President’s Message

As I pen this month’s message, I am in New York to speak at the ABA’s 3rd Annual Prescriptions for Criminal Justice Forensics. The Academy has been a co-sponsor of this program since its inception. This year’s program included from the AAFS membership Robert Barsley, Michael Chamberlain, Betty Layne DesPortes, Barry Fisher, Peter Marone, Barry Scheck, Scott Scoville, and Jill Spriggs who participated among five panels discussing the proper use of forensic science on topics that included: the NAS Report, pattern evidence, eyewitness testimony, laboratory reports, DNA, and technology. This has become a well attended conference attracting a wide variety of attorneys, primarily those involved in criminal defense work. Among the interesting discussions engendered by the presentation were several that focused on the words used by forensic experts to convey their opinions in the judicial process. Several suggestions for new language to communicate what an expert may actually mean when he or she states “to the exclusion of all others” were quite interesting.

One of the topics raised by the NAS Report is the call for an independent home for forensic sciences driven by the perception (by many) that forensic practice is often closely aligned with the prosecution. The forensic scientist/expert is engaged in a search for truth – the expertise and ability to “educate” the stakeholders in the judicial process in matters that are beyond the experience and common knowledge of most individuals. In a perfect world, the forensic scientist/expert should not have a stake or an interest in the outcome of a trial. His or her only interest would be to educate the attorneys, the judge, and the jury in the scientific and technical matters that bear on the incident at bar. The criminal defense bar has as much a need (and perhaps in some cases more need) as prosecutors for access to excellence in the forensic sciences. An opportunity to help level the playing field will occur at our annual meeting in February. At the same time we meet at the Wardman Park Marriott, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers will be holding a quarterly meeting at the Omni Hotel next door. They have agreed to hold continued on page 27
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Future AAFS Annual Meeting Dates

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

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

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

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

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By the time you read this, the deadline for the 2013 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting will be almost upon us. I - as I hope are most of you - am looking through my cases from the last year, reviewing the work completed by my enthusiastic and energetic students, thinking about what to submit to my section’s program, and finding collaborations with other sections for interdisciplinary events.

This year especially, I am reaching out to my colleagues and friends across the Academy to encourage you to look down the ranks in your organization and make opportunities for more junior scientists to participate in the AAFS and its annual meeting. (If you are one of these younger people, cut this out and tape it to your training request form!)

Every time the Academy does strategic planning, we are reminded about the “graying” of the Academy, and while the esthetics of that are easily addressed, the attitudes, culture, and outlook of our organization continues to be that of an older generation rather than that which is reflected at the bench in our laboratories and offices.

In the May 2012 issue of the Academy News, President Barsley reflected on his 25 year tenure in AAFS. I similarly have been attending and participating since 1988. I learned plenty, shared what I knew, built my professional network, promoted my organization and its work, and brought back the latest ideas and best practices to my lab. I was fortunate to have a mentor who encouraged that and now endeavor to follow that lead.

The Forensic Sciences Foundation offers numerous grants to offset travel costs, for both students and non-students. With many schools now bringing their students to the meeting, it is important to maintain links and participation once students graduate and enter the forensic science workforce. Check the Foundation’s website for award and grant information.

Presenting a poster or platform presentation is a fantastic entree for a junior professional to meet the leaders in their disciplines and the authors of the work they have come to rely on. Participation in the Academy, by the rising stars in our labs, is the surest way to strengthen its future and provide a brighter path forward.

Finally, remember to review your membership status. Make sure that your service to the Academy through section membership and committee work, participation in the scientific sessions, and attendance at meetings is recognized by applying for promotion to full Member or Fellow.

Academy News
The Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience, Improved by Education and Research

Forensic Science Research and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Sources: Gerald M. LaPorte, MSFS, Fellow - Criminalistics Section and Nancy Ritter

The theme of the 2013 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting — The Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience, Improved by Education and Research — is particularly exciting to the forensics research and development (R&D) team at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). As most Academy News readers know, NIJ is the research, development, and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. NIJ’s mission is to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice.

NIJ’s forensic science R&D program resides in the Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences. Its R&D portfolio is dedicated to increasing knowledge and understanding that guides forensic science policy and practice. This includes producing materials, devices, systems, and methods that have the potential for forensic application, and increasing knowledge regarding the underlying forensic science disciplines that are used in the nation’s criminal justice system.

Over the years, NIJ has funded some of the most internationally renowned agencies, universities, and institutions in the U.S. All of NIJ’s R&D partners — both inside and outside of academia — are culturally rooted in scientific development and they publish peer-reviewed articles. Here in the U.S., NIJ has working relationships with hundreds of state and local crime laboratories, as well as federal laboratories. In fact, historically, the number of NIJ grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and memoranda of understanding in its forensic R&D portfolio exceed that of any other federal agency.

On the international front, in late 2011, NIJ entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and the Netherlands Forensic Institute. This past February, a MOU was signed with the Australia-New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA), which establishes a framework for criminal justice forensic communities in the U.S. and Australia to collaborate in performing new research and development, and in evaluating and using new forensic technologies including training, standards development, information management and exchange, quality assurance and quality control systems, and social science research in the forensic sciences. In particular, NIJ and ANZPAA identified ongoing R&D work in micro-fluidics, statistics, and cognitive bias in fingerprint identification.

At the core of NIJ’s R&D program is a rigorous peer review process. This involves a panel of peer reviewers who evaluate proposals for research, and just as important, reviewers who evaluate final technical reports to provide feedback to grantees prior to release of their findings. Both of these steps in NIJ’s grant-making process are key to ensuring the integrity of the research that is funded.

Over the years, NIJ has had the support of many respected leaders in the scientific community, including members of AAFS. Writing in a 2010 issue of Academy News, Douglas H. Ubelaker said, ”A recent major boon to research in forensic science has been the National Institute of Justice’s Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences (OIFS) whose sole goal is to strengthen the quality and practice of forensic science.”

Many AAFS members know about NIJ’s contribution to previous AAFS meetings. For example, at the 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting, which highlighted global R&D, NIJ funded numerous presenters who contributed to the robust, cutting-edge discussions. NIJ anticipates even greater participation at the 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting.

The Evolution of NIJ’s Forensics R&D Portfolio

In 2009, the National Academy of Sciences’ National Research Council (NRC) released Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward. This study was facilitated and supported by the NIJ. After hearing testimony from a cross-section of forensic science professionals — including from NIJ, the FBI, and Secret Service labs, professional organizations and advocacy groups, such as the Innocence Project — the NRC committee concluded that, in general, forensic science produces valuable evidence that contributes to the successful prosecution and conviction of criminals and to the exoneration of the innocent. However, the committee identified systemic weaknesses in the use of forensic evidence that can lead — and have led — to wrongful convictions. The report contained 13 recommendations designed, in the committee’s opinion, to remove or ameliorate these systemic weaknesses.

Even before the release of this seminal study, however, NIJ had invested millions of dollars in forensic science R&D, the great majority allocated to DNA. Indeed, the NRC committee recognized this, noting that “[t]he development of scientific research, training, technology, and databases associated with DNA analysis have resulted from substantial and steady federal support for both academic research and programs employing techniques for DNA.”

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Academy News
The Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience, Improved by Education and Research

Research Challenges in Digital and Multimedia Sciences

Source: Michael J. Salyards, PhD, Fellow - Digital & Multimedia Sciences Section

The research challenges in digital and multimedia sciences come in several flavors. First, at the heart of computer forensics is the operating system and software that are employed on the typical computer. A casual walk down memory lane at the electronics store reveals a list of changing products like, Windows®, 95, 97, 2000, XP, 7, and 8. New applications, games, and software fill the shelves each month. This changing landscape would be a little like telling the DNA community that genetic information will now be stored in a protein rather than nucleic acid structure. To make matters more complicated, the software programs that are used to detect digital artifacts and deleted files are also constantly changing. Important questions about validation, accreditation, and the need for new training are raised as a forensic tool evolves from version 5.0 to 5.1 to 6.0. Most often examiners are found wondering, “is the change from this version to the next merely cosmetic or are there substantial differences?” Furthermore, the growing size of hard drives and other memory storage devices coupled with the mounting impatience of the judicial and investigative communities creates the need for screening devices that can allow timely (even on-scene) inspection of devices. Investigators need quick access to information that might guide their next steps. In addition, laboratories need the ability to focus on devices that are likely to have probative material. Keeping up with technical changes is only part of the research agenda. The role of computers and digital media in society creates a new set of forensic opportunities and challenges.

For most Baby-Boomers, digital and multimedia devices are gadgets that we have adopted over time. We use a GPS to get from here to there. We make a call on a cell phone when it serves our purposes. We search the Internet to find, sometimes trivial, but specific information. And for this generation, digital and multimedia forensics is most often needed when they have used their computer in the commission of a crime. The most common examples are possession and transfer of child pornography, financial and intellectual property crimes, and unauthorized access into networks and files. However, for the newer generations, digital devices are part of their daily routines. They live their lives, post diaries, communicate their intentions, share their emotions, and confess their sins through a wide variety of social networking sites, emails, and texting activities. The consequence for digital and multimedia sciences is that these new behaviors mean that every crime is likely to have digital evidence associated with it. Sexual assault suspects may have tweeted their intentions. Murderers may have consulted Google Maps for information about where to dispose of a body, and drunk drivers may have sent a date/time stamped text with a self-portrait depicting their consumption of tequila. The caseload and numbers of items to be examined could grow by leaps and bounds as investigators recognize the probative value of this media. Further compounding the problem is that smart phones, tablets, and related devices share very little in the way of hardware, firmware, and operating systems. Trying to replace a lost power cord for one of these devices can bring this point into sharp focus.

On January 15, 2009, US Air Flight 1549 successfully ditched in the Hudson River. The entire crew of Flight 1549 was later awarded the Master’s Medal of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators Award. The citation read, “This emergency ditching and evacuation, with the loss of no lives, is a heroic and unique aviation achievement.” On October 16, 1956, the crew of Pan American Flight 6 had already completed a similar feat as they landed a Boeing 377 in the Pacific Ocean near the Coast Guard Cutter Pontchartrain (the Wikipedia account of this story is a compelling read). The Coast Guard crew, who had been watching the plane circle for hours, actually captured a few photographs as the aircraft ditched in the surf. By comparison, the ditching of US Air Flight 1549, which landed only 3 minutes after declaring an emergency and 6 minutes after takeoff, was covered by numerous close circuit TV cameras. This amazing coverage raises the interesting question, “what else are their cameras capturing: robberies, assaults, homicides, etc?” As a result, the analysis of multimedia evidence is playing an increased role in crime scene reconstruction. The growing placement of cameras and monitoring devices in all manner of public and private places means that criminals may leave not only a latent fingerprint but also a latent iris print, voice sample, and inventory of personal items worn.

