Before we know it the August 1st deadline for abstracts will be upon us. As you recall, the theme for the 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting is Forensic Science: Envisioning and Creating the Future. What is quite intriguing is reviewing the past and how some scientists and others have envisioned the future. For example, as early as 1934 Paul Otlet a Belgian lawyer/librarian sketched out plans for a global network of “electric telescopes” (he called it a “reseau” or web/network) which would allow people to search and browse through documents, images, and files. He and a colleague, Henri La Fontaine, had assembled a vast paper database of more than 12 million individual entries! Otlet even established a research service that allowed people to submit inquiries via mail or telegraph. Their analog technology was the precursor of the Internet, Google, etc. Fascinating! What is even more interesting is he described how people could even congregate in online social networks. What a vision!

There are so many interesting developments we can address at the meeting in Denver. I want to encourage all of you to think creatively regarding the presentations and the future of forensic science.

The Program Committee has been hard at work for months. Richard Vorder Bruegge and Max Houck are putting together a captivating Multidisciplinary Program regarding digital and multimedia sciences. Anjali Swienton and Sue Ballou are assembling a cutting edge Plenary Session on CBR and E (chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear, and explosives) Weapons. This session will address the latest in those technologies and the unique challenges regarding investigations in which those weapons have been deployed.

Please note there are new requirements regarding the content of abstracts and presentations due to accreditation requirements by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. I want to thank Past President Ed Donohue for writing the article explaining these new requirements. Please see page 9 of this issue of the Academy News for details.

I’m looking forward to the Academy trip to Italy to meet with our Italian and European colleagues in three venues. There have been some very interesting forensic cases in Italy lately. Secretary Joe Bono, Luciano Garofano, Paolo Garofano, and other Italian colleagues have been instrumental in organizing the scientific meetings and presentations. Joe, his wife Barb, and their three children lived in Italy for three years in the 1980s, so his wealth of knowledge and contacts have been extremely helpful.

One of the greatest rewards of being President of the AAFS is experiencing the outpouring of support, energy, dedication, and creativity by the membership and Academy staff. I have received letters, emails, and phone calls from many of you offering assistance, ideas, and general offers of “whatever you need we’ll do” from young forensic scientists to past presidents. It continues to reinforce my belief that we are a strong, unique, energetic, multidisciplinary association. I welcome additional ideas.
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Future Annual Meeting Dates

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

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

February 21-26, 2011
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL

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Legislative Corner

In the last issue of the Academy News I reported that much has been made on Capitol Hill of the soon to be released National Academy of Science’s study Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Sciences Community. Legislators tell us that this report will be the basis of comprehensive legislation for forensic science – a forensic science master plan. The report and any legislation is months off. However, we can consider what some of the elements of a forensic science master plan might be.

The following are some thoughts I’ve had about what comprehensive legislation might consist of. These ideas are my own and don’t reflect the Academy’s views. But it’s time to confront some of these issues.

10,000 More Forensic Scientists
We need more forensic scientists and other forensic personnel to handle cases in a timely fashion. These cases go well beyond DNA cases. They include firearms cases, fingerprint cases, toxicology cases, death investigation cases, drug cases, DUI cases, and all the other classifications of physical evidence handled every day.

What is timely service? We can quibble that it means completing cases in 30 days, 60 days or 90 days. It doesn’t mean that evidence is stored in evidence lockers without any real expectation that the case will ever be examined. There are real consequences to these backlogs. Criminals will continue to commit crimes unless they are apprehended.

What do you say to the next rape victim or the family of a murder victim? “Sorry, we had the evidence to identify the criminal but we never got around to doing the case?” That is a sad commentary of the value we place on the justice system we claim to serve. It is also distressing that we have the technology to enhance the justice system, but do not have the wherewithal to do the task at hand.

Of course we are not really talking about vast sums of money to solve this problem. We are not trying to send a man into space or fight a war in some far off land. I guess you could just say that we are trying to put bad people in jail while keeping innocent people out. What is the most important task government performs?
Government’s primary function is to insure the peace through public safety and its criminal justice system. Forensic science is a critical element of public safety and a relatively inexpensive component at that.

During the Clinton administration, Congress passed legislation to add 100,000 cops to improve public safety. Why not provide funding for 10,000 forensic specialists over a five year period? That would make a huge impact to the delivery of forensic services to public safety agencies, the courts and to the public. The 10,000 personnel increase would include forensic scientists, forensic pathologists, crime scene investigators, forensic technicians, support personnel and the like. Funding would include the new positions as well as training to get new personnel ready to perform case work. All this is possible if there is the political will to make this a reality.

Quality Forensic Science
Quality forensic science is inextricably tied to timely service. How is quality measured? Over the years crime laboratory accreditation has become a bench mark of quality. Like hospital accreditation, it does not guarantee perfection, but it demonstrates organizations have taken steps in the right direction. Certification is another

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continued on page 4
Academy News

Bill Bass and Clyde Snow To Receive Awards at Upcoming IAFS Meeting

AAFS Physical Anthropology Fellows William Bass and Clyde Snow will be presented with two prestigious awards given to those in the forensic science profession during the upcoming International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) 18th Triennial Meeting in New Orleans, LA, July 23.

Dr. Bass is receiving the Adelaide Medal which was introduced at the IAFS 12th Triennial Meeting in 1990 to mark the holding of the IAFS meeting in Adelaide. It was provided by the South Australian Branch of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society. The medal signifies scientific achievement by someone who has a marked influence on the forensic sciences from an international perspective. Dr. Bass is being recognized for his work, dedication, and service to forensic science over the many years of his distinguished career.

Dr. Snow will be accepting the AAFS Douglas M. Lucas Medal which is also presented triennially at the IAFS meetings. The award may be presented to an individual, not necessarily an Academy member, to commemorate his/her significant professional contributions to forensic science/forensic medicine. Dr. Snow is being appreciated for years of dedication and outstanding leadership during his long career as a forensic anthropologist.

Don’t miss the opportunity to wish both recipients well - in person - by attending the IAFS meeting! It’s not too late to register. Go to: www.iafs2008.com for details.

Bill Bass, III, PhD

Clyde C. Snow, PhD

Legislative Corner cont.

measure of quality. Today, there are a number of high quality certification programs that have been developed by practitioners to demonstrate competence. Both accreditation and certification programs are largely voluntary.

Forensic science is a strange profession in some ways. Unlike almost every other professional endeavor, there is almost no public oversight. Doctors, dentists, accountants, lawyers, teachers, and yes, even barbers have some sort of public oversight. Why not forensic science? The argument that juries, judges, and lawyers will be able to determine what is good scientific practice is not realistic. Some form of public oversight which requires that crime labs be accredited and practitioners be accredited is long overdue.

Research and Development

After Daubert and the other cases which dealt with experienced based evidence, it seemed like only a matter of time before courts would be holding that pattern evidence and might have trouble meeting the burden of reliability. So far courts have not taken that tact; however, it is unlikely that the defense bar will give up that easily. To resolve the issues that pattern evidence such as fingerprint, footwear, tire impression, handwriting, firearms evidence, etc., are truly reliable, funding for research will be needed. Thus far those funds have been minimal; however, it is necessary to prove, once and for all, that these types of evidence meet the criteria set forth by FRE 702.

Feedback

Major change to any system requires feedback. Are adjustments to forensic science having the desired affect? Are additional modifications needed? Is this a State or Federal role? Should, for example, the U.S. Department of Justice or perhaps the National Academy of Sciences have an advisor function? Which element of State government is most appropriate to oversee crime labs and medical examiner/coroner offices? Should other providers not part of crime labs and coroner offices be held to the same standards? As you can readily see, there are numerous questions to be addressed.

These are significant issues. Stakeholders should have a place at the table to debate these and others issues. It is an understatement, but I suspect that we are in for interesting times once the National Academy’s report is issued.
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FEPAC News

A recent article in *The New York Times* noted that the annual number of high school graduates in the United States will peak soon at about 2.9 million. This peak will be reached after a 15-year climb in enrollments; after that, the number is then expected to decline until about 2015. What this means for most universities is fewer applications and less selectivity of students. Many admissions offices say that the extent to which they must become less selective of students may depend how they restructure their recruiting. A broader range of students, with a more national and even international approach, will help create a more diverse pool from which to select. The U.S. population is projected to gently decline overall in the coming years. The number of high school graduates is expected to fall in the Northeast and Midwest but increase in the South and Southwest. The article notes that the number of white high school graduates will decrease, the number of African-American graduates will remain steady, and the number of Hispanic and Asian-American graduates will increase sharply.

What does this mean for accredited forensic science educational programs? I would expect the absolute number of domestic student enrollments to remain steady or dip slightly but the number of international student applicants to increase noticeably. Why? I think there are two main reasons: The push for economic development and the cheap U.S. dollar. Connecting changes in measures of education to economic growth has been ambiguous because the empirical basis for such connections and their related assumptions is weak. A recent article in *Science*, however, shows consistently positive, statistically significant education effects on economic growth. The authors, in one model, assume 50% of the population achieving at least some secondary schooling. The results indicate that this additional investment in secondary education provides economic growth over five times the level of the baseline. The study also notes that for more industrialized countries, tertiary education is an important determinant of economic growth. Thus, the authors conclude, better education leads to higher individual income and is an important precondition for long-term economic growth. With the dollar at a low level against many international currencies, U.S. educational programs will be a bargain for students outside the U.S., especially graduate degrees.

