It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. I believe the next year will be filled with interesting challenges for forensic science. There is no ignoring the impact of forensic science today.

New developments in science and technology are advancing at a rapid pace. Forensic science also is not local, but global. It is also, as Senator Biden said in his video address at the Keynote Session in Washington, DC, “absolutely indispensable work.” Science provides hope and ensures justice.

We cannot ignore the impact of events that will occur in 2008 - the National Academy of Sciences Report on “Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Science Community” and significant changes in legislation, to name a few.

The positive interest in forensic science by the general public is offset by the skepticism of some communities about the competency of practitioners and the reliability of the evidence arising from their work. These opposing perspectives create unique challenges to all of us because we are committed to the profession of forensic science – we do not wish to be appreciated on the basis of the CSI entertainment value, nor do we wish to be regarded as lacking competence and objectivity. My response to these opposing perspectives is that we need to promote our vision for forensic science: a future in which the forensic sciences are seen by everyone as representing the highest standards of practice and scientific evidence is seen as a solid foundation for assuring public safety and justice. As Bruce Goldberger stated in his first column as AAFS President, ‘we want to plan initiatives that foster the positive nature of our profession.’ Some would ask, how can we promote our vision? The late Peter Drucker said that the best way to predict the future is to create it. Under Bruce’s presidency we have stated our mission. During my presidency I want us to create our vision of the future of forensic sciences.

The theme for the 2009 meeting is Forensic Science: Envisioning and Creating the Future.

I am confident we can shape the future of forensic science, I see three areas where we can create our future: Communication, Education, and Collaboration:

**Communication** - I am old enough to remember mimeograph machines, typewriters, and the brick phone. There have been incredible leaps in technology that facilitate communication. We need to utilize the technology that resonates with those we want to reach – the future forensic scientists – the “digital natives” as Howard Gardner, the author of *Five Minds for the Future* calls them - so we need to use podcasts, vodcasts, distance education, YouTube. I envision developing podcast primers (mini-tutorials) on each area of forensic science. Also, since the past is prologue, I think we must record oral histories of many of our members who possess incredible knowledge so we can pass it on to future generations.

**Education** - We have many audiences to educate - our members, students, law enforcement, legal practitioners, judges, and the general public. We can use the new technology I previously discussed. We also need to look at increasing resources for the AAFS educational efforts like the Forensic Science Educators Conferences and for the Forensic Sciences Foundation grants to encourage forensic science research and scholarships.

**Collaboration** - We are a unique multidisciplinary organization; we bring together diverse groups and opinions. We can do even more outreach. We will expand our international collaborations and should continue to expand our relationships with national associations such as the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, 60 societies that represent more than 1.4 million scientists and educators, and create relationships with other associations such as the ABA Science and Technology Law Section, AAAS, IACP, and other professional associations.

I invite you to participate in the tour to Italy scheduled for August 26 - September 3, 2008. When I was in Washington, Luciano Garofalo, Joe Bono, and I met with the Italian Embassy’s
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Did You Present a Paper at the 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting?

The Journal of Forensic Sciences reserves the right of first publication to all previously unpublished reports and papers presented at the AAFS annual meeting in Washington, DC. Please submit your manuscripts to:

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Future Annual Meeting Dates

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

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

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

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Barry A.J. Fisher R.B.H. Gradwohl Laureate

Barry A.J. Fisher, MS, MBA, who was presented with the R.B.H. Gradwohl Medallion at the AAFS Annual Business Meeting in Washington, DC, February 20, 2008. The Gradwohl Medallion is named for one of the founding members of AAFS, R.B.H. Gradwohl, who gave the welcoming address at the first annual meeting in 1948. Sixty years later, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences continues to serve Dr. Gradwohl’s vision of generating confidence and the respect of forensic sciences in the U.S. and abroad.

The Gradwohl Medallion is conferred upon only those persons who have attained exceptional distinction in the advancement of the forensic sciences, who have given outstanding service to the AAFS over a long period of time, and who have achieved outstanding recognition in a public position through service to the forensic sciences profession. Gradwohl Laureates are not named regularly, but rather, only when recognizing an individual of exceptional caliber. Since the award was established in 1974, only 10 other professionals have been given the honor.

Barry Fisher has served the profession of forensic sciences for more than 35 years. Crime Lab Director for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Barry is highly regarded as one of the country’s leading criminalists. He obtained his undergraduate degree at City College of New York, earned a Master’s in Chemistry from Purdue University, and received an MBA from California State University. He was elected to AAFS membership in 1972, was promoted to Member in 1973 and to Fellow in 1981. Barry has served the AAFS and the Criminalistics Section diligently over the years as Local Arrangements Chair, Section Program Chair and Section Secretary in 1981, and as Section Chair in 1982. He served on the Program Committee in 1992-1993 as Workshops Chair and in 1992-1994 as Program Chair. Barry’s dedication and countless contributions were recognized in 1994 when the Criminalistics Section awarded him the Paul L. Kirk Distinguished Service Award. He served on the AAFS Board of Directors from 1991-1999, the Executive Committee from 1995-1999, and ultimately as the Academy’s 49th President in 1999. Barry served on the Forensic Sciences Foundation Board of Trustees from 1988 through 1992, and was elected FSF Secretary from 1989 through 1992.

Barry’s professional activities have not been limited to AAFS as evidenced by his involvement in numerous regional, national, and international forensics associations. He served as ASCLD President in 1988-1989, Chairman of ASCLD/LAB in 1991-1993, and as President of the International Association of Forensic Sciences in 1996-1999. He served as chair of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations in 2000-2001. He has served as a member of the National Forensic Science Technology Center’s Board of Directors for the past eleven years. Barry has authored several publications including the well-known Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation, 7th ed.

Barry continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the profession by giving a resounding voice to the forensic science initiatives in Washington, DC. Congratulations, Barry, on receiving one of the highest honors in the profession of forensic science, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences’ Gradwohl Medallion.
Counselor and Science Attache who are both very enthusiastic about our visit. In addition to the tours of the Polizia di Stato forensic laboratory and the Carabinieri forensic laboratory in Via Tor di Quinto, we will also have a full day forensic conference in Parma which will include Italian and neighboring European country forensic scientists. Many of those participating in the tour will be presenting in Parma. For example, David Benjamin will be speaking on “Confounding Issues in Forensic Toxicology” and I will be discussing the latest developments of the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law. In addition to the scientific components of the trip, we will be traveling to some of most historic and beautiful parts of Italy - Rome, Orvieto, Siena, San Gimignano and Florence. There will be escorted tours, wine tastings and other events which will make this a memorable trip.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be a part of the forensic science profession. I deeply care about the issues we face and I am committed to work diligently and creatively to further the mission of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. We cannot shrink from our challenges nor shirk our responsibilities to the justice system. I consider it an honor and a privilege to lead us into the future. I look forward to working with the new Academy officers, Tom Bohan, Joe Bono, Doug Ubelaker, Bob Barsley, and the entire Board of Directors during the coming year to move our mission forward and to create our future. I anticipate a productive year, but I cannot do it without your support – from the Young Forensic Scientists to the Past Presidents – I need all of you to create the future and move us forward. Please contact me at henderson@law.stetson.edu with your thoughts. I rely upon your support.

President’s Message cont.

2008 Italy Tour

President Carol Henderson invites you to join her on a ten-day tour of Italy. The itinerary will include stays in Rome, Siena, and Florence. AAFS members will have opportunities to meet with forensic science colleagues in Italy, and, at the same time, take advantage of the cultural and historical riches of the three wonderful cities to be visited.

Travelers will make their own way to Rome and will meet on Tuesday, August 26, after checking into the beautiful Flora Marriott Hotel, mere steps away from an shopping and restaurants. During your three day stay in Rome, travelers will be treated to a motor coach tour of the ancient city. The Piazza Venezia, the famed Collosseum, and St. Peter’s Square are just of few of the breathtaking sites you will enjoy. Forensic specialists and those merely interested in forensics will be treated to a tour of the Polizia di Stato forensic laboratory in Via Tuscolana.

On day four, all attendees will check out from the hotel to depart for Siena. On the way, everyone is invited to tour the Carabinieri forensic laboratory in Via Tor di Quinto before arriving in Orvieto, one of the oldest cities in Italy. Here you can rest and enjoy a leisurely lunch before boarding the coach to arrive in Siena. According to legend, Siena was founded by Senio, the son of Remus, one of the two founders of Rome. Saturday, August 30, will be a day of leisure. Those adventurous souls will be able to tour Siena’s rich culture, shop, and enjoy the day at their own pace.

On Sunday, travelers will be on their way to Florence with stops in San Gimignano, a typical Tuscan medieval commune and The Castle of Verrazzano located on a hilltop in the Chianti Classico area. Here you will learn about wine making while enjoying a light lunch and wine tasting. You will arrive later that afternoon in Florence, The Jewel of the Renaissance.

The “finale” of this fabulous trip will be in Parma where RIS Carabinieri di Parma will be your host. On Monday, September 1, AAFS members have been invited to present at a meeting which may include Italian and neighboring European country forensic scientists in Parma. This one day forensic science conference is being orchestrated by Luciano Garofano and Giovanni Mori and will provide an opportunity to meet and share with our Italian friends. For those not participating in the various forensic science activities of the day may wish to stay in Florence or ride along to Parma and enjoy another breathtaking Italian village. Both venues will offer an array of galleries, churches, and shopping.

Tuesday will be our last full day together with the new friends you made on this trip. The day will end with a farewell cocktail reception at your hotel, the Grand Hotel.

Complete details of the Italy trip and an application to reserve your spot can be found on the AAFS website www.aafs.org, or you may contact Nancy Jackson, AAFS Director of Development & Accreditation, (719-636-1100; njackson@aafs.org) for additional information.
AAFS Policy on Position Statements

During James Young’s AAFS presidency, an issue was raised regarding whether the AAFS could be a participant in an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief or could state a position on an issue on behalf of the Academy. AAFS has never had a process in place to be able to make the Academy’s position known to the public or courts, unlike most other professional associations. The Board of Directors discussed the fact that the AAFS never stated a position nor wrote an amicus curiae brief in the Daubert case in 1993, which is the most significant scientific evidence case in the last two decades, and which affects the entire membership of the Academy.

Past President Young appointed a committee to address these matters and to propose a process for AAFS to state a position on a matter on behalf of the entire Academy and/or to participate in a significant scientific matter in court in the form of an amicus curiae brief. The committee issued a report which was then presented to the Long Term Planning Committee. The Long Term Planning Committee addressed the report, made recommendations, and then sent the recommendations to the AAFS Board of Directors on February 18, 2008. The Board discussed the matter and each Board member brought the issue back to their sections for discussion during their section business meetings. Each section’s comments were then incorporated into the document which is printed below and the entire Board voted unanimously on February 23, 2008, to adopt this policy. This policy will only be used on rare occasions when a significant and broad issue of national or international implication to forensic science arises. We are the only multidisciplinary forensic science professional association in the world. This policy allows us to weigh in on issues of great importance in forensic science which affect our membership.

A. ACADEMY POSITION STATEMENTS

1. On the rare occasion that a significant and broad issue of national or international implication to forensic science arises, the Academy may issue a position statement.
2. Only the Board of Directors shall issue the position statements of the Academy.
3. All Academy position statements must be approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the Board of Directors.
4. Requests for Academy position statements may only be submitted by members of the Academy and shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration.
5. The Board shall notify the members when an issue has arisen on which an Academy position statement is being considered and request input from the members.
6. The Board may form an ad hoc committee to complete a report on the issue being considered for a position statement. Any committee report shall be circulated to the members for comment.
7. The Board shall consider the ad hoc committee report and the comments from sections and individual members of the Academy concerning the request for Academy action.
8. Any approved Academy position statement shall be made public through the AAFS website and by such additional means as the Board of Directors may approve.

B. SECTION POSITION STATEMENTS

No section of the Academy shall issue a section position statement.

C. AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS:

General:
1. On the rare occasion that a significant and broad issue of national or international implication to forensic science arises, the Academy may authorize the filing of an amicus curiae brief. Briefs shall generally only be authorized at the appellate level in the highest court in which the issue is likely to be finally determined. Briefs may only be submitted at the trial court or lower appellate level in cases presenting issues of first impression with great importance to the forensic community.
2. The filing of an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the Academy must be authorized by three-fourths (¾) of the members of the Board of Directors.
3. Requests to file an amicus curiae brief may only be submitted by members of the Academy and shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration.
4. The Board shall notify the members that a case has arisen in which the Academy is considering filing an amicus curiae brief and request input from the members.
5. The Board may form a committee to complete a report on the amicus curiae brief being considered for filing. Any report shall be circulated to the members for comment.
6. A draft of the proposed brief with the application described below shall be sent to the Executive Director of the Academy. If expedited consideration is necessary, an abbreviated application may be initially accompanied by a detailed outline of the proposed brief rather than a complete draft of the brief. In either event, the Board must review the brief before it may be filed.
7. Briefs shall be filed only in the name of the Academy and not in the name of an Academy section. The Board shall designate an appropriately qualified attorney to serve as counsel of record for the filing of the amicus curiae.
8. Every effort shall be made to avoid exposing any active member of the judiciary who is also a member of the Academy to amicus curiae applications, proposed amicus curiae briefs, or approved amicus curiae briefs. If a member of the Board is an active member of the judiciary, they shall not participate in the application review process. The Board member may designate another Fellow from the Board member’s respective section to fulfill the amicus curiae review function.

Contents of a Request for an Amicus Curiae Brief:
9. An application shall be in letter or memorandum form addressed to the Executive Director of the Academy. If it is complete, the application and any related materials shall be immediately forwarded to the Board of Directors.
10. The application shall contain the following:
   a. The style and caption of the case, a list of the parties, the last court to render a decision in the case, and the court in which the brief is to be filed. If possible, a copy of the decision or order appealed from shall be attached.
   b. The date by which the proposed amicus brief must be filed.
   c. A full statement of the relevant facts of the controversy if not adequately recited in any attached decision or order.

continued on page 6
Policy on Position Statements cont.

d. A statement whether the position to be supported has been adopted by the Academy and, if so, reference to and full quotation of the relevant resolution of the Board of Directors.

e. If the application seeks authority to file an amicus curiae brief in support of a position which has not been adopted by the Academy, it must be accompanied by a concise statement of the position to be supported and a statement of reasons why it should be adopted by the Board of Directors.

f. An explanation of the reasons why the controversy is an important one for the Academy and why the Academy’s participation would assist the court in reaching its decision.

g. Disclosure of any personal or professional interest in the issues involved on the part of any individual or organization requesting Academy involvement.

h. Names and firm connection of the attorneys who have written or would actually write the brief on behalf of the Academy.

i. A draft of the brief to be filed, or if the submission is being pursued on an expedited basis, a detailed outline of the argument to be set forth in the brief.

