I’m excited and am very much looking forward to serving you as the 66th President of AAFS in this coming year. My theme for the year and the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas is: Transformation: Embracing Change. Some recommendations of the National Commission on Forensic Sciences (NCFS) will likely be implemented this year. The National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) will also kick into gear this year. Sweeping federal legislation appears increasingly likely and I doubt there has ever been a single year with such transformative action. I believe it is good for our community and our individual professions in the long run and we should embrace it.

Thanks to Immediate Past President Daniel Martell, we have a new Government Relations Committee. I have created an AAFS Ad Hoc NCFS Committee and an AAFS Ad Hoc OSAC Committee which will help us keep abreast of these changes. You will find reports from these committees and myself on a new “Policy Page” which will replace the previous “Washington Corner” column.

In support of the NIST OSAC, I have initiated an exploration of the possibility of the Academy becoming a Standards Development Organization (SDO)—particularly an ANSI-accredited Standards Developer (ASD). I have created a committee to explore this possibility and I have given the committee members only a short time to report back. The Board of Directors has already authorized funding should the decision be made to proceed. If so, the Academy would become an SDO option for NIST OSAC Subcommittees for vetting their standards and guidelines. Thus, the OSAC Subcommittees, not the AAFS, would write the standards, and they, the OSAC Subcommittees, would choose to which SDO they submit their work products. The vetting process to be used by the Academy or any other SDO in this role would have to meet the ANSI Essential Requirements, which include openness, lack of dominance, balance of interests, as well as an appeals process. A more thorough description of an SDO is described by Karen Reczek of NIST on the “Policy Page” (page 3).

I have created a number of ad hoc committees that will give the membership a greater opportunity to participate in the affairs of the Academy, and they are an important means for accomplishing work of the organization. These committees include: NCFS, OSAC, SDO, Structure, Media Relations, Human Rights, Mentoring, Academy Cup, Membership Procedures Review, Ethics Process Review, and Software Archive.

An important initiative, conceived by Past President Douglas Ubelaker and championed by Immediate Past President Martell, is the creation of the AAFS Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center. The Board approved this initiative and made $50K available to it. This will ensure that the Academy is a player on the international stage.

A particularly exciting event this year will be the International Educational Outreach Program (IEOP) in Croatia, June 15-21. It will articulate with the International Society for Applied Biological Sciences (ISABS). Though I will lead the delegation, Dragan Primorac (Criminalistics) will serve as the local host. Dr. Primorac has helped us plan a very special trip. Although, the ISABS conference focuses on molecular biology and anthropology, a general AAFS forensic panel will be held on the first day of the ISABS program. The ISABS conference is large and well established and often draws several Nobel Prize laureates as participants. Unfortunately, the sign up period for this trip will close in a few weeks as we need to confirm the hotel space. A full description of this IEOP is provided on pages 42-48 of this issue.

I will have much more to say as this important year progresses. Please make your concerns and suggestions known to the Academy Office or to your section leadership. Here is to a most successful 2015-16 Academy Year!!!
Inside This Issue

President’s Message .......................................................................................................................... 1
AAFS Policy Page ............................................................................................................................... 2
2015 R.B.H. Gradwohl Laureate: Thomas Noguchi ................................................................. 4
2015 Distinguished Fellow Award Recipient: Marilyn Huestis ................................................ 5
AAFS Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center ......................................................... 6
AAFS Outstanding Early Career Achievement in Forensic Science Award ............................... 6
Transitioning From Print to Electronic to AAFS News Feed .................................................. 6
67th Annual Scientific Meeting Highlights .................................................................................... 7
In Memoriam .................................................................................................................................... 24
2015-16 AAFS Elected Officers .................................................................................................... 26
2015-16 Section Officers .................................................................................................................. 27
2015-16 Annual Meeting Program Chairs ................................................................................. 27
2015-16 Section Program Chairs ................................................................................................. 28
A Word from Your 2016 Program Co-Chair .................................................................................. 29
AAFS Topics of Interest and CE Needs ....................................................................................... 30
AAFS Policy on Abstracts and Presentations .............................................................................. 30
Transformation: Embracing Change - Odontology Section ..................................................... 31
Transformation: Embracing Change - Questioned Documents Section .................................... 32
FSF Warren-Young Scholarship ................................................................................................. 33
FSF Acorn and Lucas Research Grant Information ...................................................................... 33
FSF Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Information .................. 34
FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship Information .................................................................................. 34
FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship Information .......................................................................... 34
FSF Student Travel Grant Information ....................................................................................... 35
17th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award ............................................................... 37
2016 Call For Papers Form .......................................................................................................... 38
2015 International Educational Outreach Program - Republic of Croatia ............................... 42
Forensics Sciences Foundation News .......................................................................................... 51
FSF Contributions ......................................................................................................................... 54
Section News ................................................................................................................................. 58
Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter ............................................................................ 72
Meetings & Conferences .............................................................................................................. 76

Future AAFS Annual Meeting Dates

February 22-27, 2016
Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

February 13-18, 2017
Hyatt Regency New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

February 19-24, 2018
Washington State Convention Center
Seattle, WA

February 18-23, 2019
Anaheim Convention Center
Baltimore, MD

February 17-22, 2020
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, CA

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NC Legislation:

Source: Victor W. Weedn, MD, JD, AAFS President

Coverdell legislation will require both re-authorization and appropriation. As has become routine, the President’s budget did not include Coverdell funding. Coverdell is, of course, an important funding tool for our community. Again, we need Congress to restore funding and we ask you to contact your representatives in Congress to make this happen.

DNA grant funding is also being decremented in the administration’s budget. Again, we ask you to contact your Senators and Congress representative(s) for support of funding in this area.

The proposed Leahy-Cornyn legislation, introduced last session, will have to be reintroduced since it is a new session of Congress. The Republicans are now in control of the Senate as well as the House and this will have some effect on the introduction of the bill. The new version is anticipated to incorporate the NIST OSAC under a DOJ Office of Forensic Science. Republicans and Democrats in both the Senate and the House are aware of this legislative effort and the chances of this legislation being enacted continue to increase.

Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) has introduced legislation to allow Rapid DNA testing to be performed by law enforcement officials and to search the CODIS database from such testing at Booking stations. I believe that any such testing be considered investigatory and that probative test results which are brought to court should be conducted from accredited forensic science laboratories.

NCFS Committee Report:

Source: Dean M. Gialamas, MS, AAFS NCFS Committee Chair

The National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) was established in February 2013 to make policy recommendations to the U.S. Attorney General. Although, the NCFS is in its infancy regarding issuing formal recommendations, it appears poised to do so with great frequency. Current discussions of the NCFS and likely recommendations will have a substantial impact on the forensic sciences community. The AAFS NCFS ad hoc Committee was created to:

- monitor the discussions, activities, and recommendations of the NCFS.
- submit articles to the AAFS Academy News.
- make recommendations to the AAFS Executive Committee in response to potential implications of anticipated or actual recommendations of the NCFS.
- deliberate issues pertinent to the activities of the NCFS, when asked by the AAFS President.

The NCFS Ad Hoc Committee members are:

- Dean Gialamas, Chair (Criminalistics) - also serves as an appointed commission member of the National Commission on Forensic Science;
- Joanna Collins (General);
- Stephanie Domitrovich (Jurisprudence);
- J.C. Upshaw Downs (Pathology/Biology);
- David Green (Criminalistics);
- Patricia Manzolillo (Questioned Documents) - also serves as an ex officio member of the National Commission on Forensic Science; and,
- Thomas Vastrick (Questioned Documents).

continued on page 68
Dr. Thomas Noguchi has served the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the forensic science community faithfully for more than 50 years. Born in Fukuoka-City, Japan in 1927, Dr. Noguchi graduated from Tokyo’s Nippon Medical School in 1951. The son of a doctor, he immigrated to the United States in 1952 where he interned at Orange County General Hospital. A series of residencies at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and Barlow Sanatorium in Los Angeles led to an appointment as a deputy coroner for Los Angeles County in 1961. In 1967, he became the county’s chief medical examiner. It was in this role that Dr. Noguchi came to public attention for a series of autopsies and investigations he either performed or supervised, including the deaths of Marilyn Monroe, Robert F. Kennedy, Sharon Tate, Janis Joplin, William Holden, Natalie Wood, John Belushi, and many more.

Dr. Noguchi’s 15 years as the chief medical examiner for Los Angeles County earned him the nickname of “Coroner to the Stars.” He stepped down as chief coroner in 1982 but continued to work with the county, finally retiring in 1999. He was honored that same year by the Emperor of Japan who awarded him the Order of the Sacred Treasures for “outstanding contribution to Japan in the area of forensic science.” He was later appointed Chief of Pathology at the University of Southern California and then as Administrative Pathologist for Anatomic Pathology services at the USC Medical Center.

Dr. Noguchi has been appointed Professor by both the University of Southern California and by UCLA. He is a Past President of the California State Coroners Association and the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). His service has continued as an Advisor to International Societies such as The International Journal of Legal Medicine, published by the Japanese Society of Legal Medicine, and The Journal of Medical Law.

Dr. Noguchi’s recent honors include recipient of NAME’s most prestigious award, the Milton Helpern Medal in 2005; the AAFS Distinguished Fellow Award in 2007; the Los Angeles Society of Pathologists Lifetime Service Award in 2008; and NAME’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

As an author and researcher, Dr. Noguchi has published more than 65 papers on a wide range of subjects in forensic pathology and toxicology as well as medical law. He has published in numerous peer review journals, and has authored several chapters in forensic books and many other publications. Over the course of his career, Dr. Noguchi has authored or co-authored a number of fiction and non-fiction books. Among these are Coroner, a best selling memoir written with Joseph DiMona, and Coroner at Large, both published in the 1980s; and Death Investigation, published in 1996 in Japanese.

Dr. Noguchi was elected into the AAFS membership of the Pathology/Biology Section as a Provisional Member in 1962 and as a Fellow in 1965. He served as Section Secretary in 1966-67 and as Section Chair in 1967-68. Dr. Noguchi was appointed to serve as the AAFS International Liaison by the Board of Directors in 2000, and he has continued to serve on the International Affairs Committee to this day. Dr. Noguchi has introduced numerous international forensic science dignitaries to the Academy and has promoted the Academy’s reputation as the premiere forensic science organization throughout the world.

Congratulations to Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the Academy’s 14th Gradwohl Laureate!
Marilyn A. Huestis Receives Distinguished Fellow Award

Below is the citation read by 2014-15 AAFS President Daniel A. Martell for Distinguished Fellow Marilyn A. Huestis during the Annual Business Meeting in Orlando, FL, February 18, 2015:

President Martell honors Marilyn Huestis with the AAFS Distinguished Fellow Award during the 2015 Annual Business Meeting.

Professor Marilyn Huestis is tenured senior investigator and Chief of Chemistry and Drug Metabolism, IRP, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, and Adjunct Professor, School of Medicine, University of Maryland. She thoroughly enjoys mentoring doctoral students in Toxicology, and to date has overseen the research of 16 distinguished new toxicologists in the US and other countries. Her research program seeks to discover mechanisms of action of cannabinoid agonists and antagonists, effects of in utero drug exposure, the neurobiology and pharmacokinetics of novel psychoactive substances, and the disposition of drugs and metabolites in a wide variety of biological matrices.

Dr. Huestis was elected Provisional Member in the AAFS Toxicology Section in 1987 and was promoted to Fellow in 1993. She served as Section Secretary in 1998-99 and Section Chair in 1999-2000. She has been appointed to numerous Academy committees including the Nominating Committee and the Toxicology Section’s Program Committee for the Academy’s 50th Anniversary Meeting. She served on the International Affairs Committee for several years and served as Chair of this committee in 2013-14. Dr. Huestis was a member of the Academy’s Board of Directors from 2008 to 2011.

Dr. Huestis published 354 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and presented more than 500 abstracts at national and international meetings. She currently serves on six scientific editorial boards and regularly reviews for 60 journals. She received her bachelor’s degree (cum laude) in biochemistry from Mount Holyoke College, a master’s degree with honors in clinical chemistry from the University of New Mexico, and a doctoral degree in toxicology with honors from the University of Maryland. Professor Huestis received a Doctor Honoris Causa in medicine and surgery from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki in 2010.

Other important awards include The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) Alan Curry Award in 2010; the American Association for Clinical Chemistry Outstanding Contributions in a Selected Area of Research Award in 2008; the International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology (IATDMCT) Irving Sunshine Award in 2007; the AAFS Toxicology Section’s Rolla N. Harger Award in 2005; and the Toxicology Section’s Irving Sunshine Award for Outstanding Research in Forensic Toxicology in 1992. The journal Clinical Chemistry recently featured her as an “Inspiring Mind.” In 2012, she was selected as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar for Australia, and as the Coy W. Waller Distinguished Lecturer University of Mississippi, and in 2013 the Meyer Bodansky Visiting Professorship of Experimental Pathology, University of Texas Galveston. She currently serves on the World Anti-doping Agency’s Prohibited List Committee, Transportation Research Board Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs, National Safety Council’s Alcohol, Drugs and Impairment Division Executive Board, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Drug Testing Advisory Board, and the new Organization of Scientific Area Committees Toxicology Subcommittee. Professor Huestis is Past President of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOF T) and served as the first woman president of The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists. Dr. Huestis was recently selected as an ex-officio member of the National Commission on Forensic Science.

Our sincerest congratulations to Professor Marilyn Huestis, AAFS Distinguished Fellow!
AAFS Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center

At the recent AAFS Annual Business Meeting in Orlando, then President Daniel Martell proudly announced the formation of a new AAFS initiative: the AAFS Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center. This new Center seeks to utilize the assets of the AAFS to promote the application of state-of-the-art forensic science to global human rights issues. The Center will provide support to AAFS members engaged in human rights forensic applications and will encourage AAFS members to increase their involvement in such matters. Past President Douglas Ubelaker (Anthropology) has agreed to Chair the Center’s advisory committee which will evaluate proposals for support. The following colleagues have extensive experience in global human rights forensic applications and have agreed to serve on the advisory committee: Eric Baccino (France), Stephen Cordner (Australia), Luis Fondebrider (Argentina), Tom Parsons (USA), Michael Pollanen (Canada), Morris Tidball-Binz (France), and Duarte Nuno Vieira (Portugal), in addition to Dr. Ubelaker. Ron Singer (Criminalistics) has agreed to chair an equipment sub-committee. In addition to project support, the Center plans to construct a database of AAFS members who indicate their desire to be involved in global human rights forensic applications. Details of this exciting new initiative will be announced soon.

AAFS Outstanding Early Career Achievement in Forensic Science Award: Call for Nominations

The AAFS Past Presidents Council is pleased to announce that nominations are open for the inaugural Outstanding Early Career Achievement in Forensic Science Award, to be presented at the AAFS Annual Meeting in 2016.

The award’s intent is to provide Academy-wide recognition for the contributions of an Associate Member, Member, or Fellow of the Academy with no more than 10 years of experience. The recipient will have demonstrated both leadership and outstanding achievement through contributions that have served to advance forensic science.

Nominations can be made by any Fellow of the Academy, and should be directed to the Chair of the nominee’s section. A letter detailing the candidate’s accomplishments and the reasons s/he is deserving should be sent together with the nominee’s c.v. and any relevant supporting documentation.

The Award will be presented before the entire Academy at the Annual Business Meeting, and will include a handsome plaque, a check for $1,000, and an all-expenses paid trip to the 2016 AAFS Annual Meeting where the winner will be expected to submit a paper of their choosing for presentation.

Purpose: To recognize outstanding contributions to forensic science research, education, and/or practice during the recipient’s early professional career.

Criteria:
1. The recipient shall be an Associate Member, Member, or Fellow of the AAFS.
2. The recipient shall have been eligible for the status of Associate Member of the Academy no more than ten (10) years prior to their nomination.
3. The recipient shall have demonstrated both leadership and outstanding achievement through contributions that have served to advance forensic science and its application to the legal system in a manner that promotes professionalism, integrity, competency, education, research, practice, and collaboration.

Nominating Procedure: Candidates must be nominated by a Fellow of the Academy. All nominations will be directed to the chair of the nominee’s section with a letter of nomination detailing the candidate’s accomplishments and the reasons she/he is deserving of this award.

Transitioning From Print to Electronic to AAFS News Feed!

The bi-monthly printed copy of the AAFS Academy News will be transitioning from a paper copy to an electronic copy posted on the AAFS website, starting with the July issue. The electronic copy will expedite the availability of the newsletter by as much as three weeks! AAFS members and applicants will be notified by email as soon as the newsletter has been posted online.

In the meantime, you will be introduced to an up-to-the-minute, live AAFS News Feed! With the AAFS News Feed, you will be able to receive only the Academy news that interests you. All the information that you have been receiving in a formatted newsletter will be available to you live via the AAFS News Feed. Up to the minute announcements from the President, your section officers, the Program Committee, Staff, and more will be streaming live. The goal is to transition completely from the old printed/electronic copy of the Academy News to the AAFS News Feed. Watch for updates over the next few months and be ready to start streaming the AAFS News Feed by this Fall!
67th Annual Scientific Meeting Highlights

Photos taken during the 67th Annual Scientific meeting can be found on the AAFS website at www.aafs.org.

Attendees view the Presidential Poster Display during the 2015 Annual Meeting in Orlando.

Interdisciplinary Symposium

AAFS Past Presidents Edmund Donoghue and Carol Henderson await their turn at the lectern during the Interdisciplinary Symposium.

Interdisciplinary Symposium attendees talk during a break in the session.

Attendees listen to AAFS Past President Douglas Ubelaker during the Interdisciplinary Symposium.

Questioned Documents Section panel member John Sang enjoys a talk with attendees after the Interdisciplinary Symposium.
Interdisciplinary Symposium cont.

AAFS Past Presidents Patty McFeeley and Barry Fisher talk during the session break.

Past President Douglas Ubelaker chats with President Daniel Martell during the Interdisciplinary Symposium.

Vice President Zeno Geradts and Past President Joseph Bono take a moment to catch up after the Interdisciplinary Symposium.

Joshua Friedman, Associate Member in the Criminalistics Section, listens intently to a fellow session attendee.

Past President Robert Barsley gives his view on the future of the AAFS Odontology Section.

Attendees take in all of the panel member talks during the 2015 Interdisciplinary Symposium.
Young Forensic Scientists Forum

Lara Fiane-Newell leads the day’s activities during the 20th Anniversary of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Special Session.

President Daniel Martell speaks to the YFSF Special Session attendees in Orlando.

A peek into the YFSF Special Session during the 2015 Annual Meeting.

President-Elect Victor Weedn provides his thoughts to the YFSF participants.

Registration

Attendees register on-site during the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Registration opens at the AAFS 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL.

Volunteers assist at the registration desk for attendees picking up their packets.

continued on page 10
Academy Cup Competition session attendees talk prior to the start of the session.