We look forward to partnering with the computer science, electrical engineering, and biometrics academic communities to shore up our practices and find to new solutions that are faster, better, cheaper, and transformational.

AAFS 65th Annual Scientific Meeting
Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, DC
February 18-23, 2013
Laura C. Fulginiti, PhD
2013 Annual Meeting Program Chair

A Word From Your 2013 Program Chair

August 1 is rapidly approaching and with it comes the firm deadline for abstract submissions to be considered for the 2013 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting. If you haven’t already submitted an abstract for consideration, now is the time! The whole process is online and as simple as 1…2…3. Go to www.aafs.org, scroll down on the home page and look for the link to the 2013 Annual Meeting. Click on that link and scroll down to the abstract submission button. The system will prompt you to complete all pages. Please do not wait until July 31 to complete the process. Unfortunately, 95% of the abstracts are submitted the last day! The system will be far easier to navigate if you leave yourself more time to complete all of the pages. Don’t forget to gather CVs and financial disclosure forms for all presenting authors. All of this can be completed online. August 1 is a firm deadline; no abstracts will be considered after that date. All programs, including the Interdisciplinary Session, the Plenary Session, breakfasts, luncheons, workshops, and the evening sessions require that abstracts be submitted and the August 1 deadline is firm for those as well!

Check the website at www.aafs.org for updates regarding continuing education topics to be offered at the 2013 meeting. There will be a number of interesting avenues to complete your continuing education credit needs for the year. In addition, President Barsley is arranging for a number of important anniversaries to be recognized at this year’s meeting. The meeting in Washington, DC, is always very well attended so be sure to make a note on your calendar to register early. The conference hotel is the Marriott Wardman Park and information regarding accommodations will be coming soon to the AAFS website.

The 2013 meeting promises to be an international meeting of the minds. Attendees will represent all of the forensic disciplines with visits by important dignitaries, both legislative and from other affiliated disciplines. Other organizations, such as the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), are meeting concurrently with the AAFS meeting and there is sure to be overlap among the entities. Washington, DC, is a vibrant city with a vast array of interesting activities to keep anyone engaged. Bring your family and introduce them to the wonders of American History, Prehistory, and Government.

Most importantly of all, put the finishing touches on your abstract, cajole your colleagues into getting their research together, find interesting and informative cases that demonstrate important forensic ideas and get them submitted. Don’t forget - August 1 is the firm deadline for all abstracts. If you have any questions, the friendly staff at the AAFS office can answer them quickly and efficiently. Get involved! See you in Washington, DC!

The AAFS Abstract Deadline - August 1
Quickly Approaches
Submit your abstract online at www.aafs.org
or see page 11 for details
AAFS Continuing Education Needs Identified

The following is a comprehensive list of recommended abstract topics based on the continuing education needs identified by the 2012 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting attendees:

- Blood Spatter Pattern Analysis
- Challenging Forensic Autopsy Cases
- Dealing with the “Hired Gun” Forensic Expert for the Defense
- Fire Debris Analysis
- Inter-professional Teams
- Investigations
- Persons with Disabilities and Abuse
- Pitfalls & Practical Issues
- Practical Reviews in Pathology
- Psychology Certification
- Scientific Ethics

FSF Needs Your Help With the 2013 $ilent Auction!

With your help, the Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) Annual Silent Auction can exceed expectations during the 2013 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Does your agency or department have “logo” gear such as hats, patches, pins, coffee mugs, T-shirts, denim shirts, polos, etc., that you would be willing to donate to the auction? Many of us are collectors of such items for display at work or at home.

Through extensive research, the FSF will obtain a number of fun items, but YOUR donation will make a huge difference. Please forward items to Kimberly Wrasse at the Academy office no later than December 31, 2012. You and your agency will be recognized for your donation. Auction items received after the deadline will be accepted for the following year. Thank you in advance.

Suggested Items . . .

AAFS Policy On Abstracts and Presentations

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

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

AAFS reserves the right to remove commercial references not disclosed by the author.
2012 Jan Bashinski Criminalistics Thesis Grant: July 31 Deadline

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

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

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

**Grant Amount:** The Jan Grant Award is $500. In addition, up to $1,200 is available for travel expenses to attend a future AAFS Annual Meeting where the awardee has an approved platform presentation of the completed research. The funding must be used to complete the research project.

**Application:** Please complete the application (on page 11) and submit with the required attachments outlined in Part II on the application form.

All submissions must be received and completed by **July 31.** Please submit the aforementioned Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Eligibility Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

FSF Student Affiliate Scholarships: August 1 Deadline

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) will fund a limited number of AAFS Student Affiliate registrations for the 2013 American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting through a “Scholarship Program.”

To qualify for the scholarship, AAFS Student Affiliates must submit an abstract for the AAFS 2013 program through the online submission system or Call For Papers form. In the awards section (5b), check the box indicating “FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship.” The abstract will then be reviewed by the FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship abstracts need not be selected for presentation at the meeting, though this could be deemed advantageous by the selection committee. The scholarships will be awarded through the committee’s evaluation of the quality and relevance of the abstracts to the advancement of forensic science by AAFS Student Affiliates. The deadline for submission is **August 1.**

FSF Travel Grants: October 15 Deadline

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to offer Travel Grants for students to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The FSF Board of Trustees has allocated $5,000, not to exceed $1,000 per student, including complimentary meeting registration. This is a wonderful opportunity, and members are encouraged to promote it.

**Travel Grant Eligibility Requirements:**

1. The applicant must either be an AAFS member/affiliate or an AAFS applicant for membership.
2. The applicant must have submitted an abstract either as a presenter or co-author for the annual meeting he/she will be attending.
3. 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.
4. The applicant must have a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor or professor.
5. The applicant must submit a 400-600 word essay explaining how attendance at an AAFS meeting will impact his/her career decision.
6. The applicant must submit a curriculum vitae to include specifics regarding their involvement in forensic science.

All submissions must be completed and received by **October 15.** Please submit the aforementioned Travel Grant Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.
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.

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

Major ____________________________________  Dates Attended From (mo/yr) ____________________________  To (mo/yr) ____________________________

Level of Degree Earned ___________________________________  Graduation Date (mo/yr) ____________________________

Name of Graduate School _______________________________________  Full/Part Time ______  Hours Earned Sem ______  Qtr ______

Major ____________________________________  Dates Attended From (mo/yr) ____________________________  To (mo/yr) ____________________________

Level of Degree Earned ___________________________________  Graduation Date (mo/yr) ____________________________

Name of Graduate Advisor ____________________________  Address ____________________________________________

Advisor’s Phone ______________________________________  Advisor’s Email ____________________________________________

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

PART II - Thesis/Research Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 ____________________________

For Office Use Only: N
14th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Competition

PURPOSE: To nurture a productive dialogue between emerging judicial and forensic standards of reliability and validity, the Forensic Sciences Foundation is pleased to offer the 14th Annual Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. The award will be presented to the author of the best paper on any topic focusing on the reliability and validity of techniques, processes, or methods in a forensic area of the author’s choice.

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

SELECTION PROCESS: Abstracts accepted by the AAFS Program Committee and the EFSA Program Committee will be scheduled for presentation during the scientific session of the section which accepted the abstract, and evaluated by representatives of the Multidisciplinary Awards Committee appointed by the Forensic Sciences Foundation Board of Trustees. Announcement of the winning entry will be made in the Academy News following determination of the winner by the Awards Committee. The Award will be presented during the 2014 AAFS Annual Business Meeting in Seattle, WA.

CRITERIA TO ENTER: An eligible entrant need not be an AAFS member. However, entrants who are AAFS members must be a Student Affiliate or Trainee Affiliate. All entrants must be within three years of completion of formal training (must submit proof from laboratory director or university professor) at the time the paper is presented in 2013. Only the presenter is eligible for the award; no substitutions will be accepted after the application is submitted. The decision of the Awards Committee is final and the amount of the award is firm. The form below must be completed and sent with the abstract submission to the AAFS office by August 1.

THE AWARD: The award will cover the expense of the recipient’s attendance at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, including registration, up to $1,000 for airfare, lodging while in attendance at the annual meeting not to exceed five nights, and up to $75/day per diem. A commemorative plaque will also be presented to the award winner at the 2014 AAFS Annual Business Meeting in Seattle.

FSF EMERGING FORENSIC SCIENTIST AWARD ENTRY FORM

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

I entered the field of forensic science in ________.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Employer ________________________________________________________

Street Address ___________________________________________________

City/State/Province ________________________________________________

Postal/Zip Code __________ Country ____________________________

Telephone __________________________ Fax __________________________

Email ________________________________

Send this form by August 1, to: AAFS 2013 Program Committee
410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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

_________________________ __________________________
Signature Date

For Office Use Only: N
2013 Annual Meeting

The 65th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) will be held February 18-23, 2013, in Washington, DC.

The Program Committee solicits the submission of abstracts on topics of interest to the forensic science community. **August 1, 2012**, 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, 2012 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.

General Information cont.

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.

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

Poster Presentation

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

Illustrations

All tables and graphs should be converted to gray-scale.

Meeting Registration

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

Journal of Forensic Sciences

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

AAFS Abstract Policy

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

Abstract Length

A single spaced, one page length document containing a minimum 500 to a maximum of 700 words is required. Please attach additional sheet(s) if needed.
Instructions for Abstract Submission & LCD Projection

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

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 single spaced (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 words.
9. A brief statement of what impact the presentation or research findings will have on the forensic sciences and/or humanity.

Abstract 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.
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Sample Abstract

Sample abstract does not meet minimum word requirements.

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 Knot Street, Portland, OR 97212-3092

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

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

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

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

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

Crash, Fatal, Investigation
Complete all of the Following Information

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3. Amount of Time Required: __________________________________________

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5. Is the presenting author an AAFS member/affiliate or applicant? □ Yes  □ No  If yes, AAFS ID # _______________________
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   b. Is abstract a candidate for: FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award? □ Yes  □ No
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We cannot express how happy we are with the outcome of this project which could not have been accomplished without the help and support of the many generous AAFS staff (who compiles the proceedings so beautifully every year) and our AAFS membership community. It was not a small undertaking to compile perhaps the largest collection of case studies and reported research results anywhere. The joint effort included 31 members (27 board members/section chairs with four AAFS Past Presidents), under the guidance of our AAFS staff.