Review procedures:

11. Every effort should be expended to ensure sufficient time for thorough consideration of an application and the brief by the Board of Directors and the members. When time is short, the Board may discuss and vote by telephone conference rather than waiting for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. In no event shall an application be considered by the Board if the time for filing the brief is less than 30 days.

12. Any committee formed by the Board should:

   a. Provide the Board with recommendation on whether the application should be granted. The Committee should consider questions such as whether participation will be consistent with the objectives and policies of the Academy; the significance of the issue to forensic science; whether the Academy can make a useful contribution to the case; whether there is sufficient research, data, and literature to present a strong position; and other appropriate issues.

   b. Review and make appropriate recommendations on all proposed amicus curiae briefs, including whether the proposed briefs are an accurate representation of the position of the Academy and whether the briefs are of high professional quality. Before a brief may be filed the Committee should verify to the Board that the brief is of high professional quality and a fair representation of the position of the Academy.

   c. Recommend appropriate legal counsel to author and/or file the brief, if the Board grants the application and the appropriate legal counsel has not been recruited. Every effort should be made to recruit qualified volunteer counsel.

Disclaimer:

13. Each amicus curiae brief filed in the name of the Academy shall contain the following disclaimer:

   “Neither this brief nor the decision to file it should be interpreted to reflect the views of any active judicial member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. No inference should be drawn that any active member of the judiciary participated in the adoption of the positions in this brief.”

Costs:

14. The Academy may pay reasonable legal or consulting fees for the preparation or review of amicus curiae briefs, excluding any work done by the members of the Academy, as determined by the Board of Directors. The necessary costs of printing and filing an approved brief shall be borne by the Academy.

Joint Briefs

15. The Academy may join in briefs amicus curiae with other organizations to conserve Academy resources and to create alliances that increase the Academy’s influence on important forensic issues in courts and legislatures.

AAFS Mission Statement

In 2006 President Edmund Donoghue and Ronald Singer asked Carol Henderson to research and present information to the AAFS Board of Directors regarding the importance of a mission statement for a professional association. A draft mission statement was prepared and was sent to the Long Term Planning Committee that crafted an even better version. The Mission Statement was then presented to the Board of Directors on February 18, 2008, and it was adopted.

A mission statement is an enduring statement of purpose for an organization that identifies what an organization does and why the organization exists. Serving as a "compass" the mission statement lets an organization's members and the public know what the organization stands for and where it is headed. It provides direction and focus for an organization and its membership. As such, the official AAFS Mission Statement follows:

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is a multi-disciplinary professional organization that provides leadership to advance science and its application to the legal system. The objectives of the Academy are to promote education, foster research, improve practice, and encourage collaboration in the forensic sciences.
The 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC was magnificent. If you missed this meeting, you missed a really good one. President Bruce Goldberger did a great job representing the AAFS on a variety of national issues and we wish Carol Henderson well as she takes the helm as our new President.

While Senators Biden and Sessions were unable to attend the meeting because they were overseas, Senator Bidden recorded a video tape message which was played at the opening session. He pledged his continued support for our efforts in Washington and has become another friend and supporter of forensic science at the national level.

What does the future hold for us in our legislative efforts? During the meeting, we made several trips to Capitol Hill to meet with staff members from important committees to continue to make our case for more resources. Members of the Consortium and forensic scientists from the home states of the Senate offices we visited attended the meetings. We were fortunate to have several lab directors who were attending the AAFS meeting and who were able to join us on the Hill. It always helps us to have someone from “back home” to explain to the members what the issues are.

The National Academy’s report on forensic science, due out this summer, was mentioned prominently wherever we went. I expect the report will become the basis of a major congressional initiative to address a host of forensic science issues in a comprehensive fashion.

The Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security continue to show interest in forensic science and I believe that there may be greater outreach between those departments and State and local forensic science laboratories in the near term. This may well become important to us all as technology transfers from the battlefield to public crime labs and medical examiners offices provide us with new tools.

The President’s budget was released a few weeks ago and we were disappointed to see that once more, the major focus appears to be only DNA with not a mention of Coverdell funds. I suspect that because the budget was prepared during an election year that we will not see much movement until after the election and the new administration takes office. It is disheartening to see that while we have made significant progress in Congress, the Executive branch has been very slow to understand all the needs facing forensic science. DNA is certainly important, but the other disciplines that make up forensic science services need attention, too; I am optimistic that the next administration will be more supportive of our needs.

Finally, on a personal note, the AAFS Board of Directors saw fit to award me with the Academy’s highest honor: the Gradwohl Medallion. I was both surprised and deeply humbled to become the eleventh recipient of this award in the 60 year history of the Academy. I shall do my best to continue to merit your confidence in me. Thank you.

Legislative Corner

Barry A.J. Fisher, MS, MBA
I sat in the Keynote Session at the recent AAFS meeting in Washington, DC, listening to Senator Biden’s welcoming remarks (via videotape). Thinking I missed something, I had to ask Jay Siegel, who was seated next to me, “Did Biden just say FEPAC?” The Senator specifically mentioned FEPAC, its importance to the quality and improvement of forensic science, and his recommendations for supporting its activities. What an outstanding moment for the Commission and all of the accredited programs! To be recognized at such a level is a tremendous achievement and I salute the efforts, courage, and dedication of everyone involved in the FEPAC process.

The Forensic Science Educational Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) held a free training session for onsite evaluators at the AAFS meeting to a standing-room only group of interested attendees. The interest and participation of those interested in accreditation is a great indication of the acceptance of FEPAC by the profession. Another great indicator is the number of applicants we have this year: nine institutions, a 50% increase, have applied for the FEPAC process. Additionally, the first five accredited programs are up for re-accreditation this year, making 2008 a very busy year for FEPAC. For these five programs (Cedar Crest College, Eastern Kentucky University, Florida International University, Michigan State University, and Metropolitan State College of Denver), 2008 is like a birthday — FEPAC is now five years old and going strong. The current and past Commissioners and Directors of Accreditation deserve the credit for making FEPAC what it is today.

FEPAC continues to work towards being recognized by an external entity involved in educational accreditation; our first goal is to be recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditors (CHEA). This kind of recognition is important to communicate FEPAC’s credibility to our stakeholders. The AAFS has been exceedingly helpful and supportive in this process and I want to thank all the AAFS Past Presidents who have supported FEPAC over the last five years. Current President, Carol Henderson, who participated in the original working group on forensic science education, supports authentic forensic science education and the FEPAC process, and the Commission looks forward to working with her.

For those of you planning to attend International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) meeting in New Orleans this July (www.IAFS2008.com), I’d like to remind you of a special International Forensic Science Education Session at that conference. The session is free to registered attendees and should be a stimulating and insightful discussion of global issues in forensic science education. I encourage you to attend!

Faculty members from seven FEPAC-accredited programs are in the process of writing the bylaws for a National Forensic Science Honor Society. The goals of the Honor Society will be to reward students who achieve academic excellence in forensic science and to promote a spirit of professional advocacy among its members. In order to be eligible for a charter membership, the academic institution must have a FEPAC-accredited program. Membership into the Honor Society will be open to both qualified undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the forensic science program of the charter institution. Those interested in obtaining information about the Honor Society should contact Larry Quarino, the Forensic Science Program Director at Cedar Crest College (laquarin@cedarcrest.edu).

Finally, for those who have contacted me with comments or thoughts about this column, thank you. As one person said, “It’s nice to know I’m not alone in thinking these things.” I take the improvement of our profession very seriously and feel that accredited educational programs are a basic, fundamental requirement for that improvement. Authentic curricula, based in practice and in science, are key to the success of any program and the quality of its graduates. Thank you for your interest and support.
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2008 AAFS Distinguished Fellow Award Recipients

The 2008 AAFS Distinguished Fellow Award recipients are Kenneth E. Melson, JD, and Joseph L. Peterson, D.Crim. Ken and Joe were presented this prestigious award on Wednesday, February 20, at the end of the AAFS Annual Business Meeting. Congratulations, gentlemen!

Kenneth E. Melson, JD

For 35 years, Kenneth E. Melson has distinguished himself as a respected leader in the U.S. Attorney community and has demonstrated a commitment to justice throughout his career in public service. Ken earned a BA from Denison University in 1970, and received his JD with Honors from the National Law Center at George Washington University in 1973. He currently serves as Director of the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys at the Department of Justice.

Ken has served as a federal prosecutor for nearly 24 years, joining the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia in June 1983 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. In June 1986, he became the First Assistant U.S. Attorney and also served as the Interim U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia on three separate occasions: July-October 1991; March-September 1993; and April-September 2001. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Ken served in the Arlington County (Virginia) Commonwealth's Attorney's Office from 1975 to 1983.

Ken's dedication to the Academy began when he was elected into the Jurisprudence Section as Provisional Member in 1983. He was promoted to Member in 1988 and to Fellow in 1989. He served as the Jurisprudence Section's Program Chair in 1989, as Secretary in 1990, and as Chair in 1991. He was the Jurisprudence Section's Award Recipient in 1993. Leading to his term as the 54th President of the Academy in 2004, Ken served in many different capacities including Student Academy Faculty member, Program Chair for the 48th Annual Meeting in 1996, Workshops Chair in 1997, as Liaison between AAFS and IAI, AAFS Vice President in 1998, Chair of the AAFS Exhibitor Liaison Committee from 1997 through 2008, as a member of the Bylaws Committee from 1998-2001, as a member of the Long Term Planning Committee from 1998-2002, again as AAFS Vice President in 2000, and as Treasurer of the Academy from 2000-2002. Ken has served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Forensic Sciences since 2001 and currently serves as a member of the AAFS Ethics Committee.

In addition to his AAFS activities, Ken has served as the Chair for the Council of Scientific Society Presidents as well as a board member of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board. Ken currently serves on the Advisory Council of the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law at Stetson University College of Law. In addition to memberships on numerous boards and societies, Ken has served for 20 years as a Profissorial Lecturer at The George Washington University Law School.
Joseph L. Peterson, D.Crim

Professor Joseph L. Peterson’s research and publications have monitored the evolution of forensic science for more than thirty years. He received his Doctorate in Criminology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1971, specializing in criminalistics/forensic science. Presently, Professor Peterson serves as Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics at California State University in Los Angeles. Previously, he served as Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago from 1979-2005. Before coming to UIC in 1979, he served as Executive Director of the Forensic Sciences Foundation in Rockville, MD.

Professor Peterson’s dedication to the profession is long and impressive. His roles as a grantor and grantee were vital to the growth of forensic science in the 1970s. With the passage of President Lyndon Johnson’s “Safe Streets Act,” the Department of Justice created “The National Institute of Law Enforcement Criminal Justice” (later shortened to NICJ). The Institute was concerned with the improvement of the traditional four categories of law enforcement: Police, Prosecution, Court, and Corrections. Professor Peterson was hired to create a forensic science program, and during his four-year tenure, he was largely responsible for the early recognition by the Federal government of the value of forensic science and for much of the forensic science research accomplished during that period. The Forensic Sciences Foundation received several grants through Professor Peterson’s program of which three are the most notable: The Assessment Project, Laboratory Proficiency Testing, and the Certification Program.

Professor Peterson was elected into the AAFS General Section as a Provisional Member in 1975. He was promoted to Member in 1976 and to Fellow in 1977. He has served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Forensic Sciences for 24 years, and as the Journal’s Book Review Editor for the last four years. He served on the Academy’s History Committee in the mid 1990s, was an important contributor to the 50th Anniversary History of the Academy book that was published in 1998, and is currently a member of the Milestones Committee. Professor Peterson serves on the American Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the California Association of Criminalists. Additionally, he has published numerous articles, chapters, and books throughout his very distinguished career.

AAFS President Bruce Goldberger and FSF Chair John McDowell presenting Julie Lesniak with the 2007-08 FSF Jan Bashirski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Grant Award.

The Armed Forces Color Guard escorting the flags prior to the Keynote Session.

AAFS Fellows Gil Brogdon (General), Patty McFeeley (Pathology/Biology), and Steven Batterman (Engineering Sciences) enjoying the President’s Reception.

FSF Emerging Scientist Award Winners Behnoush Memari (left) and Natalie Shirley (right) proudly display their plaques.

Criminalistics Section Fellows Joe Bono, Barry Fisher, and Tom Nasser stepping out to the President’s Reception.
A handful of the 200+ international attendees during the International Attendees’ Welcoming Breakfast.

The Goldberger Family (l-r: Jacob, Bruce, Arlene, and Sarah) serving as hosts during the President’s Reception at the American Red Cross National Headquarters.

AAFS President Bruce Goldberger and CFSO Legislative Consultant Beth Lavach celebrating a successful Keynote Session.

Posters depicting AAFS Past Presidents were on display to celebrate the Academy’s 60th Anniversary.

Auctioneer Rich Tanton encouraging bids to benefit the Forensic Sciences Foundation.

2008-09 Officers Elected

Carol E. Henderson, 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 20, 2008, in Washington, DC.

President-Elect: Thomas L. Bohan, PhD, JD
Vice President: James A. Adcock, PhD
Vice President: Robert E. Barsley, DDS, JD
Secretary: Joseph P. Bono, MA
Treasurer: Douglas H. Ubelaker, PhD

Fellows-At-Large
In addition to the Officers, the following eleven section Fellows-at-Large comprise the 2008-09 AAFS Board of Directors.