The General Section’s 2015 Academy Cup team.

An attendee enjoys the Academy Cup Competition.

(L to r): Carol Henderson (Co-Chair), Carla Noziga (Co-Chair), Matt Wood (Plenary Session Co-Chair), and Laura Liptai (Chair) prepare to award the first ever Academy Cup.

The Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Team prepares for the Academy Cup Competition.

Academy Cup Chair Laura Liptai instructs the team participants.

Victor Weedn heads the Pathology/Biology Section’s 2015 Academy Cup team.

Zeno Geradts participates with the Digital & Multimedia Sciences team during the 2015 competition.
2015 AAFS President Daniel Martell awaits the start of the 2015 Plenary Session.

2015 AAFS Distinguished Fellow Honoree Marilyn Huestis attends the Plenary Session in Orlando.

International attendees enjoy a moment with President Daniel Martell after the Plenary Session.

Moderator and speaker Andrew Sulter provides his input at the Plenary Session.

Attendees chat during a break in the Plenary Session.

John Lentini observes the activities of the 2015 Plenary Session.

Attendees at the 67th Annual Meeting’s Plenary Session.

Panel member Barry Scheck listens to the discussion during the Plenary Session.

continued on page 12
Plenary Session cont.

President Daniel Martell and an attendee look at the AAFS Guidebook App.

Plenary Session speaker William Thompson speaks on overcoming contextual bias.

An enjoyable time chatting with fellow session attendees during the Plenary Session.

Plenary Session speaker Saul Kassin.

Plenary Session attendees take a moment to catch up.

Plenary Session review meeting sessions in the Calendar of Events.

Plenary Session panel member Andrew Baker at the 67th Annual Scientific Meeting.

Plenary Session speaker Dan Simon.
Annual Business Meeting

President Daniel Martell opens the 2015 Annual Business Meeting.

In celebration of the YFSF 20th Anniversary, the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Flash Mob surprises attendees during the Annual Business Meeting.

2015 R.B.H. Gradwohl Laureate Thomas Noguchi brings the audience to tears during the Annual Business Meeting.

The head table assists the YFSF Flash Mob during the ABM.

AAFS Founding Member Kurt Dubowski stands during the Annual Business Meeting.

Barry Fisher, R.B.H. Gradwohl Laureate, is acknowledged during the Annual Business Meeting.

Pathology/Biology Member Stephen Sgan looks for a seat at the 2015 Annual Business Meeting.


continued on page 14
President Dan Martell thanks John Young for his service on the AAFS Board of Directors.

President Daniel Martell presents the Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners Award to Kate Butler.

Phoebe Stubblefield (middle) and Raymond Miller present the inaugural Academy Cup trophy to Claire Shepard from the General Section.

2014-15 AAFS Award Winners:

Sitting (l to r): Kathryn Seigfried-Speller, Nicole Yarid, Darren Franck, Kate Butler, Sarah Hainsworth, Thomas Noguchi, Ashraf Mozayani, Lauren Pharr, Marilyn Huestis, Jillian Yeakel, Nicole Lottering, and Gabriele Kruger.

Standing (l to r): Steven Lee, Scott Ryland, Mark McCoy, Ira Lurie, Richard Merritt, William Haglund, Mehdi Koolaee, Rebecca Hartman, Marc LeBeau, Maher Nouri-edlin, Paul Kish, and Vernon Geberth.
FSF Chair Betty Layne DesPortes presents Nicolene Lottering with the 2014-15 FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award.

Gabriele Kruger receives the FSF 2014-15 Henry C. Lee Scholarship plaque.

Chair Kenneth Melson presents the Ethics Committee Report during the Annual Business Meeting.

Dragan Primorac speaks during the Annual Business Meeting.

IAFS Past Presidents Barry Fisher and Heesun Chung talk after the Annual Business Meeting in Orlando.

FSF Chair Betty Layne DesPortes presents retiring Trustee John Sang with a plaque of appreciation.

Barry Logan gives the Nominating Committee Report during the Annual Business Meeting.

continued on page 16
Annual Meeting Pictures

In addition to the educational component, attendees have the opportunity to gather during the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Attendees anxiously await the opening of the Exhibit Hall.

Exhibitors prepare for the opening of the Exhibit Hall.

The registration desk is a busy area during the meeting.

The Exhibit Hall offers attendees both knowledge and a bite to eat.

Gil Sapir entering the Exhibit Hall on opening day.

Meeting attendees are able to network at the AAFS Annual Meeting.

Poster Hall Session attendees discuss the exciting poster displays.
Pathology/Biology Fellow Douglas Posey offers well wishes to Incoming President Victor Weedn on the upcoming year.

Past President Jim Young with (l to r) Ronnie Harmon, Eileen Young, and Anne Warren.

Attendees enjoy the moment with a dance.

President Daniel Martell takes a turn at the roulette tables.

continued on page 18
2015 Annual Meeting attendees enjoy themselves while at an event.

(l to r): Patty McFeeley, Michael Peat, Sarah Lathrop, and Daniel Martell.

Dan Martell gives pointers for a successful bet.

Ashraf Mozayani, Henry Lee, and Carla Nogzilia laugh at the end of a week filled with a lot of activities.

Kathryn Seigfried-Speller finds a familiar face in the crowd.

Players exchange Gradwohl bucks to gain a seat at the table.

Thomas Noguchi selects a sweet treat provided by volunteer Alejandra Ayala Bas.
Board of Directors Representatives Lucy Davis and Laura Fulginiti.

Anthropology Section members (l to r): Franklin Damann, Thomas Holland, Derek Benedict, and William Belcher.

Bruce Goldberger and Carlton Jane-Findley pause for a photo during the annual meeting.

Questioned Documents Section Fellows Carl McClary and Jane Lewis.

Susan Ballou congratulates Thomas Noguchi on receiving the R.B.H. Gradwohl Medallion.


Daniel Martell talks to a fellow attendee.

Questioned Documents Fellows (l to r): Carl McClary, Linton Mohammed, and John Sang.

continued on page 20
CRAIC Technologies team members prepare for the Exhibit Hall to open.

A poster presenter explains his research during the Poster Session.

While volunteering at the registration desk, Roderick Kennedy checks in an exhibitor.

President Daniel Martell and his family celebrate the events of the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Attendees view the work of the Poster Session presenters.

As the Exhibit Hall opens for the day, many attendees take a moment to view the booths.
2015 Student Academy Session

Special thanks to Co-Chairs **Julie Howe** and **Marilyn Miller**, and the entire Student Academy faculty, who organized an educational session for the student attendees. The 2015 Student Academy Session was a great success for both students and teachers. Students actively participated in the day’s events which provided hands-on experience to aspiring forensic scientists. The session event included a question-and-answer session awarding students with forensic science-related prizes donated by Academy members, exhibitors, and forensic science organizations for correctly answering questions from information learned during the morning session.
Complimentary Meeting Registration Awarded

As an incentive to attend the 2015 AAFS Annual Business Meeting, all Fellows and Members in attendance were automatically entered in a random drawing to receive a complimentary meeting registration to attend the 2016 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas, NV. Congratulations to Eric S. Sahota, BA, Member of the Criminalistics Section—this year’s lucky recipient!

The winner of the complimentary meeting registration for completing the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting survey is Luke Ryan. Luke’s name was randomly drawn from the completed meeting surveys as the winner of the complimentary meeting registration for the 2016 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

Staff Presents “Outstanding Service Award” to Two AAFS Fellows

Every year, AAFS members volunteer on countless committees and boards, and their names are published in newsletters and announced throughout the week of the annual meeting. However, there are some who work behind the scenes all year long, quietly and cheerfully offering their expertise and energy to the AAFS staff—they are our unsung heroes.

The AAFS staff selected James Caruso from the Pathology/Biology Section to receive the 2015 “Kenneth S. Field Award of Appreciation for Outstanding Service.” Virginia Lynch (General), who was selected last year but was unable to attend the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, was also presented with her award in Orlando. Both gave tirelessly of their time, and their expertise helped the AAFS staff to remain steady and to move the Academy in a forward direction.

Both honorees performed outstanding service that impacted the Academy overall as well as the work performed by the staff (our criteria). The acknowledgement is open to Members and Fellows, and the nominees must be an Academy member at the time of the recognition. Thank you so much for all that you do, and congratulations to Virginia and James! We look forward to working with AAFS members throughout the coming year and selecting our unsung hero for 2015-16.

Continuing Education Credit Requests

The deadline for submission of Continuing Education Credit and Certificates was March 9. If you have not done so already, please submit your forms immediately via overnight mail service (fax and email are not accepted). Submissions are being processed and certificates will be mailed approximately April 15. Requests for 2015 late submissions or certificate reprints will be honored until June 1.

2015 Annual Meeting “Lost & Found”

The following items were found during the annual meeting in Orlando:

- Glasses (sunglasses)
- Cell Phone
- Costume Jewelry

Please contact Kimberly Wrasse (kwrasse@aafs.org) if you lost any of these items.

Complimentary Meeting Registration Awarded

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Thank You 2015 Financial Supporters!

The Academy would like to thank the following financial supporters for their generous contributions which led to the success of the 2015 AAFS 67th Annual Scientific Meeting:

**QIAGEN Inc.**
supported the 2015 Guidebook Mobile App

**AAFS Anthropology Section**
supported the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Program

**AAFS Criminalistics Section**
supported the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Program

**AAFS General Section**
supported the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Program

**AAFS Jurisprudence Section**
supported the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Program

**AAFS Pathology/Biology Section**
supported the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Program

**Aegis Sciences Corporation**
supported the Toxicology Section’s Program

**Agilent Technologies**
supported the Toxicology Section’s Program

**Bone Clones, Inc.**
supported the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Program

**Cerilliant Corporation**
supported the Toxicology Section’s Open Forum Program

**Human Relations Institute & Clinics**
supported the Psychology & Behavioral Science Section’s Luncheon

**Immunalysis Corporation**
supported the Toxicology Section’s Program

**Lipomed Inc.**
supported the Toxicology Section’s Program

**NMS Labs**
supported Workshop #15

**RTI**
supported the Toxicology Section’s 2015 Best Poster Award

**Shamrock Glass Company**
supported the Toxicology Section’s Program

**SPEware Corporation**
supported the Toxicology Section’s Program

**Utak**
supported the Toxicology Section’s Program
2015 “Friends of the General Section” (FOGS):

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<td>Donald Hayden, MFS</td>
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<td>David J. Zeliff, MFS</td>
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In Memoriam

Walter H. Birkby, PhD. Retired Fellow of the Anthropology Section, February 2015
Philip D. Bouffard, PhD. Retired Member of the Questioned Documents Section, April 2011
Philip J. Levine, DDS. Fellow of the Odontology Section, January 2015
Vincent M. Papa, PhD. Fellow of the Toxicology Section, March 2015
Richard F. Shaw, BS. Retired Fellow of the Toxicology Section, February 2015

Staff Anniversaries

**Congratulations to:**

**January:**
- Tracie McCray, 13 years
- Kimberly Wrasse, 17 years

**February:**
- Sondra Doolittle, 15 years
- Nancy Jackson, 24 years
Thank You To Our 67th Annual Scientific Meeting Volunteers

The 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting Volunteers were fantastic! Thank you to Local Arrangements Committee Chair Jan Garavaglia. The support provided by the volunteers was crucial to the success of the annual meeting.

The volunteers, who come from all over the world, assist AAFS Staff at the scene and behind the scenes (from assembling meeting bags to assisting with registration and special functions). The Academy Office would like to offer a sincere thank you the following individuals who volunteered their time:

Joe Adserias  
Eyad Alhakeem  
Benjamin Annankwaa  
Caitlin Amendav  
Armando Anzellini  
Andleeb Ara  
Emily Arnold  
Jennifer Ashworth  
Alejandra Ayala Bas  
Amaretta Azevedo  
Kari Anna Baber  
Alyssa Badgley  
David Baker  
Jessica Baird  
Terra Baker  
JenaMarie Baldaino  
Sarah Bates  
Lacey Bennett  
Anaesha Berrios  
Sean Block  
Camilla Borrini  
Kialee Bowles  
Thomas Brady  
Taylor Brooks  
Karen Busch  
Ralph Calatchi  
Sariah Cantrell  
Claire Cartozzo  
Whitney Certain  
Adam Cervellone  
Tish Christian  
Carina Cobos  
Laura Conklin  
Kasey Conley  
Katie Conners  
Jamie Corro  
Jessica Coyle  
Karin Crenshaw  
Caitlin Cunningham  
David Cunningham  
Kathy Davies  
Theresa DeAngelo  
Amy Deblie  
Evelyn Delgado  
Caitlin Deppen  
Kelsey DeWitt  
Natasha Dilkie  
Katherine Drake  
Ryan Dross  
Anastasija Dzhun  
Katlin East  
Melanie Eckberg  
Holly Evans  
Lauren Evenstone  
Jenalyn Fallot  
Hannah Fickle  
Michael Fields  
Colleen Fitzpatrick  
Nathalie Flores  
Sara Fox  
Kelvin Frank  
Kathleen Franklin  
Ceara Frey  
Brooke Frisby  
Jessica Galea  
Andrew Gallagher  
Elizabeth Gardner  
Erin Gardner  
Kaitlyn Germain  
Kemper Gibson  
Tara Golson  
Ashley Green  
Jordan Green  
Lesley Gregoricka  
Ariana Gugora  
Seoungshin Gwak  
Kaitlin Hafer  
Lisa Hallberg  
Kyneth Hannon  
Virginia Hanson  
Kodi Harmon  
Nina Harmarine  
Valentia Harmarine  
Kelsey Harrington  
Amanda Hayes  
Zahra Hedayati  
Catherine Hefner  
Gemma Heimlich-Bowler  
Maria Hiott  
Amber Hiranaka  
Hazel Hogg  
Laurel Hohenwarter  
Jessiine Horn  
Caitlin Hosn  
Ashley Hudgins  
Erica Huff  
Ashley Humphrey  
Caitlin Isobe  
Megan Jackson  
Melissa Johnson  
Victoria Johnson  
Andrea Jones  
Ying Kenney  
Ashfaq Kharal  
William Kim  
Brieanne Knight  
Sarah Koon-Magnin  
Brianna Kranz  
Swantje Krause  
Kewal Krishan  
Brielle Lassiter-Helou  
Karen Lau  
Tiffany Layne  
Jennifer Leach  
Ashley LeBlanc  
Kristle Lewis  
Amy Lloyd  
Kelsey Lange  
David Lord  
Katelyn Lybarger  
Jena Madden  
Nicole Malahias  
Jackie Marquez  
Megan Marshall  
Kelsey Maxfield  
Lauren McCool  
Zachary McFarland  
Rebecca Meuresen  
Thomas Meuesen  
Michelle Meney  
Arriel Miles  
David Millard  
Brittany Miller  
Dawn Mills  
Elizabeth Mills  
Heather Moody  
Michael Moreschi  
Thaddeus Mostowtt  
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Emily Myers  
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Larry Nelson  
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Kerry Opel  
Kayla Orr  
Mikayla Overholtzer  
Roberto Padrino  
Yailyn Palmu  
Joseph Parian  
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Precious Patton  
Margaret Pauli  
Kendra Perez  
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Amber Riley  
Selena Rivera  
Roxanne Rosinski  
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Alora Sansola  
Caitlin Sawyer  
Laura Scheid  
Isabella Schember  
Katherine Schilling  
Kaylee Schotten  
Melanie Selk  
Puente Setia  
Ashley Shade  
Eileen Sherman  
Deborah Silva  
Christie Smith  
Patricia Smith  
Paul Smith  
April Solomon  
Hilde Stawski  
Myrna Stephens  
James Stewart  
Joseph Stone  
Caitlyn Taveira  
Rebecca Thielen  
Eisha Tisdale  
Vu Tran  
Carlijn van der Suijis  
Nicole Vergara  
Annalise Vine  
Alex Wai  
Erin Walsh  
Ling Wang  
Jane Wiegand  
Kristal Wilkins  
Kelsey Wilkinson  
Patricia Williams  
Stephanie Williams  
Rhett Williamson  
Cynthia Woods  
Sydney Yoder  
Nandar Yukyi  
Laura Yurka
VICTOR W. WEADE, MD, JD, assumed the office of AAFS President and is joined by the following individuals who were elected to office at the Annual Business Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, February 18, in Orlando, FL:

**President-Elect:** John E. Gerns, MFS (General)

**Vice President:** Zeno J. Gerardts, PhD (Digital & Multimedia Sciences)

**Vice President:** Norman J. Sauer, PhD (Anthropology)

**Secretary:** Susan M. Ballou, MS (Criminalistics)

**Treasurer:** Betty Layne DesPortes, JD (Jurisprudence)

**Fellows-At-Large**
In addition to the Officers, the following eleven section Fellows-at-Large comprise the 2015-16 AAFS Board of Directors:

- **Anthropology:** Laura C. Fulginiti, PhD
- **Criminalistics:** Ken Williams, MS, JD
- **Digital & Multimedia Sciences:** David W. Baker, MFS
- **Engineering Sciences:** Laura L. Liptai, PhD
- **General:** Julie A. Howe, MBA
- **Jurisprudence:** Roderick T. Kennedy, JD
- **Odontology:** John P. Kenney, DDS, MS
- **Pathology/Biology:** Gregory G. Davis, MD
- **Psychiatry & Behavioral Science:** Christopher T. Thompson, MD
- **Questioned Documents:** Carl R. McClary, BA
- **Toxicology:** Ruth E. Winecker, PhD

**Victor Weedn accepts the President’s Chain of Office from President Daniel Martell during the 2015 Annual Business Meeting.**
2015-16 Section Officers

Anthropology
Chair: Phoebe R. Stubblefield, PhD
Secretary: Angi M. Christensen, PhD

Criminalistics
Chair: John J. Lentini, BA
Secretary: Karolyn L. Tontarski, MS

Digital & Multimedia Sciences
Chair: Rhesa G. Gilliland, MS
Secretary: Marcus Rogers, PhD

Engineering Sciences
Chair: John Nixon, MBA
Secretary: Michelle S. Hoffman, BS

General
Chair: Claire E. Shepard, MS
Secretary: Joanna L. Collins, MFS

Jurisprudence
Chair: Christine Funk, JD
Secretary: Stephanie Domitrovich, JD, PhD

Odontology
Chair: Iain A. Pretty, DDS, PhD
Secretary: Raymond G. Miller, DDS

Pathology/Biology
Chair: Kathryn H. Haden-Pinneri, MD
Secretary: James L. Caruso, MD

Psychiatry & Behavioral Science
Chair: Karen B. Rosenbaum, MD
Secretary: Dean M. De Crisce, MD

Questioned Documents
Chair: Thomas W. Vastrick, BS
Secretary: Linton Mohammed, PhD

Toxicology
Chair: Sarah Kerrigan, PhD
Secretary: Dan T. Anderson, MS

2015-16 Annual Meeting Program Chairs

AAFS President Victor Weedn announced the 2016 Annual Program Committee for the 68th Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas, NV. The Program Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs are:

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The following are the 2015-16 Section Program Chairs and Co-Chairs:

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**2015 FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Winners Announced!**

The 16th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award paper competition was hosted in Orlando, FL. The following presenters were selected as the 2015 winners by a panel of judges. Whitney A. Simpson, BS, was selected for her poster presentation entitled, “Highly Multiplexed Analysis of STRs and SNPs Using Massively Parallel Sequencing: Concordance With Current Methodologies” and Federica Collini for her oral presentation “Paternal Filicide for Spousal Revenge: The Male Side of Medea’s Syndrome in the Italian Population Over the Last Ten Years.” Congratulations to Whitney and Federica who will both receive expense reimbursement to attend the 68th Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas.