Acknowledgements: 31 AAFS contributing members including counsel from Richard Rosner and Haskell Pithuck compiled this AAFS family of books under the direction of the AAFS Executive Committee and support from the AAFS staff. The following section leaders have made important contributions to their respective book(s): Susan Ballou and Barbara Llewellyn (Criminalistics); Carrie Whitcomb, Zeno Geradts, and David Baker (Digital & Multimedia Sciences); Laura Liptai and Anastasia Micheals (Engineering Sciences) with additional contributions from Tom Bohan and Steve Battersman; Robert Gaffney and Julie Howe (General); Betty Layne DesPortes and Joseph Maltese (Jurisprudence); Robert Barstey and Robert Dorion (Odontology); Victor Weedin. Gregory G. Davis, and Jeffery Tomberlin (Pathology/Biology); Douglas Ubelaker, Norman Sauer, and Susan Myster (Physical Anthropology); Stephen Billick and Daniel Martell (Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences); William Riordan and Carl McClary (Questioned Documents); and, Barry Logan, Jeri Ropero-Miller, and Philip Kemp (Toxicology). The Academy staff made this AAFS family of books possible by delivering excellence: Sonya Bynoe, Debbie Crockett, Sondra Dooolittle, Salena Medina, Cheryl Hunter, Nancy Jackson, Tracie McCray, Christie Vigil, Heather Wagner, Anne Warren, and Kimberly Wrasse.

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In 2007, the National Institute of Justice issued an article, “Addressing Shortfalls in Forensic Science Education.” Common themes of criticism and concern were arising from within the forensic science community. According to the Council of Forensic Science Education, “Students completing these programs expect to find employment in crime labs but are surprised to learn that the lab management is not impressed by the curriculum.” There was an overall impression that the many of the forensic science educational programs simply did not have a strong enough science background. A major response to these criticisms culminated in the formation of Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). FEPAC accredited its first program in 2004. By February 2012, 18 undergraduate and 20 graduate forensic science programs have been accredited by FEPAC.

Unfortunately, the percentage of FEPAC accredited programs in comparison to the number of programs identified by their host universities as forensic science is still rather low. All of us, who are stakeholders in the best practice of forensic science, educators, practitioners, and consumers alike, would like to see many more educational programs seek and obtain FEPAC accreditation. Perhaps if the non-accredited programs realized the success of the FEPAC accredited programs, they may be persuaded to pursue accreditation. While defining an assessment rubric that fully embraces all aspects of accreditation and the associated positive outcomes is difficult, one valuable measure are outcomes such as retention rate, employment statistics, employer satisfaction, number of students pursuing advanced degrees, and participation of students in professional organizations.

An accreditation requirement of FEPAC is that each accredited program must post some of its key achievements or outcomes on a public domain or website. These bragging rights help prospective students select a quality forensic science program from a long list of potential schools. Ideally, public declaration of these achievements will also help onlookers, lab managers included, to see the value of hiring a graduate from a FEPAC accredited program.

This list encompasses highlights for a few of FEPAC’s accredited programs. One public university has obtained a student retention rate of 80.9% while the national retention rate for public universities was 74%. Let’s not forget that with the addition of more natural science and math in the curriculum, an increase in retention is noteworthy. Several of the programs are reporting employment rates as high as 90%. Given the current job market - pretty impressive. While employer satisfaction data is hard to obtain, another accredited program stated that since 2006, employer satisfaction surveys have indicated satisfaction rates of 100%. Equally impressive is the number of students who pursue graduate degrees after completing a B.S. in Forensic Science. Many programs report the rate of students moving on to graduate school above 50%, and one program states that 80% of their students go on to graduate school. Finally, think of the value of introducing students to the value of participation in a professional community such as AAFS. One program reported that in 2011, 80% of their students attended the AAFS Annual Meeting and 60% of those students presented in some manner.

To the accredited FEPAC forensic science programs - well done. For the non-accredited programs, why not consider the benefit to your program and students that will be achieved with accreditation?
The Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made to the Foundation and its Endowment Fund. Please accept our apologies if your name has been inadvertently omitted and contact the AAFS office as soon as possible with the correction. This listing reflects contributions received from 07/01/11 through 06/01/12.

The Fund’s balance through 06/01/12 was $712,089.62. Additionally, the FSF Endowment Fund has provided $166,302 in awards and grants since its inception in 1990.

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Former FSF Trustee Gil Brogdon came up with a great idea for Academy members with advanced degrees. The idea was for everyone to consider contributing to the FSF the equivalent of one hour of their annual salary or the equivalent of the fee charged for one hour of consultation. The forensic sciences have been good to all of us. If you make a lot, consider contributing a lot! For salaried persons, one hour represents about 1/2000th of annual income. For those who receive consulting fees, please consider contributing an amount consistent with one hour (or more) of what you charge for consultation. The fund’s balance through 05/31/2012 was $48,677.82. For those of you who would like to contribute, please complete the IGAH form and return to the AAFS office.

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Section News

CRIMINALISTICS

Source: Lawrence Quarino, PhD  
Section Program Chair

The theme of the AAFS 2013 Annual Meeting, “The Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience, Improved by Education and Research” amply describes the continuing evolution of forensic science as a discipline. The “applied science” moniker stems from the fact that forensic science did not originate from a culture of research. At the dawn of forensic science, academicians and medical specialists applied their knowledge of basic science to questions of criminal activity.1 Historically, this is why many scientists view forensic science as “only an applied science” or worse, a lesser area of study. It is interesting to note that chemistry suffered from the same sort of bias as an applied science early in its history.2 The march toward the removal of the “applied science” moniker can only happen through research and education and the two are not mutually exclusive of one another. In addition to the contributions made by government and commercial entities, the boom in forensic science research has coincided with the development of forensic science educational programs based in large measure on the work performed by the Forensic Science Educational Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). Research performed at the academic level has helped offset the impediments to performing research by bench forensic scientists caused mainly from high case loads. Forensic scientists historically have been too busy working cases to conduct research necessary for the development of new technologies and, equally important, to make apparent the concepts or theories that make forensic science the unique discipline it is. The signs toward progress are everywhere. Journal articles with a forensic science-theme not only appear in forensic science journals but also routinely appear in journals from other scientific disciplines. Similarly, groups like the American Chemical Society often offer forensic science sessions at their annual meetings. Furthermore, meetings of forensic science organizations are filled with both students and faculty from academic institutions presenting original research not unlike other scientific disciplines in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences. In addition, many more laboratory directors seem to value prospective employees with a research background. Many recognize that research enhances critical thinking skills and problem solving ability, attributes necessary for success as a forensic scientist. The evolution of forensic science is evident to many of us who remember when the bulk of presentations at forensic sciences conferences dealt with informative and instructive case studies and not with original research.

The Criminalistics Section hopes to continue this trend at the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, by particularly soliciting abstracts dealing with research into emerging technologies. In addition, abstracts with a focus on helping to make explicit foundational principles of forensic science (for instance, statistical approaches dealing with transfer and individualization of certain classes of evidence) are requested. Abstracts are due August 1. Please consult the guidelines for abstract submission; they are firm. Abstracts must be between 500 to 700 words and include a learning objective and impact statement. If the idea of having more than 20 minutes to present your paper appeals to you, and you want to have real interaction with your colleagues in a more relaxed environment, consider submitting an abstract for a poster session. Poster presenters earn the same credit toward Fellow status as oral presenters.

Finally, section members wishing to help with abstract review or to moderate a session at the 2013 Annual Meeting (e.g., Members of the section wishing to promote to Fellow) should contact Lawrence Quarino, Section Program Chair, at laquarino@cedarcrest.edu.


DIGITAL & MULTIMEDIA SCIENCES

Source: Rhesa G. Gilliland, MS, Section Secretary

The August 1 deadline for submitting abstracts for the 2013 Annual Meeting is fast approaching, so hopefully you have considered how you can represent the Digital & Multimedia Sciences Section. I highly encourage you to submit your abstracts well ahead of the deadline which is set in stone and without exception. As a reminder, we are looking for representation from all of the disciplines that comprise the Digital & Multimedia Sciences Section. In addition to scientific presentations, we are urging our members to consider new workshop ideas, breakfast/lunch seminars, and poster submissions. The success of our section depends on the strong participation of our members.

Academy News
The overarching theme of the AAFS 2013 Annual Meeting is *The Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience Improved by Education and Research*. All relevant papers will be considered, and topics of interest may include but are not limited to the following:

- How digital forensics can support other forensic disciplines;
- Recent scientific advances in digital forensics;
- Case studies demonstrating novel solutions;
- Developments in processes and practices;
- What will digital forensics look like in 5 years;
- How to deal with large data sets in any forensic discipline;
- Quality assurance and control in digital forensics; and,
- Management of digital forensic units/labs.

Papers can be specialized and highly technical since these are directed at your peers. Pre-meeting workshops/seminars on the other hand, are aimed at the entire AAFS membership, and the AAFS Program Committee will only select a limited number of these from our section. The AAFS Program Committee generally looks for workshops/seminars that will benefit the most people, so they should have broad appeal, not just to practitioners in digital and multimedia forensics but other forensic disciplines as well. Please note that the August 1 deadline is absolute. The Academy will not make any exceptions for submissions made after this date. Don’t be left out…be sure to submit papers for the upcoming annual meeting, and encourage your colleagues to participate as well.

If you and your colleague(s) are submitting separate presentations which discuss different aspects of the same topic, and you wish for the presentations to appear in the program in a particular order, please advise either Jason Paroff, Marla Carroll, Doug Lacey, or myself as soon as possible after you have submitted your proposals. This way, the Program Committee will be made aware of the request prior to the time that the schedule is to be made. If the request comes in after the schedule is set, it will not be able to be honored.

**ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

*Source: Richard S. Brown, MS, Section Program Chair*

If you have been keeping up with the *Academy News* newsletter you are aware that a firm deadline for abstracts is approaching (August 1). **David Pienkowski** is organizing a session on the incidence of low energy injury focusing on neurological, abdominal, and cardiovascular injury. **Todd Crawford** is organizing a session dealing with DDT from a historical perspective following the impact of DDT into the present. **Carol Erikson** is working on a session that will certainly promote some discussion...global warming. **Stephanie Domitrovich** (Jurisprudence) is exploring topics where another joint session could be created involving Engineering Sciences and Jurisprudence. Possible topics under discussion are EDR devices in automobiles, how they are used to assist in traffic crashes and litigation and DDT litigation contrasting past and present practices. **Kurt Weiss** has volunteered to be track chair for vehicle crash reconstruction. Of course the program would not be complete without submissions dealing with microscopes (light and electron) and their applications in material characterization, dusts, powders, contact traces, and all things small. Being over 350 years old, the microscope and the other topics under consideration mesh well with the meeting theme “The Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience, Improved by Education and Research.” If you have an idea, suggestion, abstract, or comment you would like to share, please contact me (rbrown@m vainc.com) and I will forward your thoughts to the appropriate track chair. The Washington, DC, meeting is beginning to come together so please don’t wait...the summer will go by quickly! The upcoming meeting depends on your participation and as the past meeting in Atlanta demonstrated, participation produces an excellent session!

**GENERAL**

*Source: Alan F. Boehm, MFS, Section Secretary*

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the August 1 deadline for abstracts will be weeks away. We want to see your presentation in Washington, DC, get those abstracts in! Support the section and inform attendees of the work you are doing. In addition, as a section, we could really use some workshops. They showcase the talent we have and generate income for the section. Please consider presenting a workshop.

