As I prepare for my trip to Israel, I realize how much work has been accomplished by the Board of Directors, the Ethics Committee, the Long Term Planning Committee, and three ad hoc committees on “Policy Making,” “Biological Tissue Retention,” and “Milestones.” I am very grateful for the devotion and expertise provided by my colleagues.

I am pleased to report that a few weeks ago the Board of Directors approved the Digital and Multimedia Section proposal. There is still much work to be done before the membership of the Academy will be given the opportunity to vote for the creation of the new section, including a thorough review of the proposed section’s policies and procedures by the Executive Committee.

In addition, the Ethics Committee and Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC) completed their review of the Academy’s Code of Ethics and the policies and procedures associated with its administration. Under the direction of Doug Lucas (Criminalistics) and Haskell Pituck (Jurisprudence), the joint committee has developed a number of recommendations for the Board’s consideration including an update of the Code of Ethics, Bylaws, and the AAFS Policy and Procedure Manual for the purpose of clarification or to accommodate recommended policy and procedural changes. An upcoming article in Academy News will detail the proposed changes including bylaws revisions.

As mentioned above, an ad hoc Committee on Policy Making was formed in response to the Board’s desire to establish policy on specific issues of importance to the forensic science community. The Committee, chaired by Betty Layne DesPortes (Jurisprudence) prepared an extensive report for consideration by the Board of Directors. Because of its far-reaching implications, the Board recently referred the report to the LTPC for study before it is discussed at the February Board meeting. Feel free to contact LTPC Committee Chair Jim Young (General) to discuss this important issue.

Related to the issue of Policy Making, the ad hoc Committee on Biological Specimen Retention, chaired by Tracey Corey (Pathology/Biology), prepared the following position statement:

“The Board of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) adopts the position that due to the legitimate public safety interest in establishing cause and manner of death and identity of the individual; the impossibility of retaining and preserving all the matter that constituted the individual in life; the chemical and biological hazards associated with handling, storage and transportation of tissue and biological waste; and the impossible administrative burden of reintegrating all samples of blood and tissue following a death investigation; that while the corporeal remains of the deceased must be returned to the family upon conclusion of a death investigation, that biological specimens retrieved for analysis during the investigation, or required for identification of the individual, should be properly disposed of at the professional discretion of the forensic specialists involved.

While the AAFS recognizes and respects the rights of the next-of-kin of the decedent, these rights should not be allowed to extend to biological specimens collected for the legitimate investigation of cause and manner of death, and establishment of identity.”

While the Academy has no formal procedure on policy making, the Board agreed that the issues of the class-action suit against coroners and/or medical examiners in the State of Ohio are significant to those engaged in medicolegal death investigation, including pathologists, toxicologists, criminalists, anthropologists, and odontologists, and must be addressed in a timely fashion. The above draft policy was also referred to the LTPC for continued study before discussion at the February Board of Directors meeting. Please direct your comments to LTPC Chair Jim Young.

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Future Annual Meeting Dates

February 18-23, 2008
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, DC

February 16-21, 2009
Denver Convention Center
Denver, CO

February 22-27, 2010
Washington State Convention & Trade Center
Seattle, WA

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Academy News
The Consortium held its Fourth Annual Tech Fair on Capitol Hill on May 22, 2007. Senator Jeff Session (R-AL) sponsored the event and has done so from the start. A group of forensic vendors exhibited and we had about 100 staffers stop by to visit. “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” and CBS sent one of the show’s actors, Wally Langham. Wally was a great addition to the CFSO and helped keep the level of interest high.

Present at the Tech Fair were AAFS President Bruce Goldberger, Jamie Downs (NAME), Pete Marone (ASCLD/LAB), Ben Perillo (FQS), Bill Marbaker and Earl Wells (ASCLD), and CFSO lobbyist Beth Lavach.

While in Washington, we had the chance to meet with a member from Senator Barbara Mikulski’s (D-MD) office. Senator Mikulski is chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies of the Appropriations Committee. This is a major contact we have made. A couple of months before AAFS Past President Yale Caplan organized a forensic science delegation of Maryland forensic labs to visit Sen. Mikulski’s office to press the need for more funding, not only for her state but of the entire country. As a result we now have a powerful ally on this important committee.

The following day those of us who remained in Washington had the chance to meet with Senator Joe Biden (D-DE). Senator Biden is chair of the Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs of the Judiciary Committee. We presented Senator Biden our annual “Friends of Forensic Science” award and we had a good discussion with him on the importance of forensic science to the criminal justice system.

The message we have carried from the beginning of our advocacy efforts has been the same: Forensic science is a critical component of the justice system and federal funding is essential for all areas of forensic science to enable us to do our jobs well. The message seemed to resonate well with the members we spoke with.

A day before the tech fair a few of us were present at a meeting set up by Beth Lavach with some members of the Department of Defense. While it is too early to give any details, it is clear the DoD is interested in some form of collaboration with State and local forensic agencies.

continued on page 4

Barry A.J. Fisher, MS, MBA
The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations has become an important player in forensic science issues in Washington, DC. We expect the alliance we have made over the years with both members of Congress and staffers to continue to bear fruit in our efforts to provide more funding to forensic science.

Senator Sessions taking time away from his duties on the Senator floor to meet with CSFO members and to express his support for the forensic sciences.

While on a tour of the Capitol, CFSO members pose for a group photo in the Rotunda.

IAFS 2008 Meeting Update and Call For Papers

Source: Ronald L. Singer, MS, IAFS President

The 18th Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences is fast approaching - July 21-26, 2008, at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana, on the edge of the historic French Quarter. If you haven’t visited our website, www.iafs2008.com, lately, please take a look. A call for papers has been posted, and now is the time to sign up to present a paper, poster, or workshop proposal. Even though the deadline may seem far off, don’t delay - do it now.

IAFS will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee at this meeting, making it a rare opportunity for you to be a part of IAFS history. Founded in 1957, this will be only the fourth time that the meeting has been held in the United States. IAFS brings together forensic scientists from the world over to exchange scientific and technical information. Because the meeting sites rotate throughout the world, many of the attendees are forensic scientists who do not attend the AAFS annual scientific meetings, meaning that you will have an opportunity to make presentations to a different audience.

I know that many of you are concerned about the state of repair, or lack thereof, of New Orleans. Let me assure you that despite rumors to the contrary, the French Quarter is as vibrant as it was before Katrina. All of the world famous restaurants and clubs are open and operating, the food and music are as good as they ever were and the facilities at the Marriott Hotel are better than ever. Located at the foot of Canal Street, the hotel is literally steps from the food, sounds, and sights of it all. While the rebuilding of the city continues, the French Quarter remains unaffected. The only way that a visitor to IAFS 2008 will see the much ballyhooed devastation to the city is if they take one of the many tours now being offered. Otherwise, plan to come and have the time of your life - “laissez les bon temps roulez!”
President’s Message cont.

Finally, under the direction of Carla Noziglia (Criminalistics), the Forensic Science Disciplines Milestones Committee has been compiling noteworthy forensic milestones in your respective sections. It is important that we complete this project by the Fall so we may showcase our accomplishments in Washington, DC, next February.

I appreciate the importance of the Board actions reported in this column and will continue to relay these to you in a transparent, timely, and detailed fashion. As you may expect, many of these actions will result in proposed changes to the AAFS Bylaws and the AAFS Policy and Procedure Manual. Your input is needed and always appreciated. If you have any concerns or comments, please e-mail me at bruce-goldberger@ufl.edu.

AAFS Staff Updates

The Academy office is pleased to announce that Kimberly Wrasse, former Membership Coordinator, is now serving in the capacity of Executive Assistant. Kimberly has been with the Academy staff since 1998. In her new role, Kimberly will serve as Executive Assistant to Executive Director Anne Warren and Director of Development & Accreditation Jim Hurley. She will continue to serve as the Board Registrar for both the ABFO and ABFT, as well as the Continuing Education Coordinator.

Filling Kimberly’s shoes as Membership Coordinator is Cheryl Hunter. Cheryl joined the Academy staff in August 2006 as Membership Assistant when she moved to Colorado from California. She survived her first blustery Colorado winter and has decided to stay! Cheryl has proven herself as a fast learner and is eager to assume the main membership role.

Congratulations to both Kimberly and Cheryl!!

2007 Directory Updates

Please note the following changes to the 2007 AAFS Directory of Members and Affiliates:

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In Memoriam

Edgar Kivela, PhD, Retired Fellow of the Toxicology Section, February 2007.
AAFS 2008 Italy Tour
As of the Academy News deadline (June 1) for this issue, I had received requests from 28 AAFS members to place their names, along with 26 spouses, on the list for the AAFS 2008 Italy Tour. Quick arithmetic shows that we already have 54 persons wishing to participate in next year’s June 6-15 AAFS international travel. This initial show of interest presents a dilemma for President-Elect Carol Henderson and me, albeit a “good dilemma.” I noted in the May-June 2007 “Planning & Development” article, “spaces are going quickly”; now, I must add that spaces are “going, going, gone.” Carol and I will do our best to accommodate as many Academy members as possible and still maintain a first-class tour for all; however, we will have to close applications at 60 persons. Please monitor the AAFS web site for further information regarding the AAFS 2008 Italy Tour package (schedule, price, and application) and contact me immediately if you wish to be included.

FEPAC
The Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission met in Colorado Springs on May 19 & 20. A summary of the Minutes of that meeting, as well as summaries of all FEPAC meetings, has been posted to the AAFS web site at the FEPAC link. Aside from one evening’s small reception that my wife and I hosted at our home, commissioners “kept their noses to the grindstone” as they dealt with a lengthy, comprehensive agenda.

Two major items were brought to the table for review and evaluation: the selection of evaluation teams to make site visits between September 15 and October 15 to the four applicant universities, and, a five-year extensive review of FEPAC Standards and Policies & Procedures. Calls for Comment relating to substantive changes to the aforementioned documents will be posted in mid-July to the AAFS web site and disseminated among the many FEPAC constituencies. Other documents relating to the accreditation process, specifically, the FEPAC On-Site Training Manual, Institutional Self-Study, the Guide to the Self-Study, and the Clarification of Standards, were sent to committees for revision; these updated documents will be available at the FEPAC web link by September 15, 2007.

Four programs will be reviewed this year: Bachelors of Science in Forensic Science degrees at Fairmont State University (WV), University of New Haven (CT), and the University of North Texas, and the Master of Science in Forensic Science degree at Oklahoma State University (Tulsa).

Currently 16 programs (14 institutions) are FEPAC accredited; specifics about the programs, degrees and accreditation status are available on the AAFS web at the link “Resources” and then “Colleges & Universities.”