The deadline for paper submission of the 17th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award is August 1. Please see page 37 for submission guidelines.
A Word From Your 2016 Program Co-Chair

The 2015 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting was a resounding success, with 4,225 attendees from 62 countries. Despite the unseasonably chilly Orlando temperatures, the setting provided a warm, friendly environment for networking throughout the week, and many members left the hotel to enjoy the nearby dining area to continue their scientific and section discussions. As we all know, the networking that occurs during the annual meeting is as valuable as the information presented in the scientific sessions.

A brief summary of the Orlando meeting follows. There were eight Academy-wide breakfast sessions, three luncheons, 24 workshops, and three special sessions that effectively reflected the theme of Celebrating the Forensic Science Family set by then President Daniel Martell. The Evening Session will be remembered for years as the presenters incorporated the topic of “Keep It Simple, Stupid” into costumes of the rock band KISS to provide both an entertaining and educational session. The well-attended Plenary Session allowed for different perspectives of cognitive bias to be presented and lively discussion followed. The Academy Cup permitted collegial competition among sections to demonstrate their historical knowledge of the Academy and forensic science. Congratulations to the General Section for being awarded the Cup this year! The YFSF celebrated its 20th anniversary with a session highlighting past accomplishments, current successes, and future endeavors. Eighty-three students along with their chaperones attended the Student Academy to participate in the hands-on activities that allowed them to learn about the disciplines represented by each section of the Academy hopefully sparking their interest in pursuing science. There were more than 900 oral and poster presentations. Nine sections incorporated multidisciplinary sessions into their oral platform. Several affiliate meetings also occur during the annual meeting week that take advantage of the presence of many of their members. Lastly, the first National Standards of Science and Technology (NIST) Scientific Area Committee (SAC) meetings were held to educate the forensic community of efforts being put forth to strengthen the forensic sciences.

If you were not able to attend the meeting in Orlando, you can still take the time to reach out to your forensic mentor to let him or her know how much their guidance and support means to you. Drop them a handwritten note or take them to lunch. Take a moment to celebrate them in some manner so that they are aware that their efforts were essential to your career and success.

The 2016 meeting theme identified by President Victor Weedin, Transformation: Embracing Change, provides multiple opportunities for members to address the many activities that are currently going on at the federal level. The Academy is invested and well represented in NIST efforts. The upcoming year will be busy as the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSACs) work to develop best practices and standards to be vetted through Standard Development Organizations (SDOs). These efforts will be the cornerstone to future forensic practices, and, thus are worthy of presentation at the 2016 meeting. Engage in multidisciplinary discussions to ensure that the proposals being put forward by the OSACs accurately

continued on page 30
reflect the discipline involved. Use these discussions to develop workshops, oral, or poster presentations. This is the time for you to get involved and ensure that your voice is heard! And, of course, ongoing research and findings along with case studies are important educational components to a successful annual scientific meeting.

A new requirement for Academy-wide sessions will be implemented for 2016. A minimum of two active presenters must be included in the Special Session submission. Traditionally, one presenter has been accepted. The inclusion of two presenters is designed to prevent a session from being cancelled at the last minute if one presenter is unable to attend due to circumstances beyond his/her control, such as weather. The cancellation of sessions is problematic on many fronts.

As spring looms on the forefront, start preparing for your abstract submission to allow time to prepare a clear and concise summary of your proposed presentation. As you are reminded time and again, the August 1 abstract submission deadline is firm. Ninety-nine percent of abstract submissions occur during the final week. To ensure that you have all the necessary information, research the online abstract form before the deadline so that you are prepared to hit the submit button. Your abstract must be 400–700 words and will be included in the Proceedings of the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting. The Proceedings are searchable on the Internet and referenced, so be sure that your abstract provides an accurate synopsis of your scientific research and findings or case study.

The current forensic climate is exciting. Program Chair Andrew Baker and I look forward to working with the Academy staff and other program committee members to develop an outstanding program that is reflective of the evolving forensic arena in Las Vegas, February 22-27, 2016. Please join us in making that happen. The quality of the overall program is dependent upon member participation with abstract submissions. Start thinking of your contribution now!

AAFS Topics of Interest and CE Needs Requested

What topics should be addressed at the Academy’s 68th Annual Scientific Meeting? AAFS members are asked to send suggestions for topics of interest and continuing education needs for the 2016 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting to the Academy headquarters. All responses received will be communicated to the program committee members when they commence their review of abstract submissions. Take this opportunity to have a voice on the program content in Las Vegas, NV; send your suggestions today. Please contact Sondra Doolittle (sdoolittle@aafs.org) at the AAFS office.

AAFS Policy On Abstracts and Presentations

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

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

AAFS reserves the right to remove commercial references not disclosed by the author.
Transformation: Embracing Change

Odontology Section

Source: Iain A Pretty, DDS, Section Chair

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles contained in the Academy News are those of the identified authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Academy.

“A man with conviction is a hard man to change. Tell him you disagree and he turns away. Show him facts or figures and he questions your sources. Appeal to logic and he fails to see your point”

- Leon Festinger; When Prophecy Fails

I was delighted when I saw President Weedn’s theme for the 68th Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas, NV, Transformation: Embracing Change. There is no doubt that forensic science is a discipline subject to change and, perhaps, more so than any other science given the multitude of stakeholders involved in the delivery, utilization, and assessment of the work.

Forensic science is influenced by research results, by the judicial system, by the consumers of our work (attorneys and their clients), and by the broader political context and policy. No other science is subject to so many influences, many of which are in conflict with each other and no other science is subject to the speed of change that can be required by science presented in Court.

A single research finding, an exoneration, a Frye hearing, or the testimony of a single expert can lead to significant changes in a forensic discipline that might need to be adopted rapidly – often with little or no formal evaluation of their impact. This said, many have been critical of forensic science’s apparent slow uptake on the NAS Report and its recommendations.

However quick judicial rulings may be implemented, or top down policies imposed – science is, in the main, a slow process. The scientific method itself mandates a careful and methodical approach to generating and then testing hypotheses. Without such an approach results can be flawed and interpretation wide of the mark. Such errors can lead, in the case of forensic science, to miscarriages of justice.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is one vehicle for changing forensic sciences in a careful, evidenced based approach. Jointly, with the Journal of Forensic Sciences, the Academy offers a venue for researchers and practitioners to come together, exchange ideas, thoughts and findings, and, through friendly critical appraisal, determine if change is needed and if so, what that change might look like. The Academy, through its committees and the accrediting board, then offers the mechanisms by which any change can be enacted. The multidisciplinary nature of the Academy ensures that we can test the impact of change across many sections and learn from, and inform, each other. A virtuous circle perhaps.

However, this rather simplistic view of change ignores the resistance, present in almost all of us, to any disruption of the status quo. Indeed, the current climate suggests that changes in forensic sciences will tend to be ones that limit, constrain, and perhaps even dismiss certain analysis techniques or evidence. Such changes are rarely welcomed when compared to those that expand or push forward techniques. Many personal beliefs in our work are based on many years of experience, and often, a commitment to the judicial process – a real desire to help and inform. Such convictions, while admirable, can present a barrier to change. The so called “backfire effect” can be seen; when asked, we would tend to state that if presented with new facts we would alter our opinions, and incorporate the new information into our thinking and practice. The reality is that when our deepest convictions are challenged by contradictory evidence, our previously held beliefs simply get stronger.

Is it therefore essential that we consider how we not only strengthen our science through research endeavors but, also, how do we present these findings, and convince our colleagues that change may be required? And we shouldn’t merely consider change in the context of science, there are many other changes that might improve our disciplines that take place outside of scientific discourse. Of course the answer to enacting change is via effective leadership. This is not to be misinterpreted as those who we see in obvious leadership roles (although these individuals are a key part of the process) but for all of us to consider. How might we lead change in our sections to improve science, processes, membership, collegiality, public information and awareness or abstract submissions?

“Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.”

- Harry S Truman

This is why the theme for the 68th Annual Meeting is so apropos; our President Victor Weedn is not asking us to consider change, or think about what we might need to change, but rather to embrace change – to make the difference and to transform our science, our sections and the Academy for the better. It is no doubt a challenge, but it is one that we should all consider how we might play our part in strengthening and

continued on page 70
Transformation: Embracing Change

Questioned Documents Section: Don’t Forget the Brake Pedal - Cognitive Bias; “Myth”ing the Point

Source: Thomas W. Vastrick, BS, Section Chair

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles contained in the Academy News are those of the identified authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Academy.

We are in a time in which substantive changes to the forensic sciences are being made at unprecedented levels and speed. History teaches us that tumultuous movements often include unintended over-swing of the pendulum that result in counterproductive, unforeseen actions and just plain bad ideas being swept in with the tide. As such, please accept the spirit of this article as a voice of caution that the changes that we make can have secondary and tertiary consequences that have the potential of creating primary disasters. We owe it to our future brethren to proceed - but judiciously.

In the recently-completed AAFS program, members heard from speakers who are sounding the alarm over cognitive bias. As professional and ethical scientists, we should all be horrified at the thought of bias being an influence in our work – inclusive of our own selves. All too often, I have personally seen bias permeate the work and testimony of alleged experts. It is sickening. Obviously, it would be impossible for us to self-determine whether we are allowing unintentional, subconscious bias to creep into our own work. However, again as professional and ethical scientists, we should have no problem with accepting non-evasive steps that have the potential of ensuring against bias creeping into our work regardless of our personal belief concerning the existence of such a problem, as long as the proffered remedies do not create their own set of new problems.

The results of limiting information provided to a forensic document examiner could have untenable secondary effects thereby making an appropriate examination impossible. Outside influences such as medical conditions, injuries, legal medications, illegal “medications,” emotional disorders, and emotional state are just a few of the extrinsic issues that an examiner should have available in order to accurately assess the handwriting characteristic similarities and discrepancies during the course of a proper examination. Because this kind of information is case-specific and the forms of outside influences are so wide and varying, it would be impossible to create a list of acceptable and unacceptable subjects of which the examiner should have available to them. Should one follow the “logic” of eliminating bias-creating information from an examination, an outside source would be responsible for deciding what information to provide and what information to withhold. But who exactly is qualified to make this decision? There is no outside source qualified to make this decision. Only the forensic document examiner is properly qualified to make that distinction in each case-specific examination.

So how can we address the potential bias in our work while maintaining the integrity of the examination itself? One answer commonly overlooked is the use of opposing experts as a method of checks and balances. Allowing bias-creating information to affect one’s examination methodologies, data collection methodologies, report writing, or testimony is error, pure and simple. An opposing expert can point out those errors and specify where they occurred. It is certainly not a perfect solution as it can be correctly pointed out that the opposing expert can also be influenced by bias. However, far more frequently one will find that the checks and balances method of opposing experts will result in a consensus, but independently-reached, conclusion that negates the possibility of bias-influence in the matter at hand.

One common recommendation has been a “line-up” of several specimen writers. If a forensic document examiner has equivalent handwriting specimens from several writers with the absence of any superfluous information that might tend to spotlight one or two of the subjects, it is hypothesized that the examiner would not have any indicator of who might be a primary suspect or who the submitter thinks is the actual writer. In theory, this appears to be a sound suggestion and in many instances this methodology would work. However, should there be serious consideration to writing this process into standard methodology, one must also consider that there will be more than a few instances in which this methodology would not work. For example, certain civil attorneys may not have access to proper handwriting specimens from other writers in order to create an appropriate line-up. In some criminal matters it may be difficult to come up with properly dated material for comparison. In all the aforementioned cases, if medical information or other such personal data was required for the examination, a line-up method would prove impossible and falsely creating such information would fatally taint the evidence. It may not be necessary to abandon this idea, but any written recommendations should contain sufficient caveats so as not to create a standard that can be turned against the examiner who did not use the line-up method for appropriate reasons.

In addition to taking a judicious approach to change, we must also work to avoid bringing misconceptions into our evolution. Embracing change necessarily means that we must all embrace change. An atmosphere that “you” need to change but not “me” will result in failure. For example, numerous individuals have stated that attorneys who provide bias-creating information cannot be held responsible for initiating the transfer of this information. Insistence that charges of some form of misconduct toward the speaker is somehow reflective of a violation

continued on page 70
FSF Warren-Young Scholarship: May 1 Deadline

Purpose: This award is designed to encourage forensic science education at the middle and high school level.

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements: The Warren-Young Scholarship is intended to provide funds; not less than $1,000, for middle and high school teachers to purchase supplies, equipment, or reference materials to support forensic science education in teaching basic scientific principles. Applications will be judged based on how the funds will further the goals of the Foundation. Priority will be given to programs with apparent financial need and those which provide forensic science education in underserved population areas.

Application: To apply for funding, the following must be submitted:
  • Teacher Letter;
  • Teacher Applicant Name (please attach copies of any teaching certifications);
  • School Affiliation;
  • Course Description (please attach any course announcements or proposed syllabus) - Please describe how the funds and forensic science knowledge are/will be used in teaching basic scientific principles;
  • Demonstration of Financial Need and Support for Forensic Science Education (please attach a letter from school administration official concerning the level of financial need and the current availability of forensic science education).

All submissions must be received and completed by May 1. The Committee chair will notify the scholarship recipient by June 1. Please submit the aforementioned Warren-Young Scholarship Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The FSF will confirm receipt of all submissions within two business days. If confirmation is not received within two business days, the applicant should contact Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org.

FSF Acorn and Lucas Research Grants: June 15 Deadline

The FSF Acorn Grants (up to and including $1,000) and Lucas Grants (up to and including $5,000) are intended to help the investigator/researcher initiate original in-depth problem-oriented research. These grants are open to members and affiliates (at any level) of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Each research proposal must include:
  • An abstract - not to exceed three pages for Acorn Grants or five pages for Lucas Grants. Abstracts must contain a well-developed title and the research question. Research must be creative and unique. Research conducted as a follow-up to a previous study is discouraged. Issues related to the use of live humans or animals as research subjects must be dealt with explicitly in the proposal. Similarly, your plan for accommodating any issue related to privacy, appropriate permissions, and the harvesting, transport, or disposal of human tissues or body fluids must be included. FSF Lucas and Acorn Grant proposals on the same subject, differing only in scope and budget, may not be submitted by the same investigators in the same year.
  • A brief literature review of not more than 10 references pertinent to the subject of the research.
  • A detailed budget. Funding requests may not include requests for travel, equipment, bibliographic preparation, routine agency operations, including salary of investigators/researchers or assistants. Applicants must disclose if funding for this project is being sought from other/additional sources.
  • A timetable and a specific plan for dissemination of results. The dissemination plan and timetable must be compatible with the annual schedule of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and its meeting date in February. The grants are awarded in the late fall; presentation will be at the meeting in two years. Example: If the grant request is submitted in 2015, and awarded in late 2015-16, the presentation cannot be made until the 2017 meeting or (if two years in length) at the 2018 meeting.
  • Disclosure. Applicants must disclose current or previous FSF research grants awarded to any of the investigators.
  • CVs from all involved. One investigator, preferably the Principal Investigator, must be an affiliate or member of the AAFS.

All submissions must be received and completed by June 15. All research proposals must be submitted by the individual conducting the research. If a proposal is submitted for funding of a master’s thesis, the proposal must be submitted by the student NOT by the academic advisor or other academic supporter.

Submissions that do not meet the aforementioned requirements or deadline will be automatically disqualified.

Please submit the aforementioned Acorn Grant or Lucas Grant Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The FSF will confirm receipt of all submissions within two business days. If confirmation is not received within two business days, the applicant should contact Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org.
FSF Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant: July 31 Deadline

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

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

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

Grant Amount: The Jan Grant Award is $1,700. In addition, up to $1,300 is available for travel expenses to attend a future AAFS Annual Meeting where the awardee has an approved platform presentation of the completed research. The funding must be used to complete the research project.

Application: Please complete the application (on page 36) and submit with the required attachments outlined in Part II on the application form.

All submissions must be received and completed by July 31. Please submit the aforementioned Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Eligibility Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The FSF will confirm receipt of all submissions within two business days. If confirmation is not received within two business days, the applicant should contact Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org.

FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship for International AAFS Annual Meeting Attendees: August 1 Deadline

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements:

- Only members or affiliates of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences who have never attended an annual meeting and who reside outside of North America are eligible for the Scholarship Award.
- The member or affiliate awardee must, at a minimum, have been voted into the AAFS at the preceding meeting (if not previously) and must have at least one year of experience in forensic science.
- The applicant must have submitted an abstract for the AAFS 2016 program through the online submission system or Call For Papers form. In the awards section, check the box indicating “the paper should be considered for the FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship.” Once requested, the abstract will be reviewed by the FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Amount: The FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship is $1,000.

The committee chair will notify the AAFS no later than October 25, and the Awardee notification will be transmitted no later than November 1.

FSF Student Affiliate Scholarships: August 1 Deadline

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) will fund a limited number of AAFS Student Affiliate registrations for the 2016 American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Scientific Meeting through a “Scholarship Program.”

To qualify for the scholarship, AAFS Student Affiliates must submit an abstract for the AAFS 2016 program through the online submission system or Call For Papers form. In the awards section (5b), check the box indicating “FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship.” Applicants for the Student Affiliate Scholarship may apply only once each year (e.g., the applicant must designate only one abstract as the SA Scholarship entry in the submission system). The abstract will then be reviewed by the FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship abstracts need not be selected for presentation at the meeting, though this could be deemed advantageous by the selection committee. The scholarships will be awarded through the committee’s evaluation of the quality and relevance of the abstracts to the advancement of forensic science by AAFS Student Affiliates. The deadline for submission is August 1.
FSF Student Travel Grants: October 15 Deadline

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to offer Travel Grants for students to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV. The FSF Board of Trustees has allocated $12,000, not to exceed $1,500 per student, including complimentary meeting registration. This is a wonderful opportunity, and members are encouraged to promote it.