There are a lot of worthy members in the section so be sure to nominate them for an award. This should be a competitive process, selecting a recipient from a list of qualified members. So get your nominations in now. Send your nominations directly to the section Awards Committee Chair, **Neal Haskel** (blowfly@technologist.com).

**William Andrews**, Nominating Committee Chair, would like to point out we will be electing a section chair and secretary during the section meeting in Washington, DC. A list of officer responsibilities can be found in paragraphs 7.3.2., 7.3.3., and 7.5.4. III, respectively, of the Academy Policy and Procedure Manual. Nominees can be placed on the ballot in any of three ways: a) selection by the Nominating Committee; b) nomination from membership by petition, supported in writing by a minimum of three Members or Fellows of the General Section; or, c) nomination from the floor during the election process at the annual section business meeting. Petition(s) must be submitted to Bill, by October 15, in order to verify the nominee’s willingness to serve, eligibility, and obtain an AAFS-specific resume. Bill can be reached at william.andrews@eodig.mil.

**Frank Horvath** reported that **John Gerns**, AAFS Vice President and former Chair of the General Section, recently visited the National Center for Credibility Assessment, located at Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC. John, a leading expert on credibility assessment through statement analysis, attended an advanced training course on that topic at the NCCA.
Section News cont.

John Gerns in front of the National Center for Credibility Assessment building in Columbia, SC.

We hope everyone is having a great summer and we look forward to receiving your input for presentations, awards, and nominations.

JURISPRUDENCE

Source: Andrew Sulner, JD, Section Secretary

A friendly reminder that abstracts for presentation at the 2013 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC, must be submitted to the Academy no later than August 1. Submissions are accepted online through the aafs.org website. Please remember that the firm August 1 deadline applies to abstract submissions for scientific sessions, workshops, poster sessions, breakfast or luncheon seminars, and presentations before the Last Word Society.

The theme for this year’s Academy program, “The Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience, Improved by Education and Research,” provides the Jurisprudence Section with a great platform for forensic scientists to educate lawyers about new developments within their forensic disciplines, and for lawyers and judges to educate forensic scientists about the current status of legal challenges to the admissibility of certain forensic evidence and testimony, including the manner in which such evidence is being scrutinized and treated by federal and state courts. We invite you to share your experiences and perspectives with the Jurisprudence Section, whether it be about the judicial treatment of pattern evidence and R eview or the use of forensic investigative tools used for forensic investigative purposes, successful techniques for discussing cutting edge forensic evidence issues in the criminal justice arena. Panelists included current Academy President Robert Barsley, current Academy Board Member Betty Layne DesPortes, AAFS Past President Barry A. J. Fisher, Paul Giannelli, and Barry Schect. The program’s brochure can be viewed at: www.am ericanbar.org/content/dam/aba/events/criminal_justice/forensics2012.authcheckdam.pdf.

On a personal note, I am pleased to report that our colleague and friend, Robert Joling (rjoling@cox.net), has recovered to a great extent from his recent heart attack and the seemingly endless atrial fibrillation treatments. Bob hopes to attend the upcoming Academy meeting in Washington, DC. “Battling Bob” is a World War II veteran of the Pacific Theater of Operations where, as a member of an Air Force B-29 bomber group stationed on Guam, he received the Presidential Unit Citation. He has been a Fellow of the Jurisprudence Section since 1961, past President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (1975-76), and Founder and Chairperson of the Forensic Sciences Foundation. His illustrious career as a lawyer and advocate for reliable forensic sciences was highlighted in the October 2011 issue of the Academy News. On behalf of the entire Academy membership, we wish him well and hope to see him this February.

Robert Forrest was recently appointed coroner for South Lincolnshire in the United Kingdom. The role of a coroner differs from a judge who must decide which private interests should prevail. A coroner is a public official who is responsible for conducting inquests, which are inquisitorial (as opposed to adversarial) proceedings designed to gather all relevant information in order to decide how, when, and where an individual died. The coroner’s duty is to fairly and fearlessly investigate all relevant facts, especially those evidencing foul play, abuse, or inhumanity.

Last year’s effort at recruiting new Jurisprudence Section members was one of the most successful ever. Please maintain the momentum by encouraging at least one of your colleagues to apply for membership in the Jurisprudence Section. Membership applications are available online at www.aafs.org. The membership application process is now conducted solely online. The submission deadline is October 1.
Please make every effort to send Section Chair Paul Messner (firecycle@insightbb.com) and myself (andy.sulner@aol.com) any news pertaining to you, or to an event, that may be published in the Academy News as an item of interest to our members.

Finally, have an enjoyable, if not great, summer!

ODONTOLOGY

Source: Raymond G. Miller, DDS, Section Program Chair

Happy summer! Be aware: as the amount of daylight increases, the time left to submit an abstract for the 2013 Annual Meeting decreases. The absolute deadline is August 1. The theme for this year’s meeting in Washington, DC, is: “The Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience, Improved by Education and Research.” The theme truly represents the spirit and focus of our section as we evolve, grow, and establish our position among the forensic sciences. The presentations and poster sessions provide us the opportunity to shine among our peers throughout the Academy. We especially encourage our newer members to focus on an area of interest and present your findings to improve and enhance the practice of forensic odontology. The experience will be rewarding and will be a step towards promotion within the section.

AAFS President, Robert Barsley, had requested through the Academy Program Chair, Laura Fulginiti, to coordinate an evening session focusing on three specific historical events: the RMS Titanic (100th Anniversary - 2012), the JFK assassination (50th Anniversary - 2013), and the CSS Hunley (150th Anniversary - 2014). This session will be constructed to be of interest to all Academy members. If you have an idea for a more detailed presentation, that is odontology specific, please submit an abstract. It would be great to have forensic dentistry’s contributions in these historic events included in the Odontology Section.

The ABFO will also have weekend workshops at the beginning and end of the annual meeting. The first will be the Bitemark Workshop on the Sunday preceding the meeting, February 17, 2013. This workshop will provide some of the bitemark eligibility requirements toward board certification. On Friday evening and Saturday (February 22-23), the Dental Age Estimation Workshop will be held. This workshop will also provide participants with some of the age estimation requirements that will go into effect for board eligibility in 2014. Both workshops will provide continuing education credit. Visit the ABFO website (www.abfo.org) for more detailed information on these workshops.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to contact me at ray@hdoc@aol.com. There are also a few spots left for moderators during our scientific session. If you are interested, please let me know. I look forward to a great meeting in our nation’s capital.

PATHOLOGY BIOLOGY

Source: Amy C. Gruzecki, DO, Section Secretary

The Pathology/Biology Section is eagerly anticipating the submissions of abstracts for the 2013 Annual Meeting. All abstracts for workshop presentations as well as for the scientific sessions are due on August 1. Please submit your abstracts now! As your Section Program Chair, Jamie Downs, is looking forward to the abstract review process and to planning a great scientific session. Please do not hesitate to contact him or any of the officers of the Pathology/Biology Section if you have any questions.

Eric Christensen, Chair of the Path/Bio Best Resident Paper Award would like to remind all fellows and residents who are doing research to submit their abstract for scientific sessions for the Best Residents Paper Award. Please remember that along with the submission of the abstract, a full manuscript is required to be submitted to be eligible to receive the award. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Christensen. Enjoy your summer!

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Source: Ann H. Ross, PhD, Section Secretary

Leslie Eisenberg informs us that several of our colleagues have received noteworthy awards:

- John Schultz was honored with the College of Sciences’ (University of Central Florida) Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award in March (http://anthropology.cos.ucf.edu/content/news/index.html&articleId=76&view=date).
- Robert “Bob” Mann (JPAC) was inducted as a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. It is an incredible honor and I believe that Bob was the first anthropologist to receive that honor. He tells me that it was the first time he wore (and purchased) a tuxedo!
- Ann Ross received the prestigious University Alumni Outstanding Research Award in May (http://news.class.cmu.edu/?p=2784).

Congratulations to our colleagues for their important contributions to the discipline!

Laura Regan informs us of the following job opportunity: The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, Dover Air Force Base, DE, is seeking to hire a senior forensic anthropologist. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen and should hold a doctoral degree in physical anthropology with a specialization in forensic anthropology. Applications should be board-certified in forensic anthropology. If not board-certified, the incumbent is expected to pass their boards within two years of hire. The incumbent should also have conducted post-doctoral work in association with a medical examiner or coroner’s office as a forensic anthropologist, or within a forensic anthropology laboratory performing consultative services for medical examiners/coroners. The job posting will be advertised on the USAJobs website (www.usajobs.gov) in the near future. For further information, please contact Lt. Col. Laura Regan (Laura.regan@us.army.mil; 302) 346-8711.

As we approach the August 1 submission deadline for abstract submissions, the 2013 Physical Anthropology Section Program Committee encourages all persons interested in submitting abstracts to review the Academy abstract submission guidelines (www.aafs.org/aafs-2013-annual-meeting). In an effort to achieve the highest quality submissions and a transparent continued on page 26
review process, the Physical Anthropology Section Executive Committee has developed supplemental guidelines for evaluating abstracts, available on the AAFS Physical Anthropology Section webpage (www.aafs.org/physical-anthropology). These guidelines outline the process for developing an Abstract Review Committee and the mechanism by which the committee will evaluate abstracts. Please feel free to contact the 2013 Section Program Chair, Elias Kontanis (elias.kontanis@utsb.gov; 202-281-5458), if you have any questions about the submission or review process.

If you have any Academy News items, please email Ann Ross (ahross@ncsu.edu). The next deadlines are August 1 and October 1.

**PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE**

**Source:** Christopher R. Thompson, MD, Section Secretary

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Adolescent Psychiatry, titled “Adolescents and Addictive Behaviors Across the Spectrum” was held in New York City from March 30 - April 1. Manual Lopez-Leon, Section Chair, was the meeting Chair and numerous section Members/Fellows presented at the conference. Many thanks to section members for their attendance and presentations at (and planning for) this meeting.

Many section members also attended and presented at the American Psychiatric Association’s Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, this past May. Additionally, at this meeting, section Fellow (and former AAFS Vice President as well as Section Chair) Robert Weinstock was nominated to run unopposed for President-Elect of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law. His term would begin in late October 2013.

In publishing news, the AAFS Executive Committee, with help from section leadership and members, again is compiling and publishing the AAFS Reference Series, a compendium of the most recent AAFS Annual Meeting's abstracts. This series will be available to the public on Amazon. If individual section members would like to assist with the abstract editing process (either their own or others), please contact Christopher Thompson at the email address below.

As another reminder, the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law will be held in Montreal, Quebec, October 25-28. Numerous section members attend and present at this meeting and attendance offers section members a chance to see each other again prior to the AAFS Annual Meeting in February as well as offers the opportunity to potentially recruit new section members.