Criminalistics: Richard E. Tontarski, Jr., MS
Digital & Multimedia Sciences: Carrie M. Whitcomb, MSFS
Engineering Sciences: Robert N. Anderson, PhD, PE
General: John E. Gerns, MFS
Jurisprudence: Betty Layne DesPortes, JD
Odontology: Robert B.J. Dorion, DDS
Pathology/Biology: Tracey S. Corey, MD
Physical Anthropology: Norman J. Sauer, PhD
Psychiatry & Behavioral Science: Daniel A. Martell, PhD
Questioned Documents: John L. Sang, MS
Toxicology: Marilyn A. Huestis, PhD
2008-09 Section Officers

Criminalistics
Chair: Hiram K. Evans, MSc
Secretary: Anjali R. Swienton, MFS, JD

Digital & Multimedia Sciences
Chair: Zeno J. Geradts, PhD
Secretary: David W. Baker, MFS

Engineering Sciences
Chair: Harold Franck, MSEE, PE
Secretary: Roy R. Crawford, PE

General
Chair: Paul E. Kish, MS
Secretary: Robert C. Gaffney, MFS, MBA

Jurisprudence
Chair: Roderick T. Kennedy, JD
Secretary: Joseph J. Maltese, JD

Odontology
Chair: Gary M. Berman, DDS
Secretary: Richard A. Weems, DMD, MS

Pathology/Biology
Chair: J. Scott Denton, MD
Secretary: Craig T. Mallak, JD, MD

Physical Anthropology
Chair: Laura C. Fulginiti, PhD
Secretary: Thomas D. Holland, PhD

Psychiatry & Behavioral Science
Chair: Stephen B. Billick, MD
Secretary: John L. Young, MD

Questioned Documents
Chair: Jane A. Lewis, MFS
Secretary: Carl R. McClary, BA

Toxicology
Chair: Peter R. Stout, PhD
Secretary: Jeri D. Ropero-Miller, PhD

Thank You 2008 Sponsors!
The Academy would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support at the 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting:

Aegis Sciences Corporation
sponsored the Toxicology Section’s Awardees Recognition Reception

Agilent Technologies
sponsored the AAFS Cyber Cafe, Workshop #9, & the Toxicology Section’s Awardees Recognition Reception

American Institute of Forensic Education
sponsored Workshop #20

Applied Biosystems
sponsored the Criminalistics Section’s Reception

Cerilliant Corporation
sponsored the Toxicology Section’s Open Forum

Cerilliant Corporation
sponsored the Toxicology Section’s Awardees Recognition Reception

Immunalysis Corporation
sponsored the Toxicology Section’s Awardees Recognition Reception

Neogen Corporation
sponsored Toxicology Section’s Thursday Morning Break

NMS Labs
sponsored Toxicology Section’s Friday Afternoon Break

Shamrock Glass
sponsored the Toxicology Section’s Open Forum

United Chemical Technologies
sponsored the Toxicology Section’s Friday Afternoon Break

Waters Corporation
sponsored Toxicology Section’s Awardees Recognition Reception, Thursday Afternoon Break, Open Forum, & Friday Afternoon Break
The following are the 2009 Section Program Chairs:

**Criminalistics:**
Matthew R. Wood, MS (609-584-5051, ext. 5445; wood8176@aol.com)

**Digital & Multimedia Sciences:**
Eoghan Casey, MA (202-464-5806; eoghan@disclosedigital.com)
Mark Pollitt, MS (407-823-0842; mpollitt@mail.ucf.edu)

**Engineering Sciences:**
Kurt D. Weiss, MS (805-964-1110; kurt.weiss@asr-engineering.com)

**General:**
Joanna L. Collins, MFS (703-986-7503; joanna.l.collins@gmail.com)
Angela A. Geis, BS (713-792-0210; ageis@mdanderson.org)

**Jurisprudence:**
Alan J. Black, JD (413-732-5831; alannblack@alblack.com)
Paul Messner, JD (859-341-3901; firecycle@insightbb.com)

**Odontology:**
Paula C. Brunit, DDS (972-291-2591; lovtx@aol.com)

**Pathology/Biology:**
Jeffery K. Tomberlin, PhD (979-845-9718; jktomberlin@ag.tamu.edu)

**Physical Anthropology:**
Bradley J. Adams, PhD (212-447-2760; badams@ocme.nyc.gov)

**Psychiatry & Behavioral Science:**
Dean De Crisce, MD (732-499-5653; decrisce.md@medscape.com)

**Questioned Documents:**
Carolyn Bayer-Broring, MFS (703-285-2482; carolyn.bayerbroring@dhs.gov)
Gregory R. Dalzell, MA (703-285-2482; gregory.dalzell@dhs.gov)
Chester W. Ubowski, BA (303-239-4303; chet.ubowski@cdps.state.co.us)

**Toxicology:**
Kenneth E. Ferslew, PhD (423-439-6424; ferslew@etsu.edu)
Cynthia L. Windsor, JD
2009 Annual Meeting Program Co-Chair

A Word From Your 2009 Program Co-Chair

The 60th Anniversary Meeting in Washington, DC was a great success! It was a wonderful and enlightening experience being in the Nation’s Capitol with so much history around us. I hope you all had a chance to get out and see some of the sites. The success of the meeting was made possible by our fantastic Academy staff who worked tirelessly, as always, to organize these events. This year we had representatives from 64 countries who shared their ideas, research, and successes with us. We had the best presentations from all sections that we have ever had before. The work you shared made this meeting a most interesting and educational experience. Your presentations were outstanding and have encouraged each of us in our pursuit in furtherance of the forensic sciences. We are proud to have a new section, “Digital & Multimedia Sciences,” and expect to see great things from those working in that field. Their work allows the other forensic sciences to visually see the work we do and is part of the future of teaching the world what we do in forensic science.

The Academy theme for next year is Forensic Science: Envisioning and Creating the Future. Everything you do as forensic scientists increases our knowledge and understanding of our environment. Your research and work has created new and more accurate tools with which to determine the “truth” for a court of law. You hold people’s lives in your hands every time you testify about the evidence you examine in a case. The results of your work on one piece of information may be the determining factor in the outcome of a trial.

The August 1 deadline for abstract submissions is fast approaching. Please submit your abstracts to your Section Program Chair as early as possible this year to make their job a little easier. Contact your colleagues in other sections regarding multidisciplinary sessions. Share with us all your research and achievements in furtherance of forensic science at our meeting next year in Denver, CO. We have confidence that it will be the most exhilarating event we have ever seen. Bring your skis and your warm coats, and get ready to fly down the slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

AAFS Topics of Interest And Continuing Education Needs Requested

What topics should be addressed at the Academy’s 61st Annual Meeting? AAFS members are asked to send suggestions for topics of interest and continuing education needs for the 2009 AAFS Annual 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 Denver, CO; send your suggestions today. Should you have any questions, please contact Sondra Doolittle (sdoollite@aafs.org) at the AAFS office.
Annual Meeting Volunteers Exceed Expectations!

The 2008 Annual Meeting Volunteers were fantastic! Thank you to Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs Anjali Swienton and Susan Ballou. The support the volunteers provided was insurmountable.

The volunteers assist AAFS Staff at the scene and behind the scenes (from answering office phones 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.

Patricia Aagaard
Jo Nell Aarons
Taha Ahmad
Roger Allard
Ashley Anderson
Kimberly Anderson
Naila Bhatri
Laura Bostian
Valerie Bostwick
Glenn Bowersox
Heather Brand
Michael Brandhagen
Eugene Brooks
Kimberley Brooks
Jodi Leigh Brown
Tarah Brown
Rebecca Bryant
Natalie Cain
Stacie Calkins
Sarah Carney
Amber Carr
Courtney Carroll
Josh Carver
Courtney Casciano
Walesa Castro
Lindsay Catlin
Kathleen Coleman
Nikia Coomber
Rosana Cosme hizon
Diana Crowell
Siobhan Cullen
Natalie D'antonio
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Lauryn Degreoff
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Ryan Deleon
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Angela Dolph
Terri Dove
Allison Doyle
Tony Dunford
Patricia Elswick
Marie Elaine Escuadro
Steve Evers
Morgan Falk
Anne Fehn
James Fenn
Dorothy Emma Ferrer
Carol Flannery
Jeremy C. Fletcher
Brianna Foulke
Roxanne Franckowski
Joshua Friedman
Valthea Courtney Fry
Jenny Gallo
Jane Garrison
Bryan Geer
Lois Geer
Amy Geller
Kim Gerhardt
Hans Gidion
Jim Gilliam
Scott Grammer
Dianna Griffin
Erin Guthrie
Naomi Hamlin-madrid
Chandra Harris
Lindsay Hauer
Emily Herren
Jared Hiester
Brianna Hill
Luke Hilton
Catherine A. Hinkle
Bonnie Ho
Howard Holness
Tiffany Hom
Jennifer Hornick
Davia Hudson
Sonia Hunt
Carolyn Hurst
G.M.A. Induwarra
Stacia Jackson
Jacqueline Jarzombek
Eric Jensen
Diana Johnson
Patricia Joiner
Monica Joshi
Andrea Kaminski
Roman Karas
Stacie Kaufman
Joanna Kay
Sue Kazanjian
Marc Keirstead
Jessica Knittel
Sandu Koch
Denise Kropaczek
Maiko Kusano
Hanh Lai
Nicole Lalande
Yvonne Ledesma
Joanne Lee
Xin Li
Brian Lohne
Shandra Lynch
Michael Macias
Gurpreet Mann
Catherine Massafr
Christine Mastrovito
Julie Maybruck
Alexandra McCoy
Ashley Mcclellan
Regina McGowan
Sarah Meleod
Anne Miller
Jennifer Miller
Jamie Mims
Reuben El Moreton
Shannon Morgan
Christina Mulligan
James Murphy
Kiley Murray
Caitlin Muse
Philip Nase
Timmy Neece
Alex Nham
Michelle Nowden
Teresa Nugent
Alyssa Nystrom
Sean Oberski
Linda O'connor
Carolyln O'dell
Anje Olsen
Marissa Olvera
Michelle Orton
Jude Osamor
Ashley Pahl
Amanda Pal
Tiffany Paugh
Nicole Payne
Sarah Pelling
Diane Penola
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Kay Pithuck
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Jerome Podorski
Stacy Poetz
Deborah Polanskey
Paola Prada
Erica Leigh Pusch
David Rees
Eva Reichardt
Pam Reynolds
Heather Rice
Jodi Richards
Jarunda Richardson
Kevin Risk
Amanda Roberts
Jennifer Robinson
Kristen Ruskie
Dara Salvador
Lyndsie Schantz
Jessica Schneider
Natalie Sculill
Jessica Skillman
Paul Smith
Jennifer Snipe
Cara Spencer
Elizabeth "Bets" Stickney
Vasilios Stoukas
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David Tiller
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Tim Wallace
Daniel Watsula
Rachel Webster
Nikki Welch
Mike Weldon
Heather Wert
Jessica Williams
Sierra Williams
Lynsey Wills
Jessica Wiks
Robyn Wolfe
Mark Wozar
Mary Yohannan
Jennifer Zeffer
Megan Zellner
Keena Zitkovich

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CRIMINALISTICS

Source: Anjali R. Swinton, MFS, JD, Section Secretary

 Hopefully, all of you who attended the conference in Washington, DC enjoyed the keynote, workshops, breakfasts, lunches, special sessions, and scientific sessions as much as we enjoyed putting them together. Attendance was at an all-time high with over 4,100 people registered. It was great to see people taking advantage of the full program. Saturday’s DNA session was standing room only before 8:00 a.m. and the trace evidence session packed the room by mid-morning. Looks like we’ll need a bigger room for Saturday in Denver!

Keep in mind that August 1st will be here before you know it. This deadline for abstract submissions is firm. Consider how you can contribute to next year’s program and get those abstracts in early. Please watch for some new Academy rules on abstract submissions and commercial disclosure to be forthcoming. Keep in mind President Henderson’s theme for the 2009 conference, Forensic Science: Envisioning and Creating the Future.

If you’d like to moderate at next year’s meeting, please contact Section Program Chair Matt Wood (wood8176@aol.com). If you’d like to get more involved in the Academy and would like to join one of the newly resurrected Criminalistics Section committees (regional associations or membership), please contact Section Chair Hiram Evans (hevans@sbcSD.org ).

To those of you whose papers do get accepted for next year, please adhere to all Academy deadlines. In addition, please plan to have your power point presentations to your moderator the week before the conference so we can pre-load all presentations on the laptops. This worked well this year and allowed for smooth transitions between papers and panels, and preserved maximum time for speakers to actually present their topics.

Thanks again to everyone who presented posters and oral talks at this year’s meeting and to all the moderators who kept the program running smoothly. See you in Denver.

DIGITAL & MULTIMEDIA SCIENCES

Source: Zeno J. Geradts, PhD, Section Chair

It is with great excitement to announce the approval of the Digital & Multimedia Sciences Section! The section has started out with 42 members and is looking forward to continued growth. Many thanks to all the work of Carrie Whitcomb, David Baker, Mark Pollitt, and many others who helped develop this section. A special thanks to Past President Bruce Goldberger, the AAFS Board members, and Anne Warren’s very professional staff for their continued support and interactions that improved our policies and procedures.

If you’d like to moderate at next year’s meeting, please contact Section Program Chair Matt Wood (wood8176@aol.com). If you’d like to get more involved in the Academy and would like to join one of the newly resurrected Criminalistics Section committees (regional associations or membership), please contact Section Chair Hiram Evans (hevans@sbcSD.org ).

Inaugural Digital & Multimedia Sciences Section Officers: Board of Directors Representative Carrie Whitcomb; Section Chair Zeno Geradts; and Section Secretary David Baker.

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During the AAFS conference there was one workshop and two days of presentations covering new developments of interest in Digital Evidence & Multimedia Sciences.

During the section’s first business meeting, the section officers were elected, the section’s standing committees were formed, and chairs were appointed, as listed in the following paragraphs.

The Program Committee consists of a Section Program Chair, a Co-Chair, and other members appointed to the committee, and will serve for a period of one year, except the Program Committee Co-Chair, who will serve for two years and become the Committee Chair in the second year, in order to provide continuity. The Program Committee is responsible for developing the section’s annual scientific program in accordance with guidance provided by the Academy Program Committee and the Academy staff, as well as for overseeing development of other section program activities at the annual meeting of the Academy. The Program Committee Chair is Mark Pollitt and the Co-Chair is Eoghan Casey. The committee members are Jim Lyle, Phil Craiger, and Mary Horvath.

The Membership Committee consists of a Section Committee Chair and other members appointed to the committee, and will serve for a period of one year. The Membership Committee is responsible for helping identify and assist in recruitment of qualified persons to become members of the section. This includes outreach to other organizations and groups, effectively communicating the section’s existence and goals. The Chair is Ron Jewell, and committee members are Bryan Brubaker and William Wallace.