Travel Grant Eligibility Requirements:
1. Prior Student Travel Grant award recipients are not eligible to reapply.
2. The applicant must either be an AAFS member/affiliate or an AAFS applicant for membership.
3. The applicant must have submitted an abstract either as a presenter or co-author for the annual meeting he/she will be attending.
4. 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.
5. The applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor or professor.
6. The applicant must submit a 400-600 word essay explaining how attendance at an AAFS meeting will impact his/her career decision.
7. The applicant must submit a curriculum vitae to include specifics regarding their involvement in forensic science and their current grade point average.

All submissions must be completed and received by October 15. The deadline is firm with no extension. Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed. Please submit the aforementioned Travel Grant Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The FSF will confirm receipt of all submissions within two business days. If confirmation is not received within two business days, the applicant should contact Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org.

FSF/CRC Press Student Travel Grant and Book Prize

In collaboration with the FSF, CRC Press will fund the top-scoring FSF Student Travel Grant candidate as determined through the FSF selection process outlined above. In addition to funding the $1,500 travel grant, CRC Press will donate an "instant library" of $1,500-worth (list price) in pre-selected books to the student at the annual meeting. The "FSF/CRC Press Student Travel Grant and Book Prize" will have an overall value of $3,000.
**Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Application**

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

**PART I – Background Information**

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

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Education - List your education accurately and completely.

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*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). Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

**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 ________________
17th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award (EFSA) Competition

PURPOSE: To nurture a productive dialogue between emerging judicial and forensic standards of reliability and validity, the Forensic Sciences Foundation is pleased to offer the 17th Annual Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. The award will be presented to the author of the best paper on any topic focusing on the reliability and validity of techniques, processes, or methods in a forensic area of the author’s choice.

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

SELECTION PROCESS: Abstracts accepted by the AAFS Program Committee and the EFSA Program Committee will be scheduled for presentation during the scientific session of the section which accepted the abstract, and evaluated by representatives of the Multidisciplinary Awards Committee appointed by the Forensic Sciences Foundation Board of Trustees. Announcement of the winning entry will be made in the Academy News following determination of the winner by the Awards Committee. The Award will be presented during the 2017 AAFS Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

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 2016. Only the presenter is eligible for the award; no substitutions will be accepted after the application is submitted. The decision of the Awards Committee is final and the amount of the award is firm. The form below must be completed and sent with the abstract submission to the AAFS office by August 1.

THE AWARD: The award will cover the expense of the recipient’s attendance at the 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, LA, including registration, up to $1,000 for airfare, lodging while in attendance at the annual meeting not to exceed five nights, and up to $75 per diem. A commemorative plaque will also be presented to the award winner at the 2017 AAFS Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans.

FSF EMERGING FORENSIC SCIENTIST AWARD ENTRY FORM

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

I entered the field of forensic science in _______ .

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________

Employer ______________________________________________________________________________________ 

Street Address __________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Province ______________________________________________________________________________

Postal/Zip Code ___________________________ Country ____________________________________________

Telephone _____________________________________ Fax __________________________________________

Email _________________________________________________________________________________________

Send this form by August 1 to: AAFS 2016 Program Committee

410 North 21st Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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

_________________________________________________ ______________________

Signature Date
The 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) will be held February 22-27, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Program Committee solicits the submission of abstracts on topics of interest to the forensic science community. August 1, 2015, 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 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.

To submit your abstract online, go to the AAFS website at www.aafs.org.

Notification of Acceptance

Notification of Acceptance letters will be mailed to all presenting authors by November 15, 2015. Meeting registration materials will be sent to presenting authors.

Oral Presentations

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.

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.

General Information

Abstract Length

A single spaced, one page length document containing a minimum of 400 words to a maximum of 700 words is required. Please attach additional sheet(s) if needed.

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, lectern, microphone, LCD projector, and screen.

General Information cont.

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

Poster Presentation

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

Illustrations

All tables and graphs should be converted to grayscale.

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 basic registration fee for the annual meeting.

Commercial & Conflict of Interest

Commercial Interest

Commercial Interests are any proprietary entity producing goods or services, as well as any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services, used on, or consumed by, patients. Providers of clinical service directly to patients are not considered commercial interests.

Conflict of Interest

Circumstances create a conflict of interest when an individual has an opportunity to affect CME content about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a financial relationship.

Journal of Forensic Sciences

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

AAFS Abstract Policy

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

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

General Instructions

Content of Abstract

Your abstract should be informative, containing:

1. Abstracts should NOT be written in the first person.
3. The Learning Objectives.
4. A sentence statement of the paper’s hypothesis or proposition.
5. A brief synopsis of the content, or statement of the methods, whichever is pertinent.
6. A summary of the results obtained, if pertinent.
7. A general statement of conclusion, if possible.
8. A minimum of one-half page single spaced (approximately 400 words) to a maximum of one full page (approximately 700 words) in length. Abstracts exceeding the full page maximum will not be printed in the AAFS Proceedings.
9. Three key words.
10. A brief statement of how your presentation will impact the attendees in terms of: competence (ability), performance (competence put into “action”), or patient outcomes (if applicable).

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.

LCD Projection

A LCD projection unit will be available in the Speaker Prep Room. Please make certain your presentation is compatible with the computer provided for your session and that all is in working order and tested before your presentation.

Below are recommended guidelines for preparing your presentation:

- 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. Required: 400 word minimum to 700 word maximum.
2. Software: Microsoft® Word for Windows is required.
3. Type size: 10 pt (10 characters per inch).
5. Margins: top: 1”, left side: 1”, right side: 1”.
6. References/Footnotes: do not put in the header or footer of the document.
7. Do not embed objects, pictures, tables, or charts within document.
8. No boxes, frames, or lines.
9. Remove editing comments, notes, etc., and accept tracked changes in the document prior to saving and submitting.

Specific Instructions

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

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

Sample Abstract

Injury Pattern Analysis in Fatal Traffic Crash Investigation

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

Abstract:

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

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

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

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

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

Crash, Fatal, Investigation
Complete all of the Following Information

NOTE: In order for your paper to be considered for presentation you are required to complete ALL areas of this form. Incomplete information will be returned to the author for completion. To submit his/her abstract online, go to the AAFS website at: www.aafs.org.

1. Presentation Choice: □ Oral □ Poster □ Breakfast Seminar □ Luncheon

2. Section Selection: Please circle the session in which you desire to present a paper: Anthropology, Criminalistics, Digital & Multimedia Sciences, Engineering Sciences, General, Jurisprudence, Odontology, Pathology/Biology, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science, Questioned Documents, Toxicology, Last Word Society.

3. Amount of Time Required:

4. Presenting Author, Name, & Mailing Address:

5. Is the presenting author an AAFS member/affiliate or applicant? □ Yes □ No If yes, AAFS ID #

   a. If AAFS member/affiliate/applicant, please list section affiliation:

   b. Is abstract a candidate for: Anthropology Ellis R. Kerley Award? □ Yes □ No

   Anthropology J.L. Angel Student Award? □ Yes □ No

   FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award? □ Yes □ No

   FSF Henry C. Lee Scholarship? □ Yes □ No

   FSF Student Affiliate Scholarship? □ Yes □ No

   General Section Robert Gaffney Achievement Award? □ Yes □ No

   Pathology/Biology Best Biology Trainee Award? □ Yes □ No

   Pathology/Biology Best Resident Paper? □ Yes □ No

   Toxicology Section Best Poster Award? □ Yes □ No

   (Please initial.)

   (Please initial.)

   (Please initial.)

   (Please initial.)

6. Co-Author(s) Name(s), Address(es), and Business Affiliation: (attach additional sheet if required)

7. Has this paper been presented or published before? □ Yes □ No

   If yes, where and when?

8. Audio/Visual Requirements: Each room will be equipped with a screen, electronic pointer, lectern microphone, and an LCD projector. All additional equipment must be requested and is subject to approval by the Section Chair.

   □ Other Equipment Requested:

9. AAFS Policy on Full Disclosure of Faculty Financial Interests or Relationships

   It is the policy of the Continuing Education Program of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences to ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all its educational activities. All faculty participating in these programs are expected to disclose to the program audiences: (1) any real or apparent conflict(s) of interest related to the content of their presentations, (2) discussion of unapproved (unlabeled) uses of pharmaceuticals/medical devices, and (3) ongoing research (preliminary) data. The intent of this disclosure is not to prevent a speaker with a financial or other relationship from making a presentation, but rather to provide listeners with information on which they can make their own judgments about the presentation. Additionally, disclosure for you and/or your spouse should include any relationships with entities that resell, distribute, and/or market health care products used on or by patients. It is also the policy of the AAFS that all speakers must disclose whether non-FDA approved uses of pharmaceutical products or medical devices are included in the presentation. In keeping with this procedure, the faculty or presenter is required to complete and sign the following disclosure statements:

   I. Will your presentation include any discussion of commercial products or services? □ Yes □ No

      If yes, please list all manufacturer(s) or provider(s) and describe the nature of the relationship(s) (attach additional pages as needed):

   II. Is this activity/presentation financially supported? □ Yes □ No If yes, by whom?

      and in what form? □ Grant Support □ Paid Consultant □ Employee □ Shareholder □ Speakers Bureau

   III. Does this presentation include the discussion or use of unapproved (unlabeled) pharmaceuticals/medical devices and/or ongoing research? □ Yes □ No If yes, please describe (attach additional pages as needed):

      Disclosed information will be made available to participants in the Final Program provided to all registrants.

10. Complete the following:

   a. Representatives of the media are allowed to record my presentation. □ Yes □ No

   b. I hereby acknowledge that my abstract will be published in the AAFS Proceedings if accepted for presentation. (Please initial.)

   c. I acknowledge that I am required to comply with the AAFS guidelines for legible LCD projection and that structured abstracts are required. (Please initial.)

   d. I acknowledge that all authors contributing on this paper have been properly cited. I understand that only the authors listed on this form and in the online system will appear in the printed materials (e.g., Programs, Proceedings). (Please initial.)

   e. I acknowledge that any images to be presented will be accurate and will not misrepresent the outcome of treatment. (Please initial.)

   f. I hereby acknowledge that if the paper described by the abstract is accepted for presentation, AAFS will acquire a non-exclusive copyright of the abstract. (Please initial.)

   g. I understand that submission of this abstract is made with the commitment of the author(s) to present the paper at the AAFS Annual Meeting. Failure to present the paper without a valid excuse may result in its removal from the Proceedings, preclusion from future submissions, or both. (Please initial.)

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and comply with the requirements noted herein and that the information provided is true and correct.

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Signature       Date
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Croatis: A land whose rich cultural heritage is not discovered only from within the walls of numerous museums, galleries, and churches many of which today are zero category monuments included in a part of the UNESCO World Heritage List, but much more in that magical place on the Mediterranean. In Croatia, even the shortest stroll becomes a journey down a staircase thousands of years old, takes one through a history that is at the same time turbulent, exciting, and glorious. Whether walking the intricate grid of narrow white stone streets and alleys or reveling in the teeming life of the port towns of Istria, Kvarner, or Dalmatia, or climbing the green serpentines of Central Croatia to the fairy-like fortresses and castles, each step is an ever-fresh experience made special by the fact that on her territory as many as four cultural circles meet, intertwine, and complement one another - west, east, Central European and the southern spirit of the Mediterranean. Croatia is a land of urban culture that numbers more cities than any other part of the Mediterranean.

It is one of the best ecologically preserved parts of Europe. It is a land where the hues of the sunny and warm Mediterranean happily blend with the tranquility and freshness of mountains and the gentle sway of the golden plains of Pannonia. A land of truly divine inspiration that has delighted many of the world’s prominent men of letters it is a rare European landscape which boasts as many as eight national parks in so small an area!

Croatia occupies the largest part of the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea which, as a part of the Mediterranean Sea, penetrates deepest into European soil. Croatia’s shoreline and more than a thousand islands enjoy the majority of the Adriatic coastline. The narrow Dinara Mountain Range separates the country’s Mediterranean region from its central European continental part which spans from the easterly edges of the Alps in the Northwest to the shores of the Danube in the East, encompassing the southern part of the fertile Pannonian lowlands.

Itinerary
June 14 – Zagreb Arrival
Travelers will arrive in Zagreb’s International Airport (www.zagreb-airport.hr/) and make their way to Hotel Esplanade (http://hotel.esplanade.hr/). The tour will officially begin the following morning. Zagreb, the capital and the largest city of the Republic of Croatia, is very rich in history dating from the Romans to the present day. The remainder of the day is free for leisure and exploration.

June 15 – Zagreb
Following breakfast at the hotel, we’ll depart by bus for our first stop of the day - the Forensic Science Centre Ivan Vucetic (www.forenzika.hr/DefaultCKV.aspx). Vlado Dominii General Police Director of the Republic of Croatia will greet the AAFS-IEOP delegation upon arrival. Our host, Dr. Gordan Mrsic, Assistant Professor and Director of the Forensic Science Centre, will greet us. Founded in 1952 and named for Ivan Vucetic who, in 1981, began the first filing of fingerprints. As a result of his work, in 1982, Vucetic made the first positive identification in a criminal case in which a mother had killed her two children and cut her own throat to divert blame. A bloody print identified her as the killer. Today, the center is a full member of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutions (ENFSI). Much like the AAFS, the ENFSI’s mission is to share knowledge, exchange experiences and come to mutual agreements in the field of forensic science. ENFSI is recognized as an expert group in the field of forensic sciences.
Our next stop will be the **University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Department of Forensic Medicine, Croatia** (www.mef.unizg.hr/eng/). We will meet with Professor Damir Boras, Rector of University of Zagreb and his colleagues. The University of Zagreb (1669) is the oldest and largest university in South-Eastern Europe. As a comprehensive public Central European university, the University of Zagreb offers education and research in all scientific fields (arts, biomedicine, biotechnology, engineering, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences) and a broad spectrum of courses at all study levels, from undergraduate to postgraduate. With 29 Faculties, 3 Art Academies, and the University Centre for Croatian Studies, it is the flagship educational institution in the country and the place where more than 7,900 teachers and 72,480 students develop knowledge and acquire skills. The Department of Forensic Medicine at the Zagreb Medical School is Croatian’s oldest forensic medicine department in Southeast Europe. It has a long tradition in education as well as high quality research covering a wide range of aspects of forensic medicine and science with a forensic pathology service provision to North Croatia, Zagreb, and other national organizations. Our host at the University will be Professor Milovan Kubat, Forensic Science Department Head.

Following lunch, we will then meet with Professor Vedran Mornar, Minister of Science, Education, and Sports of the Republic of Croatia. The **Ministry of Science, Education and Sports** of Croatia is the ministry in the Government of Croatia which is in charge of primary, secondary, and tertiary education, research institutions and sports. The ministry in its current form came into existence in 2003 resulting from the merger of the earlier Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Visiting the **Croatian Academy of Science and Arts** (http://info.hazu.hr/), we will meet with Professors Zvonko Kusic, MD, PhD, President of the Academy and Professor Pavle Rudan, MD, PhD, Secretary General of the Academy. Founded in 1861, its goal is to promote and unite the highest scientific, cultural, and artistic achievements.

The final stop of the day will be to **Genos Ltd** (http://genos.hr/en/about-us/genos-company/) where our hosts, **Professor Gordan Lauc, PhD** and Professor **Dragan Primorac**, will greet us. Genos Ltd is a research-intensive SME located in Zagreb. It performs contract research, contract analysis, and service for numerous universities, hospitals, and private individuals in Europe and overseas. Founded in 2007 by University of Zagreb molecular biologist Gordan Lauc, the top-ranked company has stayed close to its academic roots, with many employees doing their Ph.D. research at the company. In 2013, *The Scientist* magazine named Genos one of the best places to work in industry.

**June 16 – Zagreb-Plitvice Lakes**

Be prepared for an early start and an 8:00 AM bus ride to **St. Catherine’s Hospital** (www.svkatarina.com). A member of the prestigious group “The Leading Hospitals of The World,” St. Catherine’s Hospital is a European center of excellence for advanced imaging, orthopedics, spine surgery treatment of pain (pain management), and sports medicine with the most advanced diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation infrastructure. St. Catherine’s is teaching hospital of Split and Osijek Medical Schools and an official hospital of the Croatian Football Federation. Some of the world’s best athletes, including U.S. Open 2014 winner Marin Cilic, have been treated in this hospital. Most of the hospital physicians are forensic expert witnesses in the fields of orthopedics, neurosurgery, neurology, and spine surgery. Our host will be Dr. Igor Borić, Assistant Professor of Radiology and Hospital Director.

A short bus ride will find us in **Krapina** with a visit to the **Krapina Neanderthal Museum** (www.mkn.mhz.hr/en/). It is the first paleontological natural monument in Croatia and is one of the most significant paleoanthropological localities worldwide. Its exceptional abundance of findings and a discovery of the largest habitat of Neanderthal prehistoric people make it an unparalleled source of contemporary scientific information even today. Forensic science and computer simulations are just two of the high tech tools used to explain one branch of the evolutionary tree. The Osteological collection has more than 5,000 skeletons from over 40 archaeological sites in Croatia dating from the Prehistoric to Modern times. Our host at the Museum will be Professor Mario Slaus, MD, PhD.

After leaving the museum, we’ll travel by bus to **Plitvice Lakes National Park** located in the mountainous Karst area of central Croatia. Founded in 1948, this is the oldest national park in Southeast Europe and the largest national park in Croatia. The protected area extends beyond 73,300 acres and is home to the important north-south road connection from the Croatian inland to the Adriatic coastal region. Plitvice Lakes National Park contains a series of beautiful lakes, caves and waterfalls. These have been formed by processes typical of karst landscapes such as the deposition of travertine barriers, creating natural dams. These geological processes continue today. The lakes are renowned for their distinctive colors, ranging from azure to green, grey, or blue. The colors change constantly depending on the quantity of minerals or organisms in the water and the angle of sunlight. The national park area is home to many endemic species. Those species that prevailed at the lakes before the arrival of man still exist.
June 17 – Zadar
Following breakfast, we’ll depart for Zadar. On the way, we’ll stop in Smiljan, the birthplace of Nikola Tesla and home to the Nikola Tesla Birthplace Museum & Memorial Center. Opened in July of 2006, the birthplace home of Nikola Tesla was renovated, restored, and turned into an interactive museum about the prolific inventor. His birthplace home has been carefully restored and made into a museum that shows off various models of his inventions such as the Tesla Coils, an AC induction motor, a working Egg of Columbus — used by Tesla during the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago to demonstrate the alternating current magnetic field — as well as several exhibits and a small research library. A replica shed was carefully reconstructed to replace a shed that existed during Tesla’s childhood. It is reported that he jumped off the top holding an umbrella, hoping to experience flight. He only experienced gravity.

