Pamela W. Hambel, DDS, DABFO – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Tanisha V. Henson, BS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Mary F. Horvath, MFS – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Julie A. Howe MBA – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Robin K. Hunton, BA – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

K
Philip M. Kemp, PhD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

L
Loralie J. Langman, PhD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Wendy A. Lavezi, MD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Jane A. Lewis, MFS – Committee Member
Jane A. Lewis Forensic Document Examiner (Owner), Marquette University (Honorarium).
James R. Lyle, PhD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

M
Jennifer S. Mihalovich, MPH – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Christine Moore, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

N
John R. Nixon, MBA – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Larry A. Olson, MFS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities relevant to Forensic Sciences.

Ian A. Pretty, BDS, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

Jessic a J. Reust Smith, MFS – Committee Member
Stroz Friedberg (Employee), Elsevier (Honorarium).

Golden G. Richard III, PhD – Reviewer
Digital Forensics Solutions, University of New Orleans (Employee).
Karen B. Rosenbaum, MD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Ann H. Ross, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

Claire E. Shepard, MS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Paul L. Singer, JD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

Jeffrey M. Smith, MS – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Alexis N. Sommers, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Kate Spradley, PhD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Anja R. Swienton, JD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

Christopher R. Thompson, MD – Committee Member
Gerson – Lehrman Consulting (Consultant).

Carrie M. Whitcomb, MSFS – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Ken Williams, MS, JD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.
Ruth E. Winecker, PhD – Committee Member
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

Debra Price Zinni, PhD – Reviewer
Discloses no financial relationships with commercial entities.

Don’t Miss the 2011 FSF Silent Auction

You will not want to miss the Forensic Sciences Foundation Silent Auction at the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, IL. There will be something for everyone! You’ll have great fun while supporting research in the forensic sciences! Here are some of the exciting items we will auction in Chicago:

- Flip Video
- Wii
- Collectable German Stein
- Restaurants Gift Certificates for Hub 51, RJ Grunts, Ann Sather, TRU, and “Chef for a Day” at Moto Restaurant
- DVD & Books
- NMS Labs Fleece Vests
- New Orleans Forensic Center Tee-shirt, Denim Shirt & Neon Jacket
- Purdue University Duffel Bag, Frisbee, Patch & Poster

Auction items will be on display during near the Registration Desk. Bidding will end at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 24.

Register For the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting
Online at www.aafs.org

The AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting is just a month away and the AAFS staff is busily preparing the printed materials. Up-to-date information is posted to the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) - just follow the meeting link! You can view, download, and print the .pdf session descriptions directly from the web. Best of all, you can register online at the same time! Through the secure server, this is a safe and convenient way to register. Don’t forget the pre-registration deadline is January 26!
1. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

| Name ________________________________ |
| Badge Name Preference (one degree only) ________________________________ |
| Agency ________________________________ |
| Address ________________________________ |
| City ___________________ State ______ Zip ______ Country __________________ |
| Phone ( ) __________________ Fax ( ) __________________ |
| Email ___________________________ AAFS Member No. __________________ |

2. REGISTRATION FEES - SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

- **The deadline is firm.**

All requests for cancellation must be made to the AAFS headquarters in writing via mail or email. Phone and faxed cancellations are not accepted. Canceled registration fees will be refunded as follows: Prior to Dec. 1, full refund less $25 admin fee; Dec. 1-31: 75%; Jan. 1-31: 60%; Feb. 1-7: 50%.

3. REGISTRATION FEES - SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

- **All requests for cancellation must be made to the AAFS headquarters in writing via mail or email. Phone and faxed cancellations are not accepted. Canceled registration fees will be refunded as follows: Prior to Dec. 1, full refund less $25 admin fee; Dec. 1-31: 75%; Jan. 1-31: 60%; Feb. 1-7: 50%.**

4. CONTINUING EDUCATION

CE registrants must pick up a CE Request Packet from the registration desk and return by the stated deadline.

- $50.00 Administrative Fee
  - Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
  - Academy of General Dentistry (AGD)
  - Dental Board of California (DBC)
  - American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC)
  - Continuing Legal Education
  - General Continuing Education

5. PAYMENT PROCESSING

- Check Enclosed
- Purchase Order
- American Express
- MasterCard/Visa

NAME (as it appears on your card) ________________________________

CARD NO. ________________________________

EXP. DATE ________

SIGNATURE ________________________________

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE $__________ (Totals from Nos. 2, 3, & 4)
BRING YOUR OWN SLIDES in PowerPoint (BYOS.ppt)
Wednesday Evening: 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

In order to keep BYOS.ppt informal, fun, and informative for the large and diverse audience, here are a few things to keep in mind for the BYOS.ppt program at the 2011 AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois:

- To present at BYOS.ppt, presentations must be in PowerPoint format. 35mm slides are no longer accepted.
- Proposals must be submitted on this form, accompanied by a “6-slides per page” printout of the presentation, and an electronic copy on CD or flash drive.
- BYOS is not intended as a forum to present scientific papers. It is designed as a means to present interesting information and/or unusual case(s) that may be educational and blended with humor.
- Speakers should plan on ten minutes in which to present their material.
- Material being presented in other parts of the AAFS scientific program will not be accepted at BYOS.ppt.
- Tables, charts, and graphs should be avoided - making every effort to use slides of scenes, bodily findings, and evidence.

This complete form, a “6-slides per page” printout, and the electronic presentation copy should be delivered to the on-site AAFS Staff Office on or before 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 23, 2011. Presentations will be selected and scheduled based on perceived interest to the audience and in the order in which the completed submissions are received. This form and required printout are needed to organize the BYOS.ppt program and to allow appropriate allocation of continuing education credit. A BYOS.ppt Program Form also will be placed in each registrant’s meeting packet.

BYOS PROGRAM FORM

Name (include academic degree/s) ____________________________________________________________

Job title ________________________________________________________________________________

Place of employment _______________________________________________________________________

AAFS Section Affiliation (if none, write “none”) ___________________________________________________________

The presentation is being offered primarily to:
- Solicit input/advice on a challenging case
- Present interesting information or case(s) for educational purposes
- Entertainment

Presentation is:
- A single case
- A series of cases with a common topic
- Multiple cases with unrelated topics
- Other (please specify):

Briefly describe the material to be presented: __________________________________________________________

What are the major points to be emphasized? __________________________________________________________

How will the attendees benefit from this presentation? __________________________________________________

Is there financial interest in the material being discussed? Yes (If yes, please describe)

How much presentation time is required? ________ minutes How many PowerPoint slides will be shown? ________

Presenter’s local hotel __________________________ Room # _______ Phone # _________________________

The BYOS agenda, scheduled presentation times, and continuing education credit hours will be posted near the BYOS meeting room. If you have any questions, contact Sondra Doolittle at (719) 636-1100, or at the on-site AAFS Staff Office.

AAFS STAFF USE ONLY: Date Received: _________________________ Time: _____________________
AAFS Forensic Science Employment Fair

A forum designed to put employers and job seekers in contact.

To be held during the AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting
February 21 - 26, 2011
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Chicago, IL

Tuesday, February 22, 2011
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Adjacent to the AAFS Welcome Reception at the
Hyatt Regency Hotel

In 2010, the Academy sponsored a very successful employment exchange/forum with over twenty prospective employers and postgraduate programs, and approximately three hundred visitors participating. Job seekers included the graduating classes of several major forensic science degree programs.

The AAFS Forensic Science Employment Fair is:
A free event open to all registered meeting attendees.
An opportunity to meet employers, and for them to meet you.
An opportunity to make personal contacts and distribute resumes.
An opportunity to assess the job market in your discipline.

Employers or educators: there is no fee to participate. For information, or to register and ensure available table/booth space for your program/agency, complete the form and return it to:
Sondra Doolittle at sdoolittle@aafs.org, or
fax to (719) 636-1993
The AAFS Forensic Science Employment Fair
Tuesday, February 22, 2011
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Request for booth/table space.

Contact Name: 

Email Address: 

Affiliation/Company: 

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Names of Staff Members Attending Employment Fair: 

Brief Employment Description:

Each participating employer will be assigned space and provided with a 4’ X 8’ poster board, table, and two (2) chairs. Representatives of the participating employers must be present during the forum. Return form to Sondra Doolittle at sdoolittle@aafs.org. For requests made prior to January 15th, confirmations will be sent via email by January 21, 2010.
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203-545-6546

Copyright 2010 by James M. Adcock, PhD
President-Elect Douglas Ubelaker invites you to join him on a nine-day tour of Portugal. The itinerary will include stays in Madeira, Lisbon, Coimbra, and Santiago. Participants will have opportunities to meet with forensic science colleagues in Portugal, participate in a conference in Madeira, and, at the same time, take advantage of the cultural and historical riches of the country.