Finally, please remember that the AAFS 65th Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC, February 18-23, 2013. Section Program Chair, Eleanor Vo, and Assistant Program Chair Eugene Lee are working on developing an excellent program. But, it can only be as good as the submissions and subsequent presentations, so please keep the fast-approaching August 1 submission deadline in mind.

We welcome the submission of news items for this column from members. Please submit these items to Christopher Thompson, Section Secretary at chthompson@mednet.ucla.edu.

**QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS**

**Source:** Pamela Zilly, BS, Section Secretary

Ron Morris is working hard to put together an outstanding Questioned Documents Section Program for the Washington, DC, meeting. Please consider being part of the program. August 1 is the deadline for submission of your final/approved abstracts for the 2013 meeting. Detailed information on abstract preparation and submission is available on the Academy website at: www.aafs.org/aafs-2013-annual-meeting. This year we are hoping for a number of papers focused on problem solving at the casework level. Perhaps you have had a case in which you encountered a difficult or unusual problem. How did you approach solving the problem? What kind of experiments did you do before applying a new technique to case documents? What were the results of your experiments? Were you able to solve the problem with the original case documents? In short, problem solving at the workshop level. So get your thinking caps on and get those abstracts submitted. The success of the meeting depends a great deal upon the participation of the FDE community. If you have questions or suggestions about the 2013 program, please contact Ron Morris at rmorris@erols.com.

You may want to start making your travel plans for the AAFS 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting. Airlines have started accepting reservations for February 2013 and Washington, DC, is an excellent travel destination filled with an infinite number of amazing places to visit and things to see. Combining the meeting with a family vacation is highly recommended. The excellent Metro system in DC makes travel to the many attractions very simple. Keep in mind, winter in DC may be much colder than the climate where you live. Dress accordingly and plan to join your fellow FDEs for an educational and fun networking opportunity.

Academy membership and advancement information can be found at: www.aafs.org/membership. If you have any questions, please contact our QD Section Chair, Tom Vastrick, at vastrick@yahoo.com.

**TOXICOLOGY**

**Source:** Ruth E. Winerker, PhD, Section Chair

Two items of importance were discussed during the Toxicology Section Business Meeting this past February, and I hope to start a dialogue with this newsletter article. The first is a lack of nominations for section awards. Just in case you are new to the section, following is a listing the various section awards: The Alexander O. Gettler Award – Analytical Achievement in Forensic Toxicology, The Rolla N. Harger Award – Outstanding Contributions in Forensic Toxicology, The Rav Abernethy Award – Outstanding Forensic Toxicology Practitioner, The Irving Sunshine Award – Outstanding Research by a Young Investigator, and The June K. Jones Scholarship. Do you have a colleague or mentor, who might qualify for the Gettler, Harger, or Abernethy award? How about a young investigator or student deserving of the Sunshine Award or Jones scholarship? It’s true - we are all very busy but it is important to recognize outstanding contributors to our field. Keep in mind the deadline for submissions is right around the corner on
August 1, but you don’t have to do all of the work of nominating someone alone. Contact your section officers (ruth.winecker@ocdhhhs.nc.gov or langman.loralie@mayo.edu) or the awards committee chair for help (chronist@pathology.ufl.edu). The second of business concerns the establishment of an outstanding poster award with the goal of encouraging students and less experienced toxicologists to become members of the Academy and to participate in the AAFS Annual Meeting. This award is designed to be a monetary award to help defray the costs of meeting attendance. The general consensus at the business meeting was that establishing this award is a worthwhile endeavor; however, the award as presented to the section membership needed further work and a higher monetary value than the suggested $500 dollars. Please submit your thoughts on how to bring this to fruition (ruth.winecker@ocdhhhs.nc.gov; 919-445-4428).

Now it is time to focus on the 2013 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The August 1 deadline for abstracts and workshop proposals is fast approaching. The section program chair and co-chair (Ashraf Mozayani, ashraf.mozayani@ifs.hctx.net and Dwain Fuller, dwain.fuller@va.gov) are excited to fill our program so if you have an idea for a presentation or a workshop proposal, please get in touch with them as they can help you with your submission. The deadline for designation of volunteers and moderators is just one month later (Sept. 1), if anyone wishes to volunteer to participate in the section scientific sessions, please contact either Ashraf or Dwain. Last but not least, the Toxicology Section Steering Committee would like to hear from you on ideas for moving the section forward. Please contact the steering committee chair Loralie Langman, (langman.loralie@mayo.edu) with your concerns or comments.

President’s Message cont.

a special session at their meeting on Friday February 22, at which time members of the AAFS can present short talks on the types of expertise and testing available for the defense in investigating crimes and bolstering the defense case. I am hoping (and have promised the NACDL) that eight to twelve of our members representing most (if not all) of our sections would offer a 15 minute presentation highlighting the advances in the science and the opportunities to address needs of the defense bar in representing their clients’ interests. Fingerprints, DNA, questioned documents, odontology, anthropology, medical death investigation, engineering science, digital forensics – in fact all aspects of forensics impact the defense as well as the prosecution. If you are interested in making a presentation, please email me at rbarsl@lsuhsc.edu and put the words “NACDL talk” in the subject line and in the body of the email describe what you would present. I will then put you in touch with NACDL to work out the details. Since their meeting concludes on Friday, we are also working with them to arrange a daily rate for any interested members to attend our Saturday Scientific Sessions – if your section has a Saturday session, and your topic might concern interests of the defense, you may wish to speak with your section program chair about presenting on Saturday.

In closing, I assure you that your leadership is monitoring the state of forensic reform legislation in the Congress. Slow, but steady progress is being made and the voice of the membership of the AAFS has been heard.

Don’t forget, the AAFS August 1 deadline for abstract submission is firm. I urge you to submit your scientific abstracts, luncheon and breakfast program abstracts, special session proposals, Last Word Society abstracts, and gather up cases for the BYOS. Details for submission are included later in this issue of the Academy News. By the time you read this, less than a month will remain. In the next issue, I will have an update on the 22nd Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine – more than a dozen of our members are scheduled to present papers at the meeting in Istanbul in early July. A respectable AAFS contingent has signed up for the International Educational Outreach Program (IEOP) offered in conjunction with that meeting. I urge you to strongly consider attending next year’s IEOP, details of which will soon be announced by President-Elect Barry Logan.

Correction

In the March/April 2012 issue of the Academy News newsletter (Vol. 42 - Issue 2, page 18), the President’s Reception Photo Recap Section included the name and photo of a guest during the recent 64th Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta, GA. The reception guest was Amy Carney (Fellow - General), not Jennifer Mihalovich (Fellow - Criminalistics).
Forensic Science Research and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) cont.

But just as science must evolve, so too must a science agency. Therefore, in 2009, NIJ announced a first-of-its-kind “fundamental research” solicitation. The goal of this new program (“Fundamental Research to Improve Understanding of the Accuracy, Reliability, and Measurement Validity of Forensic Science Disciplines”) was to improve the understanding of the accuracy and reliability of methods used to analyze evidence. Because NIJ recognized the importance of investigating the fundamental underpinnings of forensic science disciplines that are primarily qualitative in nature, development of more objective measures to improve current practices were sought. In particular, research that addressed the following areas was reviewed:

- the strengths and limitations of analytical procedures,
- sources of bias and variation,
- quantification of uncertainties created by these sources,
- measures of performance,
- procedural steps in the process of analyzing forensic evidence, and
- methods to continuously monitor and improve the steps in the forensic evidence analysis process.

In 2010, NIJ released a number of forensic research solicitations, including, as in the past, targeting DNA and fundamental research; research proposals regarding crime scene and medico-legal investigations; instrumental analysis; and pattern and impression evidence.

Although encouraged by the fundamental research proposals funded in 2009 and 2010, the need to delve even more deeply into the underpinnings of forensic science was recognized. Therefore, in 2011, NIJ released two new types of solicitations. The first (“Basic Scientific Research to Support Forensic Science”) sought to expand the fundamental basis of the physical, life, and cognitive sciences upon which the forensic disciplines rely. The second (“Applied Research and Development in Forensic Science”) sought to develop highly discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence.

NIJ was very pleased with the response to both the basic and applied research solicitations again in 2012.

Funding Forensics R&D

During the past three years (fiscal years 2009-2011), NIJ issued 16 solicitations and other (“directed”) funding mechanisms for research and development in the forensic sciences. In 2009, these included work in DNA, trace evidence, impression evidence, and fundamental research. In 2010, NIJ’s projects included work in instrumental analysis for forensic science applications, crime scene and medico-legal death investigations, pattern and impression evidence, forensic DNA, and as in the previous year, fundamental research projects. In 2011, NIJ’s solicitations included both basic and applied R&D for criminal justice purposes.

From 2009 to 2011, NIJ funded 174 projects totaling $71,280,619. Following is the breakdown by year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>NIJ R&amp;D Awards</th>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$24,734,010</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>29,035,423</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>17,511,186</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NIJ’s R&D portfolio in the forensic sciences is comprised of 14 disciplines. The table below provides the breakdown (for awards made in fiscal years 2009-2011) by discipline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Funding Awarded</th>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>$2,573,992</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled substances</td>
<td>921,048</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime scene investigation</td>
<td>3,572,250</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital forensics</td>
<td>2,321,400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic entomology</td>
<td>483,323</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire &amp; arson investigation</td>
<td>2,848,270</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic DNA</td>
<td>24,512,667</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friction ridge</td>
<td>8,543,927</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General forensics</td>
<td>2,170,237</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impression evidence</td>
<td>7,700,508</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic pathology</td>
<td>4,606,588</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questioned documents</td>
<td>1,989,618</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic toxicology</td>
<td>2,350,719</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trace evidence</td>
<td>6,686,972</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$71,280,619  174
NIJ assesses the technical and programmatic progress of R&D grantees through semi-annual reports. NIJ also evaluates the reach and impact of the research funded through publications and presentations at meetings and conferences. For example, from 2009 through mid-April 2012, NIJ’s forensic science R&D grantees published 122 articles and presented their research at 264 meetings and conferences.9

In addition to forensic science R&D programs, NIJ funds research projects at the student level, which exemplifies both of the underlying themes—education and research—of the upcoming AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting. The NIJ Ph.D Graduate Research Fellowship Program provides funding to accredited academic universities offering research-based doctoral degrees in disciplines that are relevant to NIJ’s mission. Several awards under this program have supported students who were completing their doctorate-related research in forensic science disciplines. NIJ has also partnered with the Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc. to launch the Forensic Science Student Research Program, which provides small research grants to students enrolled in a program accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).

Bringing In the Statistical Community
Like all scientific research agencies, NIJ is committed to building knowledge through interdisciplinary partnerships with professional scientists, including statisticians. Among NIJ’s currently active awards are many quantitative studies. Therefore, in response to the growing demand for quantifiable measurement, NIJ brought the statistical community into its forensic science R&D portfolio.