Before we begin the half-day tour of Zadar, we’ll settle in at the hotel. For centuries, Zadar was the capital city of Dalmatia and today the center of the region. It is a city with a rich heritage of world importance, visible at every step: the Roman Forum from the 1st century; St. Donatus’ Church from the 9th century is the most famous medieval basilica and trademark of the city; the reconstructed Romanesque St. Grisigono’s Church from the 12th century; and the St. Mary’s Bell Tower from the year 1105; the St. Anastasia’s Cathedral from the 13th century; the People’s Square with the City’s Lodge and Guardhouse from the 16th century, the mighty fortification walls with first class Seafarer’s and Land gates from the 16th century the Three and Five Wells Squares; and the many palaces, villas and other historic monuments. The morning may also include a visit to Professor Ante Uglesic, Rector of the University of Zadar and his colleagues as well as the permanent exhibit of The Gold and Silver of Zadar or the Museum of Ancient Glass Zadar.

June 18 – Zadar-Sibenik
This will be a full-day boat excursion to the Kornati National Park. In the central part of the Croatian Adriatic, near where the Sibenik and Zadar islands meet, is a distinctive and special group of islands called Kornati. The Kornati National Park covers the bigger part of the Kornati waters. Because of their exceptional landscape beauty, interesting geomorphology, highly jagged and indented coast, as well as rich communities of the submarine eco-system, the islands were made a national park in 1980.

Our boat will bring us to one of the largest islands where we will disembark and take a walk through the picturesque surroundings and enjoy a typical Dalmatian lunch near the waters of the Adriatic Sea.

June 19 – Sibenik-Split
Sibenik lies almost in the middle of the Croatian Adriatic Coast in the picturesque and indented bay around the mouth of the river Krka, one of the most beautiful Karst rivers in Croatia. Today, Sibenik is the administrative, political, economic, social, and cultural center of a county which stretches along the 62-mile-long belt between the Zadar and Split Riviera, reaching up to 30 miles deep into the hinterland. St. Jacob’s Cathedral in Sibenik is a unique monument of sacral architecture, and was added to UNESCO’s list of world heritage sights in the year 2000. The cathedral was built on the south side of the city’s old central square. The idea of building a cathedral dates back to 1298 when Sibenik gained its own diocese and the status of a city.

After lunch we’ll move on to the historic harbor town of Trogir. A remarkable example of urban continuity, the orthogonal street plan of this island settlement dates back to the Hellenistic period and successive rulers with many fine public and domestic buildings and fortifications embellishes it. The outstanding Renaissance and Baroque buildings from the Venetian period complement its beautiful Romanesque churches.

June 20 – Split
Split is the economic and administrative center of Middle Dalmatia, with approximately 200,000 inhabitants. It is also the jumping-off point for exploration of the coast and islands of the beautiful Croatian Adriatic. The site was first settled when, at the end of the third century AD, the Roman Emperor Diocletian built his palace on the bay of Aspalathos. In November 1979, UNESCO, in line with the international convention concerning the cultural and natural heritage, adopted a proposal that the historic Split inner city, built around the Palace, be included in the register of the World Cultural Heritage.

Our first stop of the day will find us meeting with the Prefect of Split-Dalmatia County, Zlatko Zevrnja, and the Mayor of Split, Ivo Baldas. Split-Dalmatia County is the central-southern Dalmatian county in Croatia. The name Dalmatia comes from
an Illyrian tribe called the Dalmatae who inhabited the area of the eastern Adriatic coast in the 1st millennium BC. The administrative center is Split, the second largest city of Croatia (the largest is Dalmatia).

On to the University of Split Center for Forensic Science and greeted by our host, Professor Dragan Primorac. Our visit will also include a meeting with Professor Simun Andelinovic, Rector of the University of Split. The university was officially established in June of 1974. As the premiere scientific and teaching public institution in the region, the university boasts a student population of about 24,000. Dr. Primorac and Professor Andelinovic are co-founders of the Split University Center of Forensic Sciences where they launched the first master’s degree programs in forensic genetics in this part of Europe.

Our next stop is the Clinical Hospital Split, Department of Forensic Sciences. Since 1993, forensic scientists from this department have been involved in identification of human remains found in mass graves in Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1996, Professor Primorac and his team from the Department of Forensic Sciences, published one of the first scientific articles ever on mass grave victims identification by DNA technology (Primorac D., Andelinovic S., Definis-Gojanovic M., Drmic I., Rezic B., Baden M.M., Kennedy M.A., Skakel S.B., Lee H.C. Identification of war victims from mass graves in Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina through the use of DNA typing and standard forensic methods. J Forensic Sci 1996;41:891-894.). The New York Times, USA Today, the Chicago Tribune, the Hartford Courant, The Journal of the American Medical Association, The Lancet, Science Magazine, and NBC Connecticut have reported several stories on the identification of war victims from this department.

Before leaving the hospital, we will make one last stop to the Ossuary at the Department of Forensic Sciences. The department is responsible for more than 3,000 bone samples, including those from the Neolithic through prehistory, antique, medieval periods and World War II.

In the afternoon, we will visit the archaeological site Crkvine. The site is located in the village of Cista Velika in Imotska, Krajina. Now an archaeological park, the site holds the remains of an extensive complex of ancient secular, early Christian, and early medieval sacral structures that are surrounded by respective graveyards.

While at Crkvine, an excavation of the medieval graves containing skeletal remains will be organized as well as the on-site analysis of the remains.

After visiting Crkvine, we will be head to the famous Imotski lakes called the Red and Blue Lakes. The Blue Lake (Modro Jezero) on the edge of town is a fascinating natural phenomenon of a lake with a depth of up to 480 feet which completely disappears in the summer, leaving a base dry enough so that the annual football match between the Elves and the Werewolves can take place on the flat lake basin on a dry, solid pitch.

The deep blue of the lake has its own magic and is guarded by a large crater which is up to a half mile long and a third mile wide. It is the natural swimming destination for the local people, a place to enjoy and respect nature.

June 21
We will start a day with a visit to the Diocletian Palace. Today, the palace forms the center of the city of Split. While it is referred to as a “palace” because of its intended use as the retirement residence of Emperor Diocletian, the term can be misleading as the structure is massive and more resembles a large fortress; about half of it was for Diocletian’s personal use and the rest housed the military garrison.

Those traveling solely for the IEOP will depart for home from the Split Airport (also known as Resnik Airport) exhausted and satisfied. Your second option will be to stay and attend the 9th ISABS Conference on Forensic and Anthropologic Genetics and Mayo Clinic Lectures in Individualized Medicine, June 22-26, 2015, on the Island of Brac, Republic of Croatia. If planning on staying for the conference complete details can be found at this site: www.isabs.hr.
AAFS 2015 International Educational Outreach Program
Destination Republic of Croatia
June 14-21, 2015

**IEOP Land Tour Price – June 14-21, 2015**
The program price is $1,985 pp/double; $2,585 pp/single USD. The tour price includes:
- Hotel accommodations;
- Daily breakfast at hotel;
- Daily lunch;
- Daily dinner;
- Admission fees to all sightseeing locations;
- Private air-conditioned first class coach;
- English-speaking tour leader; and,
- Basic tips for drivers and guides.

For planning purposes, dining at a good local restaurant will average $18-$40 U.S. for dinner.

**OPTIONAL: June 22-26 – ISABS Conference / Island of Brač / Republic of Croatia**

Attendees participating in the ISABS conference will depart by catamaran to the Island of Brač.

Our local host and President of the International Society for Applied Biological Sciences (ISABS 2015) Professor Dragan Primorac invites you to join him for the 9th ISABS Conference on Forensic and Anthropologic Genetics and Mayo Clinic Lectures in Individualized Medicine, Bol, Island of Brač Croatia, June 22-26. This is an ideal platform for exchanging and sharing ideas and the latest information in the forensic science field with more than 500 participants from all continents. Topics will include forensic genetics, genetic anthropology, and molecular medicine from faculty from around the world.

The conference is next in the series of biennial events organized by the International Society for Applied Biological Sciences (ISABS), a society dedicated to the promotion of applied molecular biology (www.isabs.hr). ISABS Scientific Board consists of world-leading scientists including four Nobel Laureates.

Expected attendance is more than 500 persons from related institutes and industries. The conference is structured to allow close interaction of the international faculty and attendees. Together with formal presentations, there will be meet-the-professor sessions and other social occasions meant to enhance opportunities for scientific intercourse, and also to introduce the participants to the town of Bol, one of the best known tourist destinations in Croatia due to its unspoiled nature, beautiful beaches, and cultural and historical attractions. Since 1997, ISABS has held eight topical international conferences with more than 3,000 participants from 65 countries featuring the premier forensic and other biomedical scientists, including Nobel Laureates. Since 2003, meetings were organized in collaboration with Mayo Clinic (Rochester, Minnesota, USA). Along the organization of scientific meetings, during the past years the Society has become a rich source of prominent young scientists who are continually giving a huge contribution to the promotion and advancement in the various fields of applied biomedical sciences.
President Victor Weedn invites you to join him in the IEOP of the Republic of Croatia. The itinerary will include stays in Zagreb, Zadar, Sibenik, and Split. Following the design of previous tours, AAFS members will have opportunities to meet with forensic science colleagues in Croatia and take advantage of the cultural and historical riches of the wonderful cities to be visited.

APPLICATION

Please complete the following application and return it via email attachment (njackson@aafs.org) by fax (719-636-1993) or by U.S. Postal Service to the attention of Nancy Jackson, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Space is limited so reserve your place today!

*Please ensure that you have the proper documentation. United States citizens are allowed visa-free entry to the Republic of Croatia; however, travelers must be in possession of a passport valid for six (6) months beyond stay and a round-trip airline ticket. Non-U.S. citizens are encouraged to confirm the travel requirements for his/her own country.
IEOP Package Details

The cost of the AAFS 2015 International Educational Outreach Program (IEOP) to Croatia is $1,985 per person double occupancy and $2,585 per person single occupancy at all hotels.

The $1,985 per person double and $2,585 per person single tour package includes the following:

Hotel Accommodations (7 Nights):

- **Zagreb**: June 14-16 (two nights)  
  **Hotel Esplanade**  
  Milanoviceva 1  
  http://hotel.esplanade.hr/  
  +385 (0) 1 456 6666

- **Plitvice Lakes**: June 16-17 (one night)  
  **Hotel Jerezo**  
  Plitvička jezera Hrvatska  
  www.np-plitvicka-jezera.hr/  
  +385 (0) 53 751 500

- **Zadar**: June 17-18 (one night)  
  **Hotel Bastion**  
  Bedemi zadarskih pobuna  
  www.hotel-bastion.hr/  
  +385 23 494 950

- **Sibenik**: June 18-19 (one night)  
  **Hotel Ivan**  
  Hotel Solaris 86  
  www.solaris.hr/hotel-ivan/  
  +385 (0) 22363951

- **Split**: June 19-21 (two nights)  
  **Hotel Le Meridien Lav**  
  Grljevacka, 2A, Podstrana  
  www.lemeridienlavsplit.com/  
  +385 21 500500

Meals Included:

- Breakfast each morning;
- Lunch each day; and,
- Dinners each evening.

Other Items Included (as Specified in the Itinerary):

- Admission fees to all the sightseeing activities as indicated;
- Private air-conditioned vehicles;
- English-speaking tour guide; and
- Basic tips for drivers and guides.

Items not included:

- Round-trip airfare to Croatia;
  **NOTE**: Travelers arrive in Zagreb and depart from Split.
- Entrance fees when on your own;
- Meals not specified on the itinerary;
- Personal expenses (laundry, fax, phone, internet, etc.);
- Personal & travel insurance;
- Optional excursions; and
- Room service.

Payments of $2,585 per person single or $1,985 per person double rate may be made by check to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). MasterCard, American Express, and VISA credit cards are also accepted. A cancellation policy applies. Please see the next page for cancellation policy details.

Payment Schedule: Tour participants may remit payments per the following schedule: (1) one payment with application for the full amount; or, (2) a deposit of 50% of total cost with application and the second 50% before May 15, 2015.

If using a credit card, please include the following with the application:

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Cancellation Policy for AAFS 2015 International Educational Outreach Program to Croatia

All requests for tour cancellations must be made in writing and sent by fax (719-636-1993) or email (njackson@aafs.org) to the AAFS Headquarters. Phone cancellations will not be accepted. If a registration is cancelled, fees will be refunded based upon replacement availability and tour refund policies negotiated with the Croatian tour company, less a $50 administrative fee. Restrictions and fees will apply and refunds are not guaranteed.

The quoted price in U.S. funds is good through May 15, 2015.

All taxes, fees, and charges (any related penalties and interest) imposed on any portion of a passenger’s travel are the responsibility of the passenger, regardless of the date of purchase or travel, or any retroactive imposition of such taxes, fees, charges, penalties, and interest.

Release of Liability

I/we hereby acknowledge that I/we have voluntarily applied to join this program (AAFS 2015 IEOP) and to engage in activities conducted during the program by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, its associates and agents, and with this registration I/we certify that I/we have no physical, mental, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for me/us or other program participants.

I/we am aware that participation in this program and its activities involves the risk of injury and property damage from any cause whatever arising from my/our participation in the program. I/we understand that baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the program participants.

By the act of joining the program and participating in its activities, I/we, my/our heirs, personal representative and assigns will not make any claims, actions, or demands against or sue the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, its associates and agents in connection with any cause whatsoever arising from my/our attendance and participation in the program, including matters involving injuries or property damage.

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ISABS Conference on Forensic and Anthropologic Genetics and Mayo Clinic Lectures in Individualized Medicine
Bluesun hotel Elaphusa / Bol, Island of Brač
June 22-26, 2015
Organized by the International Society for Applied Biological Sciences (ISABS).

Invited speakers of 9th ISABS Conference:

Makar Afele (University of Upsala, Sweden)
Anthony Atala (Wake Forest University, USA)
Jerome Austin (The University of Adelaide, Australia)
Jack Baldwin (University of Florida, USA)
Guido Barbujani (University of Ferrara, Italy)
Fred Baxter (The Medical School and Cancer Hospital, Norway)
Bruce Budowle (University of North Texas, USA)
Henry Erlich (Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute, Oakland, CA, USA)
Niels Eriksen Tonning (Aarhus University, Denmark)
Zdenka Herceg (National Institute for Research in Cancer, France)
Evelynne Heyer (National Museum of Natural History in Anthropological Genetics, France)
Michio Hirose (University of Tokyo, Japan)
Michel Holland (The Pennsylvania State University, USA)
Robert Hublin (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany)
Mattijs Jakobsson (Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan, Sweden)
Mark Jobling (University of Leicester, UK)
Sumeet Kaur (University of Pittsburgh, USA)
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Topics for 9th ISABS Conference

Forensic Genetics:
Advances in forensic DNA identification
Disaster victim DNA identification
Molecular crime scene investigation
Forensic DNA phenotyping

Molecular Medicine:
Genetic Basis of Disease
Organs on Demand
Molecular Therapy
Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering
Personalised Medicine

Genetic Anthropology:
Genetic history of archaic and modern humans
Admixture genetics of archaic and modern humans
Genomic tracing of human population history
Genetics of human adaptations

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Program directors:
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A great thank you goes to Academy members who have continued to support the Forensic Sciences Foundation with contributions to the Endowment Fund. Through your continued support, the Foundation has awarded more than $200,000 in grants over the last 25 years.

The FSF Board of Trustees would like to thank Bradley Adams, John Sang, and Vickie Watts who completed their terms on the Foundation’s Board during the Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

The 2015-16 officers of the Foundation are: Betty Layne DesPortes, Chair; Todd Fenton, Vice-Chair; Susan Ballou, Secretary; and Laura Liptai, Treasurer. The FSF welcomes back Betty Layne DesPortes to a second term. Paula Brunit was elected to serve as Member-At-Large on the Executive Committee. New trustees on the Foundation Board are: Dan Anderson (Toxicology), Jane Lewis (Questioned Documents), and Ken Williams (Criminalistics).

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to announce its newest award—the Warren-Young Scholarship Award. This new award was created to honor Anne Warren, Executive Director of AAFS and FSF, and in memory of her late husband, Stephen Robert Young. Intended to encourage forensic science awareness and education at the middle and high school level, this scholarship award is available to middle and high school science teachers at schools with demonstrated financial need. The monetary award is to assist in purchasing supplies, equipment, and books to teach concepts of forensic science as part of their science curriculum. The award winner is also eligible for a scholarship to attend a Forensic Science Education Conference co-sponsored by the AAFS and financial support to attend the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting. The teacher must submit an essay explaining how the grant funds and forensic science knowledge are/will be used in teaching basic scientific principles in their classroom. An additional letter from school administrators demonstrating the financial need level of the school will also be required.

Complete scholarship details can be found on page 33 of this issue.
A Word of Thanks From the Forensic Sciences Foundation

Thank you to all who bid on all of the wonderful items and for supporting the FSF Silent Auction Fundraiser. All auction proceeds benefit the Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., Endowment Fund which supports FSF Research Grant Programs.

The Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., would like to thank and acknowledge those who generously donated their time or items to the 2015 FSF Silent Auction:

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Shane Snow
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The following Friends of the Forensic Sciences Foundation generously contributed to the Foundation during the Academy’s 67th Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL. Contributions are very much appreciated and ensure a sound financial basis for the FSF grant programs, the Emerging Forensic Scientist Award, and other FSF-sponsored educational programs.

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The Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., would like to thank the winning bidders for their participation in the 2015 FSF Silent Auction:

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Thank you for your commitment to the forensic sciences.

Donate Today
The Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made to the Foundation and its Endowment Fund. Please accept our apologies if your name does not appear below and contact the AAFS office as soon as possible with the correction. This listing reflects contributions received from 07/01/14 through 03/01/15.

The Fund’s balance through 03/01/15 was $1,009,476.67. Additionally, the FSF Endowment Fund has provided $258,302.00 in awards and grants since its inception in 1990.

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Lawrence Dobrin, DMD
Stephanie Domitrovich, JD, PhD
Adam Freeman, DDS
James Frost, MD
L. Gabriel, EdD, RN
Irina Geiman, MS
Rhesa Gilliland, MS
Laura Goldstein, MS
Rhea Haugseth, DMD
John Heidingsfelder, MD
Bradford Hepler, PhD
Edward Herschaft, DDS
Susan Howe, DVM, PhD
Todd Howell, MFS
Daniel Jolly, DDS
Kristy Kadarsh, PhD
John Kenney, DDS, MS
Mitchell Kirschbaum, DDS
Laura La Cagnina, RN, MSN
Alicja Lanfear, PhD
Nikolas Lemos, PhD
John Lentinini, BA
James Lewis, DMD
Laura Liptai, PhD
Carlos Lopez-Gobernado, PhD
Bertrand Ludes, MD, PhD
Vincenzo Lusa, JD
Anne Manly, BA
Kerriam Marden, PhD
Amy Martin, MD
Laurent Martville, MD
Laurel Mason, BS
Duane Mauzey, DRSc
Owen Middleton, MD
Harry Miles, JD
Frank Miller, MD
Chris Milroy, MD, LLB
David Norris, PhD
Carla Noziglia, MS
Antonio Osucati, MD
Robert Osiewicz, PhD
Mark Pollitt, PhD
Michael Rehberg, MS
Amber Riley, MS
Thomas Riley, BS
Jeri Ropero-Miller, PhD
Stewart Ryckman, MD
Robert Sadoff, MD
Alexander San Nicolas, MSFS
Richard Scanlon, DMD
Robin Schepers, DDS
Jason Schroeder, MS, MBA
Carl Selavka, PhD
David Senn, DDS
Stephanie Smith, BS
James Smith, PhD
William Smock, MD
John Soper, PhD
Patricia Speck, DNSc
Vina Spiehler, PhD
Michael Sponsler, PhD
Alfred Staubus, PharmD, PhD
Deborah Stonebarger, BS
Chris Taylor, BS
Lindsey Thomas, MD
Robert Thompson, BS
Micheal Villarreal, BA
Richard Weledniger, DDS
Teresa White, MA
Ruth WINECKER, PhD
Kenneth Zercie, MFS
The first ever annual meeting of the “Anthropology Section” was a success!