The FEPAC winter meeting will take place on Monday, February 18, 2008 at the AAFS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Commissioners will conduct the On-Site Training Session on Tuesday, February 19.
Forensic Science Educational Conference
Virginia Commonwealth University is the site for the FSEC/VCU that takes place on July 19-21. William B. Eggleston, PhD, Chair of the Department of Forensic Science, has worked tirelessly in securing materials and contributions from a goodly number of vendors who exhibit at the AAFS Annual Meetings for both his event and the conference that took place in June at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Under Bill's guidance and direction over the past several months, the FSEC/VCU steering committee has put together an excellent conference schedule. The latest draft follows:

Thursday, July 19, 2007
8:00-8:30 a.m. Welcome
Bruce Goldberger, AAFS President
Peter Marone, Director, VA Department of Forensic Science (VA DFS)
William Eggleston, Chair, VCU Dept. of Forensic Science (VCU FRSC)
8:45-9:20 a.m. Forensic Science & CSI: Reel vs. Real
Marilyn Miller, AAFS, Associate Professor, VCU FRS
9:30-12:30 a.m. Lab Exercises/Breakouts
Four Rotating Groups – Hands-On Lab Experiences/Activities
Blood Stains Peter Marone
Forensic Toxicology Bruce Goldberger
Questioned Documents Richard Horton
Vehicle Lamps Anne Davis, VA DFS
12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch
Forensics in the Classroom, Court TV®
1:40-2:30 p.m. Law, Litigation, and Admissibility
Kenneth Melson
2:30-4:20 p.m. Lab Exercises/Breakouts
Four Rotating Groups – Hands-On Lab Experiences/Activities
Fingerprints Samantha Glass
Drugs Linda Jackson
4:30-5:20 p.m. Forensic Toxicology
Alphonse Poklis
5:40-7:30 p.m. Humanities & Sciences Reception

Friday, July 20, 2007
8:15-9:15 a.m. Forensic Anthropology
Doug Ubelaker
9:30-10:30 a.m. Forensic Odontology
Brion Smith
10:45-11:45 a.m. Forensic Entomology
Wayne Lord
12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch
Context in Forensic Science
Jay Siegel
1:15-2:10 p.m. Forensic Biology-Serology & DNA
Tracey Dawson Cruz
2:15-5:45 p.m. Lab Exercises/Breakouts
Forensic Biology - Four Rotating Groups
DNA/Serology Katherine Butler

Periodically, I include essays that accompany teacher applications which re-affirm why the forensic science conferences for teachers have such merit. The following, written by Ms. Roxanne Kuerschner, a science teacher at Waconia High School (MN), is truly representative of so many of the essays that come to me and does indeed justify continued commitment to this AAFS outreach initiative:

"I am fortunate to belong to a district that values science. In the last 5 years, my department has added 10 new science courses to our list of science options for our students. We were approved to add a Forensics I and a Forensics II for the 2007-2008 school year. We expected interest in the course, but when over 200 students (almost ¼ of the student body) registered for the courses, we were flabbergasted!

"Planning a new course can be daunting, especially when you are starting literally from scratch. I was incredibly excited when I was searching the Internet for some ideas for the Forensics course and I stumbled upon the website for the AAFS and the opportunity to attend the workshop at Hamline University. It could not have come at a better time. I cannot think of a better subject to utilize scientific principles than forensics. The scientific method is definitely the overriding factor in all of the investigations that I have been looking at for the course, as well as in the courses that I currently teach. I am hoping to go to the conference and learn how to best present the material to the students, as well as to get some ideas for what to present, as the field of forensics is quite large, and I am limited to thirteen weeks with my students.

"It is my hope that throughout the course, the students will become better thinkers, that they will be able to observe, hypothesize and then set up test situations to investigate their ideas. The utilization of scientific principles will definitely be the backbone of this course. I hope to be able to develop innovative and challenging curricula for my students, keeping in mind the budget of a high school.

"Simply put, I need help creating the best program for my students. I see this conference as providing answers for the questions I have regarding planning a new course that has a high student interest. I want my students to appreciate what science can accomplish by the time they are done with the forensics course."
While poking through the library the other day for a project, I came across an old Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) report from 1968 ("Crime Laboratories—Three Study Reports") that addressed educational criteria for forensic science. On page 71 of that report, the study notes that,

the number of trained criminalists graduating from universities in the United States is far too small to meet even present day needs, without considering the needs of expansion. To implement the increased development of existing laboratories, the creation of new regional laboratories and the conversion of some present laboratories into regional laboratories would require a tenfold increase in the number of qualified professional criminalists or forensic scientists available for service in these laboratories. In order to provide for personnel needs of present laboratories and the personnel needs of proposed laboratories, universities or colleges should set up programs in criminalistics (forensic science) sufficient to graduate 300 criminalists a year for a period of ten years.

Doing the math, that would be 3,000 forensic graduates from 1968 to 1978. Considering the number of "forensic" academic programs then, that was a tall order. By comparison, the current 16 FEPAC-accredited programs expect to graduate 223 students in 2007. It is interesting that, if 300 per year were needed in 1968 and 223 are produced in 2007, laboratory directors are still concerned about “where all those graduates will work.” The answer lies in the curriculum.

The 1968 report offered this suggested curriculum (with credits) for an undergraduate program:

- College chemistry with laboratory: 10
- Quantitative inorganic analysis: 3
- Organic chemistry: 6
- Biochemistry: 3
- Physical chemistry: 6
- Instrumental chemistry: 3
- Internship: 12
- Social and behavioral science: 12
- Mathematics (including calculus): 8
- Human biology: 8
- General physics: 8
- Introduction to law and order: 3
- Law and criminal process: 3
- Investigative process: 3
- Introduction to criminalistics: 3
- The crime laboratory: 3
- Liberal arts and general education: 30
- Total credits: 128

In general, the program compares favorably with the FEPAC Standards, with some obvious updates (see FEPAC Standards at www.aafs.com). Additionally, the following provides the curriculum for a Master’s degree program suggested by the report compared with FEPAC’s requirements (FEPAC does not specify credit hours per topic):

**LEAA Study**

- Research methodology: 2-4
- Advanced criminalistics: 5-10
- Advanced administration of justice: 3-5
- Electives in pure science: 5
- Research thesis: 4-8
- Total credits: 19-32

**FEPAC**

- Crime scene investigation
- Physical evidence concepts
- Law/science interface
- Ethics and professional responsibilities
- Quality assurance
- Analytical chemistry
- Drug chemistry/toxicology
- Microscopy and materials analysis
- Forensic biology
- Pattern evidence

Max M. Houck, MA
FEPAC Chair
Two things to consider when reading the list: First, how much is different—remember this is roughly 20 years before forensic DNA methods, so specific classes are missing (genetics, for example). This reflects the advancement of forensic science and its sibling disciplines.

Second, I find it interesting how much is the same in what FEPAC requires in its standards, if we lump some of the FEPAC topics into the LEAA groups, as an academic exercise:

**Advanced Criminalistics/Electives in pure science (10-15 credits)**
- Crime scene investigation
- Physical evidence concepts
- Drug chemistry/toxicology
- Microscopy and materials analysis
- Forensic biology
- Pattern evidence

**Advanced administration of justice (3-5 credits)**
- Law/science interface
- Ethics and professional responsibilities
- Quality assurance

With the rest of the credits going towards the research, the 1968 curriculum looks like many current accredited graduate programs. What this tells me is that, as a discipline, we’ve known all along what an acceptable forensic science program looks like but have not been able to make it happen in a formal sense.

Back to the concern of where the current crops of graduates will work: FEPAC forensic science undergraduate programs are not vocational degrees; they reflect the education necessary for a career in science, broadly. Students at West Virginia University, and other institutions, but I’ll only speak for my university, are accepted into medical school, dental school, law school, business school, public administration, and graduate studies in the sciences—as well as positions as forensic scientists and law enforcement agents. To my mind, this is the key: A FEPAC accredited curriculum prepares students to apply their education to either the law or to the sciences, as befits a proper forensic science degree. As a discipline, we should worry less about “all those graduates” and more about the quality of the programs from which they come.

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**AAFS Chronicles — Do You Remember When?**

Source: Ken Field, Academy Historian

In 1947...

... Dr. Gradwohl, often referred to as the “Founder” of the Academy, was a busy man. Besides being Director of Research for the St. Louis Police Department, he and his friend Dr. Castellanos, Director of the Cuban National Bureau of Identification, were planning to co-sponsor a multidisciplinary conference for all the disciplines of the forensic sciences with the title, “First Pan American Medicolegal Conference” (later the ‘Pan’ was dropped). Because the conference would be held in St. Louis, Dr. Gradwohl assumed the task of organizing the meeting and its program to include providing funds for planning meetings. Assisting him with that Herculean task were his good friends Dr. Sidney Kaye and Orville Richardson.

In 1957...

... at its mid-year meeting, the Executive Committee approved a motion to investigate the desirability of creating “a foundation so that income tax deductible gifts could be accepted.” Twelve years later the Forensic Sciences Foundation was created. Twelve years?!

In 1967...

... the Academy’s annual meeting, held in Honolulu, was well received by the 250 attendees and for good reason. The “Convention Package” of $342 per person included air travel from the West Coast, five nights accommodations at a four-star hotel, a flower lei, daily sightseeing trips, a President’s Reception, three banquets (one of which was at the famed Royal Hawaiian Hotel), a luncheon, and a cocktail party.

In 1977...

... the AAFS membership approved the first AAFS Code of Ethics and Guiding Principles. The two major provisions of that code were:

1. Every member of the AAFS shall avoid any material misrepresentation of training, experience, or area of expertise; and
2. Every member of the AAFS shall avoid any material misrepresentation of data upon which an expert opinion or conclusion is based.

In 1987...

... Past AAFS President Don Harper Mills regaled the Awards Banquet at the AAFS annual meeting with his fictional story about Ronald Opus, the young man who jumped from a building intending suicide, only to be killed by a shotgun blast on the way down. In 1994, the story surfaced on the Internet and has been circulating ever since, always with attribution to Dr. Mills and to the AAFS. Thinking the story was true, NBC’s ‘Homicide, Life on the Street’ turned it into a television episode airing on January 16, 1998, but without consent or attribution to Dr. Mills or to the AAFS. Dr. Mills complained to NBC and, after investigation, the original tape was amended with an end credit to Don Harper Mills and to the AAFS. NBC donated a sum of money to the AAFS, who in turn contributed it to the Forensic Sciences Foundation Endowment Fund.
A Word From Your 2008 Program Co-Chair

I hope everyone has marked their calendars for February 18 – 23, 2008, for the 60th Anniversary Meeting of AAFS. Washington, DC is our host city, and a wonderful venue for an AAFS conference. The Marriott Wardman Park is a world class conference hotel close to the center of Government. It is adjacent to a Metrorail Underground station that will take you all over the Capital to the city’s sights, museums, and entertainment venues. As the center of our national Government it is a great opportunity to showcase Forensic Science and its successes, and the huge contribution we make to civil society and justice. In light of the venue, President Bruce Goldberger has selected as a meeting theme The Forensic Sciences - An International Treasure. This theme reflects the value that our profession brings to ensuring justice nationally and internationally, and the need to tell positive stories about all that forensic science has, and can accomplish with the right resources.