Statisticians can play a significant role in helping forensic researchers design a scientifically rigorous study. Their expertise can also be invaluable in interpreting and evaluating the significance of findings, including whether they are statistically sound. For example, statisticians have made major contributions to the evolution of DNA analysis. However, until recently, there has not been a similar research effort in handwriting analysis, impression and pattern analysis, such as fingerprints, and firearms and tool marks.

In A Path Forward, the NRC committee stated that “[a] body of research is required to establish the limits and measures of performance and to address the impact of sources of variability and potential bias. Such research is sorely needed, but it seems to be lacking in most of the forensic disciplines that rely on subjective assessments of matching characteristics.”10

Among the committee’s recommendations to remove or ameliorate these systemic weaknesses, were two of particular note with respect to statistics (recommendations 2 and 5):

- Research that addresses the accuracy, reliability, and validity in the forensic science disciplines, including:
  - Studies that establish the scientific bases of the validity of forensic methods.
  - Development and establishment of quantifiable measures of the reliability and accuracy of forensic analyses that reflect actual practice, based on realistic case scenarios, averaged across a representative sample of forensic scientists and laboratories, including the limits of reliability and accuracy that analytic methods can be expected to achieve.
  - Development of quantifiable measures of uncertainty in the conclusions of forensic analyses.
  - Automated techniques that enhance forensic technologies.
- Research that explores human observer bias and sources of human error in forensic examinations, including the effects of contextual bias in forensic practice—for example, whether (and to what extent) the results of forensic analyses are influenced by knowledge regarding the background of the suspect and the investigator’s theory of the case.

NIJ agrees with these recommendations. Just as the NRC committee identified systemic weaknesses in forensic evidence and emphasized the harm done when poor forensic evidence is used in adjudicating a case, NIJ recognized the need to develop more quantifiable data in, for example, the areas of impression and pattern analysis. NIJ knew that the foundation of our nation’s criminal justice system required proof that these disciplines were accurate, valid, and reliable—and, indeed, this is the thinking that led to NIJ’s fundamental research solicitation, as discussed earlier. NIJ is confident that, with the input of statisticians, these goals are achievable. Toward that end, since 2009, NIJ has funded $8.5 million in friction ridge research; $7.7 million in impression evidence research; and $2.8 million in research dedicated to fire and arson investigation.

Conclusion
NIJ believes that research, development, and evaluation comprise the systematic processes upon which a more efficient, effective, and fair criminal justice system can be built. This work is based on an integrated three-step process:

1) develop new technologies (R&D)
2) transfer and disseminate new technologies to the field
3) test and evaluate how well the forensic technologies work in the field.

For example, with respect to technology transfer or dissemination (step 2), NIJ recently entered into a cooperative agreement with RTI International and its partners (Duquesne University, University of North Texas Health Center, and Virginia Commonwealth University) to serve as the Forensic Science Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE). The FTCoE provides testing, evaluation, technology assistance,
Forensic Science Research and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) cont.

and other services with respect to technologies used by crime laboratories, forensic service providers, law enforcement, and other criminal justice agencies to combat crime.

Step 3, above, brings in NIJ’s Office of Research Evaluation, the “social sciences” side of the house, which evaluates how well forensic technologies are being used in the field to solve crime and increase public safety. Among such recent projects, for example, is an evaluation of the effectiveness of using DNA to solve property crimes. And, currently, NIJ is engaged in an action-research project in Wayne County (Detroit) and Houston to learn more about untested sexual assault evidence that has not been sent to a lab. The NIJ-funded teams in these jurisdictions include researchers and representatives from the police department, crime lab, prosecutor’s office, sexual assault forensic examiners, and community-based victim services organizations. One of the primary goals of this project is to produce transportable lessons and strategies to help other jurisdictions that discover untested SAKs in their property rooms. Final results are expected in 2014.

By fully integrating the research and development, technology transfer, and testing and evaluation of forensic technologies, NIJ works to ensure that the nation’s criminal-justice system maximizes the use of forensic tools and technologies in solving crime and improving public safety — and NIJ’s R&D portfolio forms the bedrock of this process.

To see NIJ’s current funding opportunities, visit: www.nij.gov/nij/funding/current.htm. For more information about NIJ’s forensic R&D activities, visit www.nij.gov/nij/topics/forensics/forensic-awards.htm or contact the agency at forensic.research@ojp.usdoj.gov.

Footnotes
7. These figures do not include a separate solicitation called “Electronic Crime and Digital Evidence Recovery,” which was issued in 2009, 2010 and 2011.
8. General forensics refers to projects that are not discipline-specific, such as the statistical analysis of forensic databases and NIJ’s expert working group on methods of reporting probabilistic statements on forensic evidence in court.
9. This number includes peer-reviewed articles in academic journals and abstracts published in conference proceedings; it does not include articles published in trade journals or mainstream media.
10. NRC, see footnote 2.

In Memoriam

Julie A. Gibson, MD, Associate Member of the Pathology/Biology Section, April 2012
Maurice G. Rogev, MBChB, Member of the Pathology/Biology Section, April 2012
Karen S. Runyon, BA, Member of the Questioned Documents Section, March 2012
William Thorpe, Retired Fellow of the Questioned Documents Section, May 2012

Academy News
Applicants

The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1 will be considered for approval at the February 2013 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 7, 2013.

Criminalistics

Associate Member
Ahmed, Ali S., PhD
Dubai, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Alotaibi, Mohammad H., PhD
Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA
Andersen, Cheryl, MS
Los Angeles, CA
Bell, Erica
Phoenix, AZ
Beshore-Strohm, Bev. A., MS
Bethlehem, PA
Bitza-Ray, Farah J., BS
Phoenix, AZ
Bolton, James J., PhD
Jonesboro, GA
Castaneda, Iliana, MD
Benito Juarez, MEXICO
Cherry, Lauty, PhD
LEBANON
Colley, Thomas, BS
South Riding, VA
Collier, Gabrielle
Brookfield, OH
Crunk, Jennifer L., BS
Farmers Branch, TX
Edwards, Jamie L., MA
Joliet, IL
Forbes, Megan A, MS
Coppell, TX
Garofalo, Hallie N., MSFS
Columbus, OH
Green, Hadyn R.
Crawley, AUSTRALIA
Gwarz San, Sheltu, BSc
Lagos, NIGERIA
Hare, Rachel
Mahwah, NJ
Henry, Fernanda, BSc
Castries, SAINT LUCIA
Johnson, Amy L., MS
Salt Lake City, UT
Johnson, Stacey E., BS
Anchorage, AK

Johnson, Steven L., BS
Arlington, VA
Kairys, Cynthia, JD
Napa, CA
Khajuria, Himanshu, MSc
Delhi INDIA
Khalil, Saifelklm A., PhD
Dubai, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Kim, Hong Myong
Seoul, KOREA
Le, Victoria, BS
Anaheim, CA
Lindberry, Tonya, BS
Bemidji, MN
Loren, Melissa, BS
Saint Paul, MN
Mabel, Daniel E., MS
Cleveland, OH
Mazzanti, Heather E., MSFS
Glenside, PA
Mead, Breanna, MS
Stony Brook, NY
Meadows, Kristen, BS
West Melbourne, FL
Monson, Yvette A., MSFS
Washington, DC
Moore, Tyiesha, MA
Hyattsville, MD
Moreno, Jennifer
Houston, TX
Murphee, Sherri Hughes, MS
Greenville, SC
Oteri, Cynthia C., BA
Daytona Beach, FL
Parton, Temple Gordon, MA
Port St. Joe, FL
Ribadeneyra, Tiffany A., BS
East Meadow, NY
Rizq, Osaar, BS
Dallas, TX
Roller, Robert W., III, BS
Indianapolis, IN
Rubino, Allison M., MS
Farmington, NY
Shane, Rebecca A., BS
Wilmington, DE
Shazad, Muhammad S., PhD
Lahore, PAKISTAN
Speir, Jacqueline A., PhD
Allentown, PA
Talbot, Ann, BS
Nashville, TN
Templin, Taylor L., BS
Farmers Branch, TX
Tsuboi, Dani H., BS
Clackamas, OR
Weidemann, Andrea L., MSFS
San Mateo, CA
Wicchman, Steven M., BS
London, OH
Wilson, Lori J., PhD
Richmond, KY

Trainee Affiliate
Ammang, Teddy N.L., MSFS
Albuquerque, NM
Bass, Kennese J.
Tracy, CA
Berlin, Rebecca M., MS
Glendale, CA
Bintz, Brittaina J., MSFS
Cullowhee, NC
Cerow, Kaitlyn M., MS
Dallas, TX
Cope, Fredericka E., MSFS
Brunswick, OH
Daviss, Elza M., BA
Dallas, TX
DeLong, Jennifer Irene, BS
Coral Springs, FL
Feathers, Valerie R., MA
Salina, KS
Frizzell, Eric
Mayer, AZ
Fuqua, Latisha
Duarte, CA
Gonzalez, Brittney C., MS
Kingwood, TX
Ha, Anna Liza Oandasan, MA
Hilo, HI
Ha, Quan V., BS
San Francisco, CA
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Applicants cont.