Program Chair Gregory Berg and Program Co-Chair Kate Spradley would like to thank all of those who made this year’s program possible, particularly the AAFS staff, the section program committee reviewers, and all of the session moderators. It is already time to start thinking about next year. As mentioned at the business meeting, the scoring rubric for abstract reviews will soon be made available, likely in a forthcoming newsletter and/or posted to the website. Please be on the lookout for updates. If you would like to propose a workshop for the next meeting, time is of the essence, so please contact the section program chairs and submit a proposal! Based on feedback from the first ever joint Criminalistics/Anthropology Multidisciplinary Session, we would like to continue this endeavor. If you have ideas for presentation in such a session, please contact Greg or Kate and indicate which topic you would like to explore. Preferred papers will address the 2016 meeting theme, Transformation: Embracing Change.

Officers from 2014-15 will remain on board for 2015-16. As such, the section welcomes back Chair Phoebe Stubblefield, Secretary Angi Christensen, Program Chair Gregory Berg, and Program Co-Chair Kate Spradley.

Congratulations to the following winners of Anthropology Section Awards: William Haglund was awarded the 2015 T. Dale Stewart Award, and Lauren Pharr was awarded the 2015 J. Lawrence Angel Award. Bruce Anderson has been nominated for the 2016 T. Dale Stewart Award.

Congratulations to our new and promoted affiliates, Members, and Fellows. If you have joined the section for the first time and are interested in joining our informal Anthropology Section listserv, please contact Phoebe Stubblefield (phoebe.stubblefield@und.edu). This list is a medium for rapid exchange of queries and opportunities and is open to all current section members. It is a moderated list to forestall spam and, so far, has not seen an onerous amount of traffic. For discussions directly affecting voting members, there is a second list. If you were promoted in February to Member and wish to join, please indicate that you were promoted.

Neither of these lists replaces email communications from the AAFS, so you will receive emails from both sources if you join the informal section lists. If you are already a member of the lists and wish to unsubscribe, please use the same contact information above.
Despite the fact that temperatures in Orlando dropped into the low 30s during the week, a successful meeting was had, especially for those members who consider 34 to be “warm.” Karolyn Tontarski and Vincent Desiderio put together an outstanding scientific program, which included 123 oral presentations, 76 posters, and five workshops. Special thanks go to all of the members who served on the Criminalistics Section Program Committee, either as abstract reviewers or moderators. There were 263 submissions in total, all of which had to be reviewed in a 30-day period.

The Criminalistics Section welcomed new members this year, including 146 Student Affiliates, 77 Trainee Affiliates, and 147 Associate Members (some of whom previously held Student or Trainee status). Sixty-five Associate Members were promoted to full Member status and 11 Members were promoted to Fellow. The Chair and Secretary reviewed 463 applications for membership or promotion. We reflected on the passing of three members, Robert Cooper, Charles Moore, and James Osterberg, a Distinguished Fellow, Past President of the Academy, and the 2010 winner of the Paul L. Kirk Award.

Awards for 2015 were presented. Steven Lee accepted the Meritorious Service Award, Scott Ryland accepted the Mary E. Cowan Outstanding Service Award, and Ira Lurie accepted the Paul L. Kirk Award. The section is grateful to all of these individuals for their service to forensic science and to the Criminalistics Section.
Section News cont.

momentous one for the DMS Section for a number of reasons, including the following:

- **Zeno Geradts** was elected as Vice President. Congratulations to Zeno from the entire section! We are very proud of his accomplishment and gladly support him in his future endeavors.
- The section’s total membership continues to grow and we now have 111 active members which includes 20 Fellows and 23 Members.
- The section had a number of promotions - four Fellows, three Members, and one Trainee Affiliate
- The section has new members which include 15 Associate Members, ten Student Affiliates, and three Trainee Affiliates.
- Two award plaques were presented at the business meeting: Outstanding Research Award to **Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar** for the 2014 presentation titled, “Assessing the Relationship Between Asperger Syndrome, Hacking, Identity Theft, Virus Writing, and Cyberbullying.”
- Outstanding Case Study Award to **Mark McCoy** for the 2014 presentation titled “Digital Forensic and Service Learning: The Oklahoma Tornadoes Project.

At the business meeting, I was re-elected Section Chair and Marcus Rogers was re-elected as the Section Secretary. We look forward to serving the section in these capacities and working side-by-side with the following committee chairs:

- Program Committee (Co-Chairs): **Samuel Brothers** and **Jeff Smith**
- Awards Committee: **Josiah Dykstra**
- Planning Committee: **Dan Ryan**
- Membership Committee (Co-Chairs): **Mary Horvath** and **Jason Doyle**

We should continue to reach out to our colleagues and peers and encourage them to join us in the AAFS. Further, if you wish to participate as a committee member, please contact either the committee chair or one of the section officers to express your interest. And lastly, it’s never too early to consider presenting a poster or paper, or participating in a workshop, breakfast seminar, or luncheon seminar, at the 2016 meeting in Las Vegas, NV. The theme for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting is **Transformation: Embracing Change**. More details will follow in subsequent Academy News issues.

**ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**Source:** John Nixon, MBA, **Section Chair**

The meeting in Orlando was well attended. The ESS Academy Cup team did not win the event (hosted by ESS BOD Representative, **Laura Liptai**) but very much enjoyed the participation and the comradery.
Engineering Sciences Section presented a full program of scientific papers – around sixty in all. Good work by ESS Program Chair Darren Franck.

Laura Liptai received the AAFS 2015 Luncheon Seminar Chair plaque. Carol Erikson received the ESS Chair plaque. Tom Shefchick (ESS Retired Fellow) was presented with the Founder’s Award, while Sarah Hainsworth and Darren Franck each received the Andrew H. Payne, Jr., Special Achievement Award.

While it is unusual to present two Payne awards in one year, it was felt that both candidates were exceptionally deserving. Darren Franck has been the principal contributing author to three books on the subject of forensic engineering science. Professor Hainsworth has advanced the science of blade, bottle, and beer glass injury analysis; and her cutting edge work examining the skeletal remains of King Richard III has been the subject of numerous articles, documentaries, and a presentation at an AAFS meeting. The importance of Professor Hainsworth’s work has been underscored by the constant increase in bottle, glass, and knife crime in the U.K. – 130,000 knife attacks in 2010. The same statistical source (Bureau of Justice Statistics - 2010 Criminal Victimization Report) reveals that U.K. subjects are around twice as likely to be victims of a knife attack as someone in the U.S. is to be the victim of a gun attack – 210 knife attacks per 100,000 U.K. citizens versus 110 gun attacks per 100,000 U.S. citizens. Apparently if you take away one class of weapon, offenders just move on to another class. US DOJ statistics (1980 to 2008) reveal that the major common denominator in violent crime is gender, with 91% of murders being committed by males. Perhaps a policy of behavior modification via gender neutralization would be more effective than continually banning and confiscating items that may, someday, be used as weapons.

Advance Notification – ESS International Summer Meeting (September 11-14)

Helmut Brosz, (Fellow) has graciously offered to host the ESS Summer Meeting in Toronto, Canada. The event will include presentation of scientific papers, attendance at the All Canadian Jazz Festival, a reception and dinner, a tour of the billion dollar Ontario Center of Forensic Sciences (OCFS) and a visit to the Ontario Science Center in Toronto. Plans are being finalized and members will be kept informed via email during the coming weeks. Please reserve September 11-14, if you are interested in attending this international event. Some of the venues have attendance limitations; please email hgb@brosz.net as soon as possible to reserve your place.

GENERAL

Source: Joanna Collins, Section Secretary

While many of us were excited about attending the 2015 meeting in sunny and warm Orlando, FL, the record setting low temperatures in Florida, while nothing compared to the Northeast, had many of us scrambling for coats and jackets. Nevertheless, the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting was filled with events, education, networking, and collaboration between sections thanks in part to the many members of the General Section who attended, served on committees, and presented scientific presentations. A special thanks to our workshop and breakfast session presenters and organizers who contributed to our highest level of workshops and breakfast sessions in recent years. Thank you again for your contributions, presentations, and time.

On Wednesday morning, several members of the General Section participated in the Academy Cup competition. At the AAFS Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, it was announced the General Section team won the Academy Cup! Congratulations to the team members for not only participating, but combining their forensic science and AAFS knowledge to WIN the 2nd annual Academy Cup competition. The team members included: Claire Shepard (team captain), Alan Boehm, John Gerns, Paul Kish, Gina Londino, Julie Howe, Amber Riley, Brian Clark, Janean Fossum, and Betsy Maldonado (YFSF representative).

Advanced Notification – ESS International Summer Meeting

2015 Engineering Sciences Section Award Winner: Thomas Shefchick - Founders Award.

2015 Engineering Sciences Section Award Winner: Sarah Hainsworth - Andrew H. Payne, Jr., Special Achievement Award.

2015 Academy Cup awarded to the General Section during the 2015 Annual Business Meeting.

continued on page 62
Section News cont.

A huge thank you goes out to Program Chair Steve Clark and Program Co-Chair Steve Chancellor for developing an outstanding scientific program. The contributions of our members to the poster and oral presentations are what makes the program a success. Thank you to all presenters who showcased many of the disciplines of the General Section.

The Academy reported that 170 General Section members registered for the meeting. Remember that attendance at the section business meetings is required for promotion. At the business meeting, Claire Shepard was elected Section Chair and Joanna Collins was elected Section Secretary. Other details of the business meeting will be published in the minutes and future news articles.

The 2016 Section Program Chair is Arthur "Steve" Chancellor and Melissa Connor will serve as Co-Chair. Even though it is said every year, it is not too early to start planning your presentation for next year, as the August 1st abstract submission deadline will be here too soon. Remember, only completed submissions are accepted and CVs for each presenter have to be included. Thus it is necessary to familiarize yourself with the process before the deadline. Also, please review the qualifications of the Robert Gaffney Achievement Award, and if you qualify, consider submitting your presentation for consideration.

Congratulations to our 2015 section award winners. Maher Noureddine was awarded the Robert Gaffney Achievement Award which was designed to promote continual professional growth in forensic science and to encourage new forensic science professionals in their occupational specialties. The Paul W. Kehres Meritorious Service Award, which recognizes exceptional service to the section, was presented to Vernon Geberth. Finally, Paul Kish was legitimately surprised when he received the Robert Thibault Award which recognizes those members who place the needs of others and the section ahead of personal interest, promotion and adulation. Congratulations!

Additionally, AAFS Membership Coordinator Cheryl Hunter, presented Virginia Lynch with the Kenneth S. Field Award for Outstanding Service to AAFS Staff. The Awards Committee would also like to congratulate Catherine Rushton as the 2016 Robert Gaffney Achievement Award Winner for her oral presentation in Orlando titled, “Multidimensional Model for Assessing Student Achievement.” She will receive complimentary basic registration at the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting and will receive formal recognition at the meeting in Las Vegas, NV. Thank you to all who submitted their abstracts and a special thanks to the Awards Committee members for their hard work.

On Wednesday night, the General Section hosted another great reception for its members. If it were not for your FOGS (Friends of the General Section) donations the quality reception we continue to enjoy would not be possible. Melodie Brooks, reception committee chair, collected over $2,000 from members to be used towards the 2016 reception in Las Vegas. If you would like to join FOGS and sport the ever coveted FOGS flashing pin at the 2016 meeting, you can still donate! Make checks payable to AAFS, annotate FOGS donation in the memo line, and send to AAFS along with a copy of a completed Agreement for Commercial Support of Continuing Education (available from AAFS).

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) continues to support the forensic sciences through the funding of research projects. However, the General Section is under represented in research submissions – please consider furthering your research and education by submitting a proposal for grant funding. During the section business meeting, the General Section voted to donate $2,000 to the FSF and $250 to the FSF Scholarship for the upcoming year. We also voted to donate $500 to the YFSF and recognized General Section member and YFSF President, Lara Frame-Newell, for her service to the YFSF.

We all look forward to serving you in the coming year. We are already preparing for the Las Vegas meeting and are working on the recommendations made by the Long Term Planning Committee. As such anyone who would like to serve on an ad-hoc Communications Committee, please contact Claire Shepard at Claire_e_shepard@yahoo.com. We’ll also work toward sharing information reflecting the theme of the 2016 meeting, Transformation: Embracing Change.
Another successful Academy meeting has come to a close. The theme for the 2015 meeting, *Celebrating the Forensic Science Family* was truly honored by the programming in the Jurisprudence Section. Jurisprudence was fortunate to have representatives from most of the other Academy sections presenting at the 2015 meeting. This year’s Program Chair Don Shelton and Program Co-Chair Lauri Traub were in the difficult position of having to say “no” to a significant number of submissions for presentations in the Jurisprudence Section. The papers that were accepted were well attended both by members of Jurisprudence and other sections of the Academy.

In last year’s April newsletter, I wrote, “We seem to be on a path where we are ready and willing to engage in open discourse about our disciplines, including our strengths and our weaknesses.” This year’s Plenary Session, organized and moderated by Immediate Past Section Chair Andrew Sulner, addressed human factors in forensic science and why forensic scientists should embrace the idea of implementing bias control measures in their casework. The 2015 Plenary Session featured presentations by Jurisprudence Section members Barry Scheck, William Thompson, and Andrew Sulner. We extend special thanks to AAFS President Daniel Martell and Plenary Session Chair Roderick Kennedy for supporting and helping to implement this year’s Plenary Session program, which can be viewed in its entirety on the Academy’s website at www.aafs.org.

Spirited discussions were had by prominent members of the Academy. Of significance, it really hasn’t been that long since the mere mention of the topic would have led to a standoff. The open and honest discourse about the potential for bias and how that may influence a case was a welcome change.

This was my tenth Academy meeting. I have observed many changes in that time. I am delighted to see that we continue to move forward with the common goal of quality forensic science. Consistent with what we saw at the extremely well attended Plenary Session, President Weedn has declared next year’s meeting theme *Transformation: Embracing Change*. I am looking forward to next year’s meeting in Las Vegas. Lauri Traub (Lauri.Traub@pubdef.state.mn.us) and Ted Vosk (tvosk@comcast.net) are program chair and program co-chair respectively. I know that between the two of them, they will put together a marvelous program filled with science and law, with presentations that will no doubt engender discourse and debate. As always, August 1 is the deadline for submissions. Please consider how you can contribute to the program. In particular, please consider joining with your colleagues on a workshop proposal. Workshops generate income for our section.

Finally, in Academy news, Gil Sapir was appointed to the Policy and Procedure Committee by the Board of Directors. Betty Layne DesPortes, Rod Kennedy, and Ken Melson were appointed to the newly created Ethics Process Review ad hoc Committee by President Victor Weedn. Nicole Kubista was appointed to the Ramsey County District Court bench. Ted Hunt and Pamela King continue to work on the National Forensic Science Commission.


I do hope you all had a safe journey from Orlando, and for those members who weren’t able to join us, you missed a great program put together by Adam Freeman and supported by all of our presenters. Our business meeting this year saw the approval of some significant changes to our educational requirements for Associate Member. I wanted to take this opportunity to share them with you. As you know, dental programs do not confer forensic knowledge and so it is necessary to ensure that additional training and education be taken for advancement in the forensic odontology discipline. In the past, this has been accomplished through a points-based system and there has been a range of courses, mainly in the United States, that were “approved.” This was becoming problematic for a number of reasons:

- Our international colleagues often struggled to attend these events and have undertaken similar courses in their own countries but these were not “approved.”
- The courses often ran for five days, which can be a large commitment for busy dental practitioners, who may prefer to acquire their learning through more numerous shorter courses.
- It prevented the production of discrete, individual learning elements around topics of interest.
- We were “approving” courses but were not really able to assure their quality or standard.

It’s important to note that none of these changes represent a reduction in the requirements for promotion within the section – this is merely an attempt to make the process more transparent, fair, and accessible. Therefore, we approved the following changes in Orlando:

For promotion to Associate Member, applicants will have to provide evidence of a total of 40 hours of education in forensic science applicable to odontology (based on our previous system of ten points, with one point per half day). Of these, four hours each must be demonstrated in: bitemarks, human identification, and either DVI or age estimation. In order to be accepted for promotion, course certificates must be submitted that provide clear learning aims and objectives and well as outcomes. There is no need for specific “hands on” work, but we would encourage individuals to seek out those courses that offer best educational experiences. As previously required as well as given the rapid pace of change in forensic science, all courses submitted for promotion must have been taken in the past seven years. Full details of the changes to the educational requirements will be posted online shortly.

We hope that these changes encourage members to apply for promotion, to enable course providers to develop enhanced offerings, and to broaden our requirements to consider new means of delivering content.
Section News cont.

PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY

Source: James L. Caruso, MD, Section Secretary

As another highly successful Academy meeting heads into the rearview mirror, acknowledgments and congratulations are in order. First of all, thanks to the wonderful AAFS staff for doing all the heavy lifting, as they do every year, to pull off certainly one of the largest annual scientific meetings in any field. The casual observer may mistakenly believe that all of the breakfasts, workshops, plenary session, and abstract presentations just fall right into place, along with the scheduling and coordinating of meals, social events, vendors, volunteers, and program materials. Anyone who has seen how the sausage is made knows how much work and dedication is required to put on an event of such magnitude. On behalf of the Pathology/Biology Section, I would like to acknowledge all of the staff and volunteers who make our meeting the successful endeavor it is.

Of course, without members offering their time to put on workshops, breakfast and lunch seminars, and special evening sessions, the learning opportunities would be greatly diminished. The Pathology/Biology Section benefited by extremely strong interest in presenting research for the 2015 meeting. Nearly 240 abstracts were received, and due to time and room constraints some very difficult decisions had to be made. I greatly appreciate the effort put forward by the authors who presented their work via both poster and oral platforms.