Dr. Ubelaker, along with the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) President, Duarte Vieira have organized the International Educational Outreach Program (IEOP) to immediately follow the 19th IAFS Triennial Meeting, September 12-17, 2011, in Madeira. Dr. Vieira has invited AAFS members traveling with the IEOP to arrive early and present at a special AAFS Session on Friday, September 16. Visit the IAFS web site, www.iafs2011.mj.pt/index.htm, to submit your abstract for this important session.

The IEOP will officially kick off on Saturday, September 17 in Madeira. Travelers will make their own way to Portugal and meet with their colleagues at a welcoming dinner that evening. Madeira, an island located southwest of continental Portugal, was discovered by the Portuguese in 1418. It is made up of the Islands of Madeira, Porto Santo, and the uninhabited Islands Selvagens and Desertas (both Natural Reserves). Madeira is known as the Pearl of the Atlantic and offers a summer-like climate year around.

Lisbon’s springtime temperatures freshened by a breeze blowing in from the Atlantic, Costa de Lisboa, located on the southwestern coast, offers a rich and impressively integrated diversity. Lisbon, the capital of Portugal since its conquest from the Moors in 1147, is a legendary city with over 20 centuries of history. Radiant skies brighten the monumental city, with its typical tile covered building facades and narrow Medieval streets, where one can hear the fado being played and sung at night. But Lisbon is also the stage for popular festivities, the place for exquisite shopping, exciting nightlife, and interesting museums.

Although it served as the nation’s capital during the High Middle Ages, Coimbra is better-known for the its university, the University of Coimbra, which, established in 1290, is one of the oldest in Europe and the oldest academic institution in the Portuguese-speaking world. The charming and elegant 16th Century Museu Nacional Machado de Castro was formerly the Bishop’s Palace and is now the depository of some of Portugal’s finest sculpture. There are many churches worth visiting, especially from the 12th Century. Igreja de Santa Cruz is a church that was later altered in the 16th Century to its present fine example of Manueline carved architecture work. Coimbra also boasts the largest botanical garden in the country which covers almost 50 acres.

A detailed schedule and information will be available at the informational meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, during the AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL. Watch the AAFS website and the AAFS Facebook page for updates.
AAFS 2011 Portugal Educational Outreach Program
September 17-25, 2011

President-Elect Douglas Ubelaker invites you to join him on an nine-day tour (September 17-25, 2011) of Portugal. The itinerary will include stays in Madeira, Lisbon, and Combría. Following the design of previous tours, AAFS members will have opportunities to meet with forensic science colleagues in Portugal, and, at the same time, take advantage of the cultural and historical riches of the wonderful cities to be visited.

APPLICATION

Please complete the following application and return it Nancy Jackson by fax (719-636-1993), or by U.S. Postal Service to the attention of Nancy Jackson, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO  80904. This is your opportunity to secure space only and does not obligate you to participate until complete details have been completed and posted.

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*Please ensure that you have the proper documentation. All necessary travel documents for Portugal must be presented at airport check-in. Refunds will not be granted for failure to secure proper travel documentation. Presently, all American citizens entering Portugal must possess a valid U.S. citizen passport.
The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is proud to announce the winners of the “FSF Student Travel Grant Award for Students” essay contest. This Travel Grant will assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago.

The FSF Board of Trustees was able to approve the expenses, not to exceed $800 per student, for five students this year. A complimentary meeting registration is included with the $800 grant for travel expenses.

The 2010-11 FSF Student Travel Grant Committee was comprised of Susan Ballou, Chair (Criminalistics), Gregory G. Davis (Pathology/Biology), and Daniel Martell (Psychiatry & Behavioral Science).

This year’s winners are:

Amber Neitzel
Lauren R. Pharr, BA
Angela Soler, MA
Dee A. Turner, BS
Jennifer M. Vollner, BS
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 has been inadvertently omitted and contact the AAFS office as soon as possible with the correction. This listing reflects contributions received from 07/01/10 through 11/30/10.

The Fund’s balance through 11/30/10 was $619,674.24. Additionally, the Endowment has provided $143,859 in awards and grants since its inception in 1990.

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Academy News
FSF “I Gave An Hour” Contributors

Former FSF Trustee Gil Brogdon came up with a great idea for Academy members with advanced degrees. The idea was for everyone to consider contributing to the FSF the equivalent of one hour of their annual salary or the equivalent of the fee charged for one hour of consultation. The forensic sciences have been good to all of us. If you make a lot, consider contributing a lot! For salaried persons, one hour represents about 1/2000th of annual income. For those who receive consulting fees, please consider contributing an amount consistent with one hour (or more) of what you charge for consultation. The fund’s balance through 11/30/10 was $32,924.59. For those of you who would like to contribute, please complete the IGAH form below and return to the AAFS office. Please consider digging deeper than you ever have before to support the Forensic Sciences Foundation’s grant and research fund.

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Thank you for your commitment to forensic sciences. Contributions to the Forensic Sciences Foundation are deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Your contribution will be acknowledged in the Academy News.

FORENSIC SCIENCES FOUNDATION

In Memoriam

Herbert Egerer, PE Fellow of the Engineering Sciences Section, September 2010
Thomas F. Hegert, MD Retired Fellow of the Pathology/Biology Section, August 2010
James R. Howenstine, PhD Retired Fellow of the Toxicology Section, November 2010
Ira S. Kuperstein, PhD Associate Member of the Engineering Sciences Section, February 2010
Raymond Wm. Mires, PhD Retired Fellow of the Engineering Sciences Section, December 2010
The Forensic Sciences Foundation

Announces a Contest

For

Possible Applications of New Science or Technology

To Forensic Science

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!!!

YOU COULD WIN MEETING EXPENSES (UP TO $1,200)

AND RECOGNITION!!

In its efforts to encourage applications of new science and technology in forensic science, the Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is sponsoring a contest. This contest is open to anyone concerned with enhancing the forensic sciences. To enter, a 500 - 1000 word abstract must be submitted proposing a potential application of a new or emerging area of science or technology to forensic science. We are interested in new ideas; the submitter need not have conducted actual research on the idea. The abstracts will be judged by a subcommittee of the FSF Theoretical Forensic Sciences Committee, supplemented, as required, by one or two others with appropriate technical expertise. Selection of the winner will be based on the following criteria:

a) The novelty/originality of the abstract;

b) Potential positive impact on an area of forensic science;

c) The possibility of cross disciplinary impact; and

d) The overall impact if successfully applied to forensic science.

It is planned that the selected abstract would provide the basis for a half-day workshop at the AAFS 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting. The selected abstract will be subject to the AAFS peer-review process and must be accepted for presentation by the AAFS Program Committee. If accepted for the program, the author of the winning abstract will receive up to $1,200 toward his/her attendance at that meeting. The structure of the workshop will include an introduction of the topic by the contest winner, a presentation by the winner or another appropriate expert on the basic science or technology involved, and a period for questions and discussion. Abstracts must be received electronically at the AAFS office by January 15, 2011. Please send your abstracts to meetings@aafs.org; put FSF Technology Contest in the subject line.
Issues in Measurement 101 cont.

Sample Mean): the arithmetic average of the 200 measurements that we took, and the Sample Standard Deviation. The Sample Average certainly estimates the Population Mean, and the more measurements that we take, assuming no Bias, the closer the Sample Average will be to the true Population Mean). Using statistics, we can express a range, i.e., a lower and upper limit, wherein the Population Mean will—within a pre-specified probability—lie. It’s called a Confidence Interval. If the underlying population is normally distributed, the t-distribution-based Confidence Interval gives the upper and lower bounds of the population mean, with a specified Confidence Level (the chance that you’re correct). The formulae and the required t-table will be found in any elementary-statistics text. In our example, we find that we can be 50% or 95% or 99% confident (that is, with a 50% or 95% or 99% probability of being correct) that the true Population Mean of our sample of 200 measurements is, respectively, within ±0.002, ±0.007, or ±0.009 inches, of the 3.7 inch Sample Average. Worth noting is the fact that the higher the level of confidence, the larger the confidence interval will be. (You can’t get something for nothing.)