The Awards Committee consists of a Committee Chair and other members appointed to the committee, and will serve for a period of one year. The Awards Committee is responsible for evaluating papers and presentations for the Best Paper Award. Papers in competition must be proffered by August 1 of each year. The Program Committee Chair will provide the Awards Committee with the proffered papers and presentations in September of each year. The Awards Committee will request additional information concerning proffered papers, as it deems appropriate. The committee will determine the best proffered paper, for acknowledgement at the Section Business Meeting in February at the AAFS Annual Meeting. The Chair is Jeff Salyards and the committee members are Rhesa Gilliland and Nicole Beebe.

The Ethics Committee consists of a chair and other members appointed to the committee, and will serve for a period of one year. The Ethics Committee is responsible for identifying topics of concern regarding ethics within the Digital & Multimedia Sciences areas of interest, and bringing them to the attention of the section in the interest of education, training, and prevention. The Chair is Marc Rogers and committee members are Scott Ksander and Mike Piper.

The section created an Ad Hoc Committee for Vendor Liaison. The primary role of this committee will be to seek sponsorship for a possible section social event or reception at next year’s meeting and seek potential contributors to the section’s financial account. The Chair is Maria Carroll and committee members are Herb Blitzer and Christopher Day.

The section also created an Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee. This committee will review the by-laws related to the section, in particular review the current requirements for promotion and publication. The Chair is Dan Ryan and committee members are Herb Blitzer and Doug Lacey.

Section members wishing to participate on a committee should contact the committee chair and express their desire to serve.

During the AAFS Section Officers’ meeting it appeared that we start from scratch with the section finances. The section’s income is derived from a portion of each member’s dues and from a portion of the income from workshops. However, it is possible to for individuals and organizations to financially sponsor the section directly by sending a check to the AAFS and designating the funds to be applied to the budget of the Digital & Multimedia Sciences Section.

We are looking forward to an expanding section and it is a challenging time to form the new section. As Section Chair from the Netherlands, I am also looking forward to international cooperation and exchange of information.

ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Source: Harold Franck, MSEE, PE, Section Chair

The business meeting of the Engineering Sciences Section took place on Wednesday, February 20, in Washington, DC. Harold Franck was elected Section Chair and Roy Crawford was elected Section Secretary. The Section Program Chair for the 2009 meeting is once again Kurt Weiss. These three individuals will be dividing the writing of the newsletter articles for the upcoming year. Be sure to peruse the upcoming articles on the developments leading to next year’s meeting.

Tom Bohan delivering the AAFS Treasurer’s Report to the membership during the Annual Business Meeting.
At the meeting, 30 members were in attendance. These members constitute approximately one-fifth of the total membership of the Engineering Sciences Section. It is hoped that participation in the annual meeting will be increased in the future through the drive for new members. During the meeting, the following people were appointed by the new Chair: Laura Liptai - Student Academy and Young Forensic Scientists Forum; Adam Aleksander - ASTM; Roy Crawford and Holly Adams - Membership; Bob Anderson (California) - Board Liaison; Tom Scheffick - NAFE; Donn Peterson - HFES and Parliamentarian; Hal Wilkinson - Awards; Kurt Weiss - Program Chair; Carole Chaski and Tom Bohan - Forensic Futures Committee; and Anastasia Michaels - Treasurer. Additionally, James Millette received the Thomas Payne Award. The section congratulates James Millette and Holly Adams for achieving the Fellow status.

Overall, the participation at the meetings has increased and the scientific presentations have improved. However, two areas that need further development are membership and quality of scientific presentations at the technical sessions. Roy Crawford and Holly Adams will be spearheading efforts for recruitment of new members. Roy will be investigating the possibility of setting up a Yahoo or Google group to discuss forensic engineering in order to increase awareness of the field and hopefully attract new members. As mentioned, the quality of the scientific presentations of the section is improving every year. Potential presenters should be encouraged to include mathematically rigorous, experimentally verified results. It is not too early to start thinking of topics to present at the 2009 meeting. Remember that the deadline for abstract submissions is August 1, 2008.

GENERAL

Source: Robert C. Gaffney, MFS, Section Secretary

The 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, was a resounding success. Many thanks to Section Program Co-Chairs Joanna Collins and Ron Meyer for developing and implementing this year’s scientific sessions. The contributions of the members by way of oral and poster presentations are truly what make the General Section program a success. Thank you.

The General Section contributed 78 platform presentations, 16 poster presentations, 5 workshops, and 4 breakfast/lunch seminars. The section luncheon speaker, Rick Tontarski, Chief of Forensics, USACIL, spoke of how forensics and biometrics are used on the battlefield and the impact this will have on forensics in the future. His presentation was exceedingly informative and interesting. Anyone who has not attended the section luncheon in the past is encouraged to register and attend during the Denver 2009 meeting. The 2009 Program Committee Chair is Joanna Collins and Angela Geis will serve as Co-Chair. Joanna encourages all members to begin working on presentations for the 2009 meeting. The August 1st deadline will come fast.

The section’s annual business meeting was well attended, with 127 signing in for the meeting. Paul Kish was re-elected Section Chair and Robert Gaffney was re-elected Section Secretary. John Gerns was elected as the Section’s Board Representative to replace James Adcock who was elected AAFS Vice President.

The Forensic Sciences Foundation continues to support the forensic sciences through the funding of research projects. The General Section membership again chose to donate $3,000.00 to the FSF. The remaining details of the business meeting will be published in the minutes.

JURISPRUDENCE

Source: Roderick T. Kennedy, JD, Section Chair

The section is proud to loan AAFS its President, Carol Henderson, and Program Chair, Cynthia Windsor this year. Thanks to all the hard work that had Jurisprudence Section members involved in four successful workshops at the 2008 meeting! Next, many thanks to those who presented papers and moderated in the scientific sessions. Attendance was great for a number of papers, with people being turned away at the door at some sessions.

Of the many superb lawyers in the United States, Prof. Michael Tigar stands tall as a defender of our Constitution at home, and of human rights worldwide. He was kind enough to be the Jurisprudence Section’s luncheon speaker, and remind us that it is frequently the use of scientific expertise that lends weight and

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legitimacy to the judicial process—a factor that is recently being recognized worldwide, and contributes an example to developing judicial systems interested in furthering the rule of law.

Thanks to Bob Joling, Don Harper Mills, and Andre Moenssens for their hard work on the section’s history, which we hope to see in at least draft form by the Denver meeting. Academy Board Member Betty Layne DesPortes has been hard at work developing procedures for ethical complaints in the Academy is worthy of our applause and thanks as well.

Heading to Denver next year, we are encouraged about the section’s prospects for a few reasons: We have a lot of very motivated and excited people from the section upon whom we can rely for assistance. Second, before leaving DC, several ideas for workshops were suggested—familial DNA searches, document examining, and expert abuse at the hands of attorneys—how to avoid it and how to fight back. We hope these develop into solid programs and hope we can persuade more topics as timely or controversial.

Striking a different note, one wonders about ways to make the 2009 Section luncheon be more conducive to conviviality and gustatory fulfillment. It has been mentioned that the Colorado Thanatopractic Association is considering presenting an award in Alferd Packer’s name to the section’s first Retired Fellow, Jim Starrs, for his very visible work to encourage people everywhere to consider cremation rather than make his acquaintance post mortem. We anticipate continuing to receive his ‘Scientific Sleuthing’ in the coming year.

The section’s Membership Committee is committed to elevating our surfeit of Affiliates and Members to Member and Fellow status in the next year. We will need everyone’s help to accomplish this. Encourage those you know who qualify for promotion. Since presenting papers and moderating sessions is the best path, expanding our programming is obviously needed to accommodate this goal. Also, with at least three of our attendees this year being new authors, we would like to know the section’s opinion about including presentations of authors’ works as final presentations during the scientific sessions, to include book signings after the session.

Speaking of authors, on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at the 60th Anniversary Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Washington, DC, Robert Joling, together with co-author, Philip Van Praag, released their recent book entitled ‘An Open & Shut Case.’ Their book details their investigative work based on irrefutable factual data and forensic science findings relating to the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968, that occurred at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California. The book presents exclusive details of Van Praag’s scientific discovery of the presence, position, and identity of a second gun in the RFK assassination. A portion of these discoveries became the basis of a Discovery Times television documentary shown on June 6, 2007. For the first time, Joling presents his almost 40 year involvement in this case. Coverage is included of meetings with key principals such as the medical examiner/coroner Dr. Thomas Noguchi (who performed the autopsy on RFK), and the first victim shot that night, Paul Schrade, and various medical, police, and judicial entities. As a former judge, trial lawyer, and friend and counsel to a number of the involved parties in this case, Joling provides a unique insight and perspective on the events and previous findings associated with the assassination. Through the combination of Joling’s cornucopia of facts and experiences coupled, with Van Praag’s forensic science audio engineering discoveries, the authors permit the reader to judge the facts, thereby permitting the reader to be the final decision maker. You can read the reviews and obtain further information by going to www.anopenandshutcse.com. Should you desire to purchase a copy of this book, there is a form on the website that can be printed out, filled in, and mailed to JV & Co., LLC, % C.O.I.E., PO Box 1868, Tucson, AZ 85702.

The following is a list of the 2008-09 AAFS Jurisprudence Section Leadership:

- AAFS President: Carol Henderson
- AAFS Program Chair: Cynthia Windsor
- Section Chair: Hon. Roderick Kennedy
- Section Board Member: Betty Layne DesPortes
- Section Secretary: Hon. Joseph Maltese
- Section Program Co-Chairs: Alan Black, Paul Messner
- Nominating Committee: Harry Miles, Danielle Ruttman, Margaret Tarver
- Membership Committee: Gil Sapir, Sheri Mecklenburg, Theodore Schults
- Awards Committee: Betty Layne DesPortes, A.R.W. Forrest, Roderick Kennedy

Every section member is encouraged to take the opportunity to suggest how we can make the Jurisprudence Section and the Academy better. Please email your thoughts to: rkennedy@loquitur.com.

**ODONTOLOGY**

**Source:** Richard A. Weems, DMD, MS, Section Secretary

The recent AAFS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, was exceptional in many ways. Congratulations to those in leadership positions for their efforts in providing the membership with such a well coordinated and productive week of activities both social and professional in nature.

One very important item at this past Odontology Section Business Meeting involved a change in the *Policy and Procedure Manual* related to the educational and experience requirements for...
acceptance as an Associate Member of the Odontology Section. The Forensic Odontology Course Evaluation Committee (now the Entry Level Educational Committee) was tasked to review and revise these requirements in order to make them more specific, while also attempting to broaden the allowable educational opportunities. Much of the behind the scenes effort in collecting course data and the evaluation process was contributed by Adam Freeman and Roy Sonkin.

The essence of the proposed changes which were approved at the meeting involved the minimal educational/training requirements for section entry. In the past, educational requirements were met via participation in the forensic odontology courses held by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) in Washington and the Southwest Symposium at the School of Dentistry, University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. These two courses have set the educational gold standard for many years and will continue to do so. There are now several approved courses that may be used alone or in combination to reach the educational threshold of 10 points. The evaluation process of recognized courses will continue to be conducted by the Entry Level Educational Committee minimally every two years. The credentials and experience of those teaching new courses and the amount of hands-on training involved will be critical components to acceptance and point rating. Local and “informational” courses will most likely not be accepted.

The courses currently approved and the number of points that will be credited toward entry level fulfillment are: AFIP (10); University of Detroit Mercy (6); Long Island, NY (5); McGill University, modules 4 & 5 (20 minimally, online and participation course), Miami, Dade County (5); Southwest Symposium, all workshops (14); Tufts University (5); University of Texas CERF Fellowship (44).

More detailed descriptions of these courses may be found at their individual websites and announcements related to these courses are typically listed in the “Meetings & Conferences” section of the AAFS Newsletter. Additional Odontology entry requirements are listed at www.aafs.org. These membership entry requirements have become the new standard for all persons applying for associate membership into our section. Kudos to outgoing Section Chair Tom David for having the vision of establishing a better and more precise set of entry requirements.

Also, congratulations to the many presenters in this year’s Odontology Section Scientific Sessions for providing very interesting and informative research topics.

The meeting in Washington, DC, unfortunately aligned up with the coldest week of year, but the program and facilities kept us all warm and engaged. Hopefully, everyone did brave the weather a bit and get the opportunity to visit some of the sites the Nation’s Capital has to offer. Congratulations to Scott Denton as the new 2008-09 Section Chair, Craig Mallak as Section Secretary, and Jeffrey Tomberlin as Section Program Chair. Tracey Corey continues to serve as the section’s representative to the Academy Board of Directors and makes sure that issues that important to our section are recognized at the Academy level.

The 2007-08 Program Chair was Kim Collins and her efforts provided us with a fascinating and seamless scientific program. Unless you have served in this position, you have no idea about the amount of effort it takes to pull together such a fine program and we all owe her a debt of gratitude. The section had 114 abstracts submitted, 102 of which were accepted. The number of abstracts from overseas increased by 25%, to almost one-half of the total abstracts. This is a testament to how the Academy continues to grow as an internationally recognized organization for forensic science. As always, thanks to all the moderators who did an excellent job keeping the sessions flowing smoothly and kept the Power Point gremlins from interfering with the presentations. The joint scientific sessions with the Toxicology Section reviewing medical devices drew a large and engaged audience. The section was well represented in other meeting functions sponsoring three breakfast seminars and five courses. A special thanks also goes to Amy Gruszeczki for stepping up and taking over the Best Resident Paper Award duties. There were 10 papers submitted this year covering a variety of interesting subjects. The Pathology/Biology Annual Business Luncheon was well attended and the recently retired, but never one to slow down, Marcello Fierro gave us a lifetime of insight as the featured speaker. The luncheon was again sold-out and will be continued at future meetings.

The section continues to address the issue of organ/tissue retention at autopsy and court cases addressing property rights and protected interests are slowly making their way through the legal system. The Academy has published a statement that supports the position of medical examiners and coroners that such organs/tissue must be retained and disposed of as needed to carry out death investigation duties. Victor Weedn continues to closely follow this issue and keep us informed.
Once again, Keith Pinkard, Chair of the Research Award Committee was unable to give away the $6000 for research. This funding is still available the section encourages members to apply for this grant. Please submit your research proposals for his committee’s consideration.

There are numerous opportunities to serve the Pathology/Biology Section on a variety committees. The section and Academy represents the interests of our profession and can only do so with continued participation of members who volunteer their time and talents. If you are interested in serving on a section committee please contact Scott Denton (sdentonmd@gmail.com) or Craig Mallak (cmallak@aol.com).