The story is similar for domestic students, however: Graduate degrees mean more income. Employers are also finding that an undergraduate degree may not be enough, in some cases. Although the median earnings for whites and blacks, adjusted for inflation, were basically flat during 2000-2007, those with advanced degrees made more money. It is sad to note that U.S. students’ SAT math scores have remained about the same since 1972 (and reading results are lower). The U.S. is ranked 13th in international student performance in science; countries that scored better included Russia, Mexico, Turkey, and Argentina. The upshot is the U.S. is average in science education and the employers have noticed. A survey of employer ratings for entry-level positions found that many applicants were woefully unprepared for the position to which they were applying.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Change Earnings</th>
<th>Worker Preparedness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduates</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college or Associate Degree</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's Only</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Degree</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Looking at the data, it appears that there is a relationship between education and worker preparedness. In our profession, we have seen the need for increased educational requirements in several disciplines, notably DNA and fingerprints; others will surely follow. As can be seen from the table below, graduate program applications have been growing at the same rate as undergraduate ones:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEPAC Programs</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forensic science, in my opinion, can play a role in improving U.S. educational status. Because the FEPAC standards promote a solid science foundation, graduates of FEPAC accredited programs have a better chance of being employed either in the science and technology sector or a forensic science laboratory than graduates with only a science degree.

FEPAC continues to pursue recognition by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Our application has been reviewed by an outside consultant familiar with the process and the Commission is working to incorporate the suggestions that were made. This will undoubtedly strengthen our application and make the process run more smoothly.

I am also beginning to ask questions of the FEPAC Program Directors so we can have a better perspective on the programs, their demographics, and their structure.

I look forward to seeing many educators at the IAFS 2008 Meeting in New Orleans. Remember, there is a special session on international forensic science education to be held on Friday, July 25, and admission is free to registered attendees.

References:
5. 2006 survey of employer ratings based on entry-level positions appropriate for educational level. Data: The Conference Board, as reported in Business Week, February 25, 2008.
6. 2009 numbers are for applicant programs only.

AAFS Staff Updates

After 11 years, the Academy staff is saying goodbye to Publications Coordinator Kathy Reynolds. Kathy will be leaving the Academy effective August 1 to start a new chapter in her life as she gets married and moves to the Denver area. Don’t be surprised if she makes an unexpected appearance at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Denver next February! We wish Kathy all the best for her future.

Taking Kathy’s place is Sonya Bynoe. Sonya will assume the duties of Publications Coordinator which includes maintaining the website and acting as editor of the Academy News. Sonya is a graduate of Georgia Southern College and comes to us well qualified. Sonya will be joining the staff beginning July 1 and will ‘shadow’ Kathy as we make the transition. Please feel free to contact Sonya (sbynoe@aafs.org) to welcome her to the AAFS family.

Also joining the Academy staff are Christie Vigil and Shannon Singh. Christie is serving as the Membership Assistant and is ready to help with any membership questions you may have. Shannon has accepted the position of Assistant Meetings Manager and will be assisting Sondra Doolittle with the planning and organizing of the annual meeting.

The last year has brought many changes to the Academy staff, and, as with any change, there are always adjustments to be made. Rest assured, the entire staff is ready and willing to assist all members with any issues or concerns. We look forward to serving you all in the future.

Academy News
A Word From Your 2009 Program Co-Chair

We hope you are all planning to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences to be held in Denver, CO. The theme of the meeting next year is *Forensic Science: Envisioning and Creating the Future*. The meeting will be held February 16-21, and we are hoping to have a great turnout. This is the time we all can get to get back together with old friends and share all of our newest research and findings in the many fields of forensic science. We hope that everyone plans to attend in 2009, as we expect it to be the best meeting yet. Not only will the sessions be wonderful, but it will be ski season and some of you may wish to partake in the festivities in and around Denver!

August 1 is the deadline for the submission of abstracts. Please submit your work to your Section Program Chair for consideration as soon as possible. The deadline is fast approaching and the process for putting together the meeting for next year will soon be frenzied. This deadline is not negotiable. If your abstract has not been received by August 1, your presentation will not be included in the 2009 schedule of events. Also, please notify the Academy staff if you will need any special equipment or larger rooms for the number of people you expect to attend your program.

The AAFS Annual Meeting is your opportunity to let everyone hear of the latest developments in the forensic fields. Please plan on sharing your latest research with your colleagues in the Academy. Your work is what provides the tools to determine truth and justice in a court of law. Your research makes a difference and may help develop that one piece of evidence that makes the difference in the outcome of a trial. Please participate by submitting an abstract and plan on joining us in the Rocky Mountains next February!

Academy-Wide Breakfast Seminars

Presentations for the Academy-wide breakfast seminars to be conducted during the 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, are being solicited by Breakfast Seminars Co-Chairs Stephen Billick (212-570-5300; stephen@billick.com) and Michael Salyards (410-981-0100; jeff.salyards@dc3.mil). Because of the popularity of these programs, topics will undergo a careful review and selection process. Please ensure that abstracts are received on time in order to be considered. All abstracts must be submitted to the AAFS office by the August 1 deadline. Please call Stephen or Michael with your ideas or questions.
Changes in Continuing Education Requirements Impact Commercial Interests

AAFS Continuing Education policies have instituted more rigorous requirements to insure that commercial interests do not usurp AAFS educational programs. The most important among these new requirements for authors and presenters are the following:

1. Educational materials that are part of a continuing education activity, such as slides, abstracts, and handouts may not contain any advertising, trade name or a product-group message.
2. The content or format of continuing education activity and its related materials must promote improvements or quality in forensic science and not a specific proprietary business interest or a commercial interest.
3. Presentations must give a balanced view of available options. Use of generic names contributes to this impartiality. If continuing educational material or content includes trade names, where available, trade names from several companies should be used, not just trade names from a single company.
4. An individual must disclose to learners any relevant financial relationships, to include a) the name of the individual, b) the name of the commercial interest, and c) the nature of the relationship the person has with each commercial interest.
5. For an individual with no relevant financial relationships, the learners must be informed that no relevant financial relationships exist.

These new requirements will impact presenters who are submitting abstracts for the 2009 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, due on August 1, 2008. The program committee will be unable to review abstracts that do not include a Commercial/Financial disclosure including a statement by authors indicating that they have “nothing to disclose.”

Abstracts that that discuss a singular trade name or product group will need to be modified to make comparisons of products. If a comparison cannot be made, the author will be asked to use generic names. If an author indicates that neither can be done, the abstract may not be scheduled for the educational portion of the program. Presentations that do not meet AAFS Continuing Education requirements may in some cases be scheduled as commercial presentations outside of the educational portion of the meeting.

These new continuing education requirements insure the value and integrity of our AAFS scientific and educational programs. They insure balance in all presentations and prevent their dilution or distortion by business or commercial interests.
**ABSTRACT FORM AVAILABLE TO SUBMIT ONLINE**

The Call for Papers deadline is fast approaching! Do you have an interesting and educational topic to present at the AAFS 61st Annual Scientific Meeting, February 16-21, 2009, in Denver, CO? The deadline for submission of all abstracts is August 1, 2008. Please submit your abstracts now and keep in mind the meeting theme, “Forensic Science: Envisioning and Creating the Future.” The AAFS Call for Papers form may be found on pages 21-24 of this issue of Academy News. HOWEVER, did you know you may also submit an abstract online? The online process is faster, easier, and provides immediate feedback from the AAFS office.

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

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

Remember, the deadline for receiving your abstract is August 1, so have your abstract and curriculum vitae ready to attach and send electronically. Visit the AAFS website at www.aafs.org, and follow the link to “Submit Your 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting Abstract Online.”

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

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

Source: Hiram K. Evans, MSc, Section Chair

Congratulations to Criminalistics Section Fellow Joe Bono on his selection by the Nominating Committee to serve as the Academy’s President-Elect for 2009-2010.

In furthering President Henderson’s themes of communication, education, and collaboration, this article will focus on the following:

Communication
The heart and soul of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences is the technical program at the Annual Meeting: workshops, papers, and posters. The deadline for the submission of abstracts for all of these is August 1. As the largest section of the Academy, the Criminalistics Section has a huge volume of abstracts to review and by submitting your abstract via the online system, you will help expedite and simplify the process. Please assist Section Program Chair Matt Wood by submitting those as soon as possible online at www.aafs.org/pms/submission/abstractstart page.aspx.

Applications for membership and promotion, including reference forms and any additional section requirements, must be received and completed by October 1 in order to be acted upon at the AAFS Annual Meeting in February. Encourage your colleagues to join and participate in the work of the Academy. Full requirements, including those specific to the Criminalistics Section, are easily accessible at the “Membership” link of the website: www.aafs.org.

Planning for the section business meeting, at which Fellows, Members, Retired Fellows, and Members are entitled to vote, has commenced. Come for the free meal that will be provided on a first come, first served basis, and stay for the section business to be discussed. The section cannot vote on any new business unless a quorum has been established. Please plan to make attendance at the section business meeting a customary part of your AAFS experience.

Education and Collaboration
The Criminalistics Section has voted to offer $2,000 to support the educational work of the regional associations, the grassroots level at which so much of forensic science occurs. Association representatives are invited to submit their ideas to Section Chair Hirma Evans (hevans@sbcisd.org). The uncommitted funds remain available.

Plan now to attend the 61st Annual Meeting of the AAFS February 16-21, 2009, at the Convention Center in Mile-High Denver, CO. They boast of more than 300 days of sunshine each year — more hours of sun than Miami and San Diego!

DIGITAL & MULTIMEDIA SCIENCES

Source: David W. Baker, MFS, Section Secretary

The August 1 deadline for submissions for the 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. If you were considering submitting your paper or a proposal for a workshop, please get them submitted quickly.

Don’t forget, the section offers a best paper award which will not only recognize your contributions to the field, but will pay your next year’s meeting registration fee.