Again, what the Confidence Interval gives us is a range within which lies the true value of the Population Mean. So if the 95% Confidence Interval of the length of the bar is 3.693–3.707 inches, and if, hypothetically, we repeated the 200-measurement Confidence Interval determination one-hundred times (that’s 20,000 measurements), the true value of the bar length: the Population Mean (which we do not know), would be ‘captured by’ about 95 of the 100 Confidence Intervals and missed by about 5 of the 100 Confidence Intervals. That’s what 95% Confidence means.

Forensic implications: Measurements taken for forensic purposes, be they blood-alcohol-test results, the speed of a motor-vehicle, the hardness of a metal bar, the dimensions of a femur, the ‘crush’ measurements of a motor vehicle, the illumination level falling upon a walkway, etc., need to be useful in the context of their forensic purpose. This means that, after accounting for Bias and/or Measurement Uncertainty, the result of the measuring process must, with Reasonable Certainty, show that the forensic threshold is either (a) exceeded, (b) not met, or (c) can’t be determined. First, the device should be calibrated, either on an absolute basis or with respect to a set of reference specimens appropriate to what is being measured (like the reference-hardness blocks described in the paragraph below). Secondly, either the variability of the measurements must be small with respect to the accuracy needed, based upon the forensic context, or repeated measurements must be taken and the average of those repeated measurements utilized, such that the confidence interval on the true Population Mean allows one to discriminate the measurement(s) vis à vis the forensic threshold with Reasonable Certainty.

For example, if a 95% confidence interval for a single reading of a vehicle-speed-measurement device is MEASURED_SPEED±5 miles per hour, and the speed limit was 50 miles per hour, the MEASURED_SPEED would have to exceed 55 miles per hour in order to be 95% confident that the vehicle had been speeding, and below 45 miles per hour to prove (with 95% confidence) that the vehicle was not traveling above 50 miles per hour. Between 45 and 55 miles per hour, one cannot use the MEASURED_SPEED to determine anything with Reasonable Certainty. Thus, Measurement Uncertainty is not—and this is important—a Get-Out-Of-Jail-Free card. Rather, it is an essential element in proving (or disproving) a forensic-measurement-based element in a matter under dispute.

Measuring-System Issues: Certain phenomena, like measuring the hardness of our metal bar, are complicated by the fact that the results of hardness-measurement determinations are at least partially determined by the hardness-testing system itself. For example, a Brinell Hardness Tester is a completely different instrument than is a Vickers Hardness Tester. (Both operate on the same principal: that a hardened indenter is pushed into the metal with a predetermined force, and the depth of the indent indicates the hardness. The harder the metal bar, smaller the indent.) But because the indenter and the indenting force are different between the Brinell and the Vickers, the results are not directly comparable. One method around this is to use a set of standard reference hardness blocks, and test the hardness of an unknown sample in context with the hardness values determined by testing the hardness of the standard reference blocks.

Repeatability and Reproducibility: Repeatability is a measure of the degree of agreement between measurements by the same operator on the same parts. Reproducibility is the agreement between measurements made by different operators on the same parts. The Quantification of Repeatability and Reproducibility is typically accomplished in round-robin testing, where a set of parts to be measured is sent from participating laboratory to participating laboratory, with the tests conducted according to a carefully designed experiment. The results are analyzed using Analysis of Variance, a statistical technique that can tease out the significance of the various factors. ASTM International has a set of standards under the E11 Committee on Statistics for conducting Repeatability and Reproducibility testing (ASTM ) . The National Institute for Standards and Technology publishes many references on Uncertainty Analysis, e.g., NIST Technical Note TN 1297.

Academy News
Section News

CRIMINALISTICS

Source: Matthew R. Wood, MS, Section Chair

This is my final newsletter article as the chair of the Criminalistics Section. It has been a tremendous honor for me to represent our section. In the past three years, I have had the privilege to work with many talented and distinguished members. The hard work and dedication of these individuals culminates every year with the annual meeting where your efforts are evident in the quality of the research, the exchange of ideas, and the influence on public policy that improves our field. However, their behind-the-scenes work and advice is one of the many things I truly appreciate.

I recently had the opportunity to discuss how the field of forensic science has evolved over the past few years with a colleague of mine who is in law enforcement. Now, I should state that these views are not meant to reflect the views of any other individuals in law enforcement, nor do my views represent anyone’s but my own. This is simply an anecdote that I want to share, because I suspect it may be fairly common. I will tell you that what I deduced from our conversation is what I perceive as a disconnect between those who work in the field and those who work in the laboratory. I’m sure this does not come as a surprise to anyone, but the topic of the conversation was centered around the impact of the NAS Report and what forensics is doing to ameliorate our profession, something that I feel has a common effect on everyone in criminalistics. When we discussed courtroom testimony regarding pattern evidence, my colleague opined that as a non-scientist, he does not speak of “scientific certainty,” statistics, or any of the other restraints placed on the forensic scientist. I got the sense from our conversation that there is a belief that the recommendations of the NAS Report don’t apply to everyone, only scientists. There are certainly some well-published cases and court decisions of late that would speak differently. I suggested to my colleague the recommendations of the NAS Report are not narrowly focused, but broad reaching. This idea is echoed in the theme of the upcoming AAFS Annual Meeting: “Relevant, Reliable, and Valid Forensic Science: Eleven Sections—One Academy.” I’ve encouraged my colleague to attend the upcoming meeting to see how each of the sections understands that every aspect of forensic science has to function cohesively to provide the quality service to the citizens we represent.

On a different note, the AAFS annual meeting is quickly approaching. The program committee has created an exciting three-day program that starts Thursday morning and ends Saturday at noon. There will be a joint session with Jurisprudence to be held Thursday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Poster Sessions will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

A gentle reminder for all speakers: please make sure that you have timed your presentation to stay within your allotted time and that you follow the AAFS policy on commercial products. Also, please provide the session moderator with a copy of your presentation prior to the meeting. Moderators are responsible for obtaining copies of the presentations for their sessions and ensuring that the program committee receives each presentation before the meeting begins. The moderators will also be responsible for keeping their sessions on schedule. We have many presentations this year, and it is important that we keep on schedule.

Finally, please plan to attend the Criminalistics Section Business Meeting at noon on Wednesday, February 23rd. In addition to regular business at the section business meeting, we will also vote on several modifications and changes to membership, leadership, and section policies and procedures. All of the proposed changes will be sent to section members in January for review. Please watch for this important information.

ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Sources: John R. Nixon, MBA, Section Program Chair

The Engineering Sciences Program Committee has completed preparations for the Annual Meeting in Chicago. AAFS is reverting to having presentations take place on Thursday and Friday despite support for the revised meeting format implemented in Seattle last year.
Again, the Engineering Sciences joint session with Jurisprudence has attracted many papers. This year it is directed in part to ethical issues confronting forensic specialists and the attorneys who work with them. Please make an effort to attend the joint reception with Jurisprudence on Wednesday. ESS looks forward to continuing collaboration with Jurisprudence in future years.

In the continuing turbulence tossed up by the National Academy of Sciences Report of February 2009, and in light of the high-profile events that have surfaced during the past year, public awareness is focused as never before on the role of the engineering sciences as applied to forensic issues. Furthermore, the range of such application is being shown to be very diverse - from a key role in investigating the extraordinary engine failure on a Qantas Airbus A380, to assisting U.S. Customs in its enforcement of the intellectual property and consumer protection laws of this country. More specifically, the latter work is directed toward the detection and seizure of counterfeit and/or dangerous products originating from abroad, especially from China and other newly industrialized countries (NICs). In response, the section will endeavor to attract papers on aviation and counterfeiting themes for the 2012 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. ESS members are encouraged to publicize the 2012 event and solicit papers from members and non-members alike.

**GENERAL**

**Sources: Julie A. Howe, MBA, Section Secretary**

The Academy received a record breaking number of applications this year. The Academy staff, particularly Cheryl Hunter, has worked tirelessly to develop a new online review program to simplify the review process. The General Section received 262 total applications, including those for promotion.

Thanks to all who have submitted abstracts for presentation. Your submissions make the section’s scientific program a success.

The General Section Luncheon will take place on Wednesday during the annual meeting. The General Section Business Meeting will immediately follow the luncheon. You do not have to attend the luncheon to take part in the section business meeting. Remember that attendance at the section business meeting is a requirement for promotion. The General Section Reception will be held on Wednesday night as well. Meet your colleagues and participate in all of these events if possible.

Section Chair Bob Gaffney will be sending an agenda for the section business meeting in January via the General Section list serve. We hope that you will review the agenda prior to the meeting. Feel free to contact either Bob or myself beforehand if you have questions or comments.