As we look forward to the meeting in Denver next year we anticipate some time honored traditions such as Bring Your Own Slides Night and The Jay Dix Memorial Bonus Day. We also hope to have a few new program features as the section continues to be a leader in field of forensic science.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Source: Thomas D. Holland, PhD, Section Secretary

Congratulations to the incoming Physical Anthropology Section Chair Laura Fulginia, and a well-deserved thank you to outgoing Chair Michael Warren.

Congratulations to Clyde Snow who will be the recipient of the Douglas M. Lucas Medal at the upcoming IAFS Triennial Meeting in New Orleans in July. Jane Buikstra, Hugh Berryman (and co-author, Alicja Kutyia), and Heather Garvin were awarded the T. Dale Stewart, Kerley, and Larry Angel Awards, respectively. Natalie Shirley was a FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Recipient.

The deadline for the Ellis Kerley Forensic Sciences Foundation’s annual scholarship to a graduate student in forensic anthropology is April 30. Criteria can be found at www.kerleyfoundation.org.

Those volunteering to moderate sessions at next year’s meeting in Denver should send their names to Section Program Chair Bradley Adams (badams@ocme.nyc.gov). He’s also interested in getting an early start on symposia, so send him your suggestions. Bear in mind that Brad now works in New York City, and as such has a great deal of pent-up frustration associated with city life. He will wield a very red pen when he starts to put together next year’s program. Start polishing up your abstracts now.

Brad would also like to point out that the Office of Chief Medical Examiner in New York City is initiating a Visiting Scientist Program for graduate students and professionals in the field of Forensic Anthropology. Please contact Brad for more information.

The Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology met January 8 - 9, at the Central Identification Lab in Hawaii. See www.SWGANTH.org for updates.

A note on policy: The AAFS newsletter is an excellent way to communicate with members of the Physical Anthropology Section. Announcements of all types are welcome; however, those that directly lead to financial gain on an individual’s part are discouraged.

2007-08 Section Secretary Scott Denton presenting Edmund Donoghue with the Milton Henber Award.

PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Source: Stephen Bates Billick, MD, Section Chair

The Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section’s 2008 Annual Meeting began with a joint workshop with the Toxicology Section, which was well received and oversubscribed by attendees. The annual section business meeting was warm and collegial. The section has savings of $16,878 and $9,241 in the Rosner Award Fund. The section is continuing to devote 25% of its unexpended fund annually as a contribution to this fund. The section will retain the 75% remaining unexpended funds to help support the possibility of the luncheon for members immediately before the business meeting next year in Denver.

On Thursday, the section held a “pay-as-you-go” luncheon at a French bistro, Petits Plats, and was attended by 16 members and one guest. Everyone had a great time and a delicious lunch. It was decided to move the lunch next year to the business meeting slot so as to encourage attendance at the business meeting and not to interfere with the scientific presentations.
Stephen Billick was re-elected Section Chair, and John Young was re-elected Section Secretary. Dr. Billick appointed Dean DeCrisce to be the Section Program Chair. Dr. Billick appointed Richard Rosner to head a committee to look at uses of the $16,000 which might encourage membership growth in the section. Dan Martell proposed a new membership category of research psychologists, and the section voted unanimous approval. Dan Martell, Richard Rosner, Robert Weinstock, J. Arturo Silva, and Alan Felthous were appointed to a committee to look at other potential forensic mental health specialists as possible additional membership categories for the section. Dr. Billick also appointed Richard Rosner, J. Arturo Silva, and Dan Martell as the section’s Nominating Committee for 2008-09.

Dr. Bernet reported on the Wiley Encyclopedia of Forensic Science project and distributed fliers of the upcoming book. Dr. Billick noted that Dr. Bernet is the Treasurer of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Felthous discussed exciting collaborative panels between AAFS and the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL). Dr. Billick noted that Dr. Felthous is the immediate Past President of AAPL. Dr. Weinstock reminded everyone of the various FSF awards available for application, research, and travel.

Cecilia Leonard received the Rosner Award for Best Paper by a Fellow in Training and presented her paper at the close of the business meeting to the membership present.

Plan to come to Denver in February 2009, and while you are at it, submit a presentation! You can submit online through www.aafs.org and the process is simple and user friendly. The deadline is strictly adhered to: August 1st – so submit early.

Finally, if you receive this in time can get to New York, a fascinating Saturday awaits you at the NYU Medical School, 550 First Avenue. The Tri-State chapter of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law is collaborating with Royal College of Psychiatrists’ Forensic Division to offer a conference which will compare and contrast our systems of forensic practice. There will undoubtedly be illuminating speakers from both sides of “the pond.” Details are available from the program chair Jeremy Colley of the Psychiatry Department at Bellevue (jhnstoncolley@gmail.com).
Finally, we congratulate Brian Lindblom on his receipt of the Ordway Hilton award for his outstanding and tireless service and dedication to the field. Well deserved Brian!

TOXICOLOGY

Source: Jeri D. Ropero-Miller, PhD, Section Secretary

The Scientific Program for the 2008 Toxicology Section was well received and lived up to its great expectation. If there is anything we can do in planning for 2009 to build upon your experiences in Washington, DC, please share them with Ken Ferslew, the new Toxicology Section Program Chair (ferslew@etsu.edu).

Washington, DC was a great meeting place for those able to attend the AAFS annual meeting this year. Attendance was more than 4,000 throughout the week. The Toxicology Section had almost 150 registered for the meeting which included a full-day and three half-day workshops and almost 75 poster and platform presentations. Topics included instrumental evaluations and comparisons; human performance testing and case reports; postmortem case studies including pediatric cases and deaths involving personal medical devices (e.g., heart defibrillators, personal controlled anesthesia, and insulin pumps); and human toxicology research performed at the National Institute of Drug Abuse. On Friday, Dr. Benjamin Garrett of the FBI Laboratory’s Weapons of Mass Destruction Forensic Analysis Branch delivered an engaging Annual Lectureship discussing historical and present day use of chemical warfare agents and terrorism.

It is also necessary to report that many of the activities throughout the week were enthusiastically sponsored by Aegis Sciences Corporation, Agilent Technologies, Cerilliant, Immunalysis, National Medical Services, Neogen, Shamrock glass, United Chemical Technologies, and Waters Corporations. Please extend your gratitude to these vendors at the next appropriate occasion.

Section News cont.

This year the Toxicology Section was able to honor four of our very deserving members. At the Business meeting, Chip Walls announced Bill Anderson — 2008 recipient of the Alexander O. Gettler Award; Bob Zettl introduced Laurel Farrell — recipient of the 2008 Rolla Harger Award; Frank Esposito introduced Charles Winek — recipient of the 2008 Ray Abernathy Award; and Marilyn Huestis proudly announced Erin Kolbrich — recipient of the 2008 June K. Jones Scholarship Award. A round of applause to all!

I really enjoyed putting this year’s program together and I will close by encouraging each and every one of you to get involved as much as you can and you will find it to be an awarding experience.

Two Complimentary Meeting Registrations Awarded

The AAFS Staff would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the 2008 Annual Meeting Survey. The information has been tabulated and will serve as a beneficial resource in planning future AAFS programs. Congratulations to Mark O. Beary, MS, Student Affiliate of the Physical Anthropology Section. Mark was randomly drawn from the completed meeting surveys as the winner of the complimentary registration for the 2009 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, CO.

Additionally, as an incentive to attend the 2008 AAFS Annual Business Meeting, all Fellows and Members in attendance were automatically entered to also receive a complimentary meeting registration at attend the 2009 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, CO. Congratulations to Nikolas P. Lemos, PhD, Member of the Toxicology Section - this year’s lucky recipient!
FSF Travel Grants Available

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

Travel Grant Guidelines:

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

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

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

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

FSF Lucas Grants Available

The FSF Lucas Grants ($501-$5,000) are intended to help the investigator in original in-depth problem oriented research. These grants are open to members and affiliates (at any level) of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Proposals should include:

• Current curriculum vitae for each applicant
• Brief (up to 5 pages) description of the project
• Cites for current or previous FSF Research Grants awarded to any of the investigators/researchers
• Cites of appropriate references
• Budget for project, including amount requested from FSF
• Plan for dissemination of the results
• Timetable for project

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.

Funding requests for bibliographic preparation, travel, equipment, routine agency operation, including salary of investigators/researchers or assistants, are not normally approved and are discouraged.

The Principal Investigator of the research proposal must be a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (any status).

Proposals (original and two copies) should be sent to the FSF headquarters (410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, Attention: Nancy Jackson) by June 15. The deadline is firm with no extension. A progress report for the research must be sent to the FSF by December 1 of the following year.

Note: 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.
FSF Acorn Grants Available

The FSF Acorn Grants (up to $500) are intended to help the investigator initiate original problem oriented research. These grants are open to members and affiliates (at any level) of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Proposals should include:

- Current curriculum vitae for each applicant
- Brief (approximately one page) description of the project
- Cites for current or previous FSF Research Grants awarded to any of the investigators/researchers
- Cites of appropriate references
- Budget for project, including amount requested from FSF
- Plan for dissemination of the results
- Timetable for project

Funding requests for bibliographic preparation, travel, equipment, routine agency operations, including salary of investigators/researchers or assistants, are not normally approved and are 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.

The Principal Investigator of the research proposal must be a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (any status).

Deadline for Acorn Grant proposals is June 15. A progress report for the research must be sent to the FSF by December 1 of the following year.

Proposals (original and two copies) should be sent to the FSF headquarters (410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, Attention: Nancy Jackson) by June 15 in order to be considered by the FSF Research Committee. The deadline is firm with no extension.

Note: 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.

FSF Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant Available

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

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

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

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


Please forward your application (found on page 29) and required supporting documentation to the Forensic Sciences Foundation office in care of FSF Executive Director Anne Warren, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, no later than the submission deadline.
Jan Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Grant Application

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

PART I - Background Information*

Last Name_____________________________  First Name_________________________  M.I._____   Social Security No.___________________ 
Mailing Address_______________________________  City___________________  State_______ Zip__________  Country___________________
Home Phone___________________  Daytime Phone___________________  Cell Phone___________________  Email______________________
Marital Status (optional)___________   # of Dependents (optional)_______    Date of Birth___________________   Citizen of ______________________

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

Current (or last) Employer ________________________________________________  Position Held_____________________________________
Employer's Address ___________________________   City___________________  State_______ Zip__________  Country___________________
Supervisor's Name_____________________________   Work Phone___________________________  Email______________________________

Education - List your education accurately and completely.

Name of Undergraduate School ___________________________________  Full/Part Time _______  Hours Earned Sem ________  Qtr ______
Major ____________________________________  Dates Attended From (mo/yr) _____________________  To (mo/yr) ____________________
Level of Degree Earned_______________________   Graduation Date (mo/yr) _______________________
Name of Graduate School ________________________________________  Full/Part Time _______ Hours Earned Sem ________  Qtr ______
Major ____________________________________  Dates Attended From (mo/yr) _____________________  To (mo/yr) ____________________
Level of Degree Earned_______________________   Graduation Date (mo/yr) _______________________
Name of Graduate Advisor ________________________________   Address ________________________________________________________
Advisor’s Phone _____________________________________    Advisor’s Email _____________________________________________________

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

PART II – Thesis/Research Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

PART III – Certification/Acknowledgement

Statement of Applicant

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

Signature of Applicant ___________________________________________________                            Date __________________________
10th Annual FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Offered

PURPOSE: To nurture a productive dialogue between emerging judicial and forensic standards of reliability and validity, the Forensic Sciences Foundation is pleased to offer the 10th Annual Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. The award will be presented to the author of the best paper on any topic focusing on the reliability and validity of techniques, processes, or methods in a forensic area of the author’s choice.

HOW TO ENTER: Entrants should submit an abstract of the proposed paper to the AAFS Program Committee by August 1, 2008, in compliance with AAFS abstract criteria, and indicate that the abstract is submitted for the Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. Initial review and acceptance/rejection of the abstract will be done by the AAFS Program Committee which will focus specifically on the abstract’s treatment of reliability and validity issues. Multiple abstracts may be submitted for the Program Committee’s review; however, once the Program Committee approves abstracts for presentation, only one may be designated by the presenter as an EFSA entry.

SELECTION PROCESS: Abstracts accepted by the AAFS Program Committee and the EFSA Program Committee will be scheduled for presentation during the scientific session of the section which accepted the abstract, and evaluated by representatives of the Multidisciplinary Awards Committee appointed by the Forensic Sciences Foundation Board of Trustees. Announcement of the winning entry will be made in the Academy News following determination of the winner by the Awards Committee. The Award will be presented during the 2010 Academy Business Meeting in Seattle, WA.

CRITERIA TO ENTER: An eligible entrant need not be an AAFS member. However, entrants who are AAFS members must be a Student Affiliate or Trainee Affiliate. All entrants must be within three years of completion of formal training (must submit proof from laboratory director or university professor) at the time the paper is presented in 2009. Only the presenter is eligible for the award; no substitutions will be accepted after the application is submitted. The decision of the Awards Committee is final and the amount of the award is firm. The form below must be completed and sent with the abstract submission to the AAFS office by August 1, 2008.

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

FSF EMERGING FORENSIC SCIENTIST AWARD ENTRY FORM

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

I entered the field of forensic science in _______.

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________

Employer ______________________________________________________________________________________

Street Address __________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Province ______________________________________________________________________________

Postal/Zip Code ___________________________ Country __________________________________________

Telephone __________________ Fax __________________

E-mail _________________________________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

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

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

- **Platform Presentation (standard scientific session)**
- **Poster Session**

The Program Committee will select appropriate abstracts from those submitted by the **August 1, 2008** deadline.

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

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

### Notification of Acceptance

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

### Oral Presentations

**Content**

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

**Time**

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

### General Information

**Key Words**

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

**Oral Presentation**

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

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

**Poster Presentation**

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

### Meeting Registration

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

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

### Poster Presentations

**Content**

A well-designed poster should:

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

**Preparation**

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

General Instructions

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

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

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

- Limit the information on each slide to a single point or idea.
- Keep slides simple with plenty of open space between lines.
- Limit messages to seven lines or less. Do not use more than seven words per line.
- Do not crowd the slide. Two or more simple slides are better than one that is complex and crowded.

- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions. Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines unless they are very bold and black.
- Avoid backing up in slide lectures. If you need a slide twice, make duplicate slides.
- Slides mounted in plastic mounts are preferable to cardboard or glass.
- Graphics are preferable.
- White on black, white on blue, or blue on yellow project the best. Avoid red and blue or other non-contrasting color combinations. The number of available slide carousels is limited. It is highly recommended that you provide your own.