Special thanks goes out to the session moderators who dutifully showed up early and stayed late for their assigned sessions, juggling thumb drives and addressing those never expected but always present technical difficulties. As Pathology/Biology Program Chair for the 2015 meeting, I am indebted to my friends and colleagues who did such a terrific job keeping the oral presentations moving along right on schedule.

By my own and others’ appraisal, the Jay Dix Memorial Bonus Day was its usual overwhelming success. The few times I was able to drop by that room, finding a seat was difficult as most of the lectures played to a packed house. Congrats to Mike Graham and his group of dedicated educators for their usual job well done.

In section award news, I am pleased to announce: Nicole Yarid received the 2014 Best Resident Paper Award for “Globus Pallidus Necrosis Unrelated to Carbon Monoxide: A Retrospective Analysis of 24 Cases.” Mehdi Koolaee received Honorable Mention for “Examination of the Cervical Spinal Cord in Infants and Toddlers”. Erik Christensen reports that for the 2015 Best Resident Paper, we received 17 abstracts for consideration though many did not meet full criteria for the award. The committee felt a full award was not indicated this year but designated Melissa Blessing from the Mayo Clinic as honorable mention for her paper entitled “ATV and Snowmobile-related Deaths in Southeastern Minnesota.” Richard Merritt was awarded the Achievement in Forensic Life Sciences Award for his storied career. Bruce Hyma’s extensive contributions to forensics were recognized with the Milton Helpern Award. It was an honor for me to accept the Kenneth S. Field Award of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to the AAFS Staff.

At the Academy level, our own Thomas Noguchi was named the R.B.H. Gradwohl Laureate. Andrew Baker represented the section’s interests admirably at the Plenary Session. Andy will also serve as the 2016 Annual Meeting Program Chair for the meeting in Las Vegas. Certainly, congratulations and best wishes are in order as President Victor Weedn takes the helm and guides the Academy through the next twelve months embracing the changes on the horizon.

The Pathology/Biology Section Research Committee awarded grants of $3,000 each to Steven White to evaluate cardiac conduction
system issues and to Heather Jarrell to take an in-depth look at repetitive pediatric head trauma.

Path/Bio owes a debt of gratitude to J.C. Upshaw Downs who just completed a year as the Path/Bio Section Chair. Kathy Haden-Pinneri is our Section Chair for 2015-16 and I will attempt to fill her shoes as the Section Secretary. Joyce deJong is the Section Program Chair the 2016 meeting. As always, the submission deadline for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting is August 1 and it is never too early to begin working!

**PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE**

Source: Dean De Crisce, MD, Section Secretary

The Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section met at the 67th Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL, on February 18. Our own Section member, Daniel Martell presided as President of AAFS during this last year and chose the theme, Celebrating the Forensic Science Family for this year’s meeting. In addition to our regular session, our members were active in the overall program; some of our members chaired or gave special presentations in various sessions of the general program. All sessions were well received.

Beginning the conference on Monday morning, Alan Felthous served as chair with presenters from around the country for a half-day workshop, “The Electrophysiology of Impulsive Aggression and Criminal Responsibility.” On Tuesday, Klaus Neudecker, chaired a second workshop, “Sadism: Distinguishing Between Criminal Behavior and Offender Analysis.”

AAFS President Daniel Martell, participated in the half-day workshop on Tuesday, “Cognitive Bias Issues in the Forensic Analysis of Pattern and Impression Evidence and in Medicolegal Evaluations” and also chaired the outstanding Plenary Session, “Human Factors in Forensic Science: Why Cognitive Bias Can Lead to Flawed Expert Opinions and Testimony, How Its Influence Can Be Minimized, and What Challenges Testifying Experts and Judges Can Expect to Face” with a panel of esteemed speakers. Christopher Thompson, led a team from our section to participate in the fun Academy Cup competition during the Pre-Plenary Session.

In keeping with President Martell’s theme for the meeting, Richard Rosner, AAFS Past President, participated in an Interdisciplinary Symposium “Past Presidents Future Science: Hot Leads in Contemporary Forensic Research.”

Karen Rosenbaum, our Section Secretary, chaired the Academy-wide Breakfast Sessions. Tuesday morning, Gregg Dwyer, our section Program Co-Chair, presented on “Mental Health Support to Law Enforcement: Practical Issues” along with Eric Skidmore and Andy Gruler. On Thursday morning, Amantia Franz and Vincenzo Lusa, presented a Breakfast Seminar on “The Roso Case: An Unpublished Trial Regarding Hermaphroditism Verified Through the Expertise and Written Advice of Leading Physicians in 19th-Century Florence.” On Thursday, Michael Welner presented with Ann Wolbert Burgess during the Luncheon Seminar, “Fetal Kidnapping by Cesarean Section.” He also presented in the Multidisciplinary Session for the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science and Toxicology Sections.

Our section’s formal program began with poster sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Oral presentations began with a multidisciplinary session with Toxicology on Thursday morning, followed by sections dedicated to topics such as aggression, sexual behaviors, crime, child and adolescent issues, white collar crime, and murder and suicide. Stephen Billick, AAFS Past Vice President and section Fellow, presented Friday morning along with Emily Friedman on “Unintentional Child Neglect: Literature Review and Observational Study.”

In our section’s business news, John Young finished his term of Fellow-At-Large on the Board of Directors; we wish to express our gratitude to him for many years of service to our section. Christopher Thompson was elected as Fellow-At-Large, Karen Rosenbaum was elected Section Chair, and Dean De Crisce was elected as Section Secretary. The Program Chair and Program Chair-Chair for 2015-16 is Gregg Dwyer and Varendra Gosein, respectively.

The Richard Rosner Best Paper Award was presented to Samuel Shapiro for his paper on “Graphic Depictions: Portrayals of Mental..."
Illness in Video Games” with Merrill Rotter. Congratulations to Dr. Shapiro.

In other news, Karen Rosenbaum achieved her boarding in addiction medicine offered by the American Board of Addiction Medicine. Congratulations, Dr. Rosenbaum. Richard Rosner is presently working on a new edition of his acclaimed Principles and Practice of Forensic Psychiatry, a gold-standard text for forensic psychiatry.

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Adolescent Psychiatry (a society in which many section members belong) in conjunction with the International Society of Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology was held in New York City, March 26-29. Numerous section members attended and presented.

The 2015 American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law annual Meeting will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, this October.

We welcome the submission of news items for this column from members. Please submit these items to Dean De Crisce, Section Secretary at decrisce.md@gmail.com.

**QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS**

*Source: Thomas W. Vastrick, BS, Section Chair*

The 67th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences is now in the books. The Questioned Documents Section sponsored three successful workshops. I would like to thank Karen Nobles, Peter Tytell, Mark Goff, and Linton Mohammed for their efforts in putting together tremendous and informative products for the participants. Many recertification points were available to those who were able to participate. I also want to thank Kevin Kulbacki who spent many hours putting these programs together. Kevin and I made every effort to try to avoid time conflicts in our workshops but were unable to do so. AAFS has limited times available for workshops and having three workshops including two full-day workshops, made our request impossible. The more time that I spend as an officer of the Academy, the more I have come to understand that conflicts are bound to occur. I can state categorically that every effort is made to accommodate all potential conflicts. As President Weedn stated in the Section Officers Meeting, we would not have this problem if we had 28-hour days.

Jim Lee put together a fantastic section program that ran two full days and included a joint session with the Criminalistics and General Sections. There were several reports concerning OSAC and standards issues that helped clarify our status as we move forward with our current evolution. We also heard results of funded research providing information and research results that we will be using regularly in our practices. All told, it was an important meeting.

At the section business meeting, we welcomed several new members including two trainee affiliates. As an aging industry, the infusion of new blood is vital. If you are in training or know someone who is in training, please encourage them to apply for AAFS membership which has many advantages. Relative to that, I am dedicating this year to membership promotion. We have too many members who are not Fellows and we need more Fellows in our section. Fellows can hold offices and you hold a title that is the pinnacle of the premier forensic science organization in the U.S. and possibly the world. The 2015-16 officers stand ready, not only to encourage your promotion, but to assist you in working toward becoming published if this is the only prerequisite preventing your advancement.

Speaking of officers, your 2015-16 officers are: Thomas Vastrick – QD Section Chair; Linton Mohammed – QD Section Secretary; and Carl McClary – QD Section Board of Directors Representative. A special thanks to Jane Lewis for her three years on the Board of Directors and the efforts she has undertaken in that office. Jane also serves on the Annual Meeting Program Committee as Workshops Chair for 2015-16.

OSAC committees held public meetings during the AAFS conference. My personal view is that we are in good hands and we are proceeding in a good direction. Undoubtedly we will have to come to terms with new ways of doing certain things so it would be a good idea to keep current on what is happening and don’t be afraid to chime in with your opinion. The subcommittee for forensic document examination is comprised of a fine list of specialists and includes forensic document examiners who all meet the training standard for our profession. This is encouraging since, as a profession, we had no say as to which applicants would be selected. If you want to participate, applied but was not accepted, just wait. There will be regular turnover in the subcommittees and your time will come.

The 68th Annual Scientific Meeting theme is Transformation: Embracing Change. The Questioned Documents Section contribution to a meeting theme paper is in this issue, so be sure to read it. The meeting will be held in Las Vegas, NV, and Jan Kelly has graciously agreed to serve as Section Program Chair. Section Workshop Chair has not been selected yet. It is not too early to begin planning your attendance and presentation for the meeting.

Las Vegas conferences are usually well attended so timely submissions and requests for speaking times is a good idea as is making reservations at the headquarters hotel. Kindly check out the AAFS website for more information (www.aafs.org).

Finally, have you checked out the AAFS app yet?

**TOXICOLOGY**

*Source: Sarah Kerrigan, PhD, Section Chair*

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 67th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences such a success. Tremendous thanks to our Section Program Chairs Becky Jufer and Dan Anderson for their hard work. With over 150 registered attendees, “Toxicology of the Poisoned Patient” chaired by Robert Middleberg and Barry Logan was a great success, as were
the multidisciplinary sessions with the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section on Thursday and the Pathology/Biology Section on Friday. With more than eighty presentations and posters, special thanks to all the reviewers, moderators, and judges who volunteered their time to make this year’s program a success. Congratulations to Marissa Finkelstein, recipient of the 2015 Best Poster Award and $1,000 prize (supported by RTI). In keeping with the meeting theme Celebrating the Forensic Science Family, during the Toxicology Section Luncheon, we enjoyed a lighthearted presentation on the challenges associated with work-life balance from Ana Shaw and had the opportunity to recognize Yale Caplan for his extraordinary contributions as a mentor. As in the past, the heartfelt and humorous accolades from Marina Stajic, Bruce Goldberger, Barry Levine (delivered by Dan Isenschmid) and Kurt Dubowski provided both professional and personal insight into Yale’s toxicology family tree. Special thanks to Henry Nipper for providing the luncheon slideshow.

At our Toxicology Awardees Reception, we recognized Marc LeBeau (Alexander Gettler Award), Ashraf Mozayani (Rolla Harger Award), Jillian Yeakel (Irvine Sunshine Award), and Rebecca Hartman (June Jones Scholarship). Thanks to the generous support of Aegis Sciences Corporation. An additional highlight for the Toxicology Section was the Distinguished Fellow Honoree, Marilyn Huestis, for her incredible contributions to our field. As always, no meeting is a success without the generous support of our financial contributors who include: Aegis Sciences Corporation, Agilent, Immunalysis, SPEWare, Shamrock Glass, and Lipomed.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to our outgoing Section Chair Dwain Fuller for his hard work and leadership this year and for making it so much fun professionally and personally. Additional thanks to all those who participated in committees this past year and to those who accepted new positions this year, in particular Graham Jones for agreeing to chair the Awards and Scholarship Committee.

Although it seems too soon to be thinking about our next meeting, upcoming Section Program Chair Fiona Couper and Co-Chair Nikolas Lemos are already doing just that – Viva Las Vegas 2016!
AAFS Policy Page cont.

Being that this is a new committee, we will have to “build our plane in flight.” However, with the National Commission on Forensic Science (herein referred to as “the Commission”) poised to introduce several documents for vote over the next few meetings, this committee will allow the Academy to evaluate the Commission work products and recommendations as well as allow the Academy to have an official voice in the process with comments and feedback to the Commission via the public comment process.

Since the inaugural meeting of the Commission in February 2014, there have been five Commission meetings to date. Some of the major activity on the Commission has surrounded activity on seven subcommittees. The subcommittees include:

- **Accreditation and Proficiency Testing** - will consider the role of accreditation and proficiency test programs as part of a quality management system and explore issues such as consistency of existing standards, application to technological innovations, and challenges associated with implementation.
- **Interim Solutions** - will develop near-term recommendations that are consistent with fundamental forensic science examination, scientific practice, and quality management principles which may include defining terminology, automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) recommendations, a national code of ethics, root cause analysis, and transparency of quality records.
- **Scientific Inquiry and Research** - will consider ways to examine existing foundational research and recommend research priorities for technological investments that can improve the quality and timeliness of forensic analyses.
- **Training on Science and Law** - will explore mechanisms for judges, lawyers, and forensic scientists to engage in collaborative training to ensure that legal professionals understand the probative value and limitations of forensic science and forensic practitioners understand legal procedure and issues associated with the presentation of scientific evidence in court.
- **Human Factors** – will explore ways in which human performance (e.g., the judgments of experts) can be influenced by cognitive, perceptual, organizational, social and cultural factors, and other human tendencies.

Each subcommittee has been requested to provide a work product suitable for vote at each commission meeting and several will be introduced at the next Commission meeting to be held in Washington, DC (April 30-May 1). To stay up to date on the activities and work products of the Commission, members are encouraged to visit www.justice.gov/ncfs.

OSAC Committee Report:

**Source:** Barry K. Logan, PhD, AAFS 2013-14 President and AAFS NIST OSAC Ad Hoc Committee Chair

The Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step...

The Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) had its kick-off meeting in Norman, OK, in early January. There were two sets of back-to-back meetings that brought together the subcommittees in each discipline, the Scientific Area Committee’s (SACs) to which they report, members of the Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) together with the Human Factors, Legal Resources, and Quality Infrastructure Resource Committees that will assist with the standards development process.

These events were an exciting introduction to the new process. As the AAFS representative to the FSSB, I attended the first session featuring the inaugural meetings of the Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis and the Crime Scene/Death Investigation Area Committees.

I had the opportunity to see first-hand how the various subcommittees feel out their roles and responsibilities, critically evaluate the legacies of the Scientific Working Groups (SWGs), and begin to appreciate the importance and attainability of a more open and transparent standards setting process that does not undermine or jeopardize the integrity of our profession, but that rather, that looks to achieve buy-in from all the stakeholders of the criminal justice system in support of independent, objective and unbiased forensic science. The process also is able to take advantage of the hard work that has already been done by the Scientific Working Groups and to give it the imprimatur of internationally recognized standards development organizations.

In Norman, we were introduced to the members and perspectives of the quality infrastructure, human factors, and legal resources committees. Of particular interest to me was the presentation of Dr. Itiel Dror, chair of the human factors committee. Much of Dr. Dror’s work is available online and his research is thought provoking (www.cci-hq.com/Dror_FSPM_practical_solutions.pdf).

During the AAFS meeting in Orlando, the first public meetings of the SACs were held in an adjacent hotel. These public presentations are critical to the commitment for openness of the process and we should look at ways to increase attendance and participation at these meetings in the future.
Recapping the First Public OSAC Meetings: What is an SDO?


Feb. 16, Orlando, Fla. – Midway through the first day of a meeting devoted to public discussion of forensic science standards priorities, someone asked the question that was probably on many audience members’ minds.

“What is an SDO, and why are you spelling ‘canvass’ with two s’s?” a Michigan state trooper asked from a microphone set up for public comments at the first public Organization of Scientific Area Committee (OSAC) meetings. He was puzzled by these terms repeated on many PowerPoint slides.

He already knew that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) established OSAC last year in order to develop a uniform set of standards and guidelines for the practice of forensic science. OSAC is a collaborative effort with more than 500 members on 33 committees. Members include forensic science practitioners, researchers, educators, lawyers and judges.

Like many in the forensic science community, he was interested and decided to take the opportunity to listen and offer a comment at the first public OSAC meetings held Feb. 16 and 17 in Orlando. These meetings coincided with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual conference in Orlando from Feb. 16-22.

So, what IS an SDO? If you say SDO at NASA, you’re referring to the Solar Dynamics Observatory. Educators might mean the school development officer. In the military, you might mean squadron duty officer. In this context, at the intersection of forensic science and standards development, SDO means Standards Development Organization.

The Michigan state trooper and other audience members likely already understand why NIST is bringing forensic scientists and standards developers together. In 2009, the National Academy of Sciences issued a report, Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States, that identified concerns and recommended improvements to reduce the risk of wrongful convictions and exonerations. The recommendations include improving standardization of protocols, certification of practitioners and accreditation of laboratories. Forensic science laboratories have long used standards developed by various independent groups over many years.

NIST and the Department of Justice have been working to bring about some of the report’s recommendations. The Department of Justice launched the National Commission on Forensic Science last year as NIST was working to establish OSAC. Now OSAC members are poised to roll up their sleeves and begin working on a uniform set forensic science standards, guidelines and best practices.

In order to tackle this challenge, they need to understand what SDOs do, as well as what the “canvass” method is. Karen Reczek, Chair of the OSAC Quality Infrastructure Committee and who works in the NIST Standards Coordination Office, offered an explanation in response to the state trooper’s question.

In the United States, SDOs, or Standards Development Organizations, follow a process for developing standards that cover thousands of activities and technologies from auto manufacturing to zinc mining. Examples include the Society of Automotive Engineers, the National Fire Protection Association, and the College of American Pathologists.

Many U.S. SDOs are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which has coordinated private sector, voluntary standardization systems for more than 90 years. Because even standards developers need standards, ANSI accredits SDOs and has defined a set of essential requirements for standards development. “Essential requirements include things like a process for appeals, establishing interest categories, a procedure for developing and operating a consensus body, public comment and comment adjudication,” Reczek explained.

“Canvass is really just the shortened name for all the steps needed from drafting and balloting a standards document with a consensus body to obtaining and processing comments,” Reczek said. “OSAC can select either to use the canvass method or to work with an existing SDO for any of the many standards it will be developing.”

For OSAC, the canvass method means that a “consensus body” will be developed by canvassing for interested parties for the development of each standard or guideline. In most cases, consensus bodies will be comprised of a different membership for each document. Once that document is finalized, the consensus body is done and disbanded. OSAC consensus bodies would be short-lived and document specific. The OSAC process includes opportunities for public comment as part of the canvass method.