Keynote Session Chair Tracey Corey is planning an opening session featuring some of the leading Congressional supporters of forensic science to set the tone for the meeting.

With this foundation, your 2008 Program Committee has been working hard on soliciting the workshops, breakfast seminars, luncheons, papers, and special sessions that make the AAFS annual conference the memorable and professionally enriching event it always is. The annual meeting is always as good as the effort, ingenuity, and hard work that the members of our ten sections put in, so we’re eagerly awaiting your abstracts and suggestions. Many of the sections are working together on joint scientific sessions, which is especially exciting.

The deadline for submission of abstracts for the section programs and various special sessions is August 1, 2007. This leaves you only a few weeks to put together your submissions, contact speakers, and develop topic areas within your programs. You should be in contact with your Section Program Chairs regarding your ideas for those workshops, luncheons, and breakfast sessions. All submissions may be done online (www.aafs.org). See page 11 of this issue of Academy News for more detailed directions on how the online submission process works.

Program Co-Chair Cynthia Windsor and I anticipate yet another diverse, educational, and informative annual meeting that will build on the successes of those past. Presentations that relate to the central meeting theme are especially welcomed. Mark your calendar for August 1 and please make sure you get your abstracts submitted on time. With a meeting as busy and professionally run as ours, this is a firm deadline. We look forward to seeing you all in our Nation’s capital next February - an exceptional environment to see old friends, make new acquaintances, and advance our profession.
Academy-Wide Breakfast Seminars

Presentations for the Academy-wide breakfast seminars to be conducted during the 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, are being solicited by Breakfast Seminars Chair Carl McClary. Because of the popularity of these programs, topics will undergo a careful review and selection process. Please ensure that abstracts are received on time in order to be considered. All abstracts must be submitted to the AAFS office by the August 1 deadline. Please call Carl at (404) 417-2706, or email: carl.mcclary@atf.gov with your ideas or questions.

Workshop Reminder

The deadline to submit a proposal for a workshop at the Academy's 60th Anniversary Meeting in Washington, DC is August 1, 2007. All proposals must be submitted online. Submission of abstracts, workshops, and special sessions has been combined this year. To submit a workshop proposal follow the link that says: “Click HERE to submit your 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting Abstract online.”

You can download a Special Sessions User Guide from the AAFS website to guide you through the process. The proposal and all supporting documents must be submitted online by the August 1 deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Workshop Chair Sarah Kerrigan (sarah.kerrigan@earthlink.net) or Co-Chair Bradley Adams (badams@ocme.nyc.gov).

ABSTRACT FORM AVAILABLE TO SUBMIT ONLINE

The Call for Papers deadline is fast approaching! Do you have an interesting and educational topic to present at the AAFS 60th Anniversary Meeting, February 18-23, 2008, in Washington, DC? The deadline for submission of all abstracts is August 1, 2007. Please submit your abstracts now and keep in mind the meeting theme, “The Forensic Sciences - An International Treasure.” The AAFS Call for Papers form may be found on pages 19-22 of this issue of Academy News. HOWEVER, did you know you may also submit an abstract online? The online process is faster, easier, and provides immediate feedback from the AAFS office.

What are the requirements? Only that you have an email address to receive your password and future communications from AAFS headquarters.

What are the advantages? You will receive immediate confirmation of receipt of your abstract, the assurance that your paper has been received at the AAFS headquarters, and best of all, access to your abstract for updating.

Remember, the deadline for receiving your abstract is August 1, so have your abstract and curriculum vitae ready to attach and send electronically. Visit the AAFS website at www.aafs.org, and follow the link to “Submit Your 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting Abstract Online.”

AAFS Member Instructions:
Members will begin the access People Web by logging in to their People Web user account. Before proceeding to the Program Submission site, be sure to add your current CV by selecting Edit in the Personal Information area. You will able to upload a CV to be stored in your member file. Once done, select Save at the bottom of the screen and then the first tab at the top of the page - Home. The Program Submission button will be located on the user Home Page. Clicking the Program Submission button will advance the user through the submission wizard. Although instructions are available on each page, the system is fairly self-explanatory in that a user cannot proceed without entering all of the required information.

Non-Member Instructions:
Non-Members should register to use the AAFS People Web System. Before proceeding to the Program Submission site, be sure to add your current CV by selecting Edit in the Personal Information area. You will able to upload a CV to be stored in your user file. Once done, select Save at the bottom of the screen and then the first tab at the top of the page - Home. The Program Submission button will be located on the user Home Page. Clicking the Program Submission button will advance the user through the submission wizard. Although instructions are available on each page, the system is fairly self-explanatory in that a user cannot proceed without entering all of the required information.
Summer is upon us and the set-in-stone August 1st deadline for submitting your abstracts for the 2008 meeting is fast approaching. Don’t be caught scrambling at the last minute. Put that abstract together BEFORE you hit the beach for vacation and send it in. The online system is up and running and ready to accept all your thought-provoking ideas. The theme of this year’s meeting is *The Forensic Sciences - An International Treasure*, and it promises to be exciting. In place of the plenary session, Tracey Corey is working on putting together a special panel of local DC government and other officials for a Keynote Session Wednesday morning. We expect a record turnout and a correspondingly large number of abstract submissions. Please plan your travels to include attending the Saturday scientific sessions to support your colleagues.

Section Program Chair Anjali Swienton and Co-Chair Matt Wood have been busily soliciting moderators for the meeting, but can always use more. If you are interested in moderating for the section please contact Anjali via email at aswienton@scilawforensics.com, or via telephone at (301) 528-5050. Remember, if you are up for promotion to Member or to Fellow, moderating counts towards your promotion requirements.

Volunteers are always needed at the AAFS annual meetings. Everyone is encouraged to pass along the reminder that signing up to volunteer at the meeting gets non-AAFS members free registration to the meeting. Please make sure your colleagues at your laboratory, University, or other institution who may be interested in joining AAFS, but are not yet members, are aware of this fantastic opportunity. Forms will be available online late fall, but to apply early, contact Pat Tolle at AAFS at ptolle@aafs.org. She can provide you a copy of the form which you can submit directly back to her. These positions are filled on a first-come-first-served basis and go quickly, so apply early!

Lastly, if you are looking for additional ways to become more active within the Academy and specifically within the Criminalistics Section, here’s your chance. Did you know that there are several committees in the Criminalistics Section that haven’t been active lately? We’re changing all that this year and resurrecting these standing committees. There are spots on the Milestones, Regional Associations, Nomination, and Membership Committees. If you are interested in serving please contact Section Chair Lucy Davis Houck at ldhouck4n6@gmail.com. Have a great summer and don’t forget the SPF!

Most of us have fond memories of the successful meeting in San Antonio. A number of sessions drew enormous interest and had standing room only. We hope that next year’s meeting in Washington, DC, will prove to be even grander!

We are assembling an exciting program. The Accident Reconstruction sessions are expected to span at least a full day of diverse and engaging presentations covering a range of topics likely including seat belt webbing and buckle testing that supplements the data available to the
forensic community. Sessions covering biomechanics, walkway safety, fire, electrical, and mechanical issues are anticipated. An all day joint session dealing with Sick Buildings and Toxic Mold is planned. Don’t forget to submit your abstracts by the August 1 deadline. Last year several presenters who missed the deadline were disappointed when their papers were turned away.

This year the following individuals will assist in reviewing the submitted papers: Mark Marpet - Walkway Safety, Laura Liptai - Biomechanics, Walter Goldstein - Environmental, Peter and Helmut Brosz - Electrical, and Zeno Gerads - Digital Evidence. Section Program Chair Kurt Weiss will assume responsibility for the Accident Reconstruction papers.

The Marriott Wardman Park is located north of the White House and National Mall, but close by is the Smithsonian National Zoological Park. Our nation’s historic roots run deep, and this annual meeting is not to be missed. Looking forward to seeing you all in attendance next year.

GENERAL

Source: Robert C. Gaffney, MFS, MBA, Section Secretary

General Section Program Chair Joanna Collins (Joanna.1.collins@gmail.com) and Co-Chair Ron Meyers (Ronald.meyer@us.army.mil) remind section members to be working on abstracts for paper presentations for the upcoming annual meeting in Washington, DC. You have less than a month to make the August 1st deadline. Presenting at the annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to present your research and/or an interesting case study to your peers. The success of our scientific session is dependent upon our members’ willingness to share their knowledge, experience, and research findings.

If your topic requires more time than typically allowed for an oral paper or poster presentation, consider proposing a workshop. The Workshops Chair is Sarah Kerrigan (sarah.kerrigan@earthlink.net).

General Section Student Scholarship

The General Section Scholarship Committee is offering two (2) $500 Scholarships to be awarded annually. Applicants must be an immediate family member, defined as a spouse or dependent child, of a General Section Fellow or full Member, who is enrolled full-time in a nationally-accredited college or university, with a declared major in a discipline that is accepted by the General Section for membership. If you and your “student” fit these criteria, consider contacting General Section Scholarship Chair Steve Gilbert (gilberts@canton.edu) for a scholarship submission form, which includes the submission of a paper. Keep in mind the deadline for applications and papers for the Scholarships is December 31, 2007.

JURISPRUDENCE

Source: Joseph J. Maltese, JD, Section Secretary

Congratulations to Kenneth Melson, AAFS Past President and former Jurisprudence Section Chair, on his appointment as the Director of the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA) at the U.S. Department of Justice. The EOUSA provides administrative oversight to the 94 U.S. Attorneys’ offices across the nation and also serves as a liaison between the various U.S. Attorneys’ offices and other federal agencies.

continued on page 14
Ken has served as the First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia since June, 1986 and will leave that post to take over as the Director of U.S. Attorneys throughout the nation. Ken has been a career prosecutor with a distinguished background in the law and in the forensic community. He is the Chair of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, as well as serving on the board of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, Laboratory Accreditation Board. Ken is also an Adjunct Professor in Forensic Science Program at the George Washington University and serves on the AAFS Ethics Committee and the Editorial Board of the Journal of Forensic Sciences. Bravo, Ken!

Remember August 1, 2007 is the date for submission of abstracts for workshops and presentations for the annual conference in February in Washington, DC. Please contact Program Chairs Robert Forrest at robertforrest@mac.com or Paul Singer at paul.singer@oag.state.tx.us, to discuss your proposals. Also, please advise the program chairs if you are participating in a joint program with another section.