LCD Projection

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

Below are recommended guidelines for preparing your presentation:

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

Word Processor Preparation
An electronic copy of your abstract submission is required. Please follow the format guidelines provided below:

1. Software: Microsoft® Word for Windows is preferred.
2. Type size: 10 pt (10 characters per inch).
4. Margins: top: 1”, left side: 1”, right side: 1”.
5. References/Footnotes: do not put in the header or footer of the document.
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Sample Abstract

Injury Pattern Analysis in Fatal Traffic Crash Investigation

Michael D. Freeman, PhD, DC, MHP*, 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 97212-3892

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.

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Academy News
Taphophiliacs awake and arise. Cemetery desecrations are afoot. It is no game. It is in deadly earnest.

Henry James was right. This is an imperfect and disappointing world, especially when viewed from the vantage of cemetery life. In the alphabetical terms appearing in the titles of mystery story novelist Sue Grafton’s “D is for Deadbeat.” But when applied to cemeteries “D” could also signify desecration.

Cemeteries are the prime targets of all kinds of larrikins and jackanapes, some more criminally inclined than others. Cemeteries and their graves are targeted because security there is minimal or non-existent, save for those notables, like rock star Jim Morrison buried in Le Pere Lachaise Cemetery in eastern Paris, whose graves have been subjected to extensive abuse. In the case of Morrison who died in 1971, his grave became the magnet for believers in the occult and mysticism who performed satanic rituals at his grave until security was beefed up with the addition of security guards with dogs and a block of solid stone placed on top of his grave.

Charlie Chaplin’s remains went missing in 1978 from a grave near Lausanne, Switzerland. When recovered eleven weeks later from the body snatchers who did the perfidious deed, Sir Charles’ remains were reburied in a “theft-proof concrete grave.” So too John Dillenger’s grave was secured, on the orders of his father, with a topping of a slab of three feet of concrete.

Cemeteries also are not often gated places where entrance can be achieved only by permission of an entrance guard. Indeed, for those whose objectives are mischief scaling the walls of cemeteries developed as walled enclaves is not out of the question for after dark skulkers. Furthermore, crowds are not expected in cemeteries except for unusual places like Hawaii’s hill-top military cemetery where Ernie Pyle’s grave draws crowds in tour buses. Even the grave of world renowned magician Harry Houdini located in a cemetery along cemetery row in Queens, New York shows the ravages of the lack of visitation and the lack of maintenance, a place conducive to the dire exploits of grave desecrators which has indeed been the case there.

Cemeteries are manifestly not, contrary to their portrayal on the PBS program entitled “A Cemetery Special,” all peaches and cream, protected and immune from the depredations of marauding n’er-do-wells. In fact rather than places of sanctuary and quiet meditation cemeteries are too often the playground of pranksters, litterers, vandals, body snatchers, and thieves of grave valuables. The variety of cemetery depredations is said by the draftsmen of a revised Ohio abuse of a corps statute to include “copulating with or otherwise mistreating a corpse.” But fortunately they cite no actual case examples.

Probably the most extraordinary cemetery desecration, well motivated though it might have been, occurred, so the legend has it, in 1916 in Donoughmore, County Cork, Ireland. The fight for Irish independence from the yoke of Great Britain was at high tide, as it had been many times before. But this time there was a difference and a distinction, as well.

The British had enlisted the aid of marauding mercenaries known by the clothing they wore as the Black and Tans. The native Irish viewed the Black and Tans as the devil’s disciples for they were seen to ravage, to plunder and to murder at will.
Encounters with the Black and Tans became the stuff of Irish folklore, especially when the locals killed one of their number. In a fire fight with the Irish freedom fighters occurring in a cemetery in Donoughmore one of the Black and Tans was killed. His British comrades promptly buried him in the cemetery bearing the revered remains of the forebears of the Irish militants engaged in the struggle for freedom.

By the next morning the cemetery had undergone a remarkable, even a miraculous, transformation. It and all its deceased occupants, save the newly buried Black and Tan, had been moved lock, stock and coffins to a new location across the road from the original burial place. Even today the one lonely grave of the Black and Tan member is across the wide divide from the former Irish Catholic graveyard.

Call it body snatching, call it cemetery relocation, call it what you will, the inhabitants of Donoughmore are not ready to disturb the peace of the deceased Black and Tan soldier nor, for that matter, his erstwhile deceased neighbors who are viewed as now truly lying in peace separate and apart from their former enemy.

Entire cemeteries are not customarily the target of grave robbers, it is obvious. But graves, in the singular, are, even though a dead body cannot, in legal truth, be victimized by robbery. Robbery is a property crime which mandates that the object of the crime be a thing of value. But a dead body, according to the unvaried common law understanding, has no value. (But the burial shroud does.)

Nor for that matter, can a theft of personal property from a dead body be robbery for an essential definitional element of robbery is the taking of property from a person by force or fear. In short neither force nor fear can be inflicted on a dead, insensate, body. Nevertheless, to point out these longstanding legalisms will not alter the commonplace and inappropriate misuse of the term robbery, as in grave robbery. It is too late in the linguistic day to reverse the general acceptance of this misnomer. Nor will this writer eschew such mislabeled usage, it having become a matter of common currency.

But these common law rules, being judicial constructs, can be rendered nugatory by creative judicial reasoning. In an exceptional case from Indiana in 1933 Ralph Meeks was convicted of blackmail for threatening to injure Mary Ann Haltom by disinterring the body of her husband, then buried in Indiana’s Cataract cemetery.

In a letter to Mrs. Haltom the defendant in ungrammatical terms demanded $200 or the body of her husband would be “got away,” giving her fair warning that “all we do for a liven (sic) is robbe (sic) graves.”

At Meeks’ trial the prosecutor successfully argued that the statutory offense of blackmail’s requirement of a threat to injury person or property was satisfied by threat of “grave robbery” since that eventuality would injury Mrs. Haltom’s property right (italics added) to the undisturbed burial of her husband. And the appellate court agreed with this new-found construction. (Meeks v. State, 185 N.E. 899 (1933)).

But a dead body, even a grave, may be the subject of larceny or, in common parlance, stealing or theft. Persons are not, in the ordinary course of funereal practices, buried with valuables. As the hackneyed aphorism truly says “you can’t take it with you.”

But Humphrey Bogart, as he always did in his films, broke the mold. Lauren Bacall, his fourth wife, was not about to bid his ashes adieu without a token of her affection. She placed a whistle in the urn containing his ashes inscribed with the famous line she uttered in To Have and Have Not, “If you need anything, just whistle.” No one has come forward to say they have heard the whistle or that they covet it as their own.

Florida’s Judge John B. Stickney did manage to take it with him to the grave, at least temporarily. The judge died in 1882, probably of typhoid fever, in Washington, DC during a business trip from his home in St. Augustine, Florida. His burial in the Huguenot Cemetery near St. Augustine’s old city gates, was marked by much pomp and ceremony, he being a prominent local personage. He rested in that grave in the rest thought to be consequent upon death – until 1903, that is.

The judge’s family decided in that year to repatriate him to a cemetery in Washington, DC, his place of origin. But first the judge had to be identified. On opening the lid of his coffin, the judge’s remains were found to be remarkably well preserved. As this amazing revelation was being absorbed by the attending gravedigger, two drunken carousers happened on the scene. Staggering directly to the opened coffin they were seen to be “messing with the judge’s remains.”

The assembled voyeurs overcame their surprise at this drunken effrontery and quickly closed the coffin and made haste to leave. Only later was it learned from the recollections of the gravedigger, who had examined the judge’s remains that the judge had been removed for reb burial in Washington, DC, without his gold teeth. Apparently the drunken revelers had stolen them.

As the tale concludes it is said that old Judge Stickney’s ghost haunts the Huguenot Cemetery on the qui vive for either his teeth or those who made off with them.

Just twenty or more years before Judge Stickney died the Civil War (sic the War Between the States) was drawing to a close. General Sherman was ravaging his way through the southern states with random plunder as his heritage. Among the many depredation of his troops, graves were considered to be ripe for plucking of their valuables.

In a letter from W.P. Howard dated December 7, 1864, to Joseph E. Brown, then Governor of Georgia he reports on his inspection of the “property in Atlanta” after the Union troops had rampaged through it. Howard’s report was rendered in compliance with his “orders of November 25” 1864.

As detailed in The Charleston Mercury on December 19, 1864, Howard’s recital castigates both the Union forces and the “bushwhackers, robbers, and deserters” from the surrounding country “for their leaving no stone unturned, including grave stones, in their marauding and often mercenary frenzy. The report saves the worst predation to be reported last. It said:
The confederate citizenry were not passive in the protection of their valuables from the thieviness of Sherman’s troops. Grave, being thought to be sacrosanct and thus outside the staunch of the war, were often the repositories of a householders’ fortune, particularly where the graves were located on mansion lands. But the owners of such places were sadly mistaken for “thro information derived from the negroes” it happened that “vast amounts of silverware hid away in the ground ... fell into the hands of the men.” So Union Colonel Merrill (founding father of Bobbs-Merrill publishers) wrote to his wife on December 15, 1864, while bivouacked “four miles from Savannah.”

Colonel Merrill, in the same communication to his wife, noted that wells were not only the source of drinking water during the siege of Atlanta. In one well, “five thousand dollars in confederate money” was found stashed away “beside gold, silver and clothing of the finest quality.”

Colonel Merrill’s men were not always seeking to profit from their rapacity. This is the tawdry and vengeful theme that appears when Merrill states his certain belief that “fifty thousand dollars worth of silk dresses were found buried and were exhumed and torn to pieces by the men.”

Could those same men have been expected to treat their enemy’s dead or their burial places with any more compassion than they did the confiscated silk dresses? At least we know, again courtesy of Colonel Merrill, that “Our men showed more sympathy to an unfortunate dog” caught in a burning building but escaping to “the welcoming cheers” of the men than they did to anything else of confederate mintage.

Graves have been invaded and human remains stolen, altered or otherwise despoiled even on occasions when war was not the precipitating event. Indeed war, statistically speaking, cannot be held accountable for all the many coffin openings and bodies or their parts being pilfered.

Even though many hearts have been stolen from the dead by the heartless, it seems that other body parts are more in demand. Henry VIII’s Queen Anne Boleyn was beheaded in 1536 and her heart, not her head as might have been expected, was stolen, to be recovered centuries later in 1836. Similarly France’s King Louis XIV lost his embalmed heart to William Buckland, Dean of Westminster. Buckland, having most peculiar gastronomic tastes, made a grand show of consuming the heart at a dinner party hosted by him.

Skulls or heads (skulls with flesh) seem to be much preferred to hearts by body snatchers. Disarticulated skulls, unlike excised hearts, bear the palpable imprint of personality, even individuality, less subject to the ravages of decay over time. Moreover, like the deer’s head on a hunter’s wall, there is a certain trophy value in having the possession of a skull, especially if it is that of a person of repute.

Alfred (or Alferd) Packer, the Colorado cannibal, was convicted of killing five of his prospector companions in the mountains of southwestern Colorado in 1873. Upon the discovery of the victims one was found to be headless. Rather than assuming that the prospector’s head had simply rolled away from the body in the course of animal ravaging during the body’s putrefaction, it became a common refrain among the townsfolk of Lake City that the local bank’s president had received it for what he believed to be a worthwhile cause. It was said to be mounted on the bank official’s desk and when an applicant for a bank loan was denied the loan that fact was signaled by the head’s being turned to the left. But if the loan was approved the skull was turned to the right. The tale of Alfred (or Alferd) Packer is packed with such myth and fantasy.

Akin to Packer’s skull’s post mortem roaming, the Seminole Indian chieftain Osceola’s skull (or head) also made the rounds. Osceola’s death, generally thought to be of natural causes, at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina occurred after he had been lured into a trap by General Thomas Sidney Jesup. General Jesup had tricked Osceola into coming to Fort Marion in St. Augustine, Florida on the pretense of peace negotiations.

Only three months later the captive Indian chief breathed his last. But his skull (or head), removed and embalmed by Army doctor Frederick Weedon, did not join in Osceola’s journey to the grave. It served as the basis for a death mask which Dr. Weedon had fashioned. That mask is said to have made its journey to the anthropological collection of the Smithsonian Institution “where it currently remains.”

Osceola’s skull (or head) is also said to have been a hand (skull)-me-down going from person to person until it found a home in New York physician Valentine Mott’s Surgical and Pathological Museum. In 1866 tragedy struck when the head was “lost” in a fire at the museum.

The peregrinations of Osceola’s skull (head) raise many troubling questions. Quo warranto (by what authority) did Dr. Weedon remove it and act as if he were its rightful owner? This historical happening is redolent of the retention of body parts at autopsy in the contemporary world of forensic pathology, occasionally raising the legal hackles of the deceased’s family members, at least when the practice becomes known. Autopsy reports do not, in the experience of this writer, routinely mention the retention of the body parts by the autopsist nor the purpose of the retention nor its expected duration.

Further, why was Osceola’s head removed at all by Dr. Weedon? If it was only to enable a death mask to be created, why was it not buried after that task was performed? When John Dillinger was shot down in 1934 outside Chicago’s Biograph Theater after being informed upon by the “lady in red,” a number of death masks were made of him but his head remained intact to be
buried with him in Crown Hill cemetery in Mooresville, Indiana, or so the story is told.

After all is said and done in respect to cataloguing the countless cemetery desecrations that have occurred and will, unhappily, continue to be a fact of cemetery life in the future, the one most perturbing question in nearly all of them is, in a word, “why.” And the answer to that query sometimes leads to grossly misleading interpretations for the actions of cemetery despoilers.

When Charlie Chaplin’s coffin containing his remains was exhumed from his burial place in Switzerland, all manner of rumors circulated as to why it was done and, consequently, who might have done it. One Hollywood-esque report pointed to Sir Charles’ being a Jew who was buried in a gentile cemetery. That nonsensical speculation was exploded when a telephone call to Chaplin’s widow from the body snatchers demanded payment of £400,000 for the return of the coffin.

In Hillsborough, New Hampshire it is reported that on Halloween in 2007, the grave of Sarah Symonds, who died in June 1821, was invaded in a most puzzling manner. The gravesite was dug to a depth of five and a half feet and mounds of soil were left on either side of the perfectly rectangular hole in the ground. A local report in November 2007 reported Hillsboro police Lt. Darren Remillard as saying “The body’s certainly missing.”