The positions of General Section Chair, Secretary, and Board of Director’s Representative for 2011 are open for election at the section business meeting. The Section Nominating Committee, chaired by Jim Adcock, has nominated Julie Howe for Section Chair, Alan Boehm for Section Secretary, and Bob Gaffney for Board of Director’s Representative. A brief resume from each candidate will be mailed to section members before the business meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the business meeting. In order to be eligible for nomination, an individual must be a Fellow in good standing within the General Section.

Because the section policies and procedures have not been reviewed for some time, an ad-hoc committee has been established to perform this task and provide a report at the section meeting. Due to the lack of submissions, it has been proposed that the Scholarship Committee be incorporated into the Awards Committee, which will require a member vote at the section meeting.

Awards Chair Michael Bosse is pleased to announce that Robert Morton was selected for the John R. Hunt Award. Claudia Delgado Aguacía has been awarded the General Section Achievement Award. Those competing for the 2011 General Section Achievement Award will be presenting during the section’s scientific session in Chicago. Julie Howe was selected for the Paul W. Kehres Meritorious Service Award.

To continue providing information about the section disciplines, here is an update regarding forensic archaeology. Forensic archaeologists provide detection and recovery expertise in forensic situations. Because archaeology and anthropology overlap, several archaeologists in the section submitted a request to the Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology (SWGANTH) suggesting that the sub-committee on Detection and Recovery consider the inclusion of archaeologists as part of the committee to ensure the full participation of all appropriate parties. SWGANHT responded positively. The Detection and Recovery Subcommittee has not yet begun deliberations but it is hopeful that archaeologists will be asked to join the committee.

**ODONTOLOGY**

**Source: Paula C. Brumit, DDS, Section Secretary**

Happy New Year to all! Soon it will be time for the AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific meeting in Chicago. This year the Scientific Sessions will return to the Thursday schedule and begin February 24. Poster Sessions are scheduled on Wednesday, February 23. Program Chair Iain Pretty has reported that presentations were plentiful this year. This meeting will provide an opportunity to increase our forensic knowledge.

The ASFO 41st Annual Meeting, under the direction of President-Elect Mary Bush, will be held concurrently with the AAFS meeting Tuesday, February 22. This all-day program will feature a variety of speakers who are prominent in forensic science. These key figures will present topics that are timely, interesting, and informative. Be sure to register for this fine scientific program and annual business luncheon at www.asfo.org.

Dayle Hinman has graciously agreed to be this year’s speaker for the Thomas Krauss Memorial Bitemark Breakfast on Friday, February 25. The title of her presentation with be “With A Little Help From My Friends” as she will discuss the investigative continued on page 36

**Academy News**
Section News cont.

techniques of criminal profiling. Please register now as this popular breakfast is always sold out.

Please plan to attend the Odontology Section Business Meeting on Wednesday afternoon. Important topics and upcoming changes in our section will be discussed. The current section officers have been renominated for an additional one-year term with Dick Weems as Section Chair, Paula Brunst as Secretary, and Iain Pretty as Program Chair. Nominations from the floor will also be allowed during the meeting.

At that same meeting, we will be honoring two of our members. Homer Campbell will receive the Lester Luntz Award (posthumously) and Gerry Vale will receive the Reidar Sognnaes Award. Congratulations to both. Please join us at our annual business meeting to pay tribute to these forensic giants for their contributions to our discipline.

Be aware that the ABFO is offering two workshops this year. The Dental Age Estimation Workshop will be held Saturday and Sunday, February 19-20. The Bitemark Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 26. Please check the website for more information at www.abfo.org. See you soon!

PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY

Source: Jeffery K. Tomberlin, PhD, Section Secretary

Most often in the AAFS newsletter we attempt to keep everyone updated on current events in our association as well as with the development of the upcoming AAFS meeting. However, in some instances we are afforded the opportunity to recognize section members for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields. We have such a moment at this time!

Cyril Wecht recently received the most prestigious honor from the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Sciences at the University of New Haven, the “Distinguished Forensic Scientist Award.” This award was presented to Dr. Wecht at the 19th Annual Markle Symposium on September 27, 2010, at the MGM Grand Hotel and Convention Center in Ledyard, Connecticut. Also, in recognition of Dr. Wecht’s contributions to the forensic sciences, Mr. Dan Onorato, Allegheny County Executive, dedicated the Convention Center in Ledyard, Connecticut. Also, in recognition of Dr. Wecht’s contributions to the forensic sciences, Mr. Dan Onorato, Allegheny County Executive, dedicated the Medical Examiner Facility in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, as the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science.

We would also like to thank Kim Collins for her efforts as the Pathology/Biology Section Chair during 2010-11. She has done an excellent job enhancing our section and diligently working towards greater communication between our pathology and biology members, as well as increasing the number of members within our section. With that said, I am sure that momentum has continued to build over the course of the year for the February 21-26 meeting in Chicago, and I am looking forward to its occurrence. If you have not done so, make sure to reserve a room, purchase your airfare, and pick out a warm coat to bring with you!

We have one house keeping activity for the 2011 AAFS Annual Meeting. Wendy Lavezzi would like to thank everyone who submitted their packets for the Best Resident Paper Competition at the 2011 AAFS meeting in Chicago. The prize is a $500 cash award, a memorial certificate, and AAFS dues for one year. Dr. Lavezzi would like to remind each candidate that a full manuscript is required to be considered for the award, and it is due to her by January 31. Directions for manuscript submission will be provided in the acceptance letter.

I want to thank the Pathology/Biology Section for allowing me to serve as Secretary during 2010-11. I have met a lot of members, and I look forward to continue serving you as needed within the AAFS. Take care, stay warm, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Chicago.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Source: Susan M.T. Myster, PhD, Section Secretary

Section Program Chairs, Bill Belcher (Chair) and Ann Ross (Co-Chair), report that a record number of abstracts were submitted; there were a total of 172 abstracts submitted for review. From these, 69 abstracts for oral presentations and 67 for poster presentations, one workshop proposal, and one breakfast session will be hosted by our section. During the selection process, the committee tried to avoid making subjective decisions such as “it’s just a poster.” We tried to select abstracts that could be presented in either venue. However, an unfortunate consequence of the high number of abstract submissions, is a higher number of abstract rejections (34) than usual. Overall, an impressive array of topics will be presented at the 2011 meeting. One area of particular interest is verification studies and the place of forensic anthropology as a discipline. We would like to thank the Abstract Review Committee for its dedication: Derek Benedix, Greg Berg, Erin Kimmerle, Debbi Zinni, and Kate Spradley.

The International Consortium for Forensic Anthropology Programming (COFFA) is meeting at the AAFS Annual Meeting on Friday, February 25, from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The specific location of the meeting will be announced at the Physical Anthropology Section Business Meeting (February 23, 2:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.) and will be posted on the COFFA website. COFFA is an international academic consortium for institutions and programs that offers education in forensic anthropology for research and practice. Its mission is to support the development and success of fundamental education and training for students, faculty, and practitioners of forensic anthropology. Everyone is welcome to attend; the meeting is free and open to all members of the forensic anthropology community. To learn more about COFFA, please view the poster presentation by Ann Ross and Erin Kimmerle scheduled on Wednesday, February 23, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Just a reminder that the Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology (SWGANTH) is hosting an open meeting during the AAFS Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 22 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. The specific location will be posted in the Calendar of Events. The purpose of the working group is to solicit additional community feedback and input on best practice guidelines for the forensic anthropology discipline. Please contact
Angi Christensen, at secretary@swgauth.org if you have questions. John Williams, Laura Fulgnini, and Mike Warren, members of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA), will be hosting a meeting about board certification through the ABFA on Thursday evening. The specific time and location of the meeting will be announced at the Physical Anthropology Section Business Meeting (February 23, 2:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.) and will be posted on the ABFA website. Everyone interested in learning more about ABFA certification is encouraged to attend. Please contact Susan Myster. Secretary of the ABFA, for further information (smyster@gw.hamline.edu).

**PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE**

**Source: Manuel Lopez-Leon, MD, Section Secretary**

There is still time to make it to the 35th Annual Conference of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) Tristate Chapter on Saturday, January 22, in New York City. It is entitled “Civil Liability and Forensic Psychiatry: Selected Topics.” The lineup of speakers includes Charles Marmar, MD, who will discuss the assessment of PTSD in the forensic setting; Marshall Garrison, JD, who will speak on legal principles of child custody and visitation; Lisa Gold, MD, who will cover litigation of sexual harassment cases; and Clarence Watson, JD, MD, who will discuss psychiatric issues in cases of tobacco litigation. For further information, please call Tara Straka, MD (646-672-5922, tara.straka@nyumc.org) or Gloria Seo, MD (212-562-4136, gloria.seo@nyumc.org). If you are ready to register, make your checks payable to “AAPL Tri-State Chapter” and send to: Gloria Seo, MD; 462 First Avenue, 19 West 31; New York, NY 10016. The conference starts at 8:30 a.m. at the NYU School of Medicine, Schwartz Lecture Hall F, 550 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

The AAPL 41st Annual Meeting was held in Tucson, AZ, this past October. There was an active participation of our AAFS section members. The Opening Ceremony was eloquently delivered by AAPL's president Stephen Billick, entitled “Being True to Psychiatry.” Dr. Billick, also participated in a workshop on “Current Issues in Punishing Adolescents.” Alan Felthous and Robert Weinstock discussed the issue of computer crimes in relation to forensic psychiatric evaluations. Dr. Weinstock also discussed in a panel the topic of elder financial abuse and forensic psychiatry. Dr. Felthous, along with Section Chair, John Young, presented their perspectives in the progression of forensic science towards a National Institute. Dr. Young, also participated in a workshop related to the ethics in forensic psychiatry publishing. Other section members participated in panel discussions and workshops related to child & adolescent forensic psychiatric issues, including Christopher Thompson, Joseph Kenan, Fabian Saleh, and your Section Secretary, Manuel Lopez-Leon.

As a reminder, the 63rd AAFS Annual Meeting is just around the corner, and our Program Chair, Karen Rosenbaum, has worked diligently on putting together a very interesting program. We hope to see you all in Chicago!

News for this column from members is always welcome at drlopezleon@mac.com.

**QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS**

**Source: Martha A. Blake, MCrIm, Section Secretary**

Congratulations to William Riordan, recipient of the 2011 Ordway Hilton Award, and thank you to the nominating committee for making this well-deserved award a reality.

While finalizing your plans to attend the annual meeting, don’t forget that the annual ASTM Subcommittee 30.02 on Questioned Documents will be meeting on Sunday, February 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The important and often lively ASTM subcommittee meetings are a great way to become engaged and stay current with consensus standards of the QD practice.

Robin Hunton and Larry Olson put together a great program that includes the following workshops: “Fracture Match of Papers, Tapes, and Miscellaneous Materials for Document Examiners” and “Indentation Sequencing Workshop.” Please contact them for further information or questions about the program (Robin.Hunton@ci.irs.gov, 312-553-7004 and Larry.Olson@ci.irs.gov, 312-553-7025).

Please register for the workshops now since they are open to Academy members first until January 15. After that they will be open to all attendees.

**TOXICOLOGY**

**Source: Ruth E. Winecker, PhD, Section Program Chair**

The program for the AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago has been finalized, and it’s hard to believe that the meeting is just around the corner. The program committee is very pleased to provide you with a jam-packed educational conference that we hope you will find interesting and enlightening.

Workshop Chair, Loralie Langman, (langman.loralie@mayo.edu) was able to recruit two workshop proposals for the Toxicology Section and both were approved for the final program. AAFS will offer a total of 22 workshops that were selected from almost double that number of submissions. On Monday, a half-day workshop (W#1), “Tips and Tricks to Improve the Interpretive Value of Post Mortem Toxicology,” will be co-chaired by Michele Merves and Jayme Thatcher. On Tuesday, a full-day workshop (W#18), “K2 and Beyond: A Synthetic Cannabinoid Primer,” is co-chaired by Sherri Kacinko and Lindsay Reinhold.

Please plan to attend the section business meeting on Wednesday afternoon to participate in all of the section’s important business functions. On Wednesday evening, a poster session moderated by Nicole Bynum will immediately follow the awards reception to honor this year’s awardees. Please join me in congratulating Michele Merves who will receive the Irving Sunshine Award and Daniel Anderson who will receive the Ray Abernethy Award.

continued on page 38
Section News cont.

I want to congratulate Kurt Dubowski who was recently named AAFS Gradwohl Laureate. Dr. Dubowski, AAFS Past President, will receive the R.B.H. Gradwohl Medallion during the Annual Business Meeting in Chicago, February 23rd.

Thursday morning will begin two full days of scientific presentations and morning sessions co-moderated by Marc LeBeau, Adam Negruz, Phil Kemp, and Ken Ferslew will feature papers on New Drugs, Methods, and Uncertainty. Following lunch there will be a special update on SWG-TOX activities and the remainder of the day will be devoted to a Drugs and Driving Special Session moderated by Laura Liddicoat, Loralie Langman, Patrick Harding, and Jeffery Hackett. The day’s activities will wrap-up with the always popular open forum moderated by H. Chip Walls and J. Robert Zettl.

Friday morning will be devoted to platform presentations featuring postmortem toxicology as part of a joint session with Pathology/Biology and moderated by Dan Anderson, Sandra Bishop-Freeman, Peter Stout, and Rhone Hughes. The annual lectureship in toxicology moderated by Bruce Goldberger and Ruth Winecker will feature Pulitzer Prize winning science writer Deborah Blum who will entertain and educate with a literary history of modern day toxicology beginnings. Closing the scientific session is a special group of presentations featuring postmortem pediatric toxicology cases moderated by Robert Middleberg and Nikolas Lemos.

As your program chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the abstract reviewers (Ken Ferslew, Phil Kemp, Loralie Langman, John Mitchell, Jeri Ropero-Miller, Sandra Bishop-Freeman, Douglas Smith, Marc Feaster, and Justin Brower), volunteer moderators (listed above), abstract authors, and our supporters for their generous financial contributions.

Finally, I would like to encourage all current or future AAFS Toxicology Section members to attend the annual meeting in Chicago. These are important times, and changes to how we practice forensic science are on the way! Therefore, it is important to interact with colleagues from all forensic disciplines and this is the one meeting a year where you have this opportunity. As toxicologists, we need to be proactive, involved, and leading the charge when these changes start happening.

View from the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section cont.

field. The emergence of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) over the second half of the 20th century reflected an observed need for criteria that are held in common, allowing mental health experts to arrive at the same diagnosis, given the same information. However, the types of information that should be included in assigning a diagnosis have been subject to debate, as the scientific research base expands, particularly within the biological sciences. The rapidly changing nature of advances in biological psychiatry has prompted revision of our definition of mental disorders, but this should not exclude psychological, social, and environmental factors that still play an important role in psychopathology.

Dr. Felthous noted that even after reliable criteria are established, the ways that they are applied in the clinical interview may influence the validity of findings. For instance, direct questioning regarding each of the criteria on a checklist may have an effect of suggestion, and therefore result in decreased validity. Systematic clinical assessment such as the mental status examination, analogous to the physical examination in general medicine, helps to structure present state clinical descriptions so that experts can compare their findings. Laboratory studies are rarely confirmatory, except when psychiatric symptoms are due to an underlying general medical condition such as Wilson’s disease. In a forensic psychiatric examination, attention must be given not only to whether the person meets criteria for a given disorder but also to whether he or she has more than one disorder, or is exaggerating (malingering) symptoms.

Dr. Felthous emphasized that the forensic psychiatric examination is a two-step process: first, the person’s mental condition must be evaluated for the presence or absence of a disorder, following the DSM as closely as possible, then the legal question at issue must be addressed as a second step. The forensic psychiatrist should be particularly attentive to confirmatory bias, especially when other parties are pressing for answers and the legal question is linked to or dependent upon arriving at or excluding a diagnosis. The validity and reliability of diagnoses are increased when the evidence is presented in a transparent manner, naming the phenomena in descriptive terms that follow standard nomenclature. By remaining as objective as possible and guarding against biases in diagnosis, forensic psychiatric practice is scientific but this does not reduce psychiatry to the science of diagnosis alone. Psychiatry is not a single science but is rather an art that draws upon numerous scientific fields, bringing to legal proceedings the humanity and individuality of each person.