Herron, Tori, BA
Glendale, NY
Karp, Jennifer, BS
Stony Brook, NY
Lehs, Hevis, MS
Quincy, MA
Mavris, Daphne, BS
East Elmhurst, NY
Menchaca, Arturo C., MS
Fort Worth, TX
Miller, Dennis, MS
Decatur, GA
Singh, Divyanshu, MSc, MBA
Agra, INDIA
Thompson, Atrial B., BS
Bismarck, ND
Waters, Sara C., BS
Lubbock, TX

Student Affiliate

Aguirre, Elena M.
Noblesville, IN
Aleman, Roland
Austin, TX
Alvarez, Carola
Arlington, TX
Barker, Michael
Johns Creek, GA
Blosser, Shannon E., BA
New Cumberland, PA
Brown, Kayla
Salt, IA
Carter, Lauren
Sandy, UT
Choi, Yeeje A.
Chicago, IL
Clark, Michelle D., BS
Atlanta, GA
Cook, Erik
Lexington, KY
Coyne, Kristen M.
Pittsburgh, PA
Crisan, Vasile G.
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Doughtie, Joshua, BS
San Jose, CA
Freund, Michelle R.
Platteville, WI
Gdovin, Samantha
Tucson, AZ
Gnyra, Emily, BA
Windsor, ON CANADA
Gordon, Rachel M.
Sacramento, CA
Green, Danielle, BS
Riverdale, GA
Guidry, Monica A.
Selma, TX

Guillen Vasquez, Ma Veronica
Temecula, CA
Hall, Daniel E., BS
Butler, PA
Harvey, Ancelia S.
Baltimore, MD
Huang, Ying Keng, BS
Honolulu, HI
Jackson, Yashika
Millesville, MD
Kim, Jane H., BS
Burlank, CA
Kimmons, Heather A., BS
Lubbock, TX
Kublits, Jancee
Chandler, AZ
Larsen, Christina R.
McDonough, GA
Leppa, Tracy J.
Creston, IA
Martin, Thomas J., Jr.
Norco, CA
McCoy, Brandy L.
Sault Ste Marie, MI
Mesheka, Senyom T.
San Jose, CA
Mestas, Sara M.
San Leandro, CA
Mohammed, Wendeec L., BS
Colorado Springs, CO
Montgomery, D’Amore
Fullerton, CA
Mora, Jennifer
Los Angeles, CA
O’Keefe, Lindsay
Conyers, GA
Patrick, Season J., MS
Winter Springs, FL
Pease, Vincent
Buffalo, NY
Pritchard, Laura K., BS
Iliion, NY
Quinones, Gabriela
Hialeah, FL
Reed, La’Trecce M.
Fitzgerald, GA
Reimer, Laura
Durham, CT
Rigaud, Sydney A.
Plantation, FL
Rivera, Jennifer
Bayamon, PR
Santos, Samantha
Marstons Mills, MA
Santos, Shar M., BS
Jackson, MI
Sevilla, Samantha, BS
Falls Church, WA

Smart, Blair
Antioch, TN
Strasser, Kimberly J.
Warren, RI
Strickland, Daniel J., Jr.
Winder, GA
Szkudlarek, Cheryl A., BS
Indianapolis, IN
Teixeira, Shenique Anyse, BA
Ceres, CA
Vezzani, Kara N.
Great Falls, MT
Wager, Ashley N.
Columbia, MO
Wells, Stephen G., Jr.
Hilliard, OH
Whelan, Crystal
Georgetown, KY
White, Teresa M.
Iowa City, IA
Winicki, Theresa M., MA
Seabrook, TX

Digital & Multimedia Sciences

Associate Member

Dykstra, Joseph, MS
Severn, MD
Eldridge, Mark, BS
Dallas, TX
Lising, Ariel L., BS
Boston, MA
Nguyen, Lam D., MS
Lorton, VA
O’Sullivan, William Vincent, MS
Springfield, IL
Tasar, Vebbi
St. Petersburg, FL
White, Joseph L., MS
Forest Park, GA

Trainee Affiliate

Helenek, Katherine, MS
Huntington, WV
Ibrahim, Adanna D.
Abuja NIGERIA
Scifried-Spellar, Kathryn C., PhD
Seattle, WA

Student Affiliate

Deucalion, Alexander
Las Cruces, NM
Goodall, Patrick G., BA
Huntington, WV
Hernandez, Edgar
Huntington, WV

Hodge, Dwayne A.
Midlothian, IL
Lavender, Nicholas A.
South Point, OH
Perumal, Sundaresan
Bayan Baru, NS MALAYSIA

Engineering Sciences

Associate Member

Ito, Yasumi, PhD
Nagoya, JAPAN
Lee, Youngnae, PhD
Seoul KOREA
Nemire, Kenneth
Captorla, CA
Park, Chan-Song, PhD
Daejeon, KOREA
Rhodes, William, BSEE, PE
Lexington, TX
Rodriguez-Amezquita, Hector, BS
San Juan, PR
Tolleson, Andrew R., MS
Columbia, SC

General

Associate Member

Anand, Jassy, PhD
Chandigarh, INDIA
Avina, Ruthie, MS
Los Angeles, CA
Berry, Nakia S.
Los Angeles, CA
Bless, Bethany Lynn, MS
Houston, TX
Bolin, Matthew J., PhD
Colorado Springs, CO
Brooks, Tiffany, BS
Waldorf, MD
Bryant, Michael S.
Greer, SC
Bushong, Lee C., BLS
Lehigh Acres, FL
Cabrera, Teresa S., MA
Sacramento, CA
Campbell, Nicole A., BS
Largo, FL
Clapin, Sharielyn
Laguna Niguel, CA
Chein, Edmund, MD, JD
San Diego, CA

Academy News
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Applicants cont.

Smith, Kyle M.
Kings Park, NY

Starks, Acea M., BA
Colnuta, GA

Strand, Kristen Elizabeth, BS
Overland Park, KS

Tilney, Rebecca J.
San Jose, CA

Ubbens, Alan A., MS
Guyton, GA

Wallace, Vicky
Portales, NM

White, Megan J.
Attica, KS

Williams, Paris Danielle
Fayetteville, NY

Wood, Sara Jayne
Albany, OR

Cummings, Clayton C., DDS
Nashville, TN

Khalifa, Dien, DDS
Dakar, SENEGAL

Porco, Mark D., DDS
Lincoln, CA

Prudhomme, Michael T., DDS
Clarkston, MI

Shih, Kingston, DDS
Mountain View, CA

Vermette, Ann C., DMD
Dracut, MA

Wilson, Lori, DDS
Petersburg, VA

Trainee Affiliate
Kilkuts, Sandra A., DMD
Tucson, AZ

Student Affiliate
Aasdam, Dag, DDS
Preveissin Moines, FRANCE

Higgins, Kathleen E.
McLean, VA

Shakoor, Asif, BDS
Lahore, PAKISTAN

Sandiford, Anna, PhD
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

Vega, Rosa A., BS
San Jose, CA

Youmans, Amanda J., DO
Bloomington, IL

Ziegler, Carey, BS
Topeka, KS

Trainee Affiliate
Badian, Cheryl, BS
Windsor, ON CANADA

Ennis, Willis A., MD
Charleston, SC

Kobylnski, Kelly, DO
Tucson, AZ

Lopez, Lorraine, MD
Rochester, NY

Maskovay, Amanda, MD
Cleveland Heights, OH

Nardecchia, Lina M., MS
Fairfax, VA

Shields, Julia, MD
Baltimore, MD

Springer, Jeffrey R., MD
Louisville, KY

Trainee Affiliate
Blake, Kathleen, PhD
Osweego, NY

Willits, Nikki A., MA
Chico, CA

Student Affiliate
Astorino, Claudia, BS
New York, NY

Bell, Ian Carter
Halifax, NS CANADA

Boys, Serrin
Punta Gorda, FL

Brettell, Sarah
Knoxville, TN

Carter, Sarah A.
Encino, CA

Douglas, Benjamin C.
Charlotte, NC

Farris, Rachael A.
Baton Rouge, LA

Grosso, Alicia Rose, BS
Olean, NY

Heilbrunner, John Eric
Santa Cruz, CA

Jordan, Alison, BS
Murfreesboro, TN

Keith, Kelli L., BS
New Bern, NC

Kiss, Meghan, MA
Columbia, MO

Kulans, Mary, BA
Eric, PA

Leff, Nicole J., BS
El Dorado Hills, CA

Mayberry, Alanna
Arvada, CO

Mecalfly, Anthony E.
Baltimore, MD

PHYSICAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

Associate Member
Baker, Kristen N., MA
Honorolultu, HI

Jelaca-Tavakoli, Maria, PhD
Chula Vista, CA

Kokkali, Voula, MSc
London, UNITED KINGDOM

Trainee Affiliate
Blake, Kathleen, PhD
Osweego, NY

Willits, Nikki A., MA
Chico, CA

Student Affiliate
Astorino, Claudia, BS
New York, NY

Bell, Ian Carter
Halifax, NS CANADA

Boys, Serrin
Punta Gorda, FL

Brettell, Sarah
Knoxville, TN

Carter, Sarah A.
Encino, CA

Douglas, Benjamin C.
Charlotte, NC

Farris, Rachael A.
Baton Rouge, LA

Grosso, Alicia Rose, BS
Olean, NY

Heilbrunner, John Eric
Santa Cruz, CA

Jordan, Alison, BS
Murfreesboro, TN

Keith, Kelli L., BS
New Bern, NC

Kiss, Meghan, MA
Columbia, MO

Kulans, Mary, BA
Eric, PA

Leff, Nicole J., BS
El Dorado Hills, CA

Mayberry, Alanna
Arvada, CO

Mecalfly, Anthony E.
Baltimore, MD

JURISPRUDENCE

Associate Member
Carbia, Matilde J., JD
New Orleans, LA

Durham, Caroline, JD
Minneapolis, MN

Grüße, Roslind, JD
Texarkana, TX

Groy, Gail C., JD
Kenosha, WI

Lally, James R., JD, PhD
Albuquerque, NM

Manchester, Brian, JD
Belfonte, PA

Osuaowu, Ugochukwu E., LLB
Ahuja, NIGERIA

Vaira, Michele, Av
Foggia, ITALY

Student Affiliate
Bates, Courtney L., BBA
Nashville, TN

Namarone, Lukelesia
Nairobi, KENYA

Parham, Camille Y., MS
Warrenton, NC

PATHOLOGY/ BIOLOGY

Associate Member
Archir, Melanie S., PhD
Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

Challakere Ramaswamy, Vasudeva
Shah Alam, MALAYSIA

Cravello, Maurizio, MD
San Maurizio Canavese, ITALY

Froloff, Victor, MD
St. Paul, MN

Heinz, Kevin M., PhD
College Station, TX

Hunt, Allison, MD
Menifee, CA

Ince, C. Haluk, PhD
Istanbul, TURKEY

Long, Sara
London, OH

Montfared, Michael, BS
London, OH

Obenson, Ken, MBBS
Saint John, NB CANADA

Pearce, Elizabeth E., BS
Goldboro, NC

Ritchey, Donald MacGillivray, HOBART, AUSTRALIA

Romano, Jessica, BS
Savannah, GA

Smith, Samantha Lynn
Pittsburgh, PA

Williams, Charmaine
Jamaica, NY

ODONTOLOGY

Associate Member
Al-Ali, Amal, DDS
London, UNITED KINGDOM

Boscarrino, Chris A., DDS
Wolcott, CT

Astorino, Claudia, BS
New York, NY

Bell, Ian Carter
Halifax, NS CANADA

Boys, Serrin
Punta Gorda, FL

Brettell, Sarah
Knoxville, TN

Carter, Sarah A.
Encino, CA

Douglas, Benjamin C.
Charlotte, NC

Farris, Rachael A.
Baton Rouge, LA

Grosso, Alicia Rose, BS
Olean, NY

Heilbrunner, John Eric
Santa Cruz, CA

Jordan, Alison, BS
Murfreesboro, TN

Keith, Kelli L., BS
New Bern, NC

Kiss, Meghan, MA
Columbia, MO

Kulans, Mary, BA
Eric, PA

Leff, Nicole J., BS
El Dorado Hills, CA

Mayberry, Alanna
Arvada, CO

Mecalfly, Anthony E.
Baltimore, MD

Academy News
AAFS Past President Thomas Bohan with a training class of on-scene investigators in the Algerian National Gendarmerie, Algiers, May 2012.
A Letter from the YF SF President
The August 1 abstract deadline is right around the corner and the Young Forensic Scientists Forum (YF SF) committee is hard at work planning for the AAFS 65th Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC! Although the AAFS abstract submission deadline is August 1, the deadline for the YF SF Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) and Bring Your Own Poster Sessions (BYOP) is December 15th and 1st, respectively.