Section Secretary Joseph Maltese is interested in recruiting attorneys and various forensic examiners from different disciplines to participate in a series of Frye/Daubert Hearings as a Multidisciplinary Workshop. If you are interested in participating as an attorney or as a qualified forensic examiner please contact Joe at jmaltese@courts.state.ny.us.

Section News cont.

Also, the Fourth Edition of the Manual of Forensic Odontology edited by Herschaft, Alder, Ord, Rawson, and Smith* is now available and can be ordered at the website of the American Society of Forensic Odontology (www.asfo.org). There were approximately 80 contributors to this text; most of whom are AAFS Members and Fellows. The textbook contains seven major sections including chapters on Human Identification, Multiple Fatality Incident Management, Bite Mark Analysis, Human Abuse, Technical Aides, and Dental Jurisprudence. The material within is constructed in a smoothly flowing textbook format with numerous references and educational outcomes at the end of each chapter. It also held up to the close scrutiny of a peer review process. Congratulations to Ed Herschaft and his editorial staff, as well as all of those who contributed to this exceptional effort!

* Deceased

ODONTOLOGY

Source: Richard A. Weems, DMD, MS, Section Program Chair

The August 1st deadline for abstract, poster, and workshop submissions for the next AAFS annual meeting in Washington, DC, is rapidly approaching. There were numerous positive comments made by those attending last year’s various scientific sessions, odontology workshop, and breakfast seminar related to the high quality and variety of the research projects and case studies presented. Hopefully, the 2008 program will be even more informative; however, that will only occur with the efforts of those within our section continuing to contribute their knowledge and skills.

This year the electronic submission system will be initiated through the Academy website’s ‘People Web’ section. If you have not already setup your own personal ‘People Web’ profile, it will save time later if you do so now. Helpful instructions are available in the ‘submit an abstract or poster’ section on the homepage of the site.

Greg Golden and Frank Wright have graciously agreed to present their combined experiences with digital photography in bite mark analysis during the next Annual Tom Krause Bite Mark Breakfast Seminar. The presentation will be particularly geared toward the evolution of digital cameras in their ability to create images using alternative light, ultraviolet, and infrared techniques. Digital applications in all endeavors of forensic investigation are definitely becoming commonplace techniques.

PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY

Source: J. Scott Denton, MD, Section Secretary

The Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, is fast approaching. As summer kicks into high gear, just a reminder that the deadline for abstract submissions for the 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting is August 1, 2007. The deadline is firm to allow Section Program Chair Kim Collins time to evaluate the submissions and to organize another excellent program of platform and poster presentations. The online abstract submission process is fast, easy, and allows for instant feedback. Some suggested topics of interest put forth at the 2007 annual meeting applicable to Pathology/Biology include: child abuse/fatality issues, quality assurance and synoptic reports in forensic pathology, and presentations on Hurricane Katrina experiences. Members are encouraged to submit proposals for workshops since these programs generate revenue for the Pathology/Biology Section. Last year the section earned $2,100 from the six workshops given by our members.

We also generate income for the section to cover meeting expenses through our 840+ dues paying members and affiliates, so please encourage and support your non-member colleagues, graduate students, and new forensic pathology fellows to join AAFS. The deadline for applying for membership is October 1, 2007, and it is a real educational value. If you are eligible for promotion within the section, the deadline for submitting the completed application is also October 1, 2007. Requirements for membership and promotion are on the AAFS website at www.aafs.org, as well as the necessary forms. Research Award Committee Chair Keith Pinkard is still looking to give money away for worthy projects. Section Chair Andrew Baker has organized another Section Business Meeting Luncheon with a special guest. Stay tuned!
PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Source: Laura C. Fulginiti, PhD, Section Secretary

The Physical Anthropology Section is pleased to announce that the 2007 Section J. Lawrence Angel Award Committee (Peer Moore-Jansen (Chair), Anthony Falsetti, Thomas Crist, and Leslie Eisenberg) has unanimously selected Heather Garvin for her paper, "Ossification of Laryngeal Structures as Indicators of Age," as the winner. Congratulations to all of the entrants for superlative submissions.

Speaking of awards and recognitions, Stephen Nawrocki (snawrocki@uindy.edu) was recently named the Sease Distinguished Professor of Forensic Studies at the University of Indianapolis, a five-year appointment. This Professorship was created by retired Judge Paul Buchanan to honor former University President Gene E. Sease. Dr. Nawrocki is the first recipient of the appointment.

Linda Klepinger (klepinge@uiuc.edu) has a new book available, "Fundamentals of Forensic Anthropology (Advances in Human Biology)." Ken Kennedy (kak10@cornell.edu) writes to report that he saw many good books at the AAFS meetings this year, and that Linda’s stands out as an important contribution to the discipline.

Tom Holland (Thomas.Holland@JPAC.PACOM.mil) urges everyone to submit their abstracts prior to August 1, and earlier if possible. The program promises to be packed with stimulating presentations. The number of abstract submissions has increased tremendously over the past few years, so don’t wait until the last minute. Abstracts may be submitted online at www.aafs.org.

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

Source: Jane A. Lewis, MFS, Section Secretary

The 2008 meeting in Washington, DC, approaches. August 1 is the deadline for abstract submission. It is time to start planning a paper or poster. October 1 is the deadline for membership or promotion applications. Members should encourage any colleagues who meet the requirements for membership to apply for membership in the Questioned Documents Section. Please inquire at www.aafs.org for information regarding applications, requirements, membership classifications, and benefits.

Section Program Co-Chairs Ted Burkes and Bridgette Frost have planned a workshop on color and light theory and its forensic application to document examination taught by the U.S. Secret Service chemists. Two exciting tours will also be offered. There will be a tour of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing with a look and the printing of U.S. currency. The Smithsonian National Postal Museum tour will feature an exhibit with particular interest to document examiners. Please feel free to contact Ted at Ted.Burkes@ic.fbi.gov; (703) 632-7313, or Bridgette at Bridgette.Frost@ic.fbi.gov; (703)632-7303, with any questions regarding the 2008 program.

Those who wish to make a nomination for the Questioned Documents Section award, please contact Susan Morton at smo3@pol.com; (415) 671-3196.

PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Source: John L. Young, MD, Section Secretary

Congratulations to AAFS Past President Richard Rosner, a keystone of our section, on being presented with the most prestigious national award in forensic psychiatry. At the Convocation of Fellows on May 21, during the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting in San Diego, Dr. Rosner received the Association’s Isaac Ray Award. Thus, he is deservedly recognized for his outstanding contributions to forensic psychiatry/psychiatric aspects of jurisprudence. Watch this space for information on how he decides to fulfill his obligation to respond by delivering a lecture or series of lectures relevant to our field and of course offering the content for publication. Thanks to organizers Abe Halpern and Michael Perlman, a group of forty or so good friends joined Richard for a joyous congratulatory sendoff on May 9 at Ristorante Arqua in lower Manhattan.

Two upcoming meetings are worthy of notation in your calendars: The American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) will hold its 38th annual meeting in Miami Beach at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel October 18-24. The program is about to be announced (again, watch this space) and always includes broadly interesting presentations as well as luncheons enticing for collegial fellowship and well-known speakers. Also AAPL’s tri-state chapter will meet in New York City on Saturday January 26. Who can resist the always-stirring program, plus a weekend in New York? Again, details will follow as soon as they are available. As mentioned last time AAPL’s website is www.aapl.org.

News for this column is always welcome at jhmyoung@pol.net.

TOXICOLOGY

Source: Jeri D. Ropero-Miller, PhD, Section Program Chair

The Scientific Program for the 2008 Toxicology Section will be filled with many interesting topics and themes that come together to showcase the 2008 Academy meeting theme of The Forensic Sciences – An International Treasure. We are planning a variety of Multidisciplinary and Special Sessions in addition to platform and poster presentations submitted by the membership. Any questions pertaining to the Toxicology Section Program should be directed to Jeri Ropero-Miller (jerimiller@rti.org).

This year we will have a half-day joint session with the Pathology/Biology Section. Ruth Winecker and Kim Collins are co-moderating this session with the theme of “Medical Devices and Their Impact on Death Investigations.” Today, medical devices such as insulin pumps, patient controlled analgesia (PCAs), defibrillators, among others are being used more often by health...
practitioners. Many toxicologists/pathologists have limited experience with these devices and how they might be used to gather information in a death investigation. Topics will range from a historical overview to challenges in interpretation and case studies. If you have interest in this topic and would like to share a case experience please contact either Ruth Winecker (winecker@ocme.unc.edu) or Pathology/Biology Program Chair Kim Collins (collinsk@musc.edu).

Based on continued success in previous years, two special sessions will continue as part of the Toxicology Program. Sarah Kerrigan and the Drugs and Driving Committee will coordinate a Drugs and Driving Special Session. Rob Middleberg will plan a special session to highlight Pediatric Toxicology cases and experiences.

Early in the program we have planned four half-day workshops. Workshop Chair Kenneth Ferslew (Ferslew@etsu.edu) will coordinate and initially accept workshop proposals. While August 1 is the firm Academy deadline for workshop proposals, interested members should contact Ken immediately for an application and plan to return the proposal to him early for acceptance. The Toxicology Section has to review all workshop materials prior to submission to the Academy office. Chairing a workshop is a big commitment and we appreciate your submissions as early as possible!

Every one of you is encouraged to get involved. The merits of our meetings rely on contributions from the members. Take the time to think of a case or method or drug data you would like to submit as an abstract or even chair a workshop. Also, if you have something of interest for one of the special sessions please contact Jeri Miller (jerimiller@rti.org; 919-485-5685) or the appropriate individual above for assistance. August 1 is the firm Academy deadline for all abstracts and workshop proposals, including abstracts for special sessions. You can now submit materials online at: www.aafs.org. August 1 is also the deadline to nominate individuals for awards to be presented during the 2008 meeting. If you know of a deserving individual, take time to contact Brad Hepler (bhepler@co.wayne.mi.us; 313-833-2552) so they may be recognized by the AAFS Toxicology Section for their achievements. Finally, volunteers to moderate poster and platform presentations are always welcomed and should contact Jeri Miller as soon as possible. Remember to get involved and be a part of the 2008 AAFS meeting in Washington, DC!

8th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Recipients Announced

The Forensic Sciences Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the 8th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. Congratulations to Behrouz Memari for the poster entitled, "Improved Estimation of Postmortem Interval with Multiple Protein Markers and Improved Analytical Methods," submitted to the Pathology/Biology Section.

Congratulations as well to Natalie Shirley, MA, Student Affiliate of the Physical Anthropology Section, for the paper entitled, "Age Determination From the Medial and Lateral Clavicle: A Reevaluation of Present Scoring Systems," submitted to the Physical Anthropology Section.