The deadline for applications for both membership and promotion is October 1. We currently have 43 members and affiliates within the section. We should remember to advise other colleagues of the creation of the new section, and encourage them to join us in the AAFS. As we grow, we expand our collective knowledge and potential for collaboration. Let’s keep moving forward and have a great meeting in Denver next February!

ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Source: Roy R. Crawford, PE, Section Secretary

Holly Adams has very graciously agreed to chair the section’s Membership Committee this year. Her biggest request of the members is that, since the Academy’s next annual meeting will be in Denver, members think of colleagues they have worked with who live in that part of the country and make a point to invite them to present papers and especially to become members. She has

continued on page 12
Section News cont.

done this with some of her contacts in the area and received a positive response. Just remember, it needs to be done soon because the abstract deadline is **August 1**! Also, she would greatly appreciate members sending her ideas for engineering and science professions and organizations that incorporate forensic principles so that she may contact them and extend an invitation to the next annual meeting. Holly can be reached at hadams_engr@yahoo.com.

The section has set up a Yahoo! group at: http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/AAFSESS/. Members are encouraged to join this group for discussions on technical and administrative issues involving the section.

### GENERAL

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

Section Program Chair **Joanna Collins** (Joanna.1.collins@gmail.com) and Co-Chair **Angela Asaro Geis** (aageis@mdanderson.org) remind section members to be working on abstracts for paper presentations for the upcoming annual meeting in Denver, CO. You have less than a month to make the **August 1** deadline. Presenting at the annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to introduce your research and/or an interesting case study to your peers. The success of our scientific session is dependent upon our members’ willingness to share their knowledge, experience, and research findings.

If your topic requires more time than typically allowed for an oral paper or poster presentation, consider proposing a workshop. The **2009 Workshops Co-Chairs are Peter Alexander (mt.man4@comcast.net) and Paul Kish (paulkish@stny.rr.com).**

**General Section Student Scholarship**

The General Section Scholarship Committee is offering two (2) $500 Scholarships to be awarded annually. Applicants must be an immediate family member, defined as a spouse or dependent child, of a General Section Fellow or full member, who is enrolled full-time in a nationally-accredited college or university, with a declared major in a discipline that is accepted by the General Section for membership. If you and your “student” fit these criteria, consider contacting General Section Scholarship Chair **Steve Gilbert (gilberts@canton.edu) for a scholarship submission form which includes the submission of a paper. Keep in mind the deadline for applications and papers for the Scholarships is **December 31, 2008**.

**General Section Achievement Award**

The 2008 General Section Achievement Award was won by **Jessica Reust** and Ryan Sommers for their paper entitled “Identification and Reconstruction of Deleted, Fragmented DNA Digital Files.” Congratulations to Jessica and Ryan for their excellent paper.

This Award is given to promote continual professional growth in the forensic sciences and to encourage new forensic science professionals in their occupational specialties. If you are a Trainee Affiliate, Associate Member, or Member of the General Section, who has been a registered participant within the AAFS for no more than four (4) years, you could be an award winner. The candidates must proffer a paper at the General Section Scientific Session or Poster Session. The presentations and/or posters are then evaluated by a panel of judges from the Awards Committee. If you fit the criteria for our section’s Achievement Award and want your presentation considered for the award, please remember to indicate this where directed on the Academy “Call for Papers” form. If you should need further information regarding the Achievement Award, please contact Awards Committee Chair **Alan Boehm (aboehm@cox.net).**

Remember that the Awards Committee needs your input. Deserving members can only receive an award if someone recognizes them for their efforts and takes the time to nominate them. It is the responsibility of all of us in the General Section to submit nominations.

**Reception Committee**

Due to the continuing success of the General Section Reception, Section Chair **Paul Kish** has budgeted for a reception at the 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting. **Mary Fran Ernst** and her committee are hard at work putting together the details. Make sure you put this on your schedule of events. If someone can assist with sponsorship, please notify Mary Fran (ernstmf@slu.edu).

**Disciplines Committee**

Committee Chair **Julie Howe** and her committee worked hard last year on reviewing and updating standards within the section’s sub-disciplines. The survey is important to the General Section as it tells the Academy who we are and our value to forensic science. The survey will continue through this year. Thank you for your quick responses.

The committee also provided a 1,000 page report on the section’s accomplishments since its inception. This information will be compiled for the entire Academy.

As a side note, please keep the American Academy of Forensic Sciences updated on contact information. Committees need your input but are often hampered by outdated email addresses. Your participation is important to us. Member information can be updated on the AAFS website (http://www.aafs.org/), but you will need your membership number and password.

**Committee Appointments**

Congratulations to the following Chairs and committee members for their selection and efforts to the General Section: 2008 **Program Committee:** **Joanna Collins** (Chair), and **Angela Asaro Geis** (Co-Chair); **Awards Committee:** **Alan Boehm** (Chair); **James Young, Patricia Speck, Joyce Williams, Mark Hiits, and Michael Bosse:** **Disciplines Committee:** **Julie Howe** (Chair), **Frank Horvath, Claire Shepard, Dan Matticks, Mark Safari, Carrie Costello, and Jeanmarie Sentell:** **Nominating Committee:** **Robert Freed** (Chair); **Neal Haskell, and Timothy Palmbach:** **Minutes Review Committee:** **Robert Gaffney** (Chair), **Edmund “Ned” Tamburini, Claire Shepard,** and **Anne-Marie Eschle:** **Scholarship Committee:** **Steven Gilbert** (Chair), **Jennifer Steel, William Lucas, David Lounsbury,** and **Jack Rosette:** **Regional Representative Committee:** **Nancy Cabelus** (Chair), **Jack Sudimack, David Pauly, Amy Carney, Ian Hanson,** and **Debi Spencer:** **Reception Committee:** **Mary Fran Ernst** (Chair), **Jane Bock, Frank Ciacco, Richard Walton, Mary Ellen O’Toole, Michael Piper,** and **Natalie (Puente) Borgan.**
All abstract submissions are due August 1, so everyone needs to get the bone to ensure success in this endeavor.

Section Program Co-Chairs Alan Black and Paul Messner are looking for people to help moderate sessions and to present papers at the upcoming annual meeting. The former is an easy credit for advancement, and the latter is an opportunity for us all to learn something new.

Recently there was a reference made on television to departed Fellow Harold Feder of Denver. There is a Section Award in his name that is seeking nominations. The fact that this meeting is in his hometown should get us thinking of Jurisprudence Section members who have worked for the section and for the advancement of forensic sciences in general. As we are fond of saying, our section puts the “forensic” in forensic science. If you have any nominations of persons who have contributed to this effort, please send them along.

Program submissions are coming due! We have a number of people working on workshops and programs for the Denver meeting which is great. We packed the room a few times last year, and hope to repeat that performance. Paul and Alan are working their nubs to the bone to ensure success in this endeavor.

All abstract submissions are due August 1, so everyone needs to get busy! We have offerings on programs in the pipeline about whorish witnesses in the behavioral sciences, defensive witness practice against everything from deadbeat lawyers to nasty cross-examination, DNA issues, and jury decision making. Other potential topics include how psychologists might fight off subpoenas for victim/client records. We are also privileged to have tentative confirmations from some very prominent lawyers who practice in the areas of forensic science, government service, trial practice, and victim’s rights, and they have agreed to speak in workshops and at program events. All of AAFS members should watch this part of the newsletter for more news.

Last, but certainly not least, we remind everyone that AAFS President Carol Henderson is leading an expedition to Italy which is worthy of everyone’s attention. With the falling dollar, it might be propitious to head for Euro territory before it gets much more expensive.
Section News cont.

Here are the requirements for submission for the Best Resident Paper that were revised in 2007:

**Candidate:** A resident or fellow in an accredited residency training program in the specialty of pathology or the subspecialty of forensic pathology during the time the subject matter of the paper was under investigation. One paper per resident/fellow will be considered per year.

**Subject Matter:** Original forensic pathology research or original forensic pathology theory or technique can be presented. This analysis should not only include an interesting case study and review of the literature, but should be original scientific research with the development of a hypothesis which is tested, resulting in a conclusion or a survey of cases with conclusions which tangibly change the practice of forensic pathology or have public health implications. The research should adhere to HIPPA and IRB guidelines if applicable.

**Manuscript:** A complete manuscript in the format of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* is required to be submitted for the competition. If the manuscript is not submitted, then the candidate’s presentation is ineligible for the award. Format information can be found on the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* website under “Instructions for Authors”. After the presentation at the AAFS annual meeting, it is the author’s responsibility to submit the paper to the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* for publication.

**Presentation:** The candidate must present the research at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. The presentation may be either a platform oral presentation or a poster presentation.

**Award:** The current prize is $500 cash award and a memorial certificate, and a year’s dues payment to the AAFS if the resident/fellow is a member. Often, the winner is also asked to moderate the Best Resident Paper competition at the next year’s AAFS annual meeting. The judges may also elect an honorable mention award recipient who will receive a memorial certificate. If presentations do not meet criteria, then no winner will be named.

**Judging:** The presentations and manuscripts shall be reviewed by members of the Best Resident Paper Committee of the Pathology/Biology section of the AAFS according to the criteria listed above for the quality of its scientific content.

Let’s get those abstracts in on time and encourage our residents and fellows to enter the Best Resident Paper competition.

**PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Source:** Thomas D. Holland, PhD, Section Secretary

Rick Snow wants to remind everyone that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation is accepting up to two (2) interns per semester in forensic anthropology. The interns will work with Rick and be allowed to go on skeletal remains recoveries, as well as work in the large skeletal collection. A working knowledge of FORDISC would be beneficial, but not mandatory. Additional information regarding the internships may be found at http://gbi.georgia.gov.