Presenting at professional meetings is an excellent way to build resumes, get involved, and make connections throughout the professional community. The YFSF offers two options for presenting: oral and poster presentations. Both sessions are sure to have excellent rounds of presentations and are great ways to present research, new trends, and case studies. Presenting is an outstanding way to promote growth and to make an impact on the future of forensic science as a young forensic scientist.

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

Lindsey Crass, BS
YF SF President
lindsey.crass@mail.wvu.edu

Bryan, or any of the other YF SF Chairs if you have any questions or would like to know more information about YF SF.

Lauren Pharr, MA
YF SF Secretary
lpharr1@tigers.bsu
Lauren Bryan, PhD
YF SF Secretary Co-Chair
lbryan@nlcl.org

Financial Liaison
Each year at the Academy’s Annual Meeting YF SF hosts events that provide important information and education to forensic science students and young forensic professionals. These events range from a day-long special session, a BYOP Session, a BYOS Session, and a working Breakfast Session. The support and financial contributions of the forensic science community are vital to the planning of these YF SF events. Last year’s contributions went towards the expenses of hosting the YF SF Program. Without the support and contributions of the forensic science community, the YF SF would be unable to host the special session, poster, and slide sessions, which provides educational opportunities for both young and established professionals.

In the past, the YF SF has received both monetary and educational support from universities with FEPAC accredited programs, various forensic vendors, and AAFS sections. These groups will be personally contacted over the next few months so that those interested in providing support will have the needed information on how to contribute to the YF SF.

If you or your group is interested in providing financial contributions or donation of materials for the 2013 YF SF Special Session, please contact either Lara Frame or Katie Knurek

Lara Frame, MA
YF SF Financial Liaison
lafine86@gmail.com
Katie Knurek
YF SF Financial Co-Liaison
k-knurek@onu.edu
YFSF Breakfast Session
The YFSF Breakfast Session typically focuses on professional development, which is very important for members, students, and young forensic scientist professionals. It is important for young members and professionals to learn the tools necessary to succeed within the forensic science community. This year, our breakfast session will focus on the requirements of expert testimony as a forensic scientist and what it means to be an expert. Specifically, we plan on having three-twenty minute talks focusing on: (1) the importance of knowing what cited sources you used; (2) how to prepare for cross-examination by a defense attorney; and, (3) the role of a forensic scientist as an expert witness. Currently, Angel Swienton from SciLawForensics is scheduled to speak. As in previous years, the YFSF Breakfast Session will be organized to include a resume review session with a distinguished forensic scientist panel following the initial presentation. We currently have AAFS Past President and Gradwohl Laureate Barry Fisher and Past President Joe Bono signed on to be part of the resume review panel. This discussion time will help to specifically address such questions as: “What should be included on your resume? And is it structured properly?” If this sounds helpful to you, well then, this is the session for you! If you have any questions or are interested in being on our resume panel, please contact Jennifer Malone.

Jennifer Malone, PhD
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair
jennifer.malone@wyo.gov

Ashley Moulton, BS
YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair

YFSF Special Session
The 2013 YFSF Special Session theme has been chosen, “Applications of Education and Research to the Diverse Field of Forensic Science.” The speakers at this year’s Special Session will highlight the various applications of education and research, along with the vast career paths within the field of forensics through the presentation of unique casework experiences and career choices. This Special Session will expose both students and young professionals in the audience to the endless possibilities they may take their careers in the future.

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum is a great opportunity to present and inspire the next generation of forensic scientists. Professionals who are interested in presenting work, related to the 2013 YFSF Special Session theme above, are encouraged to contact yfsfs@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Taryn Mead, BS
YFSF Special Session Chair

Jennifer Newton, BS
YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides
The YFSF BYOS Session is a wonderful opportunity to present your exciting casework observations and innovative research. What skills are necessary for a successful oral presentation? If you do not yet have the experience, here is some useful information:

- **Consider the audience.** Some members will be experts in your field, others will not. Try to include enough detail to interest the experts while not talking over the audiences’ heads.

- **Set a goal.** What do you want the audience to take away from your talk? Perhaps to read a paper you wrote on the subject, or to look for similar exhibits in their casework, or to just be entertained. You decide and let it guide your presentation.

- **Keep it simple.** Stick to a few main points to help the audience understand and remember your presentation.

- **Edit.** Proofread your slides carefully and use a large font for ease of reading. Check that your file is compatible with and runs smoothly on multiple computers with different operating systems (e.g., Mac users should open their presentations on a PC prior to presenting to make sure the formatting transfers correctly).

- **Practice.** Make sure you know what you are going to say, how you are going to say it, and how long it takes. Be comfortable enough with the presentation to be able to look at the audience more than your notes. Use a video camera or a colleague for feedback.

- **Involve the audience.** Grab the audience’s attention by putting key information at the beginning, use illustrations and anecdotes to clarify your points, and demonstrate confidence by making eye contact.

If you are interested in presenting at this year’s YFSF BYOS session, please submit a one page abstract and your resume or CV by December 15. Feel free to contact Lindsay or myself with any questions you have.

Ali Mostrom, MSFS
YFSF BY Your Own Slides Chair
alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov

Lindsay Saylor, BS
YFSF BY Your Own Slides Co-Chair
lindsaysaylor@gmail.com

YFSF Poster Session
The YFSF BYOP Session is an excellent opportunity for students and young forensic science professionals of all ages and disciplines to present their research or interesting cases. If you are interested in presenting at the YFSF Poster Session in Washington, DC, the deadline to submit an abstract for your poster is December 1. The YFSF BYOP Session is the ideal place to gain experience presenting your research, particularly if you will not be able to meet the AAFS abstract submission deadline of August 1st.

It is not too early to start thinking of presenting at the 2013 YFSF Poster Session! Become more involved at the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting by participating in the YFSF Poster Session!

If you are interested in presenting during this session or have any questions, please email yfsf.postersession@gmail.com.

Amber Neitzel, BS
YFSF Poster Session Chair

Jackie Jenkins, PhD, MSFS
YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair

Academy News
Meetings & Conferences

JULY 2012

9-13
Human Identification in Forensic Anthropology—To be held at the Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.
CONTACT: Rebecca Taylor
fac@utk.edu
http://fac.utk.edu/

9-13
64th Annual Inter/Micro Microscopy Conference: Presentations and Workshops—Hosted by the McClone Research Institute in Chicago, IL.
CONTACT: Therese Newman
(312) 842-7100
intermicro@mcrl.org
www.mcrl.org/home/section/101/inter-micro

16-10
Forensic Taphonomy—To be held at the Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.
CONTACT: Rebecca Taylor
fac@utk.edu
http://fac.utk.edu/

17-19
Annual Meeting of the North American Forensic Entomology Association (NAFEA) —To be held at the Flamingo Hotel, Casino and Conference Center, Las Vegas, NV.
CONTACT: Dr. Richard W. Merritt
(317) 355-8399
merrittr@msu.edu

22-25
Crime Scene Photography - Phase 1—To be held at Sirchie's facility in Youngsville, NC.
CONTACT: (800) 356-7311
www.sirchie.com

23-27
Advanced Laboratory Methods in Forensic Anthropology—To be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN.
CONTACT: Rebecca Taylor
fac@utk.edu
http://fac.utk.edu/

AUGUST 2012

1-3
Green Mountain DNA Conference—To be held in Burlington, VT.
CONTACT: http://vt.vermont.gov/conference

6-10
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course—To be held at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO.
CONTACT: Julie Howe
(314) 977-5970
howej@slu.edu
medschool.slu.edu/mldi

13-17
Colloquium Investigation—To be held at Rf Auditorium in Pretoria, South Africa
CONTACT: Dr. Adèle Strydom
Direct: +27 (0) 12 751 0888
dradelc@forensics4afrika.com
Fax: +27 (0) 86 684 9119
www.forensics4afrika.com

7-10
The 19th World Congress on Medical Law (WCML) —
To be held at the Cultural and Convention Center of Macco in Macco, Brazil.
CONTACT: www.2012wcml.com/

20-24
6th European Academy of Forensic Science Conference—
To be held in The Hague, The Netherlands
CONTACT: www.eafs2012.eu/

SEPTEMBER 2012

10-12
Sex-Related Homicide and Death Investigation—To be held in Fayetteville, NC.
CONTACT: Fayetteville Police Department
(910) 433-1847
Fax: (910) 433-1909
www.fayettevillepolicefoundation.org

10-13
TECNOCRIM 2012 VIII Symposium on Criminal Techniques—To be held in Havana, Cuba.
CONTACT: mri@dric.rem.cu or colaboracion@dric.rem.cu

For a complete list of national and international meetings of interest to forensic scientists, go to the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) and click on the “Meetings” link.
NOVEMBER 2012

8-9
Wecn Institute 12th Annual Conference: Post-Combat Problems in the 21st Century: Medical, Legal and Societal Considerations
CONTACT: wecninstitute@duq.edu
www.duq.edu/forensics

15-18
H2O Criminalistics & Pathology Symposium—To be held at MagNa Graccia University in Catanzaro, Italy.
CONTACT: underwatercsi@unicz.it
+39 347-14-16-900
www.underwatercsi.unicz.it

DECEMBER 2012

8-7
Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Course—To be held at the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Criminalistics Laboratory in Olathe, KS.
CONTACT: Paul Kish
(606) 962-8992
paul@paulkish.com

9-14
The Borkenstein Alchohol Course—To be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.
CONTACT: Suz Frederickson
(812) 855-1783
info@borkensteincourse.org
www.borkensteincourse.org/

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & MEMBER PROMOTION DEADLINE:

October 1, 2012
This date is firm with no extensions!
Do you know someone who may be interested in AAFS membership?

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

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________

City: _________________________________________________________________

State: ________________________________________________ Zip: ____________

Please provide your name so the potential applicant will know who requested the application. AAFS will also recognize you by placing a Sponsor ribbon in your 2013 Annual Meeting registration packet. Please detach form and return to AAFS. Thank you.

Your name: __________________________________________________________

AAFS promotes the advancement of the Forensic Sciences and Forensic Scientists

AAFS Benefits
Your inclusion in the AAFS will give you access to the most talented forensic scientists in the nation via personal contact, workshops, seminars, an the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held February 18-23, 2013, in Washington, DC.

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

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

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

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

New Applicant Services Only:
(800) 701-AAFS

Email: membership@aafs.org
Website: www.aafs.org