Behrouz and Natalie will receive all expenses paid to attend the 60th Anniversary Meeting in Washington, DC. There were 47 excellent submissions this year. All of the submissions were outstanding and the Foundation encourages all the presenters to continue in their chosen path of forensic science.

A reminder that the August 1 deadline is fast approaching for those eligible to submit a paper for the 9th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. See page 23 for details.
FSF Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Available — Deadline Extended!

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

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

Grant Amount: The Jan Grant award for this year shall be in the amount of $500. The funding must be used to complete the research project. The recipient must identify in the published abstract and in the presentation the fact that the research was supported by a grant from Jan’s Forensic Science Fund - Grant.

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


Please forward your application (found on page 18 of this issue of Academy News) and required supporting documentation to the Forensic Sciences Foundation office in care of FSF Executive Director Anne Warren, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, no later than the submission deadline of July 15, 2007.

FSF Travel Grants Available

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is proud to offer five (5) Travel Grants this year for Students to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity, and members are encouraged to promote it.

Travel Grant Guidelines:
• The applicant must be a fourth year undergraduate or a graduate student at an accredited four-year college, university, or professional school whose accreditation is acceptable to the FSF Board of Trustees.
• The applicant must have a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor or professor.
• The applicant must submit a 400-600 word essay explaining how attendance at an AAFS meeting will impact his/her career decision.
• The applicant must submit a curriculum vitae including information such as forensic science areas of academic study and practice, academic record, forensic science activities, membership and participation in professional organizations (such as the AAFS), presentations at professional and academic meetings, as well as any publications and other pertinent data related to his/her forensic background.
• The deadline for submission of the completed applications is October 1st. Please forward a cover letter of application containing detailed contact information, your letter of recommendation, your essay, and your curriculum vitae to Anne Warren at AAFS, 410 N 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

Applications are judged by the FSF Student Travel Grant Award Subcommittee. Selection of Grant recipients is based solely on the information provided in submitted documents. The successful grant recipients are notified by November 15, and will be acknowledged in the January issue of Academy News. The FSF Board of Trustees is able to approve the expenses, not to exceed $600 per student, for up to five (5) students this year. It is hoped more student support will become available in the future. Good luck!
Jan Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Grant Application

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

PART I - Background Information *

Last Name__________________________________________  First Name_________________________  M.I._____  Social Security No.___________________

Mailing Address____________________________________ City_________________ State_______ Zip__________  Country___________________

Home Phone___________________  Daytime Phone___________________  Cell Phone___________________  Email______________________

Marital Status (optional)___________   # of Dependents (optional)_______    Date of Birth___________________   Citizen of _____________________

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

Current (or last) Employer ______________________________________________  Position Held_____________________________________

Employer’s Address ___________________________   City___________________ State_______ Zip__________  Country__________________

Supervisor’s Name_____________________________   Work Phone___________________________  Email______________________________

Education - List your education accurately and completely. Submit your most recent cumulative college/university transcripts for your undergraduate and graduate degree(s).

Name of Undergraduate School ___________________________________  Full/Part Time _______  Hours Earned Sem ________  Qtr ______

Major ____________________________________  Dates Attended From (mo/yr) _____________________  To (mo/yr) ____________________

Level of Degree Earned_______________________   Graduation Date (mo/yr) _______________________

Name of Graduate School ________________________________________  Full/Part Time _______ Hours Earned Sem ________  Qtr ______

Major ____________________________________  Dates Attended From (mo/yr) _____________________   To (mo/yr) ______________________

Level of Degree Earned_______________________   Graduation Date (mo/yr) ________________________

Name of Graduate Advisor ________________________________   Address _________________________________________________________

Advisor’s Phone _____________________________________    Advisor’s Email _____________________________________________________

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

PART II - Thesis/Research Information

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

*Title
*Introduction, background, and significance of the proposed research
*Experimental procedure
*Expected results and contributions to the criminalistics (forensic science) knowledge base
*Budget for the total project
*Description of how support from the grant would contribute to the completion of the project

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

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

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

PART III - Certification/Acknowledgement

Statement of Applicant

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

Signature of Applicant ____________________________________________  Date __________________________

18 Academy News
2008 Annual Meeting

The 60th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) will be held February 18-23, 2008, in Washington, DC.

The Program Committee solicits the submission of abstracts on topics of interest to the forensic science community. August 1, 2007, is the deadline for the submission of abstracts.

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

- Platform Presentation (standard scientific session)
- Poster Session

The Program Committee will select appropriate abstracts from those submitted by the August 1, 2007 deadline.

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

If you wish to submit your abstract on-line, go to the AAFS website at: www.aafs.org.

Notification of Acceptance

Notification of Acceptance will be mailed to all presenting authors by November 15, 2007. Meeting registration materials will be sent to presenting authors.

Oral Presentations

Content

1. The presentation must cover the material reported in the abstract.
2. The opening statement of the presentation should acquaint the audience with the nature and purpose of the paper.
3. Sufficient time should be allocated to the results of the study, and should be stated simply and clearly so that the significant facts can be readily identified.
4. The presentation should be concluded with a concise summary of the essential findings or results.

Time

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

General Information

Key Words

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

Oral Presentation

Each scientific session meeting room will be equipped with a lighted pointer, podium, microphone, LCD projector, and screen. 35mm projectors must be requested. A limited number of slide trays will be available. Speakers are encouraged to bring their own slide trays.

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

Poster Presentation

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

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

The Journal of Forensic Sciences has the first publication rights to all previously unpublished reports and papers presented at the Academy’s annual meeting. The Journal’s right of this publication is limited to six months from the date of presentation.

Poster Presentations

Content

A well-designed poster should:
1. Inform the observer as to the subject matter, the information contained and the conclusions drawn;
2. Indicate how the experiments were designed and how the results were obtained; and
3. Facilitate discussion between the author(s) and the viewers.

Preparation

Authors have complete freedom to choose ways of displaying their information in figures, tables, text, photographs, etc. However, they should avoid crowding too much information into a limited space. The poster may be augmented by the use of manuscripts and sketch pads with marking pens.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSTRACT, 35mm SLIDES, & LCD PROJECTION

General Instructions

Content of Abstract
Your abstract should be informative, containing:
1. A short specific title.
2. The Learning Objectives.
3. A sentence statement of the paper’s hypothesis or proposition.
4. A brief synopsis of the content, or statement of the methods, whichever is pertinent.
5. A summary of the results obtained, if pertinent.
6. A general statement of conclusion, if possible.
7. A minimum of one-half page (approximately 500 words) to a maximum of one full page (approximately 700 words) in length. Abstracts which do not meet the one-half page minimum will not be printed in the AAFS Proceedings.
8. Three key terms.
9. A brief statement of what impact the presentation or research findings will have on the forensic sciences and/or humanity.

Abstracts should NOT be written in the first person.

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

35mm Slides
35mm slide projectors are not part of the standard AV package and must be reserved. Please indicate your request for a slide projector by checking “other” and stating so on item #8 Audio/Visual Requirements on the next page. Noted below are the official guidelines in preparing 35mm slides for presentation at the 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting:

- Limit the information on each slide to a single point or idea.
- Keep slides simple with plenty of open space between lines.
- Do not crowd the slide. Two or more simple slides are better than one that is complex and crowded.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions.
- Use as large a font as possible. Anything below 24 pt. is too small.
- Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines unless they are very bold and black.
- Avoid backing up the projector. If you need a frame twice, make a duplicate frame.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions.
- Limit messages to seven lines or less. Do not use more than seven text lines: 24.
- Suggested font sizes are Titles: 48-54; Main text titles: 32; Smallest text lines: 24.
- Do not crowd the frame. Limit the number of text lines per frame to a maximum of seven.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions.
- Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines unless they are very bold and black.
- Avoid backing up the projector. If you need a frame twice, make a duplicate frame.
- Check your computer resolution by going to your computer’s control panel, selecting “Display” then “Settings.” Recommended resolution is 1024 x 768 (XGA).

Word Processor Preparation
An electronic copy of your abstract submission is required. Please follow the format guidelines provided below:
1. Software: Microsoft® Word for Windows is preferred.
2. Type size: 10 pt (10 characters per inch).
4. Margins: top: 1”, left side: 1”, right side: 1”.
5. References/Footnotes: do not put in the header or footer of the document.
6. Do not embed objects, pictures, tables, or charts within document.
7. No boxes, frames, or lines.
8. Remove editing comments, notes, etc., and accept tracked changes in the document prior to saving and submitting.

Specific Instructions
1. Complete attached form.
2. Follow instructions provided in typing abstract.
3. Proofread all information provided.
4. Attach current copy of presenting author’s curriculum vitae to original abstract form. Return the original abstract, with attached c.v., and a copy on disk, by August 1, 2007, to:

Mailing Address: AAFS
410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Sample Abstract

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crash, Fatal, Investigation

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Academy News
Word Witchery in Law and Science

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Polonious to Hamlet:
“What do you read, my lord?”
Hamlet to Polonious, scornfully:
“Words, words, words.”

Sudoku waxes while scrabble wanes. Or so it appears. For all we know the next generation will produce more mathematicians and ratiocinators (or at least more numerologists) than litterateurs. Yet all is not yet by the numbers alone for the daily newspapers still perplex and perpend with their crafty and often devious crossword puzzles.

Words are not yet passé, certainly not in law and science where words are the mainstay in decision-making and opinion-stating. And the words used in these seemingly disparate fields can be Ambrose Bierce-like in the consternation they evoke.

In the Law
The latest linguistic nicety in the law emerged recently at the onset of a Guantanamo Bay detainee’s Military Commission trial. Twenty-year-old Canadian citizen Omar Khadr could breathe a hefty, albeit temporary, sigh of relief when his trial was aborted by order of the trial judge. The judge, Army Colonel Peter Brownback, subjected the language of the Military Commissions Act, under which Khadr was to be tried, to intense, word-bending scrutiny. Khadr could not be tried before him, said the judge, since only “unlawful enemy combatants” were triable under the act. And Khadr had only been declared to be an “enemy combatant,” not an “unlawful” one. The judge’s interpretation of the act’s coverage had added a word that, thus far, made all the difference to the continuance of the trial and to the implementation of the Military Commissions Act.

A word here, a word there, can make or break a case.

The law is rife with such decisive word play, or rather word-packing. The late Judge Jerome Frank was not entirely smitten by the “word-consciousness” that often passes, in law, as the medium to end a controversy. He cites, with only mild approval, the argument of C.K. Ogden that “the original sin in all inadequate thinking is to be found in the misuse of words.” (Frank, Jerome, Law and the Modern Mind 1963)

Words, it is said by Frank and others, can become, not the servants of man, but the masters of our thinking, so much so that there is deemed to be a magical quality in the words we use to frame our conclusions in law and science.