OSAC-approved standards and guidelines will be posted on the OSAC Registry of Standards or the OSAC Registry of Guidelines. In addition to meeting the canvass or SDO essential requirements, they must also meet OSAC requirements for technical merit, Reczek explained.
OSAC committees and subcommittees are moving forward to initiate work on the highest priority needs they have identified. To stay up to date with OSAC and other NIST forensic science news, go to http://www.nist.gov/forensics and sign up to receive NIST forensic science news alerts.

Additional Information and Links:
National Commission on Forensic Science: http://www.justice.gov/ncfs
OSAC: http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac
OSAC QIC: http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/qic.cfm

Odontology Section - Transformation: Embracing Change cont.

improving, for all, our sections and the broader forensic science community. Our section, for example, recently changed our educational requirements for promotion. We didn’t lower the bar, or bring in complex processes, we simplified things and, in doing so, we hope to make our section more accessible to people across North America and internationally. One way of encouraging change is to hear the views of many, rather than the few, and fresh thinking brings with it fresh approaches.

I do hope that 2015-16 is a year that brings changes to our respective sciences, sections, and the Academy as a whole. I have confidence in knowing that the membership and leadership will ensure that these are for the good.

Questioned Documents Section: Don’t Forget the Brake Pedal - Cognitive Bias; “Myth”ing the Point cont.

of one’s constitutional right to freedom of speech is incorrect. While there would be potential consequences for such statements, a consequence is far different than restriction of constitutional freedoms.

These are but a few examples demonstrating the need to carefully review the potential unintended negative effects that change can bring. As long as we take great care in fully understanding the impact of our decisions and proceed with tremendous caution and open input from all area practitioners affected, it is expected that these changes will be positive.

AAFS Outstanding Early Career Achievement in Forensic Science Award: Call for Nominations cont.

Academy-wide recognition, together with a current copy of the nominee’s curriculum vita, and any relevant supporting documentation (e.g., a seminal publication; an innovative course syllabus or textbook; a significant contribution to the AAFS program such as organizing a workshop or interdisciplinary panel).

Selection Process: Each section’s officers will review all candidates nominated from their section, and will then select the one (1) most qualified candidate to represent their section. The section chair will then forward that candidate’s nomination package to the Past Presidents Council Chair for consideration no later than June 1.

The Chair of the Past Presidents Council will serve as chair of the PPC Award Committee, and shall designate up to five (5) additional past Academy presidents to review the applications, and propose a nominee to the entire PPC for its consideration. In the event of a tie, the nominee will be chosen by the Chair of the PPC. The recommendation of the PPC shall then be forwarded to the AAFS Board of Directors no later than July 1 for its action.

Award Presentation: The award will be presented by the Chair of the Past Presidents Council at the Annual Business Meeting of the AAFS.

The Award: The award shall consist of a check for $1,000 and an appropriate commemorative plaque to be prepared by the Academy staff.

In addition, the expense of the recipient’s attendance at the annual meeting where the award is presented shall be paid by the Academy, including registration, coach airfare, lodging while in attendance at the annual meeting not to exceed five nights, and up to $75 per diem.

The awardee shall also be required to submit an abstract through the AAFS online submission system or a Call for Papers form, on a topic of his/her choosing, for presentation during the Scientific Sessions at the next annual meeting. The abstract will be submitted to the AAFS in accordance with the annual meeting abstract submission requirements.

The paper may then be submitted to the Journal of Forensic Sciences to be considered for publication.
Applicants

Due to the timing of the newsletter deadline, the applicants for membership are not listed in this issue. The list of AAFS applicants is available on the AAFS homepage (www.aafs.org) under the “Quick Links” section. The applicants list will appear in the May and future issues of the newsletter. Applications that are received and completed by **October 1** will be considered for approval at the February 2016 Board of Directors Meeting. 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.
A Letter from the 2014-15 YFSF President

What a great week! The YFSF events at the AAFS 67th Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL, were very successful. I am so proud and appreciative of all the hard work all of the YFSF committee members put in this past year planning our special session. The YFSF would also like to thank all of the speakers and résumé reviewers for their support at the YFSF events this year.

For the second year in a row, the YFSF participated in the Academy Cup (previously known as Mentorship-in-Motion). It was so wonderful to watch each of the section teams compete in a forensics/AAFS trivia game. This year, the General Section won the Academy Cup competition. A big thank you to the Academy Cup Chair, Laura Liptai, and the co-chairs Carla Nozigia and Carol Henderson for allowing the YFSF to participate in the event.

The YFSF would also like to give a big thank you to Jay Siegel who announced, at the Special Session on Tuesday, that all the royalties from his book on forensic chemistry will be donated to the YFSF. The YFSF is so grateful for this generous donation and show of support.

Lastly, the YFSF would like to thank Daniel Martell for his continued support of the YFSF. Several months ago, Dr. Martell approached us about planning a flash mob during the Academy’s Annual Business Meeting. The YFSF had a lot of fun planning and getting it together and it was a blast surprising everyone who attended the Annual Business Meeting with the finished product. We hope everyone enjoyed it!

The YFSF has a lot of big changes planned for the upcoming year and we are still recruiting for committee members; if you are interested in becoming part of a wonderful group of students and young professionals, please email your résumé or CV to Lara Frame-Newell at lafra86@gmail.com.

Thank you for a great year and I can’t wait to see you all in Las Vegas!

Lara Frame-Newell, MA
YFSF President
A Note from the YFSF Secretary

The AAFS 67th Annual Meeting has come to a close and what a memorable meeting it was! YFSF attendees heard from several speakers about professionalism, ethics, and ways to expand their careers to become well-rounded students and professionals. Thank you to all the YFSF speakers and attendees for their participation. Your support made all of the YFSF sessions very successful. Next year’s Annual Scientific Meeting theme is centered on transformation in forensic science and how we can embrace those changes. The YFSF looks forward to planning another successful year and working with new committee members.

The YFSF would also like to announce that there are openings on our committee for the following positions: Assistant Secretary and co-chairs for the Financial Liaison, Special Session, Breakfast Session, BYOS Session, and BYOP Session. If you are interested in becoming a part of the committee, please contact Lara Frame-Newell, with your CV or resume. The YFSF is a great opportunity to work with other young forensic scientists and veterans.

Sarah Ellis, MS
YFSF Secretary Chair

Brianna Bermudez
YFSF Assistant Secretary

Financial Liaison

The YFSF would like to thank everyone who contributed time and resources to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session. Without the support from the Academy sections and other entities, this event would not have been successful. Thank you to the Academy section chairs who allowed YFSF representatives to give an update during each of their section business meetings.

Special thanks to the following 2015 YFSF contributors: Bone Clones, Inc. and the Anthropology, Criminalistics, General, Jurisprudence, and Pathology/Biology Sections.

Finally, the YFSF would like to acknowledge the following Academy sections for committing to making a contribution for the 2016 YFSF Special Session: Anthropology, Criminalistics, General, and Pathology/Biology.

We hope to see everyone next year!

Katie Maciag, BS
YFSF Financial Liaison

Betzaida Maldonado, BS
YFSF Financial Co-Liaison

YFSF Special Session

The 2015 Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session was a great success! The theme for the session this year “YFSF 20th Anniversary: The Past, The Present, and Our Future” celebrated the last 20 years in forensic science. There were around 45 attendees who were given career and academic advice from speakers in various disciplines, including two past YFSF presidents.

YFSF President Lara Frame-Newell opened the special session by awarding the YFSF Founder’s Award to Tanisha Henson for her continued efforts in serving the YFSF. Daniel Martell welcomed everyone and described his hopes for the remainder of the meeting. Victor Weedn discussed his theme for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting and how the changes in standardization of forensic science will change the field in coming years. Cheryl Hunter discussed the membership process and various membership requirements for student affiliate, etc.

Jane Lewis presented a fun Disney-themed presentation on the field of questioned documents. John Kenney gave a brief history of Odontology and shared a few interesting case studies, and Ruth Winecker discussed the changes in the field of toxicology over the last 20 years and the future of toxicology. Elizabeth Richards concluded the morning by speaking about how she became a special agent for the United States Air Force.
After lunch, Anjali Rana dive discussed professionalism in the forensic field and advised on what hiring managers look for as well as expectations of professionals in court. Christine Funk shared her career path and advice to others a little differently, by reading a heartfelt letter she had written to her past self. Mark Pollitt discussed the evolving field of the cloud and cyber forensics.

AAFS Past President Barry Fisher shared his experiences mentoring his son and gave advice on mentorship, education, and how to do well in forensics. Ken Williams presented his career path in forensics and focused on his experiences with YFSF and how being a YFSF Past President contributed to his career. John Nixon from the Engineering Sciences Section discussed his efforts implementing change in the forensic sciences by using a multidisciplinary approach.

Nicolene Lottering, the FSF Emerging Scientist Award winner, presented her winning paper “Temporal Characterization of Ossification of the Crania in Australian Subadults: New Standards for Age Estimation Using Computed Tomography.” The day concluded with Diane Fraser who shared her experiences as the first YFSF president and YFSF founding member as well as her career and life path over the last 20 years.

The special session would not have been possible without the aforementioned speakers. Thank you to everyone who participated with the YFSF. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the 2016 YFSF Special Session, please email yfsfs@gmail.com.

Christina Hayes, BS
YFSF Special Session Chair

Jessica Smith, BS
YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

YFSF Breakfast Session

This year’s YFSF Breakfast Session, “Getting There: Unique Professional Journeys in Forensic Science,” was an entertaining and inspiring success. The two speakers provided a well-rounded presentation: Christine Funk gave advice on working in a crime lab and Ann Ross gave advice on working in an academic field.

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum these speakers were joined by former YFSF Presidents Claire Shepard, Amanda Kilgore, and Tanisha Henson for an informal Q&A session before breaking out into a one-on-one résumé review session. The YFSF's founding secretary Thomas Crist was also in attendance. Focusing on the forensic science family allowed for an informal session that inspired the next generation of aspiring forensic scientists and early career professionals. Many thanks to our speakers and résumé reviewers for volunteering your time and making this session a success.

If you are an experienced forensic scientist, please consider serving as a résumé reviewer for the next generation of forensic professionals at next year’s breakfast session. Please contact the YFSF Breakfast Chairs at yfsf.breakfast@gmail.com with any questions or to volunteer.

Alicja K. Lanfean, PhD
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

Tiffany B. Saul, MS
YFSF Breakfast Session Co-Chair
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session
The 2015 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides event was a hit! There were six outstanding research presentations. Mia Solomon, from the University of Central Oklahoma presented her research “Serial Homicide-Patterns in Cooling Off Periods.” Virginia Commonwealth University student Tiffany Layne presented “Stability and Variation of microRNAs for Body Fluid Identification” and George Washington graduate student Ashley LeBlanc presented her research “The Forensic Significance of Aluminum Powders.” Continuing the session was Purdue University student, Joseph DeMaro, who presented “Proactive Use of Panoramic Photography,” Aisha Ali-Gombe from the University of New Orleans who presented “Forensic Analysis of Android Radio Logs,” and Marshall University student, Hannah Kennedy, presented “Qiagen Investigator DIPlex Kit: Validation and Use with Parentage Section Cases Involving Degraded Inhibited Samples or Complex Relationships.”

There were approximately 60 AAFS members in attendance this year proving that the BYOS session is showing steady growth in attendance. It was exciting to see the innovative research that young scientists are developing. Thank you to each of the presenters for sharing your projects and a special thank you to Lara Frame-Newell for ensuring that the BYOS event ran smoothly.

Lindsay Saylor, BS
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides, Chair

Kate Lesciotto, JD
YFSF Bring Your Own Slides, Co-Chair

YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session
The AAFS 67th Annual Scientific Meeting YFSF Poster Session showcased 24 poster presentations covering a variety of topics: DNA, toxicology, chemistry, and anthropology. Members of the Academy showed their interest and provided positive feedback and stimulating discussion with the presenters.

Thank you to all the presenters of the YFSF Poster Session. The research truly showed dedication and a passion for forensic science. The YFSF urges professors and program directors to continue to support their students’ participation in the YFSF.

We would also like to encourage all young forensic professionals and students to participate at next year’s YFSF Poster Session at the annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

If you are interested in presenting at the 2016 YFSF Poster Session, please email yfsf.postersession@gmail.com.

Jennifer Curnow, MSFS
YFSF Poster Session Chair

Melanie Boeyer, BS
YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair
Meetings & Conferences

MAY 2015

4-5
125th CAC Seminar
The 125th CAC Seminar will be hosted by
the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office
Forensic Services Bureau at the Ventura
Beach Marriott Hotel.
CONTACT: Regina Davidson
regina.davidson@ventura.org
(805) 477-1573
www.cacnews.org/events/
seminar/seminarcurrent.shtml

11-12
4th International Workshop in Clinical
Forensic Medicine
Presented by the Formation Médicale
Continue de la Société Français. To be
held in Montpellier, France.
CONTACT: amlctm34@gmail.com

11-15
Forensic Anthropology Summer
Workshop
The Summer Workshop will be held at
the C.A. Pound Human Identification
Laboratory at the University of Florida, in
Gainesville, FL.
CONTACT: Michael Warren
mwarren@ufl.edu
(352) 256-5745
www.poundlab.org

12-13
International Workshop on Forensic
Photography
Presented by the University Hospital of
Montpellier, France. Organized by: Eric
Baccino, MD; Emmanuel Margueritte,
MD; and the University Hospital of
Montpellier, France.
CONTACT: e-margueritte@chu-
montpellier.fr
www.surveymonkey.com/
collect/?collector_id=58990
312&send_survey=true

18-22
Forensic Anthropology Summer
Workshop
The Summer Workshop will be held at
the C.A. Pound Human Identification
Laboratory at the University of Florida, in
Gainesville, FL.
CONTACT: Michael Warren
mwarren@ufl.edu
(352) 256-5745
www.poundlab.org

For a complete list of national and international meetings of interest to forensic scientists, go to the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) and click on the “Meetings” link.
JUNE 2015

1-5
Outdoor Human Remains Recovery
This workshops will be held at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State (FACTS) in San Marcos, TX. This workshop is for law enforcement and medicolegal professionals to learn proper methodology for locating, identifying, and recovering buried human remains.
CONTACT: Sophia R. Mavroudas
facts@txstate.edu
(512) 245-1900
www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/
workshops/fieldrecovery.html

8-10
Forensic Taphonomy of Texas
This workshop will take place at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State (FACTS) in San Marcos, TX. The workshop is designed to provide knowledge to law enforcement and medicolegal professionals about the processes of human decomposition, estimation of the postmortem interval, forensic entomology, and the effects of scavengers and weather on bone.
CONTACT: Sophia R. Mavroudas
facts@txstate.edu
(512) 245-1900
www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/
workshops/taphonomy.html

15-19
Forensic Anthropology Methods
This indoor workshop will be held at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State (FACTS) in San Marcos, TX. This is a hands on laboratory methods workshop for advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals interested in expanding their knowledge of developing a biological profile and interpreting skeletal trauma. Prior knowledge of skeletal anatomy is required.
CONTACT: Sophia R. Mavroudas
facts@txstate.edu
(512) 245-1900
www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/
workshops/FAmethods.html

22-24
Advanced Forensic Anthropology Methods: Ancestry
This workshop will be held at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State (FACTS) in San Marcos, TX. This workshop is designed for advanced students and professionals that want a greater understanding of the issues surrounding ancestry estimation. The format of the workshop will be lecture combined with hands-on activities and leaning FORDISC.
CONTACT: Sophia R. Mavroudas
facts@txstate.edu
(512) 245-1900
www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/
workshops/advanced.html

22-24
Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course
The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office, in partnership with the Case Western University School of Medicine, is hosting a 3-day Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office in Cleveland, OH.
CONTACT: Daniel Morgan
dmorgan@cuyahogacounty.us
(216) 698-4089

JULY 2015

25-30
International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners 2015 Annual Training Symposium
Hosted by the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME) and the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Dental Medicine.
CONTACT: John Fudenberg
fud@clarkcountynv.gov
(702) 455-1937
www.theiacme.com

continued on page 78
Meetings & Conferences cont.

AUGUST 2015

31-Sept. 4
Digital Postmortem Illustration
To be held in San Marcos, TX. To aid with the identification of unknown deceased persons, forensic artists need specific knowledge. This workshop teaches how to understand the physiological changes in deceased remains.
CONTACT: Sophia R. Mavroudas
facts@txstate.edu
(512) 245-1900
www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/Digital-Illustration.html

31-Sept. 5
26th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics
Organized by the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG). To be held in Poland. As in previous years, the bi-annual ISFG congress focuses on the latest research results regarding the forensic applications of biological and DNA markers. Workshop topics include: STR interpretation, mtDNA and Y chromosome testing, Next Generation Sequencing, phenotypical markers, mRNA in forensic science, ethics, and kinship.
CONTACT: http://isfg2015.org/

SEPTEMBER 2015

3-5
Advance Course in Forensic Anthropology 2015: Imaging and Forensic Anthropology
Organized by the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE). To be held in the 14th-century old historical rooms (Theatrum Anatomicum) of the Medical School of Montpellier, in Montpellier, France.
CONTACT: amltc34@gmail.com

14-16
Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course
The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office, in partnership with the Case Western University School of Medicine, is hosting a 3-day Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office in Cleveland, OH. This program provides basic training for medicolegal death investigators, coroners, medical examiners, detectives, crime scene investigators, emergency medical service providers, and firefighters.

OCTOBER 2015

13-17
Forensic Odontology in a Medical Examiner’s Office
Organized by the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. To be held at the Wayne County Medical Examiner’s Office in Detroit, MI. The completion of the course participants will be able to:
• Compare antemortem and postmortem dental records in the identification of human remains
• Will be familiar with the WinId computer system, Dexis digital x-ray and Nomad hand held x-ray unit
• Have a better understanding of the other forensic science disciplines
• Be familiar with the dental response to a mass casualty situation
• Understand the recognition, preservation and documentation of bitemark evidence
• Be familiar with cause and manner of death
• Identify principles used in age, gender and race determination of skeletal remains
• Gain awareness of crimes against children
• Be familiar with research in forensic odontology
CONTACT: http://dental.udmercy.edu
November 2015

2-4
Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course
The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office, in partnership with the Case Western University School of Medicine, is hosting a 3-day Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course. To be held at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office in Cleveland, OH.

9-13
Maples Center for Forensic Medicine - Bugs, Bones and Botany
Organized by the University of Florida. To be held in Gainesville, FL. This course will focus on the application of entomology, anthropology, and botany to legal investigations. Participants will receive 4 hours of lecture and 4 hours of field work each day. During the field portion, participants will collect entomological evidence, recover buried remains, and process a mock crime scene for botanical evidence.
CONTACT: Vickie Maloney
vmaloney@pathology.ufl.edu
(352) 265.9940
http://maples-center.ufl.edu

December 2015

7-11
Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Workshop
Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Workshop presented by the Specialized Training Unit at the Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, Doral, Florida.
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79
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