But in a later report on January 24, 2008, in The Manchester, NH Union Leader the police were then said to have changed their minds. The remains of Sarah Symonds had not in fact been stolen.

But somebody had dug a deep hole in the Symonds grave. Why? Was it a satanic ritual, occurring as it did on Halloween and there being a belief among Satanists that “if a skull is stolen on Halloween night, it will grant powers to a person who holds it.” Another police view discounted the likelihood that teenagers were involved, since “they’d be talking” and there was no evidence of that.

As it turned out two teenagers and possibly a third were involved in the destructive act, but the reason for their doing it has not been publicly disclosed. The why of their actions remains for further probing.

In another venue Shannon Applegate, a cemetery sexton at her family’s Applegate cemetery in Yoncalla, Oregon, was also guilty of a profound misjudgment or two. Seeing two teenagers in mid-day in the cemetery in her charge, she approached them suspiciously (having an “up-to-no-good feeling”) only to find that they were present on a mission of mercy. They had come to visit the grave of Luke, a 16-year-old friend who had recently taken his own life.

Luke was not buried in a separate suicide corner, as Ms. Applegate explains in her book (Living Among Headstones: Life in a Country Cemetery, N.Y.: Thunder’s Mouth Press, 2003) was the antediluvian custom of disrespect for “suicides, murderers, and the unbaptized; ‘lunatics’ – presumed to be under the Devil’s (sic devil’s) power.” Instead Luke’s burial place was not such a mark his death as a suicide or tragic in any way other than the tragedy of death itself.

However, Ms. Applegate was nevertheless in her heart “accusing those boys. Something was not right about their presence.” And then she noticed the angel figurine atop Luke’s grave. It looked exactly like the one she had purchased and placed on her granddaughter Grace’s grave at a far remove in time and place from Luke’s grave.

The accusing thoughts returned. Were these two friends of Luke the vandals who had moved the fiddle bearing cherub from its proper grave site location? And, catching her thought, if they had done so, were they in truth to be judged as vandals for their well-intentioned transfer of the angel figurine from its original grave to that of their friend Luke?

In brief, had she, the cemetery sexton, radically misconstrued not only the point of the teenagers presence in the cemetery but their conduct while there as well? Could she not have redeemed her disturbed conscience by buying another cherub for her granddaughter’s grave, leaving the original in place on Luke’s grave?

Ms. Applegate tells us that “an inside voice” told her that “Luke ought to have it.” And so the episode was concluded on a happy note. But grave site misinterpretations continue apace.

Gram Parsons has been considered to be “the world’s first Country/Rock Star,” who called his style “Cosmic American Music.” Gram connected with The Rolling Stones for whom he arranged Honky Tonk Woman, made famous by The Stones. He died in 1973 in Joshua Tree, California, in desert land. His planned burial in Louisiana was interrupted when his road manager and his friend, in a drunken spree, borrowed an old hearse, retrieved the body from the Los Angeles airport where it had been taken. They drove back to the desert where they “poured gasoline inside the coffin and set him ablaze.”

What was it that motivated such at least bizarre action? Were they secretly antagonistic to Gram’s music or his life style? Was it a hate crime? Was it the demon rum that precipitated the event?

None of these interpretations was the correct one for the post mortem events had lived up to the letter of what Gram had been heard to say in life that he wanted upon his death to be consumed by fire in the desert. The upshot was that the two conspirators were fined $700 for stealing the coffin. “It was not against the law to steal a dead body.”

Some scandals inflicted on the dead are readily explainable. Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England from 1653 to 1658 waged war in Ireland to suppress its Catholicism and its desire for freedom from England. In doing so he left a legacy of headless statutes in the Catholic churches across Ireland as well as a heritage of virulent hatred.

Cromwell did not get his just deserts from his monarchist enemies (Charles I was one of his beheaded victims) until three years after his peaceful death in 1658. On January 30, 166, Cromwell’s exhumed remains were “dragged openly through the London Streets to Tyburn.” (Edwin Murphy, After the Funeral: The Posthumous Adventures of Famous Corpses, N.Y., Barnes & Noble Books, 1995) where he was hanged and beheaded. The head found its way to Westminster Hall where it remained on continued on page 44
display “for many years, as a caution to would-be rebels.” That mistreatment of his remains left no room for doubtful interpretations of the perpetrators intentions.

Similarly, there was no doubt that Francois Marie Arouet’s, better known as Voltaire, remains were stealthed away from the burial at Paris’ Pantheon after his death in 1778 by “reactionary young fanatics” who were accountable for reburying him in a dump outside the city. His anti-clerical writings had made many enemies with long, even afterlife, memories to be avenged.

The moral of Cromwell and Voltaire’s ultimate indignity seems to be not to make rabid enemies in life who will follow one in death. Is that then what occasioned the aborted effort to steal the remains of Abraham Lincoln from the burial place in Springfield, Illinois? Lincoln had died in April 1865 from the bullet fired by the assassin John Wilkes Booth, as is well known. Less well known is the fact that on election day night November 7, 1876, an attempt to steal his remains was foiled by an informer hired by the newly established U.S. Secret Service. Was Lincoln, even in death, the continuing target of those conspirators who had taken his life eleven years before?

No, strange as it may seem, his remains were planned upon their theft to be ransomed for the release from imprisonment of a skilled counterfeiter named Ben Boyd. Boyd’s mastery of producing engraving plates was unrivaled, making him a fit subject to be ransomed or so the body snatching conspirators thought. Thus Lincoln was not after being exhumed for the reasons that propelled the disgrace to the remains of Cromwell and Voltaire. Who would have guessed?

And so the world is left with many enigmas on the motivations for cemetery and human remains’ desecrations but the dead, such wrongdoers should be cautioned, will rise again and payback time may come sooner than one might expect. And as proof legend recounts that there is a “Dead Zone” on Interstate 4 between Florida’s Daytona Beach and Orlando where the graves of German Catholic immigrants are buried. The highway was constructed with fill mounded over their graves. That is an undisputed fact. Nor is it undisputed that at that “Dead Zone” proportionately more accidents have occurred than in any similar highway in Florida. Is it the buried dead speaking?

True taphophiliacs have learned to accept such seemingly inexplicable occurrences as they have in their ability to unpuzzle the Irish riddle which proclaims:

\[
\text{It ate everything that came} \\
\text{And everything that will} \\
\text{And still it’ll never get its fill.}
\]

Acknowledgement: This essay could not have been written without the superb research assiduity of Matt Mantel, Esq., research librarian at the George Washington University Law School.

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**In Memoriam**

- **Sheilagh Brooks, PhD**, Fellow of the Physical Anthropology Section, February 2008
- **Gordon Hennigar, MD**, Retired Fellow of the Pathology/Biology Section, January 2008
- **Robert Kelly, DDS**, Member of the Odontology Section, October 2007
- **Irving Rehman, PhD**, Retired Member of the Pathology/Biology Section, January 2008
- **Robert Richards, MD**, Retired Fellow of the Pathology/Biology Section, January 2001
- **Stanley Schwartz, DMD**, Retired Fellow of the Odontology Section, January 2008
- **Lee Vagnini, BS**, Retired Fellow of the Criminalistics Section, October 2007
- **Ronald Wickum, DDS**, Fellow of the Odontology Section, December 2007
AAFS Chronicles —
Do You Remember When?

Source: Ken Field, Academy Historian

In 1948 . . .
. . . The Academy’s first meeting was originally booked as “The First Pan-American Medicolegal Congress” because seven scientists from Cuba, Chile, Argentina, and Columbia were scheduled to present papers. At some point in the planning phase, the organizers decided to drop the word ‘Pan’ from the title - probably because none of the Central and South American countries would allow their scientists to come to the meeting. Political unrest and monetary problems were cited in the letters of regret. Despite this set back, the revised 1948 meeting program met with great success.

In 1958 . . .
. . . the Executive Committee agreed - for the first time - to include funds in the annual meeting budget to provide visual aids for Section Scientific Sessions. The screens would be 4 feet by 5 feet in size and the projectors would be for glass-bound slides. Prior to 1958, presenters provided their own projectors and often projected their glass slides on walls. In another financial action, the 1958 Executive Committee blew it balanced budget by purchasing its first duplicating machine - a mimeograph.

In 1968 . . .
. . . the continuing argument between the Academy membership and the Executive Committee over holding meetings in Chicago was again an issue at the 1968 Annual Business Meeting. The members voted to meet in Chicago only once every five years because, as one member stated, “I don’t want to exchange my rotten winter storms for Chicago’s blizzards.” The Executive Committee reversed the members’ preference by voting to continue to meet in Chicago four times in every five years. They justified their vote by stating that it was cheaper to meet in Chicago than anywhere else. The last time the meeting was held in Chicago was in 2003, and today is treated competitively along with all other prospective meeting sites.

In 1978 . . .
. . . the Academy membership voted to move the date when elected officers took office from immediately following the close of the annual meeting to July 1. The new date was established to align the terms of office with the Academy’s fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). The date on which officers assumed office was returned to February in 1986 because seated officers felt that the annual meeting was the culmination of their term in office.

In 1988 . . .
. . . the Academy sponsored its second official ‘People to People’ trip in the spring. Fifty-five AAFS delegates participated in an 18-day trip to the USSR to participate in bilateral technical exchanges concerning a wide range of forensic science topics. The first Academy sponsored ‘People to People’ delegation visited China in 1986. In years to follow AAFS sponsored delegations returned to China and visited Russia.
The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1, 2008, will be considered for approval at the February 2009 Board of Directors Meeting. Due to space constraints, AAFS does not list members who are applying for promotion to Fellow or to Member. Comments or concerns regarding an applicant should be submitted in writing to: Cheryl Hunter, Membership Coordinator, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904; chunter@aafs.org. Comments must be received by February 13, 2009.

**Applicants**

**CRIMINALISTICS**

**Associate Member**
- Benavides, Melissa, MS
  - Dallas, TX
- Corbin, Kerre, BS
  - Arlington, VA
- Crary, Karen, BS
  - Tulalip, WA
- Deiss, Karen M., BS
  - Mansfield, TX
- Fahrnow, Valerie K., BS
  - Spring Hill, KS
- Fraser, Heidi, MS
  - Eugene, OR
- Gajewski, Ryan M., MFS
  - Madison, WI
- Gambino, Carol, BS
  - Brooklyn, NY
- Gardner, Elizabeth A., PhD
  - Birmingham, AL
- Gehris, Todd C., BS
  - Allentown, PA
- Harmon, Sara M., MS
  - Burlington, NC
- Hein, Raymond C., PhD
  - Lenexa, KS
- Horan, Susan C., MSFS
  - New York, NY
- Jacoby, Ashley E., MS
  - Decatur, GA
- Kanu, Abu B., PhD
  - Prairie View, TX
- Kobliska, Ginger A., MFS
  - Indianapolis, IN
- Mayer, Michael J., BS
  - Fort Worth, TX
- McColl, James W., PhD
  - Cape Girardeau, MO
- McHenry, Kathryn, BA
  - Fairfield, OH
- Mordente, Michael, MS
  - Brooklyn, NY
- Moyse, Kathryn G., MS
  - Burlington, NC
- Naranjo, Jennifer, BS
  - Reno, NV
- Nelson, John C., BS
  - Martinez, CA
- Ramos, Lisa M., MS
  - Lansing, MI
- Reese, Ira S., BS
  - Washington, DC

**Robertson, Cassandra J., BS**
- Orlando, FL

**Smyth-Roam, Lisa, PhD**
- Reno, NV

**Stanchek, Lauren, MSFS**
- Lansing, MI

**Staton, Pamela, PhD**
- Huntington, WV

**Styfa, Michael P., MS**
- Las Vegas, NV

**Suggs, Samuel C., BS**
- Jackson, MS

**Thornton, Eric W., BA**
- Durango, CO

**Watson, Lenetta, MS**
- Chicago, IL

**Welch, David P., MS**
- Las Vegas, NV

**Trainee Affiliate**
- Brundage, Adrienne L., MS
  - San Jose, CA
- Burchfield, Jacob W., BS
  - Jackson, MS
- Cardosa, Kristin M., BS
  - San Jose, CA
- Champagne, Jarrod, MSFS
  - Richmond, VA
- Doerger, Emily H., BA, MS
  - Brooklyn, NY
- Fletcher, Megan M., MSFS
  - Columbus, SC
- Hengoed, Melissa A., MSFS
  - Cleveland, OH
- Martin, Audrey N., MS
  - Livermore, CA
- Miller, Jennifer J., MS
  - Houston, TX
- Nielsen, Lisa M., BS
  - Martinez, CA
- Nieman, James L., BS
  - Los Angeles, CA
- Orans, Samantha, MS
  - New York, NY
- Phillips, Sherri R., BS
  - Seattle, WA
- Posto, Jessica, BS
  - Raleigh, NC
- Woods, Michelle T., MS
  - San Bernardino, CA

**Student Affiliate**
- Albury, Tercah A.
  - Raleigh, NC
- Anman, Jennifer
  - Livonia, MI
- Darrah, Thomas H., MS
  - Rochester, NY
- Hammock, Marquita P., BS
  - Philadelphia, PA
- Johnson, Bryan T., BS
  - Richmond, VA
- Pavlova, Victoria R., BS
  - Richmond, VA
- Reed, Justin J., BS
  - Wynocote, PA
- Tshiasuma, Edgards T.
  - Alexandria, VA
- Walter, Rachelle L., BA
  - Lincoln, NE
- Williams, Nina D., BS
  - Galveston, TX

**ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**Associate Member**
- Geraci, Alberto L.
  - Acicastello, Italy

**GENERAL**

**Associate Member**
- Alshamsi, Nassen A.
  - Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Beck, Carlton-Jane, BS
  - Beck, Carlton-Jane, MS
- Tavares, FL
- Beltran, Jessica M., BS
  - Columbus, OH
- Burks, Patti J., BS
  - Pittsburgh, PA
- Cebra, Karen, MS, MSFS
  - Davis, CA
- Conreys, Heather N., BS
  - Washington, DC
- Delpo, Steve
  - Tel Aviv, Israel
- Kluizen, Belgium
- DeWitt, Teri, BA
  - Tampa, FL
- Gietzen, Gene N., BS
  - Springfield, MO
YFSF 2008 Special Session

After a year’s worth of planning the 2008 Young Forensic Scientists Forum is now complete, and I’m proud to report that this year’s session had record breaking attendance and participation! Registration for the YFSF Special Session was maxed out at 125 participants with a long waiting list of people who were unable to fit into the meeting space. While we are excited about the incredible turnout, we are also sorry that all of those eager to participate were not able to attend. We are looking into possibilities for expanding the number of participants for next year, but keep in mind that due to the limitations in room size it is always a great idea to get your registration forms in early for YFSF events to ensure participation!