Humpty Dumpty had it right when he told Alice, “When I use a word, … it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less.” Not be outdone, Alice replied: “The question is … whether you can make words mean so many different things.” Humpty Dumpty, however, had the last word. “The question is,” he said, “which is to be master – that’s all.”

Take as illustrative of this dichotomy between words and their mastery the interpretations of the U.S. Supreme Court on the Sherman Act of 1890 by which Congress made illegal “every contract or combination … in restraint of trade or commerce.” From the act’s origination there were those who urged the U.S. Supreme Court to limit the workings of the act to “unreasonable” restraints of trade and not every restraint.

The high court could not be convinced to add this very constraining word until in 1911, in the Standard Oil and Tobacco cases, the court did an about face. In those decisions it was enunciated that the unwritten intention of Congress was as clear as a snow-capped mountain on a moon enraptured night (my words, not those of the Supreme Court).

Unreasonable restraints were the only types of interdicted restraints and had always been the proper and correct construction of the act, said the high court. With that one word – unreasonable - the prior decisions of that very same court were trashed. Was this not the witchery of a word bent to the will and interests of its exponent? Had they not yielded to the mastery of a word over the explicit language of the legislation?

continued on page 30
Words have been a signal source of giving expression to the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution. Reading the text of these guarantees does not suffice to comprehend their scope. The words themselves have been a fertile field for misunderstandings, without, that is, other more explanatory words engraved onto the basic terms themselves.

Take the Fifth Amendments double jeopardy clause which unambiguously declares that “no person shall ... be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.” No one would question that the meaning of the words “the same offense” is snaggletoothed, inviting interpretation and such interpretations they have had. But the fact of a previous “same offense” prosecution would seem on its face to nullify any subsequent prosecution for that very same offense. But that is not, I emphasize not, the law’s mandate, after the words of the U.S. Supreme Court in Bartkus v. Illinois (359 U.S. 121 (1939)).

Thus, under current Supreme Court case law a prosecution in Federal court for crimes for which the defendant had already been convicted in a Native American’s tribal court could not be, and was not, barred by the Double Jeopardy clause. In spite of the crystal clear language of that amendment the Supreme Court discerned an ellipsis in its terms. Implicit in its application was the requirement that the second prosecution be by the same sovereign entity as the first prosecution. So the words of the amendment now read, “No person shall ... be subject by the same sovereign for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or liberty.”

Such a reconstruction of the Double Jeopardy clause is more than mere judicial tinkering, albeit it is that as well. It is moreover a rewording of the clause and a redirection of its plain meaning. Is this reworking a reflection in law of what Ogden and Richards (The Meaning of Meaning (2nd ed)) called a “disease of language” which is but a blighting that keeps the students of the law forever going in circles.

In Science
As it is in law, so it is in science. As Danish physicist Niels Bohr put it, “What is that we human beings ultimately depend on? We depend on our words. We are suspended in language. Our task is to communicate experience and ideas to others.” (quoted in Petersen, Aage, “The Philosophy of Niels Bohr,” in Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 1961, 19, 12)

In forensic science, in particular, the communicative skills of the scientist are at a premium. The opinion of the forensic scientist, both in his/her report and the courtroom testimony that is its sequelae, must be stated with clarity and conviction but the foremost emphasis must always be on the plain speaking that does not fudge or obfuscate the findings of the expert. These, admittedly, are truisms but oftentimes it is more in the breach than in the observance that they are honored.

One can pick and one may choose among a plethora of words as to which is more mystifying, more undecipherable and/or more misleading among those used to state the opinion of the forensic scientist. For myself, my least favorite and the one most regularly appearing in the reports of forensic scientists and the decisions of the courts is “consistent with” or its litote “not inconsistent with” which is used to give additional emphasis to the likelihood that the consistency is flecked with certainty.

An outstanding example of the fact that a consistent with finding in forensic science may be altered to a much more positive determination occurred in the reports on the S.L.A. shoot-out in Los Angeles in 1974. Among the dead was Donald DeFreeze, a notorious S.L.A. leader. His death was first reported by the L.A. Coroner’s Office as being consistent with a self-inflicted wound. According to the L.A. Times in its reporting on the melee the clear implication from the L.A. Coroner’s report was that DeFreeze had committed suicide.

The lingering question, aside from the newspaper’s revisionist view of the manner of DeFreeze’s death per the L.A. Coroner, was whether the police in their assault on the S.L.A. lair had killed DeFreeze in the course of their massed attack. The language of the L.A. Coroner’s report left room for the possibility that the police, not DeFreeze himself, had caused his death. The reason for such a possibility, although at the time considered to be remote, resided in the fact that the bullet that killed DeFreeze was of Czech manufacture, a kind of ammunition not conventionally known to be issued to the L.A. police.

It was not until one year after the shoot-out that the truth became known. One of the L.A. police involved in the armed assault had purchased and had in his possession Czech ammunition for back-up purposes. And that ammo was proved to have been the ammo that killed Donald DeFreeze. So much for the suicide theory and for the “consistent with” usage supporting it. To the good, however, at least the consistent with verbiage, in spite of the L.A. Times misreporting of it, kept the case from being erroneously closed. All was well for it ended well.

It can be stated, in support of the consistent with usage, that it enables the expert to shun an Armageddon over the legitimacy of absolute certainty. Certainty, like consistency, is after being the hobgoblin of little minds (so says Ralph Waldo Emerson in Essays and English Traits (1910)) because it is always foolish to pin one’s forensic hopes on such an amorphous will-o’-the-wisp. Few are those conclusions or postulates in forensic science that can be said to be ineluctably certain. Only fingerprint identifications are given that arch-like standing and then mainly by fingerprint examiners themselves with the courts falling into lock-step behind them.

The nonsensical, yet whimsical, side of the striving for certainty in forensic science was memorably displayed in the Hollywood film “My Cousin Vinny.” The prosecutor was hell bent on having his FBI expert witness link the tire marks left on the roadway at the scene of a convenience store robbery/murder to the tires on the defendants’ car. The FBI expert was completely obliging, pontifically stating the rubber left at the scene and the rubber on the defendants’ tires were identical. The prosecutor responded with maximum histrionics. Turning toward the jury and clapping his hands and in a booming voice he parroted the expert with his one word conclusion “identical.”

Identical, yes, but only to the extent that every Michelin tire of the same specifications, and there were many, many of them manufactured by Michelin, could be said to have left the deposit of tire residue on the pavement. The identity between the suspects’ car’s tires and the crime scene rubber stam was elusively misleading.

The expert, with the prosecutor’s thunderous support, had mistaken, negligently we hope, a common class characteristic of the Michelin tires with the individualization possible from an assessment of tire wear and other distinctive features developed by usage in all tires. But the word “identical” was patently intended to conflate a class feature to an identifying individual one in a prosecutor-expert witness duet sufficient to
mislead the jury. Fortunately the word “identical” is of uncommon occurrence in non-fictional courtroom drama. But the need to demystify the conclusions of the experts exists regularly in both fiction and fact situations.

DNA examinations would be thought to justify a conclusion that an identification to a particular person to the exclusion of all others has been proved by a molecular matching, so long as the statistics underpinning it are in place. Yet the “consistent with” usage continues unabated even in the presence of statistics that leave nary a scintilla of doubt that the perpetrator’s DNA has been identified.

A recent Kansas Supreme Court decision (State v. Denney, 2007 Kan. Lexis 240) cements the point. Denney was decided on an application for post-conviction DNA testing. The crime scene biological samples were DNA tested by the state’s Regional Forensic Science Center (Center) and compared to the convictee’s (Denney’s) DNA. The report of the Center, among other things, affirmed that “the sperm cell fraction of the cutting from the blue wash cloth is consistent with (Denney’s DNA) profile.”

The state’s prosecutor, in presenting the Center’s report stated, “there’s no - absolutely no question that the semen detected ... was the defendant’s.” The trial court, with the report of the Center in hand and the prosecutor’s claim of absolute certainty as well dismissed the application of Denney saying, “the evidence is very clear that this was (Denney’s) DNA...”

Obviously the prosecutor was apodictically certain that Denney’s DNA was present and the Center was mugwumping in its statement on the issue (consistent with) and the court cut a path between them with its “very clear” wording on the issue. If there had been a fact finding jury one might wonder how it would react to these linguistic variegations.

The body of the Center’s report, as mentioned by the Denney court, adds a further ingredient of logomachy. The report contains the statistical basis for its findings. The likelihood, so the report declares, of “an unrelated individual at random” having been the donor was in the quintillions for the Caucasian and Hispanic populations and in the sextillions’s for blacks. Nothing was said or even explicitly hinted that the suspect DNA was Denney’s to the exclusion of any one else among the six billion persons in the world. And why not, in the face of such astronomical, even galactic, population statistics?

It is possible that DNA labs are on notice after the National Research Council’s reports that declaring there to be absolute certainty, as the prosecutor did in this case, is a statement freighted with such litigation promise as to be studiously avoided. It could also be that the consistent with wording is deemed by the Center to be fully equivalent with the absolute certainty that the statistics seem to harbor. The Center could have been positing a cautionary approach to avoid the hazards and rigors of contentious cross-examination. That, however, would be a Faustian bargain to which forensic scientists imbued with ethics are not likely to subscribe. And, I am certain, there are yet other interpretative possibilities as well.

The terms employed by forensic scientists to categorize the strength of their opinions go well beyond those appearing in the Denney case. The words possibly and probably are found as distinguishing verbalisms in many instances of handwriting comparisons. But to what extent does one differ from the other. The difference is found in degree and not in kind. In making the distinction between what is a possibility and what is a probability a call upon O’Hara would be of no help. The time was when O’Hara participated as a contestant on a TV quiz show. The eneece asked O’Hara to state the difference between an explosion and a collision. Without the blink of an eye, the Irishman replied: “In a collision, there you are, but in an explosion where are you?”

A conclusion indicating a possibility is not as clear-cut or formidable as one that is denominated probable. And that’s as far as anyone, even O’Hara, can go in explaining the difference. Further, one dare not go in explicating the divergences between them. When Christopher Gardner, played by Will Smith, in the recent movie “Pursuit of Happiness” is pressed by his five-year-old son, also a Christopher, to commit to taking him to the park to play, the father equivocates.

The father’s refusal to commit himself unalterably, so typical of the stretched-out modern parent, is made manifest by his alternating use of the weasel words possibly and probably. Even his explanation of their differences is unconvincing to the child and the viewer of the movie. Better if Will Smith had been up front with his son by indicating that the words are so similar in their import as only to be a hen’s kick away from each other in their meaning. That understanding would put such terms on the rack as useful and comprehensible modifiers of an expert’s, or a father’s, opinion. The five-year-old Chris was bemused by the terms, but he was not fooled into believing that the outing to the park was really, and truly, likely to occur. Such should also be our reaction when these words appear to season an expert’s opinion.