Robert Trestman, Chair of AAPL’s Research Committee, addressed the challenging issue of how we can know and shape where the field of forensic psychiatry is headed in the future. At present, there appears to be a confluence of factors supporting research and a consensus regarding the need for a stronger research orientation within the field. A clear research agenda is crucial in order to develop this research and thereby improve the quality of the work that we do. The proposal for a National Institute of Forensic Sciences raises the prospect of change in practices and standards in forensic psychiatry, a change that may occur either quickly or gradually.
The question, posed Dr. Trestman, is: who will shape this change and set the agenda? If we do not meet the challenge ourselves, the decisions and standards may be imposed in a manner that is not suited to the nature of forensic psychiatric practice. Psychiatric evaluation is an art, but a scientific orientation does not minimize creativity, insight, and clinical judgment. On the contrary, scientific reasoning helps us to analyze the process of reaching an opinion as a logical sequence and to critically examine what our procedures are based upon. This means that these procedures are open to questioning – they can be tested, verified or undergo critique. For instance, the sources of human error in forensic examination can be examined through systematic investigation; are differences in assessment due to having different sets of clinical data, the use of different tools, differing access to collateral information? If standardized assessments are used, what are their validity and reliability, and what is the competence of the particular expert in using that instrument?

Dr. Trestman suggested that as an organization, AAPL has a key role to play in driving the development of this research and of standards in forensic psychiatry. The adversarial legal system has a role to play in driving the development of this research and of forensic R&D programs (including previously funded projects) may be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/forensics/welcome.htm, or you may email the Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences of the National Institute of Justice at forensic.research@ojp.usdoj.gov.

**NIJ Forensic Science Research and Development Funding Solicitation**

The National Institute of Justice, the research agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, is pleased to give you this advance notice about upcoming solicitations for funding forensic science research and development. The official announcement is expected in early 2011. Two solicitations are expected to be released:

- **Basic Scientific Research to Support Forensic Science**
- **Applied Research and Development in Forensic Science**

**Basic Scientific Research to Support Forensic Science:** This solicitation will seek applications to conduct basic scientific research to enhance the understanding and knowledge base of forensic science disciplines. Proposals should focus on expanding the fundamental basis of the physical, life, and cognitive sciences. Proposals should also describe the broad impact of the basic scientific research on forensic science disciplines. Through this solicitation, NIJ will also provide funding for new investigator opportunities. Applications will be considered from individuals who are defined as “new investigators” in forensic science. To qualify as a new investigator, one of the following criteria must be satisfied: 1) the investigator has completed research training in forensic science-related fields prior to the start of the grant award and intends to pursue research directly related to these areas, or 2) the investigator is an established researcher who is new to NIJ funding and has not successfully competed as a principal investigator or collaborative researcher in the last 10 years.

**Applied Research and Development in Forensic Science:** This solicitation will seek applications to fund applied research and development projects that will 1) increase knowledge or understanding necessary to guide forensic science policy and practice or 2) result in the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods that have the potential for forensic application. The intent of the “Applied Research and Development in Forensic Science Program” is to direct the findings of basic scientific research, research and development in broader scientific fields applicable to forensic science, and ongoing forensic science research toward the development of highly discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective and rapid methods for the identification, analysis and interpretation of physical evidence.

**Application deadline:** Once the solicitation is released, the funding opportunity will be open for a minimum of 60 days.

Find more information about this solicitation on the Academy’s website at www.aafs.org. Additional information about NIJ’s forensic R&D programs (including previously funded projects) may be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/forensics/welcome.htm, or you may email the Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences of the National Institute of Justice at forensic.research@ojp.usdoj.gov.
The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1, 2010, will be considered for approval at the February 2011 Board of Directors Meeting. Due to space constraints, AAFS does not list members who are applying for promotion to Fellow or to Member. 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 11, 2011.

## Applicants

### CRIMINALISTICS

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Tramble, Jessica L., BS
Falls Church, VA

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Van Kirk, Megan E., MFS
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Wilson, Trevor A., BS
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Towson, MD

Wolff, Adam B., MS
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Yelle, Lisa A., MS
Sudbury, MA

Trainee Affiliate

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Kittanning, PA

Alexander, Adrienne A., MS
Moody, AL

Alnouri, Mohammad T., BS
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Badu-Boateng, Alexander, BSc
Accra, Ghana

Bautucos, Stephanie M., MS
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Bourgeois, Jennifer, MS
The Woodlands, TX

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Burleson, Garrett L., MS
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Call, Michelle M., MS
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbott, Suzanne</td>
<td>Arden, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Casey C.</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
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<td>Beebe, Caroline M.</td>
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<td>Bala Cynwyd, PA</td>
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<td>Bybelsier, Michael R.</td>
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<td>Campbell, Nicole A.</td>
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<td>Carney, Jodie L.</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
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<td>Carrilho, Yonara O.</td>
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<td>Crass, Lindsey E.</td>
<td>Morgantown, WV</td>
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<td>Donath, Jaclyn A.</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
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<td>Durban, Jean, BA</td>
<td>Azle, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eike, Aden G. MSc</td>
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<td>Esch, Kelley S. MA</td>
<td>Hickam AFB, HI</td>
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<td>Foote, Derek D. MFS</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gibson, Laura E. MS</td>
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<td>Hernandez, Lavena E. BS</td>
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<td>Hill, April A. PhD</td>
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<td>Huffman, Lurena A. BS</td>
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<td>Kelly, Jeffrey D. MS</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly, Kara H. MS</td>
<td>Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Khey, David PhD</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
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<td>Kleinfielder, Deanna J. BS</td>
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<td>Latham, Kevin J. MS</td>
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<td>Leon, David A. BS</td>
<td>Jersey City, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucas, Kaylyn A. Whitehall,MT</td>
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<td>Milazzo, Kala R. MI</td>
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<td>Mount, Brandon L. MS</td>
<td>Talpa, TX</td>
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<td>Narowski, Joy C.</td>
<td>Cary, NC</td>
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<td>Ondek, Christine M., MS</td>
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<td>Richard, Mathew BS</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hazard, Durdica, MS</td>
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<td>Hogue, Anastasia M.</td>
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<td>Fort Myers, FL</td>
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<td>Bayfield, WI</td>
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<td>Johnson, Gretchen Z., MS</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
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<td>Great Falls, MT</td>
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<td>Kassem, Wael, MS</td>
<td>Commerce Township, MI</td>
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<td>Killborn, Zachary R., BS</td>
<td>Lubbock, TX</td>
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Swortwood, Madeleine J., BA
Miami, FL
Taylor-Smith, Aana C.
Greensboro, NC
Ucciardi, Robert
Brooklyn, NY
Willis, MacKenzie L., BS
Andrews, TX
Wilson, Melinda K., BS
Baltimore, MD

Do You Remember When?

Source: Kenneth S. Field, Academy Historian

1961...
...The 1961 Section Officers voiced their desire to assume operational control over their section activities via five changes to the Academy’s policies and procedures: 1) the sections should select the topics to be included in the What’s New publication; 2) they should have a voice in the selection of the theme for meetings; 3) the sections should be allowed to publish section newsletters; 4) the sections should be allowed to schedule activities while Academy-wide functions were being held; and, 5) the Academy should pay the honorarium for section speakers. The first three requests were granted but items four and five were “strongly disapproved.”

1971...
...The 1971 Annual Business Meeting experienced two firsts in the history of its election of officers: 1) for the first and only time, proxy voting was allowed; and, 2) a trio of members nominated from the floor defeated the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee. The proxy votes had to be allowed because the Bylaws did not address that matter (which they now specifically prohibit). The nomination of three individuals from the floor was an outgrowth of discussions by a group of members who felt that the incoming officers should not include proponents from either side of the controversial “inclusive-exclusive” issue. The three members elected were: Doug Lucas as President-Elect, Jim Weston as Secretary-Treasurer, and Don Harper Mills as Member-at-Large from the Jurisprudence Section. When first approached, Doug was not sure he wanted the job of President-Elect: “There were real doubts among the members that the Academy would survive 1971 let alone continue into the future.” As Alfred Lord Tennyson noted: “The old order changeth, yielding place to new.”

1981...
...At long last, the leadership of the AAFS voted to recommend to the membership that those individuals classified as “Members” be allowed to attend and to vote at section and Academy business meetings. This matter had been debated for many years but had never reached the parliamentary stage of a motion. The voting membership heartily approved the motion at the Annual Business Meeting in Los Angeles.
A Letter from the YFSF President
The 63rd AAFS Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching and we are all getting very excited. Registration is now open, which means you can register for the YFSF Special Session. The Special Session registration includes the day-long event on Tuesday, which also includes lunch, plus the YFSF Bring Your Own Posters on Tuesday evening, YFSF Bring Your Own Slides on Wednesday evening, and the YFSF Breakfast Session on Thursday morning. Space fills up quickly, so remember to register as soon as possible. The pre-registration deadline date is January 26. Also, there is no on-site registration for the Special Session and we don’t want you to miss out, register today and save your seat.