Now is the time to submit your nominations for the T. Dale Stewart Award. Nominees should be recognized members of the field of forensic anthropology who have made significant contributions to the discipline. Please send your selection to Norm Sauer (nsauer@msu.edu) with a brief bio and your top three reasons for the nomination. For a list of previous nominees, please contact Laura Fulginiti (fulginitil@mail.maricopa.gov).

The Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology (SWGANTH) will hold its second formal meeting on May 28-30, at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, MD. If you have issues that you would like the group to consider, contact the Secretary Angi Christensen prior to the meeting (secretary@swganth.org). Visit the website, www.SWGANTH.org, for updates and additional information.

Franklin Damann reports that a new exhibit will be opening at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington, DC, this summer. It is entitled, “Resolved: Advances in the Forensic Identification of War Dead.”

Congratulations to William Bass, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee, on receiving the 2008 Adelaide Medal! The Adelaide Medal was introduced at the 12th Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) in 1990 to mark the holding of the IAFS meeting in Adelaide. It is provided by the South Australian Branch of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS). The medal is for scientific achievement that has a marked influence on the forensic sciences from an international perspective. Dr. Bass is being recognized for his work, dedication, and service to forensic science over the many years of his long and distinguished career. The award will be presented during the IAFS meeting in New Orleans, LA, later this month.

Lastly, don’t put off working on your abstracts for next year until the last minute. The deadline is **August 1.**

**PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE**

**Source:** John L. Young, MD, Section Secretary

Apparently it’s been a very quiet couple of months for the section. Worth noting is that the program is set for the annual meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL). The meeting will take place in Seattle, October 23-26. There are three excellent luncheon speakers scheduled: John Gunn on Murderous Professionals, Richard Bonnie on Mental Health Law Reforms, and Richard Leo on Police Interrogations and False Confessions. The program also features an amazing array of multiple simultaneous selections for three days. Most will be of keen interest to section members. More information is available at www.aapl.org. You might like to think of it as a warm-up for The AAFS meeting in Denver.

Please send your news to jlnyoung@pol.net so we can have more to share next time.
TOXICOLOGY

Source: Kenneth E. Ferslew, PhD, Section Program Chair

We are in the middle of summer and it is time to concentrate on the exciting work of planning the program for the 2009 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, CO. The theme for this meeting will be Forensic Science: Envisioning and Creating the Future. Multidisciplinary and Special Sessions, along with the platform and poster presentations submitted by members, will be the basis of the meeting. So far, two Special Sessions are planned for the Toxicology Program. Michelle Spirk (mspirk@azdps.gov) and Sarah Kerrigan (sarah.kerrigan@shsu.edu) will be moderating a Special Session on Drugs and Driving. The trends in drugs affecting human psychomotor performance are constantly changing with new drugs coming on the market and different patterns of drug abuse occurring from region to region. We hope to have a couple of key presentations combined with numerous interesting abstracts submitted by members working on this area of toxicology.

There will also be a Special Session on Postmortem Pediatric Toxicology moderated by Robert Middleberg (robert.middleberg@nmslabs.com). This session will include open discussions of postmortem pediatric toxicology cases to help toxicologists and other forensic scientists in their interpretation of these challenging cases. Several other Special Sessions are being considered and there is always room for more based on the abstracts submitted by the membership. If anyone has a specific topic they wish to include for a Special Session please forward it to Kenneth Ferslew (ferslew@etsu.edu).

The meeting would not be complete without an evening featuring the Toxicology Open Forum. Chip Walls and Bob Zettl will moderate the session for a lively discussion of current topics of toxicological interest. Phil Kemp (p_kemp@ocmeokc.state.ok.us) is the section’s Workshop Chair. He will coordinate and help foster workshop proposals. We hope to have several interesting workshops including one on solid phase extraction and another on LCMS. Members with an interest in proposing or participating in a workshop should contact Phil for details and assistance in submitting their application.

Remember that all submissions (abstracts and workshops) are to be submitted by August 1, 2008. You can submit your materials online through the AAFS website (www.aafs.org).

Not to be forgotten, if you know of a colleague who is deserving of recognition for their contributions to our discipline please consider nominating them for one of the AAFS Toxicology Section Achievement Awards. For details on nominations, please contact Brad Hepler (bhepler@co.wayne.mi.us).

Please review your membership status and consider applying to upgrade your position in AAFS.

Finally, if you have an idea, you wish to contribute or if you wish to participate in the program please contact any of the folks previously listed, who are hard at work planning for a great meeting in Denver.

AAFS Staff Voicemail Extensions and Email Addresses

Anne Warren       Ext. 214       awarren@aafs.org
Cheryl Hunter      Ext. 208       chunter@aafs.org
Christie Vigil     Ext. 205       cvigil@aafs.org
Debbie Crockett    Ext. 204       dcrockett@aafs.org
Kimberly Wrasse    Ext. 216       kwrasse@aafs.org
Nancy Jackson      Ext. 215       njackson@aafs.org
Phyllis Gilliam    Ext. 200       pgilliam@aafs.org
Shannon Singh      Ext. 201       ssingh@aafs.org
Sondra Doolittle   Ext. 213       sdoolittle@aafs.org
Sonya Bynoe        Ext. 209       sbynoe@aafs.org
Tracie McCray      Ext. 203       tmccray@aafs.org
As you all know, the purpose of the Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is to serve the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the forensic sciences community. Because of contributions made through the AAFS membership, philanthropic individuals and other entities, the FSF has been able to fund research and educational activities including ongoing funding of Lucas and Acorn research grants. Without that financial support, the FSF cannot function effectively. It is my hope that during 2008-2009, every member of the Academy will find it possible to make a contribution to the FSF.

Here is a partial list of the support provided through the Forensic Sciences Foundation’s last year:

- Acorn Grants: $1,200
- Lucas Grants: $8,800
- Jan Grant: $1,500
- Travel Grants: $3,000
- Emerging FS Award: $2,700

If you have not already done so, please consider participating in the “I Gave an Hour” program. This program (initially suggested by Gil Brogdon) has helped raise more than $6,000 since its inception. Please see page 29 for more information on how to donate to this fund.

This year, another member of the FSF Board, Jack Kenney, has come up with another great idea for raising funds for the FSF. Jack would like all individuals who have access to “memorabilia” from their various organizations (employers, labs, morgues, ME’s offices, etc.) to consider donating some items to the annual FSF silent auction. We certainly do not want to compete with the Academy for the members’ precious discretionary funds, but T-shirts, caps, coffee mugs, etc., from your organization could potentially raise a significant amount of funds for the Forensic Sciences Foundation. Any help from you or your organization would be greatly appreciated by the Foundation.

I also want to use this section of the Academy News to thank the individuals who have made contributions to the FSF auctions (silent and vigorously contested during the Annual Business Meeting in Washington, DC). Many of you made significant contributions to support the auction and I hope that you will be able to do so in the future. To those individuals who have special skills in the field of forensic science or have unique artistic abilities, please consider contributing an item (a book or other object that can be used to raise funds) to the auction at our next annual meeting.

It has been my pleasure to serve as a FSF trustee over the last several years and I hope that my service as this year’s Chair will produce results consistent with the desires of the Academy membership. The FSF needs everyone’s help. The Foundation cannot continue to function without your generous contributions.
The Forensic Sciences Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the 9th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. Congratulations to Heidi Barron, BS, Student Affiliate of the Criminalistics Section, for her poster entitled, “Discrimination of Glass by Cathodoluminescence, Color Analysis, and Chemometrics,” submitted to the Criminalistics Section.

Congratulations as well to Whitney B. Hill, MS, Trainee Affiliate of the Engineering Sciences Section, for her paper entitled, “Forensic Applications of the Transmission Electron Microscope,” submitted to the Engineering Sciences Section.

Heidi and Whitney will receive all expenses paid to attend the AAFS 61st Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, CO. There were 43 submissions this year. All of them were outstanding and the Foundation encourages all the presenters to continue in their chosen forensic science path.

A reminder that the August 1 deadline is fast approaching for those eligible to submit a paper for the 10th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. See page 20 for details.

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**FSF Needs Your Help With the $ilent Auction!**

*With your help,* the Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) Annual Silent Auction can exceed expectations during the 2009 meeting in Denver, CO. 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? Most 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 the items to Kimberly Wrasse at the Academy office by December 1, 2008. You and your agency will be recognized for your donation. Thank you in advance.

Suggested Ideas. . . . . . .
FSF Travel Grants Available

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to offer up to five (5) Travel Grants this year for students to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting. A complimentary 2009 meeting registration is also included with this award. This is a wonderful opportunity, and members are encouraged to promote it.

Travel Grant Guidelines:
- The applicant must be a fourth year undergraduate or a graduate student at an accredited four-year college, university, or professional school whose accreditation is acceptable to the FSF Board of Trustees.
- The applicant must have a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor or professor.
- The applicant must submit a 400-600 word essay explaining how attendance at an AAFS meeting will impact his/her career decision.
- The applicant must submit a curriculum vitae including information such as forensic science areas of academic study and practice, academic record, forensic science activities, membership and participation in professional organizations (such as the AAFS), presentations at professional and academic meetings, as well as any publications and other pertinent data related to his/her forensic background.

The deadline for submission of the completed applications is October 1st of each year. Please forward a cover letter containing detailed contact information, your letter of recommendation, your essay, and your curriculum vitae to Anne Warren at AAFS, 410 N 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Questions regarding Travel Grants should be addressed to Anne Warren at awarren@aafs.org.

Applications are judged by the FSF Student Travel Grant Award Subcommittee. Selection of Grant recipients is based solely on the information provided in submitted documents.

The FSF Board of Trustees is able to approve the expenses, not to exceed $800 per student, for up to five (5) students this year. A complimentary 2009 meeting registration is also awarded to the grant winners. Good luck!