In the juridical order there exists on the civil side the need to prove guilt by a fair preponderance of the evidence. But in a prosecution for criminal behavior the proof of guilt must be beyond a reasonable doubt. Is this akin to saying that one can be liable civilly where guilt is only possible whereas at a criminal trial the guilt must be probable? No court has yet enunciated the distinction in such a way, nor is any expected to do so for possible and probable are not terms of legal evidentiary art, although in some sciences they may be endemic. Persuasiveness does not necessarily meet the measure of sufficient comprehension upon which a fact finder can act responsibly.

Multifariousness marks the terminology employed to designate a forensic scientist’s conclusion. To mention only a few out of the grab bag of the many there are: morphologically similar, indistinguishable, similar, and microscopically or microscopically indistinguishable. Of course some of the terms relate most specifically to one scientific discipline rather than to another. Such for example is the readily encountered “reasonable medical (or scientific) certainty” adumbrated without statistical support by the medical community.

In the end what can one say definitively about this melange, this verbal barrage, of undefined, or ill-defined or conflicting word speak in the expressed opinions of forensic scientists. For myself I would be gratified to see a greater effort afoot to alert the fact finder through concise instructions from the court of the abounding uncertainty in these catchphrases. That would at least ease the burden of wondering whether the terms will be mischievously drawn to extremes to which they are not properly sighted. Further this essayist saith not or as Forrest Gump pithily put it: “That’s all I have to say about that” at least, in my case, for the nonce.

So while understanding waxes, let verbalisms wane.
The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1, 2007, will be considered for approval at the February 2008 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 15, 2008.

Applicants

**CRIMINALISTICS**

**Associate Member**
Ademaj, Xhemajl, PhD
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Boyd, Shannon, BS
Sarasota, FL

Bullock, Tabitha A., BS
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Buzzini, Patrick, MSc
Dorigny-Lausanne, Switzerland

Christensen, Lisa, MFS
Sterling, VA

Collins, Dorothea S., BA, BS
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Coticone, Sulekha, PhD
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Dixon, Mark D., BS
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Fisher Sargent, Heather, MFS
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Hamburger, Adam, MSFS
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Hutler, Jennifer, BS
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Rak, Roman, PhD
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Clayton, MO

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Hussain, Safdar, DVM
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Li, Stephen J, BS
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Pabian, Melissa L

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Downey, Charles, BA
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Rozas, Roger E., MS
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Scala, John R., PhD
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Begum, Anwar Ara, PhD

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Tours, France

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Wirsching, Kelli

Great Falls, MT

continued on page 34
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Gregory, Sarah T.
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Associate Member
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Maputo, Mozambique
Easterling, Glenda, BS
San Pablo, CA

FOR Forensic TOXICOLOGIST

NMS Labs, the nation's leading independent provider of professional laboratory testing services, specializing in forensic and clinical toxicology and other vitally important areas of esoteric testing and expert services, is seeking an experienced toxicologist to manage forensic and clinical toxicological cases through review of analytical results, history dependent decision-making, certification and testimony. Candidate will handle expert services cases, participate in laboratory QA, and interact with internal/external clients and the toxicological/forensic community.

A PhD is required with a minimum of 25 chemistry credits. At least 3 years experience in analytical toxicology is also required in addition to a working knowledge of wet chemistry, chromatography (GC, HPLC, IC), spectrophotometry (UV/VIS, AAS), and spectrometry (GC/MS, LC/MS). Candidate must be knowledgeable in pharmacology and toxicology and postmortem- and human performance-related issues in toxicology. Must have excellent communication, interpersonal, and mentoring skills are essential. To apply, go to http://www.nmslabs.com/careers-positions and select req # 23-7-16. A cover letter, CV and official or unofficial PhD transcripts are required.

Located in suburban Philadelphia, NMS Labs offers a stimulating and diverse work environment with competitive salaries and great benefits, including medical/dental/prescription plan, life/STD/LTD, FSA, tuition reimbursement, and 401(k). Visit www.nmslabs.com. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Greetings to all Young Forensic Scientists! It seems like we have just returned from San Antonio and yet it is time to start planning for Washington, DC, in 2008. The program chairs for all of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Sessions have been doing some heavy duty brainstorming to come up with another session full of interesting and informative speakers in hopes that all of you will join us at the next AAFS meeting. The theme for this year’s YFSF will be Forensic Science in the Public Eye, and the possibilities are endless for a fantastic lineup of speakers! As the field of forensic science becomes more and more publicized and as more people become interested in the field due to media influences, we want to take the time to look behind the scenes at the real life people who work the cases you hear about, write the books you read, or perhaps host or write for the TV shows you watch. We are still at the beginning of the planning phase, but we are working hard to secure speakers that will make the YFSF a session not to be missed in 2008! Keep your eyes open for more updates throughout the year and feel free to contact your program chairs with ideas and suggestions; we love to hear from you! You can contact Amanda Frohwein at: frohwein@dps.state.ia.us, and Jennifer Mercer at: jennifer.w.mercer@gmail.com.

— Amanda Frohwein, BS
YFSF Program Chair

We are very excited to start planning the 2008 YFSF Special Session. We have a large group of officers and planning committee members involved in the development of our session this year. We made a goal to ensure that the YFSF is more involved with the AAFS events, established members, and section meetings. An individual directly engaged in YFSF planning committee will be assigned to a section of the Academy as a “Section Liaison.” Thus, AAFS members from a section are able to directly contact someone with any questions they have regarding the YFSF. Also, the section liaison will communicate with everyone involved with the YFSF when contacted by a section regarding our specific events. We anticipate open communication between the Academy’s sections and the YFSF will allow for a more diverse group of YFSF members. We also hope by assigning a section liaison, it will assist any group in the Academy when they are interested in increasing their involvement with the YFSF. Within the last two years, YFSF officers and committee members made a firm commitment to be involved with the section to which we are an affiliate or member. We have all attended events put on by our sections and will continue to do so. By attending these events we are able to see what the Academy has to offer as far as continuing education and section involvement. We are also able to see the trends occurring in our respective fields and thus try to incorporate important topics into the YFSF events. We encourage all students, trainee affiliates, and meeting volunteers to attend events coordinated by the Academy’s sections. As we start planning our session for the 2008 meeting in Washington, DC, we hope to attract a wide variety of participants to our session with interesting topics and beneficial continuing education events.

— Marrah Lachowicz BA, MFS
YFSF President
**YFSF Poster Session**
The Young Forensic Scientists Forum Poster Session is a great way for young scientists in graduate or undergraduate programs to get feedback on their research as well as forensic scientists new to the field (independent of age) to get involved and present information on their laboratories, research, or casework. Through the poster session, young scientists have networked with professionals in their field while at the same time gained valuable experience. We want to make the 2008 Poster Session even better. Please contact 2008 YFSF Poster Chair Arliss Dudley-Cash with any questions or suggestions at yfsfposter@gmail.com. We look forward to your participation!

— Arliss Dudley-Cash
YFSF Poster Session Chair

**2008 YFSF Annual Breakfast**
There has been serious brainstorming within the Young Forensic Scientists Forum as we prepare to bring another session worthy of your attendance. In the past, the YFSF Annual Breakfast has traditionally covered what happens during the interview process, how to apply for forensic scientist positions, what education is necessary, as well as a resume review. That has been well received in the past and is always useful to aspiring forensic scientists. Wanting to take it to another level, we decided to ask what would motivate you to get out of bed early? A mock testimony complete with critique? A panel of scientist discussing their careers in forensic science? If you have an idea, question, or suggestion please feel free to email Jeannette Perr at: AgntSpdr@aol.com.

2008 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides
It's that time to begin planning for the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides and presenters are needed! YFSF Bring Your Own Slides is a great opportunity to share with the forensic community case studies, research, or future interests. These presentations are short and casual providing a great way to build your resume and hone communication skills. Last year was filled with great research topics ranging from paints/dyes to an animal hair database and numerous case study evaluations. If you are interested in presenting please contact Missy Smith at ms smith@ocme.nyc.gov or Erica Blais Erica.Blais@state.ma.us. See you in DC!

— Melissa E. Smith, BS
YFSF Program Co-Chair

**About the YFSF**
The YFSF is dedicated to the education, enrichment, and professional development of young forensic scientists. YFSF participants can be non-AAFS-members while organizers must be AAFS members from any section within the AAFS. The Forum provides a medium to educate and network with young forensic scientists to facilitate their establishment within the forensic science community. The YFSF is composed of a Special Session, a Poster Session, a Bring Your Own Slides Session, and a Breakfast Session during the AAFS Annual Meeting. Outside the Academy meeting, the YFSF works to further the endeavors of young forensic scientists through the YFSF newsletter and the YFSF website (http://www.aaafs.org/yfsf/index.htm). YFSF President Marrah Lachowicz (Gradpath@aol.com) and YFSF Secretary Jeannette Perr (jeannette.perr@fiu.edu) can answer any questions about the YFSF and are looking to many different levels of young forensic scientists participating at next year’s session.

— Jeannette Perr, PhD
YFSF Secretary

**YFSF Website**
The YFSF website is just starting to be revamped under the leadership of Amy Richmond Aylor (am yaylor@gmail.com). Amy is looking for help and suggestions, so if you are interested in participating please feel free to send her an email.

— Amy R. Aylor, BS
YFSF Website Co-Chair

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**Young Forensic Scientists Forum**

**Our Website is**

**Under Construction**

We’re looking for:
- Links to your websites
- Announcements about your research group

What would you like to see?
http://www.aaafs.org/yfsf/index.htm

Contact Amy Aylor at yfsfwebmaster@gmail.com
Meetings and Conferences

JULY 2007

17-20
Forensic DNA Profiling, Extraction and Purification
From Sample Courses Combined With Real-Time PCR Quantification & STR DNA Amplification—To be held at the Shadow Lane Campus at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

CONTACT: Walter E. Goldstein, PhD, PE
Biotechnology Center Coordinator
Shadow Lane Campus
University of Nevada Las Vegas
1001 Shadow Lane M/S 7401
Las Vegas, NV 89106-4124
(702) 774-2925
walter.goldstein@unlv.edu
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22-27

CONTACT: Richard Harruff, MD, PhD
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325 Ninth Avenue
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Seattle, WA 98104-2499
(206) 731-2886
richard.harruff@metrokc.gov
http://www.inpalmscolombo2007.lk/

23-25
Advanced Shooting Incident Reconstruction Training Class—To be held at the St. Louis County & Municipal Police Academy in Wellston, MO.

CONTACT: Becky Murphy
(314) 889-8600
bamurphy@stlouisco.com

26-27
Fracture Matches for Laboratory Analysts Training Class—To be held at the St. Louis County & Municipal Police Academy in Wellston, MO.