Not sure if you should register? Think you might be “too old” for the Young Forensic Scientist Forum? Don’t let the title “Young Forensic Scientists Forum” fool you. The “Young Forensic Scientists Forum” is simply a title for people who are new to the field of forensic science, who have five years of experience or less, and is not necessarily only for young people or people still in college. The YFSF is a great place to start networking and getting to know others in the profession. AAFS membership is not required to present at any of the YFSF events.

The Special Session Chair Jenna Oakes-Smith has been hard at work all year long creating a very exciting and diverse group of speakers who are all eager and excited to enrich the lives of young forensic scientists. If you have new and exciting research that you want to share and are looking for a pressure free way to present this material, then be sure to contact the Bring Your Own Slides Chair Martin Overly (martin.overly@mail.wvu.edu) or Bring Your Own Poster Co-Chair Taryn Mead (taryn.mead@sfgov.org). Do you want to have your CV reviewed by professionals in the field? Make sure you register and attend the Breakfast Session on Thursday.

At the end of the meeting we are always looking for new volunteers to help plan the next year’s events and we’d love to find a way to get you even more involved in the YFSF! Keep warm and we’ll see you in Chicago!

Tanisha Henson, BS
2011 YFSF President

Questions and Answers from the YFSF Secretary
1. Can I attend the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides and YFSF Bring Your Own Poster events even if I am not registered to attend the YFSF portions of the 2011 AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago?
Yes, please feel free to stop by the Bring Your Own Slides and the Bring Your Own Posters events. These events are open to all registered meeting attendees. It is a great opportunity to meet new people and see what your peers are doing so you will feel more comfortable presenting the following year.

2. I have never been to Chicago or to an AAFS meeting. How will I know where to go, and what am I supposed to wear?
You should try your best to stay at one of the hotels listed on the Academy of Forensic Sciences website pertaining to the 2011 Annual Meeting in Chicago (www.aafs.org/make-your-chicago-2011-hotel-reservations). The Hyatt Regency is the headquarter hotel where the meeting is being held. To find the conference location, which is where you will pick up your registration packet, simply ask for directions from either the front desk or one of the hundreds of people carrying an AAFS tote bag. Inside your meeting registration packet (i.e., tote bag), you will find a booklet containing a map of the meeting rooms and a time-table listing (similar to a tv guide) who is speaking when and the room where he or she will be speaking.

As for what to wear, business attire is best (e.g., no jeans, tennis shoes, flip flops, tee shirts, or low-cut tops). I have been to several professional

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Young Forensic Scientists Forum cont.

conferences, and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting contains the most formally and conservatively dressed attendees by far (please note that in this situation “formal” refers to a business suit and not a sequin ball-gown). Dress as if you were going to a job interview being held by a law firm rather than one being held by a coffee shop or hardware store. If you have never been to a formal job interview, then keep this in mind while packing: If the outfit would be inappropriate to wear into a courtroom, then leave the outfit at home. Please know that we are simply encouraging you to use your own discretion. If you have any questions as to whether or not something is appropriate, please do not hesitate to contact any of the members of the YFSF Program Committee. We will be happy to assist you!

Lauren Pharr, MA
YFSF Secretary

Financial Liaison
The YFSF relies on the support and contributions of the forensic community each year to make our Special Session a success. Events held at each meeting include a day-long scientific session, a working Breakfast Session, a Bring Your Own Slides presentation session, and a poster session. These sessions are critical in the professional development of young scientists trying to establish a solid foundation in the field of forensic science.

In the past we have received both monetary and educational support from AAFS sections, universities with FEPAC-accredited programs, and various forensic science vendors. We would like to thank our current sponsors who have pledged their support for the 2011 YFSF Special Session:

- AAFS Criminalistics Section
- AAFS General Section
- Laurentian University
- University of Alabama at Birmingham

It’s not too late! If you or your group is interested in providing support for the 2011 YFSF Special Session, whether through a financial contribution or donation of materials, please contact Jackie Jenkins at jjenkins71@gmail.com.

Jackie Jenkins, PhD, MSFS
YFSF Financial Liaison

YFSF Breakfast Session
Greetings from Mississippi!! With graduation right around the corner, many students wonder what it takes to become a professional within the forensics community. It takes dedication, responsibility, education, and the right demeanor. When you are interviewing for a job in the workforce, you must keep in mind that the first impression is what will stick with the interviewer. The attitude and eagerness are just a part of what will separate you from the rest of the applicants. Your education/experience and appearance are the rest. When you walk into an interview, how you look will be the first thing the interviewer will take into consideration.

Figuring out what to wear to an interview is kind of like getting ready for a first date. What do I wear? What shoes will match? Do I wear pants or a skirt? Button up dress shirt or tasteful blouse? It may sound silly, but you are trying to put the best foot forward as a job applicant.

Individuals who plan to attend the Breakfast Session will learn how professional attire, general appearance, and demeanor will affect his or her credibility and prospect of being hired at a laboratory or company. Our speakers will include Anjali Swienton, SciLawForensics; Robin Bowen, West Virginia University Forensic Science Initiative; Lucy Davis, Northeast Regional Forensic Institute (NERFI); and Susan Ballou, Office of Law Enforcement Standards.

This year’s breakfast session should be informative and lots of fun. It should give everyone a better idea on how to put a “professional face” to his or her résumé. We will also have a résumé review panel. The panel will be made up of professionals within the Academy. If you have any questions concerning the breakfast session or the résumé panel, email me at mdeberry@mcl.state.ms.us.

Melissa DeBerry
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

YFSF Special Session
The YFSF Special Session Chair Jenna Oakes-Smith and Co-Chair Amanda Kittoe are excitedly preparing for the 2011 YFSF Special Session. The YFSF Special Session is designed to orient scientists with five years experience or less to the ever changing, variegated field of forensic science. This year’s theme is “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Solving Crimes in Forensic Science.” The special session will involve a panel of speakers, each one representative of a different aspect of forensic science. The take-home message is that specialists within sub-disciplines work together to gather and process evidence to be presented in court.

The YFSF Special Session will take place on Tuesday, February 22. The morning begins with a word from AAFS President Joseph Bono on how to hold forensic science to scientific standards. AAFS Membership Coordinator Cheryl Hunter will delineate the procedures for becoming an AAFS member, and JFS Editor Michael Peat will outline the rules and regulations for publishing in the Journal of Forensic Sciences.

The morning will continue with a scientific presentation by Paul Kish who will describe the role that bloodstain pattern analysis plays in a death investigation. Trace chemist Kristine Olsson will explain how multidiscipline evidence flows through a laboratory. Mary Case will show how pathology is useful in solving crimes. The morning will conclude with FSF Emerging Scientist winner Jordan Brough as he discusses his method for identifying the software that was used to print a questioned inkjet document. The afternoon will begin with Steve Ousley, who will describe the holistic nature of physical anthropology. Forensic anthropologist and entomologist Maria Alaire and forensic odontologist Robert Barsley will review interesting case reports from death crime scenes. YFSF veteran Richard Vorder Bruegge will illustrate the benefits of biometric modalities to forensic science. The YFSF Special Session will conclude with retired District Attorney
Rockne Harmon discussing how effective collaboration is needed in the justice system to ensure appropriate outcomes.

Remember to pre-register by January 26. You can register at the AAFS website www.aafs.org/aafs-2011-annual-meeting. As you prepare for your stay in Chicago, consider sharing a room with a fellow young forensic scientist. If you need help finding a roommate, feel free to email Jenna Oakes-Smith (jloakes-smith@slmpd.org) or Amanda Kittoe (akittoe@gmail.com), and we will research roommate options for you. If we receive enough e-mails, we may be able to place interested students in direct contact with one another.

As always, please email any questions or comments to either Jenna Oakes-Smith (jloakes-smith@slmpd.org) or Amanda Kittoe (akittoe@gmail.com).

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides
The AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago is right around the corner. We have completed the selection process for this year’s YFSF Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) speakers and look forward to all of the interesting presentations. Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts this year!

As you plan which presentations to attend at the annual meeting, I hope you consider the YFSF BYOS. This session is open to all AAFS meeting attendees and will include a wide variety of forensic disciplines, so there is something for everyone. It will be informative and it will be fun! Be sure to stop by and support your fellow young forensic scientists on Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about this year’s YFSF BYOS session, feel free to contact us: Martin Overly (martin.overly@mail.wvu.edu) or Ali Mostrom (alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov). Can’t wait to see you in Chicago!