FSF Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Available — Deadline Extended!

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

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

Grant Amount: The Jan Grant Award amount for this year will be $500, with an allocation of no more than $1,200 to attend the 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. The funding must be used to complete the research project. The recipient must identify in the published abstract and in the presentation the fact that the research was supported by a grant from Jan’s Forensic Science Fund - Grant.

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

Submission Deadline: July 31, 2008.

Please forward your application (found on page 19) and required supporting documentation to the Forensic Sciences Foundation office in care of FSF Executive Director Anne Warren, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, no later than the submission deadline.
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 ____________________ 

*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.
10th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Offered

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 10th 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, 2008, 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, only one may be designated by the presenter as an EFSA entry.

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 2010 Academy 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 2009. 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, 2008.

THE AWARD: The award will cover the expense of the recipient’s attendance at the 2010 meeting, including registration, airfare, five nights lodging, and $75/day per diem. A commemorative plaque will also be presented to the award winner at the 2010 AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.

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**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 __________________

E-mail _________________________________________________________________________________________

Send this form by August 1, 2008, to: AAFS 2009 Program Committee
410 N. 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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

_________________________________________________ ______________________
Signature Date
The 61st Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) will be held February 16-21, 2009, in Denver, Colorado.

The Program Committee solicits the submission of abstracts on topics of interest to the forensic science community. **August 1, 2008**, 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, 2008 deadline**.

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

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

**Notification of Acceptance**

Notification of Acceptance will be mailed to all presenting authors by November 15, 2008. Meeting registration materials will be sent to presenting authors.

**Oral Presentations**

**Content**

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

**Time**

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

**General Information**

**Key Words**

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

**Oral Presentation**

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

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

**Poster Presentation**

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

**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.

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

**Poster Presentations**

**Content**

A well-designed poster should:

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

**Preparation**

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

General Instructions

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

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

35mm Slides
35mm slide projectors are not part of the standard AV package and must be reserved. Please indicate your request for a slide projector by checking “other” and stating so on item #8 Audio/Visual Requirements on the next page. Noted below are the official guidelines in preparing 35mm slides for presentation at the 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting:

- Limit the information on each slide to a single point or idea.
- Keep slides simple with plenty of open space between lines.
- Limit messages to seven lines or less. Do not use more than seven words per line.
- Do not crowd the slide. Two or more simple slides are better than one that is complex and crowded.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions. Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines unless they are very bold and black.
- Avoid backing up in slide lectures. If you need a slide twice, make duplicate slides.
- Slides mounted in plastic mounts are preferable to cardboard or glass.
- Graphics are preferable.
- White on black, white on blue, or blue on yellow project the best. Avoid red and blue or other non-contrasting color combinations.
- The number of available slide carousels is limited. It is highly recommended that you provide your own.

LCD Projection
Computers may not be provided as part of this package. It is your responsibility to provide the laptop or computer used for your presentation. A LCD projection unit will be available in the Speaker Prep Room. Please make certain your computer is compatible with the projector and that all is in working order and tested before your presentation.

Below are recommended guidelines for preparing your presentation:
- Dark background and light text give good contrast and show up well in the meeting room; however, a background too dark may blacken the room too much. Avoid color combinations such as red and blue, yellow, and green, etc.
- ARIAL “Bold” is the recommended font style. Avoid using fonts that project poorly because the line width is too thin.
- Use as large a font as possible. Anything below 24 pt. is too small. Suggested font sizes are Titles: 48-54; Main text titles: 32; Smallest text lines: 24.
- Do not crowd the frame. Limit the number of text lines per frame to a maximum of seven.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions. Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines unless they are very bold and black.
- Avoid backing up the projector. If you need a frame twice, make a duplicate frame.
- Check your computer resolution by going to your computer’s control panel, selecting “Display” then “Settings.” Recommended resolution is 1024 x 768 (XGA).

Word Processor Preparation
An electronic copy of your abstract submission is required. Please follow the format guidelines provided below:
1. Software: Microsoft® Word for Windows is preferred.
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Michael D. Freeman, PhD, DC, MPH*, Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine, 3071 Dogwood Drive South, Salem, OR 97302; and Clifford Nelson, MD, Medical Examiner Division, Oregon State Police, 301 Northeast Knott Street, Portland, OR 97212-3692

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- 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.
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What is Truth?

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The concern for truth is truly ubiquitous, in and out of the courts of law.

Parents expect their children to speak the truth. Politicians, it seems, consider themselves exempt from it. And it is the stuff of late night humor qua satire. Jay Leno commented recently, as reported in the press, on the failed efforts to find the “alleged terrorist” Osama Bin Laden. Why, he asked, say “alleged?” Is it a fear of being sued by him? But one might ask, ‘Would not the truth be a good and complete defense to such litigation?’

Aphorists treat the truth as fair game for their locutions. William Penn, for example, the founding father of Pennsylvania, urged that “Where though art obliged to speak, be sure to speak the truth. For equivocation is half-way to lying; as lying, the whole way to hell.” (1) Mark Twain, with tongue most assuredly in cheek, asserted, “The truth is the most valuable thing we have. Let us economize it.” (2) Like Twain, Poland’s Wieslaw Brudzinski did not pull his satirical punches when it came to his reflections on the truth, as well as on many other aspects of life and society. “One day”, he assures us, “the truth will emerge, like a corpse in the water,” (3) which would be a most uncommon and startling occurrence, one might add.

But what is truth? Is it some abstract metaphysical concept or is it, rather, grounded in the real world? Rare it is that any one tarries to explain the work-a-day world meaning of truth. The United States Supreme Court had occasion to address the subject in terms of “literal truth” in contrast to the actual truth. (4) Announcing the presence of truth in subsets like literal truth and actual truth does not clarify its meaning, however.

Probably the most telling, if not entirely sincere, attempt to plumb the depths of the truth was the question the Roman procurator Pontius Pilate posed to Jesus Christ who was then arraigned before him on a charge of seeking to usurp Rome’s imperial authority by stating, “I am a King. This why I was born, and why I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice.” (5)

Such a statement Pilate could have thought to be only that of a “harmless utopian” or a wandering philosopher constituting no real challenge to Rome’s reign over Israel. (6) So Pilate responds with a question indicative of “only the skeptical shrug of the cultivated of his day.” “What is truth?” (7)

Considered in that sense Pilate’s question was only rhetorical, needing no reply. And Christ did not reply, according to the gospels of his disciples, especially pertinent being that of John. (8)

In the juridical order of the Anglo-American legal world truth is also in the forefront. Witnesses, lay and expert, are required before testifying to pledge their allegiance to the truth. The formulaic refrain includes a pledge, a promise, an affirmation or even an oath to tell “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.” But was there ever a witness so bold, so carefree, so forthright as to inquire, after the fashion of Pilate, what is truth? Indeed, the trial courts do not customarily give voice to their own definition of truth so that the presented witness will not be at sea or, worse still, in jeopardy of perjury in taking the pledge.
An expert witness, expert in firearms identifications (often mislabeled ballistics), takes the witness stand to testify to "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" after taking an oath or an affirmation to do so.

The expert concludes his/her testimony by declaring that the bullet he examined, taken from the body of the deceased murder victim, had rifling characteristics (lands and grooves) consistent with its having been fired from a .32 caliber Smith & Wesson pistol. The expert knew but was not asked and did not volunteer the information that those same rifling markings would appear on any bullet fired from many other .32s. In addition the accused murderer, now on trial, is conclusively known to have been in possession of a .32 caliber Smith & Wesson, which gun has gone missing and is unaccounted for.

Did the firearms expert tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" as he/she solemnly pledged to do, whether by oath or affirmation? Or was his/her testimony, in the words of cynic Ambrose Bierce, an opportunity "to deceive the jury, not only by naked lying but by both suppressio veri and suggestio falsi?"

What, after all, is the truth which the expert has promised to relate or, indeed, which any witness has given his/her solemn word to tell before undertaking to testify in court?

The Federal Rules of Evidence do not unambiguously resolve this issue. Rule 603 stipulates that "(B)efore testifying, every witness shall be required to declare that the witness will testify truthfully, by oath or affirmation, administered in a form calculated to awaken the witness’s conscience and impress the witness’s mind with the duty to do so."

In rarely challenged compliance with this rule all witnesses, expert or not, are routinely asked, in the stereotypical form, to signify that they will tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." But this language is not, as such, that of the Federal rule nor is it strictly required by precedent. The draftsmen’s notes to Rule 603, enacted in 1975, expressly state that "no special verbal formula is required" and the Federal courts have adopted that point of view.

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In Gordon v. Idaho, for example, the 9th Federal Circuit court upheld the legitimacy of the witness’s stating "I understand that I must accurately state the facts and that I agree to testify under penalty of perjury" without the necessity of stating a promise "to tell the truth." In another case, less imbued with First Amendment Freedom of Religion concerns, a translator to English of a tape in Spanish was allowed to certify on the stand that she translated the tape "to the best of her ability." That statement was held, again by the 9th Federal Circuit, to satisfy the terms of Rule 603 since there is no constitutional or statutorily required form of oath. All that was needed was to show that the oath administered "impressed upon the translator the importance of truthful and accurate translation."

Notwithstanding that the Federal courts treat the oath of a witness flexibly, it is still, when freedom of religion issues do not arise, the standard to ask the witness to agree to state "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." What then is the origin and purpose of this time-honored phrasing? In the extensive research efforts of this author as well as his law library research assistant, Matthew Mantel, Esq., it can only be said with any degree of assurance that this phrasing germinated in the mists of the law’s antiquities. It has become the accepted usage today on account of its unexplained and even unexamined ancestry in Anglo-American jurisprudence.