CONTACT: Becky Murphy
(314) 889-8600
bamurphy@stlouisco.com

AUGUST 2007

5-9
33rd Annual New England Seminar in the Forensic Sciences—To be held at Colby College in Waterville, ME.

CONTACT: Colby College
Waterville, ME 04901-8847
(207) 859-4730
Fax: (207) 859-4734
http://www.colby.edu/cme
summer@colby.edu

6-10
Introduction to Shooting Incident Reconstruction/Officer-Involved Shootings Training Class—To be held at the Northwestern Center for Public Safety in Evanston, IL.

CONTACT: Chuck Lamb
(847) 467-3478
cwlamb@rochelle.net

11-16
American Society of Questioned Document Examiners Annual Conference—To be held at the Millennium Harvest House in Boulder, CO.

CONTACT: Janette Dove Guscott
Aurora Police Department
15001 E. Alameda Pkwy.
Aurora, CO 80012
jguscott@ci.aurora.co.us

13-14
Cambridge Healthtech Institute’s Sixth Annual Systems Integration in Biodefense Seminar—To be held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Washington, DC.

CONTACT: Cambridge Healthtech Institute
250 First Avenue, Suite 300
Needham, MA 02494
(781) 972-5400
Fax: (781) 999-6288
www.healthtech.com

13-15
Advanced Shooting Incident Reconstruction Training Class—To be held at the Northwestern Center for Public Safety in Evanston, IL.

CONTACT: Chuck Lamb
(847) 467-3478
cwlamb@rochelle.net
AUGUST 2007 cont.

13-15
7th Annual Digital Forensic Research Workshop—To be held at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA.
CONTACT: Brian Carrier
dfriws2007@dfriws.org
http://www.dfriws.org

13-16
Trace Evidence Symposium—Presented by the NII and the FBI. To be held at the Sheraton Sand Key in Clearwater, FL.
CONTACT: Sandra Koch
FBI Lab Division, Trace Evidence
Sandra.Koch@ic.fbi.gov
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/trace-evidence-symposium/
welcome.html

21-25
22nd Annual Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics—To be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.
CONTACT: Niels Morling
Institute of Forensic Medicine
University of Copenhagen
Congress secretariat Welcome ApS
Billedvæj 4, 1sal
DK-2100 Copenhagen
+45 70 25 80 20
info@welcomehome.dk
www.isfg2007.org

SEPTEMBER 2007

3-7
5th International Society for Applied Biological Sciences (ISABS) Conference—To be held at the Hotel Le Meridien Lax in Split, Croatia.
CONTACT: ISABS
Planinska 1, HR-10000 Zagreb
Croatia
Tel. +385 1 2352 620
Fax: +385 1 2352 619
info@isabs.hr
www.isabs.hr/

9-14
Forensic Management Academy—To be held at the West Virginia University Campus in Morgantown, WV.
CONTACT: Maria Yester
Center for Executive Education
(304) 293-7963
maria.yester@mail.wvu.edu
www.be.wvu.edu/execed/ftma.htm

10-14
Basic Facial Reconstruction Sculpture Workshop—To be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Gatiff
SKULLpure Lab
1026 Leslie Lane
Norman, OK 73069-4501
(405) 321-8706
www.outreach.ou.edu/forensic

17-21
Advanced Facial Reconstruction Sculpture Workshop—To be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Gatiff
SKULLpure Lab
1026 Leslie Lane
Norman, OK 73069-4501
(405) 321-8706
www.outreach.ou.edu/forensic

17-21
International Forensic Photography Workshop—To be held at the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department, Training Division.
CONTACT: Marie Alexander
Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department
(305) 547-5721
Fax: (305) 545-2435
malex@miamidade.gov
http://www.miamidade.gov/medexam/training_ifp.asp

19-21
Genetic Analysis for Human Identification Workshop—To be held at the Shadow Lane Campus at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.
CONTACT: Walter E. Goldstein
UNLV, Shadow Lane Campus
1001 Shadow Lane M/S 7410
Las Vegas, NV 89106-4124
(702) 774-2325
walter.goldstein@unlv.edu
http://shadowlane.unlv.edu

24-28
MAFS 36th Annual Meeting—To be held at the Park Place Hotel in downtown Traverse City, MI.
CONTACT: Cheryl Lozen
MSP-Northville Lab
42145 W. Seven Mile Rd.
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 380-1144
Fax: (248) 380-1005
lozenc@michigan.gov
www.mafs.net

24-28
Fall Bloodstain Evidence Institute—To be held in Corning, NY.
CONTACT: Herbert Leon MacDonell, Director
Bloodstain Evidence Institute
PO Box 1111
Corning, NY 14830
(607) 962-6381
Fax: (607) 936-6936
forensiclaboratory@stny.rr.com

OCTOBER 2007

1-4
Basic Forensic Science and Medicine Seminar To be held at the University of Virginia, Zehmer Hall in Charlottesville, VA.
CONTACT: Martha M. Allen
The Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine
700 N. 5th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-0073
mallen@vifsm.org
www.vifsm.org

1-5
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course—Sponsored by Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Division of Forensic Pathology. To be held in St. Louis, MO.
CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst or Julie Howe
Saint Louis University
School of Medicine
1402 S Grand Blvd; R512
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 977-5707
Fax: (314) 977-5695
mldi@slu.edu
http://medschool.slu.edu/mldi/

2-4
Photodocumentation Series Training Course—To be held at the NTSB Training Center in Ashburn, VA.
CONTACT: Beth O’Leary
National Transportation System Board (NTSB)
45065 Riverside Parkway
Ashburn, VA 20147
(703) 382-9000
byleary@ntsb.gov
http://www.ntsb.gov/tc/CourseInfo/IM300_2007.htm
8-9
2007 Street Survival Seminar—To be held in Las
Crucos, NM.
CONTACT: Slavka Younger
Calibre Press
(800) 323-0037, ext. 5314
slavka.younger@praetoriangroup.com
www.calibrepress.com

12-17
National Association of Medical Examiners Annual
Meeting—To be held at the Savannah Marriott
Riverfront in Savannah, GA.
CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst
70 East Sherwood Drive
St. Louis, MO 63114
(314) 422-6816
Fax: (314) 524-0555
erнстmf@shu.edu

15-19
The Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) 37th
Annual Conference—To be held at the Sheraton
Imperial in Durham, NC.
CONTACT: Jeri Rojero Miller
RTI International
3040 Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(919) 483-5685
Fax: (919) 541-7042
jerimiller@rti.org
www.sof-tox.org

18-19
3rd International Joint Symposium of the German
Association for Traffic Medicine and the German
Association for Traffic Psychology—To be held in
Dresden, Germany.
CONTACT: Richard Vogel
Conventus Congressmanagement &
Marketing GmbH
Märk 8, 07743 Jena
Tel: 03641 333317
Fax: 03641 3333272
ricard.vogel@conventus.de
www.conventus.de

23-26
Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal
Professionals—To be held at the NTSB Training
Center in Ashburn, VA.
CONTACT: NTSB Training Center
43065 Riverside Parkway
Ashburn, VA 20147
(571) 223-3900
TrainingCenter@ntsb.gov
http://www.ntsb.gov

31-Nov 3
Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists
(NEAFS) 33rd Annual Meeting—To be held at the
Sagamore Resort in Bolton Landing, NY.
CONTACT: Adrian S. Krawczeniuk
PO Box 100
Old Greenwich, CT 06870
(212) 620-4923
adrian.s.krawczeniuk@usdoj.gov
www.neafs.org

NOVEMBER 2007

1-2
Medicolegal Death Investigation 14th Annual
Forensic Science Seminar—Jointly Sponsored by:
Lubbock County Medical Examiners Office, Texas
Tech University Health Sciences Center
Department of Pathology, Institute for Forensic
Sciences, Office of Continuing Medical Education
and the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office. To be
held at Holiday Inn Hotel and Towers in
Lubbock, TX.
CONTACT: Melinda Steele, Director
Continuing Medical Education
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
3601 4th Street Stop 7113
Lubbock, TX 79430
(806) 743-2226
Fax (806) 743-2934
http://www.ttuhsc.edu/cme

5-9
Basic Forensic Pathology Course—To be held at the
Doubletree Hotel in Rockville, MD.
CONTACT: Armed Forced Institute
of Pathology
Department of Medical Education
Washington, DC 20306-6000
(202) 782-2077
Fax: (202) 782-5020
sutton@afip.osd.mil
http://www.afip.org/Departments/
medc营商环境/ehome.htm

8-10
Br-Annual Meeting of the Southwest Association
of Toxicologists—To be held at the Hilton Island
Resort in Galveston, TX.
CONTACT: Vincent M. Papa
Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory
2703 Louis Bauer Road
Brooks City-Base, TX 78235
(210) 536-1723
Fax: (210) 536-9219
vincent.papa@sbqglobal.net

8-11
Forensic Medical Investigation Comprehensive
Review Course—To be held in Phoenix, AZ.
CONTACT: Michael Henderson
Forensic Medical Investigation Inst.
6505 East Central; PMB#176
Wickenburg, AZ 85390-1924
mike@forensicsmi.com
www.forensicsmi.com

12-14
International Forensic Science and Forensic
Medicine Conference—To be held at the College
of Forensic Sciences, Naif Arab University for
Security Sciences, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
CONTACT: Omer Elassam
drarch1954@yahoo.com
www.nauss.edu.sa

28-29
The Computer Forensics Show—To be held in
Washington, DC.
CONTACT: Frank Manley
frmanleyfs@optonline.net

DECEMBER 2007

2-3
ASTM International Committee E52 on Forensic
Psychophysiology—To be held in cat the Tampa
Marriott Waterside in Tampa, FL.
CONTACT: Joe Koury
(610) 832-9804
jkoury@astm.org
http://www.astm.org/
commit/e52.htm

5-7
Medicolegal Investigation of Death Conference—
To be held at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, NV
CONTACT: Wayne State University
School of Medicine
101 E. Alexandrine, Garden Level
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 577-1180
Fax (313) 577-5554
dcem@med.wayne.edu

10-14
Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Workshop—
To be held at the Metropolitan Police Institute of
the Miami-Dade Police Department in Miami, FL.
CONTACT: Toby L. Wolson, MS
Miami Dade Police Department
9105 N.W. 25th St.
Doral, FL 33172
(305) 471-3041
Fax: (305) 471-2052
Twallson@mdpd.com

18-19
Good Clinical Practices - A Global Approach
Course & Workshop—To be held at the AAPS
Training Center in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
CONTACT: AAPS Training Center
200 Consumers Road, Suite 200
Toronto, Ontario, M2J 4R4
Canada
(416) 302-2277
http://www.aaps.ca/
semgcp_global.html
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Address: 
City: 
State: Zip: 

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Your name: 

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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

E-mail: membership@aafs.org

Website: http://www.aafs.org