Martin Overly, MS  Ali Mostrom, MSFS
BYOS Chair  BYOS Co-Chair

YFSF Poster Session
We are still accepting submissions for the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session. The poster session, as part of the YFSF, provides new forensic scientists the opportunity to showcase their research or case studies during the annual American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting and to gain valuable exposure and feedback.

There is still time to sign up to attend the YFSF, as well as submit an abstract to the Poster Session. Each abstract can be a maximum of two pages in length with the following details: background information, hypothesis, methods, and results. We also require a current curriculum vita to be submitted with your abstract. All types of forensic research will be accepted. Space is limited, so please send your abstract in quickly!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Taryn Mead (taryn.mead@sfgov.org), because beginning January 1, 2011, Taryn will be the chair of the poster session.

Taryn Mead
BYOS Poster Session Chair

Stephanie M. Crider, MA  Taryn Mead
YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair  YFSF Poster Session Chair

Legislative Corner cont.

One argument that I’ve heard, in my mind, is pointless. I have heard some colleagues disparage the National Academy of Sciences Report and minimize the concerns voiced in the Report. To insist that the premier scientific body in the U.S. doesn’t know what it is talking about will not achieve the desired result. Neither the courts, Congress, nor the Administration will accept that contention. Perhaps there is an alternative way.

I personally have little doubt that pattern evidence (e.g., fingerprints, firearms, handwriting, footwear, tire impression evidence and all the other classes of evidence that have been criticized) offers valuable information and helps solve crimes. Part of the problem is that some experts may tend to overstate conclusions. But that is not the same as saying, for example, that fingerprints are not valuable nor are capable of identifying perpetrators. More research needs to be directed to demonstrate the strengths and limitations of these types of evidence. That is one way to silence detractors.

And testimony stating that there is a “zero error rate” or that two items of evidence “come from the unique source to the exclusion of any other” may not be readily accepted because it cannot be proven statistically at this time. Reports with conclusions using terms such as “consistent with,” “similar to,” or the “same” without a more detailed explanation of what those terms actually mean are also likely to be challenged. What does the expert witness mean by such statements? Rule §7.02 seems to beg such questions.

I’ve managed to cover a great deal of material in a short amount of space. I think you will agree that there are still many issues to be addressed.

Lastly, I would like to give a little plug to a panel Jay Siegel and I are participating in at the AAFS meeting with the Criminalistics and Jurisprudence Sections on Errors in Forensic Science. We’ve invited some very interesting speakers, and if you are available Thursday morning, please drop by.
Meetings & Conferences

JANUARY 2011
10-14
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course—Sponsored by Saint Louis University—To be held in St. Louis, MO
CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst or Julie Howe  
(314) 977-5970  
http://medschool.slu.edu/mldi/

17-18
The Body as a Crime Scene: Forensics and Cold Case Investigations Seminar—Presented by Dr Henry Lee with Dr Leah Bush and Richard Conway. To be held at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.  
CONTACT: http://ocpe.gmu.edu/forcoldcase.htm  
(703) 993-8335

17-21
Math and Physics of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis—To be held at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute in Doral, FL.  
CONTACT: Officer Phil Sanfilippo  
(305) 715-5028  
psanfilippo@mdpd.com

FEBRUARY 2011
20-21
2nd International Conference on Recent Advances in Forensic Sciences, Forensic Medicine & Toxicology—Organized by Indian Association of Medico-Legal Experts—To be held at the Hotel Reveria De Goa in Ximer, Arpora, India.  
CONTACT: www.iamleconfs.in

13-17
DNA Mixture Interpretation Workshop—Sponsored by NIJ. This is a free 3-day workshop for public US Crime Laboratories—To be held in Clearwater, FL.  
CONTACT: www.nfsrc.org/meetings

21-25
Basic Facial Reconstruction Sculpture—To be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.  
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Gatliff  
(405) 321-8706  
www.sculpture.outreach.ou.edu

21-25
Forensic Human Identification Course—Hosted by the Queen Mary’s School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of London.  
CONTACT: Professor Peter Vanezis  
+44(0)20 7882 3401  
Cameron-forensics@qmul.ac.uk

MARCH 2011
14-18
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course—Sponsored by Saint Louis University—To be held in St. Louis, MO  
CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst or Julie Howe  
(314) 977-5970  
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28- Apr. 1
Advance Facial Reconstruction Sculpture—To be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.  
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Gatliff  
(405) 321-8706  
www.sculpture.outreach.ou.edu

30-Apr. 1
4th Annual Forensic Investigations—Sponsored by Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City—To be held at the Marriott Hotel in Kansas City, MO.  
CONTACT: Connie Brogan, RN  
(816) 617-7892  
nurseline@saint-lukes.org  
www.saintlukeshealthsystem.org/forensic

APRIL 2011
14-16
2011 SAFDE Annual Meeting—Sponsored by the Duluth Police Department—To be held in Duluth (Atlanta), GA.  
CONTACT: Donald.moryan@us.army.mil  
(404) 469-7045  
www.safde.org

National and International meetings of interest to forensic scientists are included as space permits. For a complete list, go to the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) and click on the “Meetings” link.
May 2011

9-13
Detection, Recovery and Examination of Footwear Impression Evidence—Hosted by the Fort Collins, Colorado Police Department
CONTACT: wbodziak@earthlink.net
www.bodziak.com

Detection and Recovery of Human Remains—To be held at Chaminade University in Honolulu, HI.
CONTACT: M Lee Goff
(808) 440-4209
lgoff@chaminade.edu

12-14
55th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry—To be held in Honolulu, HI.
CONTACT: American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry
(888) 691-8281
Fax: (860) 286-0787
info@aapdp.org
www.aapdp.org

May 30-Jun 3
Field Methods in Forensic Anthropology—To be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN.
CONTACT: Rebecca Taylor
fac@utk.edu
(865) 974-4408
http://web.utk.edu/~fac/

June 2011

6-10
Outdoor Recovery Course—To be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN.
CONTACT: Rebecca Taylor
fac@utk.edu
(865) 974-4408
http://web.utk.edu/~fac/

20-24
7th ISABS Conference in Forensic, Anthropologic and Medical Genetics—To be held in the Town of Bol, Island of Brac in Croatia.
CONTACT: vskaro@genos.hr or info@isabs.hr
www.isabs.hr

22-24
38th Annual Florida Association of Medical Examiners Educational Conference—Jointly Sponsored by the District 15 MEO and the University of Florida College of Medicine—To be held at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.
CONTACT: http://maples-center.ufl.edu
www.fameonline.org

July 2011

11-15
Inter/Micro: 62nd Annual Applied Microscopy Conference—Hosted by the McCrone Research Institute. To be held in Chicago, IL—Titles & Abstracts due by April 15, 2011.
CONTACT: Therese Newman
intermicro@mcri.org
(312) 842-7100
Fax: 312-842-1078
www.mcri.org

11-16
Forensic Anthropology—Sponsored by the University of Northern Colorado and the Southern Institute of Forensic Science—To be held in New Orleans, LA.
CONTACT: Office of Extended Studies
University of Northern CO
(800) 232-1749
esinfo@unco.edu or
Edward B. Waldrip, PhD
edwaldrip@msn.com

18-23
Fragmentary Osteology, Bone Trauma and Basic Bone Pathology—Sponsored by the University of Northern Colorado and the Southern Institute of Forensic Science—To be held in New Orleans, LA.
CONTACT: Office of Extended Studies
University of Northern CO
(800) 232-1749
esinfo@unco.edu or
Edward B. Waldrip, PhD
edwaldrip@msn.com

25-28
Masters 14 Conference for Advanced Death Investigation—Sponsored by Saint Louis University School of Medicine. To be held in St. Louis, MO.
CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst or Julie Howe
(314) 977-5970
http://medschool.slu.edu/masters

25-30
Techniques in Facial Reconstruction—Sponsored by the University of Northern Colorado and the Southern Institute of Forensic Science—To be held in New Orleans, LA.
CONTACT: Office of Extended Studies
University of Northern CO
(800) 232-1749
esinfo@unco.edu or
Edward B. Waldrip, PhD
edwaldrip@msn.com
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 21-26, 2011, in Chicago, IL.

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: http://www.aafs.org

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 2011 Annual Meeting registration packet. Please detach form and return to AAFS. Thank you.

Your name: ________________________________________________________________________________