However, one reference has been discovered putting the wording in a magistrate’s court hearing in 1864 in England. Constance Kent had confessed to the brutal murder of her three-year-old step-brother. The chief magistrate at the Trowbridge police court had to decide whether her confession warranted sending the murder to a higher court for prosecution and trial. At the hearing the magistrate pointed to the witness, Reverend Wagner’s, having been “sworn before God, (to) tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in this inquiry.”

At an earlier time in the same murder investigation Detective Inspector Jonathon Whicher, in interviewing a potential witness, reminds her, in words pre-visualization the Miranda warnings in today’s American policing, that “I impressed upon you the importance of telling the truth and nothing but the truth.” But that admonition is not nearly as sacred or profound as a witness’s swearing in a judicial proceeding.

Never are explanatory comments appended to this standardized “oath.” Why is the swearing triple-listed, namely “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?” Is “the truth” of the expert’s testimony to be distinguished from its “whole truth” and does the addition of “nothing but the truth” hint at some further aspect of the truth, not explicated by the previous words.

As always when confronted with ambiguity, there is another opinion on the meaning of the words used in the routinized oath. In an article in 2003 in the Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, it is said that the words employed are “not redundant” for they “convey different nuances.” In the first instance the truth is to be distinguished from “lies” and the whole truth from “half-truths” and “unclouded truth” from “truths submerged in untrue, misleading, or distracting filler.” So, in the view of the authors of this article, the words in the standardized oath do have a meaning all their own as opposed to being repetitions.

Conceivably the three vignettes presented here may enlighten the issue. In truth, it is hoped so.

1. Something is Missing

In the teaching of the moral theologian, one person’s truth-speak can be another person’s lie. That situation is often exemplified by the knock that comes on the householder’s door announcing the presence of the Encyclopedia Britannica salesman or it could be, revisiting the days of door to door salesmen a Willie Loman or the Fuller brush man. The knock, in the tale’s standard rendition, is answered by a grammar school child who had been helping his mother with her kitchen-making of chocolate cookies.

continued on page 32
What is Truth? cont.

Without a word being exchanged between mother and child, the youngster hurries to respond to the knock on the front door. “Is your mother at home?” asks the salesman, putting on his most arresting mien.

Unhesitatingly the child answers “no, my mother is not in.” The front door is then unceremoniously closed; the conversation is ended and the child returns to the warmth of his mother and her cookie baking without any fear of a maternal remonstrance.

Has the child responded truthfully to the salesman in declaring, in no uncertain terms, that his mother is not in when he knows full well that she is at that same moment in the kitchen busily employed in her chores? Has the child told the truth “and nothing but the truth”?

To the Jesuitical moralist the child has not sinned, nor has he lied. How so? The child has engaged in the well-recognized, at least in the houses of moralists, “mental reservation” gambit. What the child has said effectually was that his mother was not at home “as to the salesman.” There was an ellipsis in what the child was heard to say. That ellipsis when filled in constituted the whole truth. But without its being expressed in so many words, what was stated was not, Jesuitically speaking, an untruth.

On another level of understanding, the salesman was sure to know, from his experience and training, that the child’s peremptorily sending him packing was as a result of the mother’s instructions. Thus is it a lie to tell a seeming untruth to one who is bound to know the truth on his own? Indeed is it a lie to use deception when queried by one who cannot lay claim to a right to know the truth. As the aphorist has said:

“Never share the truth with those who don’t deserve it.”

As early as 1595 the Jesuit Provincial Henry Garnet proclaimed(18) that to say “no (he is not here for you, who have no right to know)” was not a lie but a “broad mental restriction.” Further Garnet says “No one, even under oath, need answer an unlawful question.” The question, of course, when confronted by such seeming hair-splitting is whether such situations just invite casuistry and obscure the truth, rather than advancing our commitment to it.

2. The Truth and the Literal Truth
How is one to fathom where the truth lies and whether the truth has been told in the tale (or is it a pedant’s fable) of the two boys and the butcher?

It could have occurred anywhere, but for present purposes it happened in a butcher shop where two teenage boys can be seen standing at the counter waiting for the resident butcher to serve them. While waiting, with increasing impatience, one of the boys (call him A) decides to help himself, surreptitiously, to a piece of meat in the tray fronting the counter. In no time at all the purloined meat goes from A’s larcenous hands to a secure and unseen location under the shirt of the other boy (call him B). So far so bad, with the boys confidently resting easy that they have pulled one off.

But before they can make their safe exit the butcher approaches them, while noting the now obvious place on the meat counter where the stolen meat had previously been lodged. Looking directly at B (who has the meat concealed under his shirt) the butcher asks, “Did you steal a piece of meat from the counter here?” B’s reply is quick and direct. “No, I did not,” he declares.

Turning the A (the one who stole the meat) the butcher, skeptical of the truth of B’s answer, inquires, “Do you have the meat from my counter display case?” Once again he receives a negative reply, stated by A even more emphatically than did B.

Have either of the boys lied? On the other hand, did they, each of them, tell the untrammeled truth? No to the first question and yes to the second. But how can that be when their thievery was consummated but yet when confronted with their wrongdoing it was unconfessed by them and, at least to the ear of the butcher, both of them had said that they had not stolen the meat.

Analysis:
A number of persons of disparate backgrounds have stated their opinion on this episode. Let’s report on them:

1. A law professor says the boys both spoke the literal truth, as opposed to the truth, virtual or otherwise.
2. A housewife/mother explains the boys gave truthful answers, but not the absolute truth.
3. A CIA operative thinks the problem lies in the butcher’s not knowing how to interrogate the suspects properly.
4. A law librarian cuts to the quick, stating both boys lied since they acted together in a criminous conspiratorial relationship.

The United States Supreme Court was confronted by a dilemma of like proportions to the butcher and the boys episode in Bronston v. United States(19) which addressed whether telling the literal truth would be a defense to a perjury prosecution under the applicable Federal statute (18 U.S.C. 1621). In short, the court, Chief Justice Warren Burger writing for a unanimous court, held that “concededly truthful, however unresponsive” sworn testimony cannot be the basis of a Federal crime, even if the speaker “intended to mislead his examiner.” Witnesses, the court said, should not be punished for “the misunderstandings and inadequacies of examiners.”

The issue arose from defendant Bronston’s testimony in a bankruptcy proceeding as follows:

Q. Do you have any bank accounts in Swiss banks, Mr. Bronston?
A. No, sir
Q. Have you ever?
A. The company had an account there for about six months, in Zurich. (Comment: literally true, but unresponsive.)

The high court stated that “it is undisputed that for a period of nearly five years ... Bronston(20) had a personal bank account ... in Geneva...” Clearly his unresponsive answer implied that he did not have any such personal bank accounts. But, said the court, “the statute does not make it a criminal act for a witness to willfully state any material matter that implies any material matter that he does not believe to be true.” Thus the conviction was reversed. What we have in Bronston was not perjury but, as the CIA agent stated in the
3. The Principle of Double Effect
There may come a time when both good and evil may conjoin in a statement to such an extent that the failure to state the truth avoids the evil that the truth might otherwise bring to pass. The issue is straightforward: May there come a time when a prevarication would be preferable to the truth?

Suppose, for example, a plane is about to make a crash landing onto land and the flight attendants instruct the passengers to take the crash landing position, which is such that while seated the upper body arcs forward so that the crown of the head almost touches the back of the seat in front and the eyes are fixed downward toward the floor. When asked the point of such a gymnastic the flight attendant might brusquely and un informatively reply that it is for your safety. Whereupon the worried passenger suddenly becomes less anxious and certainly more accepting of his imminent plight.

In another crash landing scenario all the passengers are warned to put on their life preservers since the plane is about to crash into open and frigid water. Upon being asked about the obvious futility of putting on a life jacket when the freezing water will cause instantaneous death from hypothermia, the flight attendant might reply once again that it is a procedure required by the governing aviation authorities, which of course is a blatant non sequitur. Whereupon the worried passenger suddenly becomes less anxious and certainly more accepting of his imminent plight.

Now in these two fictional crash landing episodes the flight attendants’ answers were well-motivated to calm the passengers whose state of mind could cause a panic among the other passengers if a soothing, calmative were not voiced. Is that rationale sufficient to justify or to excuse the flight attendants lies in both instances?

The fact is that the passenger’s assuming a crash landing position has nothing whatsoever to do with his/her safety. Rather it is deliberately, almost diabolically, designed to protect the passengers’ teeth which will be a later needed resource for an identification of the bodies retrieved from the crashed aircraft.

In the second scenario as well the safety excuse, however formulated, is bogus. Once again the identification factor bulks largest. A dead body found in a life preserver is more easily found and thereafter identified than a passenger’s frozen body sans life jacket in the open water, after surfacing some days later at a location quite remote from the scene of the crash.

Both pre-crash schemes were craftily fashioned to enable the passengers, although deceived, to benefit from a postmortem identification as well as the ability to have a peaceful death. Was the duping of the passengers a lie or was it justified by the good effects that it spawned? If the flight attendants were called to the witness stand, assuming they survived, and after taking the oath to tell “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth,” had been asked the very same questions the now deceased passengers had asked and given the same answers, would they have spoken the truth or was it only a conditional lie? A conditional lie is one that becomes a lie only if there are no conditions to justify it.

Summing Up:
Returning to the firearms expert who gives consistent with testimony, has it now been determined whether the truth has been spoken in terms of the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Without a doubt that testimony is tinged with truth. But did not the expert, as Emily Dickinson said, “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant.”(21) Furthermore the failure of the defense to interrogate him/her on the lack of certainty in his/her testimony is troubling, putting the situation on a par with the literal truth aspects of Bronston. Yet the expert’s opinion was not stated in such a way as to be unresponsive which has been held to be the linchpin upon which Bronston was predicated. (U.S. v. DeZarn). (22)

Of course the over-arching issue for the expert is not whether his/her testimony will subject him/her to a perjury prosecution but whether the testimony presents in a professionally ethical manner the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Acknowledgement: My sincerest thanks to Matthew Mantel, Esq., research librarian at the G.W.U. law library, for his able assistance in research for this article.

References:
2. Id at 60.
3. Id at 20.
8. Supra n. 5.
12. 778 F.2d. 1297 (CA9 1983).
15. Id at 239.
16. Id at 152.
19. Supra n. 4.
20. Id
21. Supra note 1 at 364 .
22. 157 F. 3d 1042 (CA 6th 1998).
AAFS Chronicles — Do You Remember When?

Source: Ken Field, Academy Historian

In 1948 . . .

. . . the first multidisciplinary meeting took place in St. Louis, MO. The concept of organizing a meeting to be attended by scientists from all the disciplines of the forensic science profession (as opposed to single discipline oriented meetings) when two old friends - Israel Castellanos, Director of the National Bureau of Identification, Havana, Cuba and Rutherford B.H. Gradwohl, Director of Research, St. Louis Police Department - met with each other during the 1947 meeting in Cuba. Both men felt that the resolution of most forensic science related cases was holistic in nature - seldom resolved by the actions of a single discipline.

In 1958 . . .

. . . one of the Plenary Session topics was an expanded “What’s New in Forensic Science?” Each section was allocated 15 minutes to present information on new procedures, legislation, laws, commercial developments, and general news germane to their profession. At that meeting each presentation was published and offered free to all attendees. “What’s New” was discontinued in 1974.

In 1968 . . .

. . . with the passage of the Federal Safe Streets Act and the accompanying allocation of funds by Congress to improve the nation’s justice system, the Academy formed a committee to educate members of Congress on the role played by and critical needs of the forensic science profession. Although the committee met with limited success, it served as the forerunner of the highly successful Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations of which Barry Fisher serves as the AAFS Liaison.

In 1978 . . .

. . . Ken Field, Dick Froede, and Ellis Kerley presented a paper entitled, “John Paul Jones: 113 Years From Death to Autopsy” - a highlight of the 1978 meeting. The popularity of this presentation stimulated the formation of the Last Word Society. In the years to follow, the Last Word Society became an afternoon session and in 1982 became a popular evening feature that continues today.

In 1988 . . .

. . . the creation of the Forensic Sciences Foundation Endowment Fund was approved. Under discussion for several years, the Fund initiated its first donation drive with the slogan, “$200,000 By the Year 2000.” The annual revenue from that fund is used to finance grants for forensic science oriented research proposals. Today the fund is worth over a half million dollars.
The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1, 2008, will be considered for approval at the February 2009 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 13, 2009.

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- Benavides, Melissa, MS  
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- Smith, Kristen, MS  
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  San Bernardino, CA

**Student Affiliate**
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**In Memoriam**

William Goza, JD, LHD, Retired Fellow of the Jurisprudence Section, May 2008

Arthur Kochler, MD, Fellow of the Pathology/Biology Section, March 2008

Nathan Putchat, PE, Retired Fellow of the Engineering Sciences Section, 2005

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Academy News

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Greetings Young Forensic Scientists!
As we head into the summer months most of you are probably not thinking about February’s AAFS meeting in Denver. For the organizers of the YFSF, that is exactly what is on our minds! The 2009 Program Chairs have already been hard at work putting together a great program for the February meeting, one that you definitely will not want to miss. The Special Session is sure to provide everyone with a broad view of the forensic sciences by showcasing speakers from each section of the AAFS as well as international presenters. In addition to learning from presenters, you are all encouraged to consider doing some teaching yourselves. Whether it be presenting an interesting case at the Bring Your Own Slides event, highlighting your research at the YFSF Poster Session, or submitting your unique forensic experiences for publication in this newsletter; be sure to take advantage of your peer audience in a pressure free setting that allows you take the leap from attendee to presenter. To round out the week, another great breakfast session is being planned which focuses on professionalism, an often times overlooked yet truly important key to success in this field.

As the YFSF behind the scenes work continues there is something you all can do before your trip to Denver. Take some time to check out the AAFS website at www.aafs.org and look into becoming a member of the organization. The YFSF Committee is here to focus on giving you an opportunity to get involved in the AAFS through providing sessions geared toward people new to the field. We aim to provide you with both resources and networking opportunities, but it is you who needs to take the step to fully get involved in the organization. Membership in professional organizations shows your desire to immerse yourself in the field of forensic science and to keep up to date on the ever changing and improving aspects of this field. If you are serious about a career in forensic science then membership in the AAFS is a great step for you to take! As you check out the different sections of the AAFS, also stop by the YFSF website and see how you can get involved with our events. We are here to help you all transition into the field and we would love to hear from you and to help you in any way possible. Please feel free to contact YFSF President Amanda Frohwein (frohwein@dps.state.ia), or any of the other organizers with comments, suggestions, and questions you may have. Until next time, enjoy the summer sun!

— Amanda K. Frohwein, BS
YFSF President

Bridging the Gap
At times we feel as if our shift from academia to our first job may be a bridge over troubled water. However, your affiliation with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences is the bridge you need to make this transition. This year, I would encourage you to go out and explore what the Academy has to offer. Attending the Young Forensic Scientist Forum Special Session is the first step of many across that bridge. You can meet with peers and discuss your academic careers as well as learn about job opportunities in the field. Talk to the program committee; many of us have been involved with the YFSF for 4-5 years now and know a good deal about the Academy! But, the most important resource to tap is the distinguished members of the academy. Do not hesitate to engage these individuals during the meeting or even set appointments to meet at the Denver meeting. Also please contact the program chairs for the sections to learn about the programs they plan to offer this year!

— Marrah E. Lachowicz, MFS, GCCP
AAFS Section Liaison
AAFS at a Glance: Experience the Forensic Sciences
The theme for the 2009 Young Forensic Scientist Forum Special Sessions has been decided and we couldn’t be more excited about it. The theme we have chosen is **AAFS at a Glance: Experience the Forensic Sciences.** We have selected this theme because we wanted to provide a broad overview of this amazing organization we are a part of. We want to show what the field of forensics has to offer and this is especially important to those who are uncertain about which area of forensics interests them the most. We are working diligently on getting a speaker from each of the 11 sections to speak to us. We want the participants to get excited about all forms of forensics, and attending this session allows the participants to not only learn more about their specific area of interest, but to learn about other areas they may not be aware of or may not have a lot of information on. Keep your eyes open for more updates throughout the year and please do not hesitate to contact us with any ideas and suggestions. You can contact Arliss Dudley-Cash (dudleycash@gmail.com) and Erica Blais (erica.blais@pol.state.ma.us).

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2008 Breakfast Session
When beginning your first position straight out of an undergraduate or graduate program, you may feel like a fish out of water. It is hard to recognize the fine line between having fun at work and acting immature, fake, or unprofessional. First impressions are difficult to overcome and unprofessional behavior can affect how likely you are to succeed. This is especially true in forensic science because of the small nature of our field. With this in mind, the 2009 YFSF Breakfast Session will revolve around various aspects of **professionalism.**

This year we are aiming to provide participants with a better sense of the word **professionalism** as it applies to the field of forensic science. We will explore how to be professional while testifying and the benefits of networking. We all realize how critical these are, but sometimes knowing what to say can be frightening. Have no fear! We were all there once. Also, since many of our attendees are still in various educational programs we feel it is important to ease anxieties on job hunting, the interview process, and resume dos and don’ts. In addition, a resume panel will be held again this year, giving attendees an opportunity to have resumes reviewed by various people in the field.

If you have any comments, questions, or ideas please feel free to contact either Melissa Smith (msmith@ocme.nyc.gov) or Jenna Oakes-Smith (jloakes-smith@SLMPD.org). We would love to have your input.

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Opportunities to Speak Out
I wanted to take a moment to outline how new forensic scientists (both young and old) can speak out to their peers. YFSF is designed for forensic scientists with five years or less in the field to learn more about their new and exciting profession. As such we offer many opportunities to hone the skills that will help you succeed. As you will read in this newsletter, we are looking for scientists interested in sharing their casework, research, and experiences at the 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting. However, there is an opportunity to reach your peers throughout the year of which many may not be aware. If you are a forensic scientist with a great experience to share (such as obtaining an internship, preparing for your first testimony, or landing a great job), please write up a short article and submit it for publication in the YFSF Newsletter. Please send all newsletter questions and submissions to jennifer.w.mercer@gmail.com.

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2009 YFSF Poster Session
After a successful YFSF Poster Session at the 2008 conference, we are looking forward to another great session in Denver. The poster session is a perfect opportunity for undergraduate students, graduate students, and new professionals (regardless of age) in the forensic science discipline to present information on their laboratories, research, or casework. The YFSF Poster Session is run similar to the large AAFS Poster Sessions, only on a smaller scale - a perfect opportunity to get your feet wet in presenting research to your professional peers.

Please contact YFSF Poster Chair Anthony Sutter (yfsfposter@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions. Stay tuned for more details about registration, and we are excited about your participation in the next session.

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2009 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides
It's that time of year to begin planning for the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides and we are looking for great presenters! YFSF Bring Your Own Slides is a wonderful opportunity to share any interesting cases, case studies, and research you may have worked on. The presentations are short and casual and are a great way to build your resumes and your communication skills. If you are interested in presenting or have any questions, please contact Tanisha Henson (t.v.henson@hotmail.com) or Rachael Lehr (rachael.lehr@gmail.com). See you in Denver, CO!

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JennifeW. Mercer, BS
YFSF Secretary

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— Arliss I. Dudley-Cash, BA
YFSF Program Chair

— Anthony M. Sutter
YFSF Poster Session Chair

— Melissa E. Smith, MSFS
YFSF Breakfast Chair

— Tanisha Henson, BS
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair
Don't miss your chance to attend the 18th Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS), July 21-25, 2008, in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA!

General Meeting registrations are still being accepted!
For program information and the online registration form, visit:
www.IAFS2008.com
Onsite Registrations are also welcome!

The IAFS is the only worldwide Association to bring together academics and practicing professionals of various forensic science disciplines.

New Orleans is one of the most intriguing cities in the U.S., offering visitors a diverse selection of history, attractions, and cuisine. This is sure to be the largest and most scientifically advanced IAFS meeting ever and we look forward to seeing you there. Please register today!
Meetings and Conferences

JULY 2008

21-23
Forensic Science Educators Conference—Presented by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in partnership with Saint Louis University and the Saigh Foundation. To be held at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO.
CONTACT: Julie Howe
(314) 977-5970, ext. 2
Fax: (314) 977-5695
howej@slu.edu

21-23
Reconstruction of Violent Crimes—To be held at the St. Louis County & Municipal Police Academy in Wellston, MO.
CONTACT: Becky Murphy
(314) 889-8600
bamurphy@stlouisco.com

21-26
18th IAFS Triennial Meeting: Forensic Science in an Instant Access World—To be held at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, LA.
CONTACT: Kimberly Wrasse
IAFS Secretariat
c/o AAFS
410 N. 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 636-1100
Fax: (719) 636-1993
kwrasse@aafs.org
www.iafs2008.com

24-25
Fracture Match Identification: The Scientific Basis—To be held at the St. Louis County & Municipal Police Academy in Wellston, MO.
CONTACT: Becky Murphy
(314) 889-8600
bamurphy@stlouisco.com

AUGUST 2008

3-7
35th Annual New England Seminar in Forensic Sciences—To be held at Colby College in Waterville, ME.
CONTACT: Special Programs
4730 Mayflower Hill
Waterville, Maine 04901-8847
(207) 859-4730
Fax: (207) 859-4734
summer@colby.edu
http://www.colby.edu/spec.prog/cme/forensics/index.shtml

4-8
Forensic Shooting Scene Reconstruction Course—To be held at the Fire and Police Training Center in Eugene, OR.
CONTACT: Trent Spradling
777 Pearl Street, Room 107
Eugene, OR 97401
www.forensicfirearms.com

6-8
Advanced Shooting Incident Reconstruction—To be held at the Texas Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Austin, TX.
CONTACT: Lt. Erwin Ballarta
(512) 788-0113
erwin.ballarta@txdps.state.tx.us

7-8
2nd International Workshop on Computational Forensics—To be held at the National Academy of Sciences, Keck Center, in Washington, DC.
CONTACT: iwcf08@arsforensica.org
http://iwcf08.arsforensica.org

11-13
Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Course—To be held in London, England.
CONTACT: Tony Larkin
Metropolitan Police Service
London, England
anthony.larkin@met.police.uk
Tel: 00 44 (0) 207 230 0342

11-13
Digital Forensic Research Workshop—To be held in Baltimore, MD
CONTACT: DFRWS
33 Thornwood Drive, Suite 500
Ithaca, NY 14850
dfrws@dfrws.org
http://www.dfrws.org

15-17
International Workshop on Digital Crime and Forensics—To be held in Harbin, China.
CONTACT: Chang-Tsun Li
Department of Computer Science
University of Warwick
Coventry CV1 7AL, UK
tgli@dcs.warwick.ac.uk
http://www.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/~tgli/CFP_IWDCF2008.html

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SEPTEMBER 2008

5-10
National Association of Medical Examiners 42nd Annual Meeting—To be held at the Sechlass Hilton Hotel in Louisville, KY.
CONTACT: NAME Meeting Planner
Mary Fran Ernst
70 East Sherwood Drive
St. Louis, MO 63114
crnstmf@slu.edu
www.virtopsy.com

8-12
Basic Facial Reconstruction Sculpture Workshop—To be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Galiff
SKULLpture Lab
1026 Leslie Lane
Norman, OK 73069-4501
(405) 321-8706

15-17
11th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Intrusion Detection—To be held at the Wong Auditorium in the Tang Center at MIT in Cambridge, MA.
CONTACT: raid06@ll.mit.edu
http://www.ll.mit.edu/IST/RAID2008/

15-19
Advanced Facial Reconstruction Sculpture Workshop—To be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Galiff
SKULLpture Lab
1026 Leslie Lane
Norman, OK 73069-4501
(405) 321-8706

22-26
The Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS) Fall Meeting—To be held at Sam’s Town Hotel and Casino in Shreveport, LA.
CONTACT: Randall Robillard
General Program Chair
(318) 227-2889
Fax: (318) 227-9013
robbillard@ncl.org
www.southernforensic.org
www.ncl.org/safs2008/info.html

23-25
4th International Conference on IT Incident Management & IT Forensics—To be held in Mannheim, Germany.
CONTACT: mfl2008@gig-gig-star.de
http://www.mfl-conference.org/

28-Oct 2
Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies (FACSS) Annual Conference 2—To be held in Reno, NV.
CONTACT: Cindi Lilly
FACSS International Office
2019 Galisteo Street, Bldg I-1
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 820-1648
www.facss.org

OCTOBER 2008

2-5
Making Sense of the Sixties: A National Symposium on the Political Assassinations and Legacies of Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert F. Kennedy, and John F. Kennedy—To be held in Pittsburgh, PA.
CONTACT: The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law
Duquesne Univ. School of Law
Edward J. Hanley Hall
900 Locust Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15282-0700
(412) 396-1330
Fax: (412) 396-1331
wechtinstitute@duq.edu
www.forensics.duq.edu

6-9
Australia and New Zealand Forensic Science Society 19th International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences—To be held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Center in Melbourne, Australia.
CONTACT: Bryan Found
bryan@anzfss2008.org.au

40-Hour Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Training Course—Hosted by the Tacoma Police Department in Tacoma, WA.
CONTACT: Daniel V. Christman, MS
PO Box 823
Bothell, WA 98011
(206) 919-8392
dan@christmanforensics.com

7-10
9th International Congress on Cell Biology - ICCB 2008—Hosted by the Korean Society for Molecular and Cellular Biology. To be held at the Coex in Seoul, Korea.
CONTACT: ICCB 2008 Secretariat
1F, Haeoreum Bldg
748-5 Yeoksam-dong, Kangnam-gu
Seoul 135-080 Korea
Tel: +82-2-566-6067
Fax: +82-2-566-6087
scoul@iccb2008.org
www.iccb2008.org
7-10
7th Annual Meeting of the Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM)—To be held in Virginia Beach, VA.
CONTACT: Zoe M. Smith
Texas Department of Public Safety
Crime Laboratory Service
PO Box 4143 MSC 0460
Austin TX  78763-4143
(512) 424-5934
zoe.smith@txdps.state.tx.us
www.afqam.org

10-12
International Conference of South Asian Congress of Forensic Medicine, Forensic Science & Toxicology—To be held at the Amity Institute of Behavioral Health and Allied Sciences, Amity University, in Gautam Budh Nagar, India.
CONTACT: Tel: 0091-120-4392000 / 310, 311
Fax: 95-120-4392310
safcon2008@amity.edu

17-21
17th World Congress on Medical Law—To be held in Beijing, China.
CONTACT: Organizing Committee
#9 Dong Dan San Tiao
Beijing, China  100730
Tel: 010-67644185
Fax: 010-67698931
wuchongqi@2008wcml.com
www.2008wcml.com

20-24
California Association of Criminalists Semi-Annual Seminar—To be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento, CA.
CONTACT: Cara Gomes
Sacramento County
Laboratory of Forensic Services
4800 Broadway, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95820
(916) 871-9226
gomesc@saccounty.net
www.caaf.org

DECEMBER 2008

1-5
Basic Bloodstain Analysis Workshop—Presented by the Specialized Training Unit at the Metropolitan Police Institute of the Miami-Dade Police Department in Doral, FL.
CONTACT: Toby L. Watson
Miami-Dade Police Department
Crime Laboratory Bureau
9105 NW 25th Street
Doral, FL 33172
(305) 471-3041
Fax: (305) 471-3052
two@mdpd.com

NOVEMBER 2008

10-11
Sexually Violent Crime: The Body as Evidence 2-Day Course Taught by Dr. Henry Lee and Dr. Michael Baden—To be held at George Mason University in Manassas, VA.
CONTACT: Joy M. Roach
Program Coordinator
George Mason University
Office of Continuing Professional Education
Prince William Campus
10900 University Blvd, MS 4F2
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 993-8366
Fax: (703) 993-8336
jroach1@gmu.edu
http://ocpe.gmu.edu/svc3.html

10-14
AFIP's Principles of Forensic Pathology—Featuring Dr. Henry Lee. To be held at the Hilton Hotel in Rockville, MD.
CONTACT: Ricky Giles, Course Coordinator
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
Department of Medical Education
6825 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 782-2637
(800) 577-3749
came@afip.osd.mil
http://www.askafip.org

APRIL 2009

9-10
Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Conference—To be held at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.
CONTACT: CME Registrar
Mayo School of Continuing Medical Education
Fax: (507) 284-0532
cme@mayo.edu
www.mayo.edu/cme/apr2009.html
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: ___________________________________________________ Zip: ____________________________

State: __________________________________________________

Please provide your name so the potential applicant will know who requested the application. AAFS will also recognize you by placing a Sponsor badge in your 2009 Annual Meeting registration packet. Please detach form and return to AAFS. Thank you.

Your name: ________________________________________________