The Tuesday Special Session kicked off at 8:00 a.m. with opening remarks by our YFSF President Marrah Lachowicz, followed by a welcoming address by the 2007-08 AAFS President Bruce Goldberger (shown above with Marrah Lachowicz, Jennifer Beach, and Arliss Dudley-Cash). The morning presentations began with Michael Baden detailing interesting historical facts about the forensic science field as well as the experiences he has had as a medical examiner. Linda Kenney Baden then presented on her casework from the viewpoint of a lawyer working criminal cases dealing with extensive amounts of forensic evidence. Henry Lee presented his experiences working hundreds of crime scenes throughout his career and emphasized the attention to detail and methodical processes that ensure successful investigations. A presentation entitled “Forensic Anthropology: From Crime Lab to Crime Fiction” detailed how presenter Kathy Reichs has turned real life casework into popular fiction novels and television. The morning was rounded out by Natalie Shirley, the 8th Annual Emerging Forensic Scientist Award Recipient, presenting her research in age determination in forensic anthropology.

The morning session was followed by a delicious lunch that was enjoyed by all participants, for this a special thank you goes out to the Criminalistics Section for their continued sponsorship of the YFSF Special Session!

Leading off the afternoon presentations was Dayle Hinman with a look into the work that goes in to criminal profiling and how her work has helped solve cases including murder, sexual assault, and kidnapping. The work of a forensic toxicologist followed with Robert Powers presenting on the importance of both toxicological results and pathology in solving suspicious death investigations. Next up was Lynn Kimsey with a case presentation out of California where forensic entomology was used to help convict a suspect who obtained a rental car to drive cross country and commit murder. Her work was able to show that bugs found in the car’s air filter where only present in certain parts of the United States, proving that the suspect did travel from the point of his alibi to the scene of the crime. The last presentation of the day was by former YFSF president Allison Curran, who shared her experiences in getting into the forensic science field as well as her current work using canines in forensic investigations.

A big thank you to all speakers for their fascinating presentations, to all participants for taking advantage of the YFSF activities, and to all YFSF organizers for their hard work throughout the year. The 2008 Special Session was a great success and we all look forward to another record
breaking year in 2009! If you have any comments or suggestions for what you would like to see next year or if you would like to help with YFSF activities please contact Amanda Frohwein at frohwein@dps.state.ia.us.

— Amanda K. Frohwein, BS
2008 YFSF Special Session Chair

2008 YFSF Sponsorship
The 2008 Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s Special session was very successful this year. As Sponsorship Chair, I would like to thank the following groups for their generous contributions: the AAFS Criminalistics Section, YFSF Lunch Sponsor; Virginia Commonwealth University, YFSF Breakfast Sponsor; and West Virginia University/National Institute of Justice, YFSF Poster Session Sponsor.

In addition to their contributions, the Criminalistics Section recognized the accomplishments of the YFSF at their annual business meeting. Thank you for having us! We appreciate the support that we receive from these groups, as well as the guidance and support provided by Sondra Doolittle of the AAFS. If you would like to become more involved with the Young Forensic Scientists Forum as a sponsor or as a representative of your section, contact Robin Bowen (Robin.Bowen@mail.wvu.edu). It is our goal to present the YFSF membership with the diversity of sections represented in the AAFS.

— Robin T. Bowen, MA
2008 YFSF Sponsorship Chair

2008 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session
This year’s YFSF Bring Your Own Slides was successful and filled with great presentations! Erica and I would like to extend our many thanks to Vasilios Stoukas, Stephanie Karczynski, Lisa Mokleby, Shannon Soltysiak, Michelle Egermann, Charlotte Smith-Baker, Luis Martinez Villegas, Mishel Stephenson, and Marco Garcia for their informative and enthusiastic presentations. We would like to also thank all of the YFSF chairs and co-chairs for their support; our session’s volunteers, and the Academy for their support of newcomers to the field of forensic science. Most of all we would like to thank all of those that attended this year’s BYOS sessions. Your attendance is one of the basic elements that keep this event returning every year. Next year will be even better, so start thinking if you would like to participate either by presenting or becoming more involved with the Young Forensic Scientist Forum. Both are great experiences and certainly an adventure.

— Melissa E. Smith, MSFS
2008 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Chair

YFSF Poster Session
The Poster Session for the Young Forensic Scientists Forum was a success. We had 39 participants this year with a wide range of topics. This was quite an achievement over the 25 posters of the past year. The YFSF Poster Session is almost doubling every year and I would like to thank everyone that participated and everyone that came to look at the posters. I would also like to thank AAFS for always providing us with a great location. We had many AAFS members in attendance which gave the participants great feedback on their work. We had much more diversity within the topics presented and many more Universities were represented. We hope that we can increase the number of posters again next year. A special thank you goes out to West Virginia University and the National Institute of Justice for their sponsorship of the poster session. If you are interested in presenting next year, don’t hesitate to email the YFSF 2009 Poster Chair Anthony Sutter (yfsfposter@gmail.com).

— Arliss I. Dudley-Cash, BA
2008 YFSF Poster Session Chair

YFSF Breakfast Session
The 2008 Annual YFSF Breakfast was a great success. We would like to thank our sponsor, the VCU Forensic Science Department, again for hosting such a wonderful event. The breakfast provided a more relaxed environment for YFSF session participants to engage the speakers with questions. We had several speakers from the top of their respective fields including Bruce McCord who was the proud recipient of the 2008 Paul L. Kirk Award, the highest award that can be given by the Criminalistics Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Dr. McCord’s work has led to several key advancements in the field of forensic DNA analysis. We also enjoyed lessons from a forensic engineer, Peter Alexander who reminded us that the cases we see in the field may not always be as clear cut as they seem. His lessons on accident reconstruction reminded us the importance of understanding the science and physics behind collisions. Roderick Kennedy also addressed the group. Judge Kennedy is internationally known for his expertise in the interface between law and science, and is a published author and lecturer on the subject. His engaging discussion on the role of ethics interfacing with science and the law is a topic which all emerging forensic scientists should take heed. Judge Kennedy plans to continue programs within the Criminalistics Section regarding many of the issues discussed during the breakfast session. Finally, we heard from an expert in the field of forensic chemistry focusing on the DEA methamphetamine profiling program internationally. Steven Toske is currently a Senior Research Chemist with the Drug Enforcement’s Special Testing and Research Laboratory and his expertise was well received at the breakfast session.

— Marrah E. Lachowicz MFS, GCCP
AAFS Section Liaison

An Experience That Changed My Life
I entered the Medical School of the University of Patras, Greece, in September of 2003. In Greece, like all over Europe, medical programs last six years and all the candidates are being admitted directly to the medical schools. Unlike most of my colleagues, I was dedicated to forensics even before graduating from high school, strongly believing that justice is the greater commodity of human kind. My fascination with the orphic universe of forensic medicine and pathology became even stronger during the first three years of my medical studies, which resulted in spending three months in the U.S. rotating at the Oakland County Medical Examiner’s Office (OCMEO).

I began to spend my elective forensic pathology observership at the OCMEO in Pontiac, Michigan, during the fall of 2006. I was assigned a comfortable private office equipped with a computer, telephone, bookshelves, microscope, etc. The administrator at the OCMEO, Robert Gerds, provided me with all the necessary technical instructions upon my arrival.

The agency had a medical library (Dr. Tom Petinga, Sr. Memorial Library) well-supplied with general medical textbooks and major medical journals, as well as with a teaching optical and digital microscope with two projection screens. There was also an auditorium (Dr. John Burton Memorial Auditorium) where formal lectures and larger conferences were taking place.

My observership program consisted of daily routine activities that started at 8:00 a.m. with morning rounds and a review of the daily caseload with the OCMEO staff, continuing with observation of the forensic autopsies performed by the on-duty forensic pathologist. This activity was followed by the noon-time review of the daily case docket with all the forensic pathologists, rotating doctors, medical students, toxicologists, family counsellors, and investigators in attendance. The workload was exceptionally intense, and I was able to supplement my pathological knowledge with a wide spectrum of deaths due to natural disease, trauma due to motor vehicle accidents, as well as crime related deaths. The afternoon hours were usually used for histopathology reviews. When I was available I accompanied the investigators and police to the crime scenes, and I attended lectures given by the forensic pathologists at the area teaching hospitals or at the law enforcement training programs. Moreover, when criminal cases came to court I attended when forensic pathologists testified. This gave me a wonderful insight into how highly technical evidence could be distilled in such a way so as to be meaningful to a lay audience (e.g., the jury). Late morning on Fridays was generally reserved for neuropathology and brain examination conferences, while early afternoon on Fridays was generally reserved for pending cases’ reviews. In general, the office activities were decreased by 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. except for the doctor on call, the investigators, and the family counselors. While students had no obligations to be in attendance during weekends and holidays, I was welcome to attend at my wish the activities of the duty doctors.

I was also strongly encouraged to work on a publication with the Chief Medical Examiner, L.J. Dragovic, during my stay at the OCMEO. This project (“Sudden Deaths from Eosinophilic Coronary Monoarteritis”) was presented at the last meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, at the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the professional staff of OCMEO, and especially the forensic pathologists, Kanu Virani, Ruben Ortiz-Reyes, and Bernardino Parris, as well as the Chief Forensic Toxicologist Gary Kunsman. I have to reserve my most sincere gratitude for L.J. Dragovic, who acted, and continues to act, as my mentor. Dr. Dragovic’s succinct and insightful comments were instrumental in helping me to broaden both my professional and medical horizons. His unwavering support, patience and confidence in my ability to meet this challenge helped me throughout this process of my induction into the enchanting cosmos of forensic pathology.

— Vasilios S. Stoukas
Medical student and AAFS Student Affiliate (Pathology/Biology)

Editor’s Note: Vasilios Stoukas presented at the 2008 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session. We are pleased with his eagerness to share some of the experiences he has had in forensic science and we hope to bring more real life forensic experiences to our readers in the future. If you have an experience you would like to share, please submit it to Jennifer.W.Mercer@gmail.com for consideration for future newsletters.
Meetings and Conferences

APRIL 2008

2-4
Investigating Deviant Sexual Behavior Course—To be held at the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science in West Haven, CT.
CONTACT: Peter Massey Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science 300 Boston Post Road West Haven, CT 06516 (203) 479-4396 pmassey@newhaven.edu www.henryleeinstitute.com

3-5
8th Annual Forensic Science and Law Conference - Where Fact Meets Fiction: A National Symposium on the Intersection of Forensic Science and Pop Culture—To be held at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA.
CONTACT: The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law Duquesne University School of Law Edward J. Hanley Hall 900 Locust Street Pittsburgh, PA 15282-0700 (412) 396-1330 Fax: (412) 396-1331 wechtinstitute@duq.edu www.forensics.duq.edu

7-10
Forensic Digital Imaging, Phase I—To be held at the Institute for Forensic Imaging in Indianapolis, IN.
CONTACT: Kristy Trumpey Institute for Forensic Imaging 338 S. Arlington Suite 111 Indianapolis, IN 46219 (317) 356-0245 www.ifi-indy.org

7-11
Tire Impression and Tire Track Evidence: Recovery and Examination Course—To be held at the Ramada Inn in Jacksonville, FL.
CONTACT: Bill Bodziak 38 Sabal Bend Palm Coast, FL 32137 (386) 447-3567 Fax: (386) 447-3568 wbodziak@earthlink.net www.bodziak.com

9-11
Veterinary Forensics Course—Presented by the University of Florida William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the National Animal Control Association. To be held at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL.
CONTACT: Tammy Grosskopf William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine University of Florida PO Box 100275 Gainesville, FL 32610-0275 (352) 494-5114 grosskop@pathology.ufl.edu

13-18
The Effects of Drugs on Human Performance and Behavior Course—To be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.
CONTACT: Sue Frederickson Center for Law in Action Indiana University Sycamore Hall 302 Bloomington, IN 47405 (812) 855-1783 Fax: (812) 855-7342 slfreder@indiana.edu www.indiana.edu/~lawactn

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APRIL 2008 cont.

21-25
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course—Sponsored by Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Division of Forensic Pathology. To be held in Saint Louis, MO.

CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst or Julie Howe
Saint Louis University
School of Medicine
1402 S Grand Blvd; R612
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 977-3970
Fax: (314) 977-5695
mldi@slu.edu
http://medschool.slu.edu/mldi/

22-24
Forensic Digital Imaging, Phase III—To be held at the Institute for Forensic Imaging in Indianapolis, IN.

CONTACT: Kristy Trumpey
Institute for Forensic Imaging
338 S. Arlington Suite 111
Indiansapolis, IN 46219
(317) 356-0245
www.ifi-indy.org

23-25
Basic Covert Burial Course—Presented by the University of Florida William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine and Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine. To be held at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL.

CONTACT: Virginia Institute of Forensic Science & Medicine
700 N 5th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-0073
info@vifsm.org
www.vifsm.org

21-25
Crime Scene Photography Course—To be held at the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science in West Haven, CT.

CONTACT: Peter Massey
Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science
300 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 479-4596
pmassey@newhaven.edu
www.henryleeinstitute.com

MAY 2008

28-May 2
Crime Scene Reconstruction Course—To be held at the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science in West Haven, CT.

CONTACT: Peter Massey
Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science
300 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 479-4596
pmassey@newhaven.edu
www.henryleeinstitute.com

5-9
Basic Facial Reconstruction Sculpture Workshop—To be held at the Scottsdale Artists School in Scottsdale, AZ.

CONTACT: Betty Pat. Galifff
http://www.cacnews.org/Spring%202008%20Seminar/Spring%20CAC%20Flyer.doc

2-4
52nd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry—To be held in Washington, DC.

CONTACT: AAPDP Executive Office
PO Box 30
Bloomfield, CT 06002
(888) 691-8281
Fax: (860) 286-0787
info@aapdp.org
www.aapdp.org

3-5
11th Annual Course in Forensic Dentistry: A Tool for a Modern Medical Examiner and Law Enforcement Agency—Sponsored by North Shore / L.I.J. Health Care System. To be held at the Department of Dental Medicine, North Shore University Hospital, in Manhasset, NY.

CONTACT: Dawn Liotta
Administrative Manager
North Shore University Hospital
Department of Dental Medicine
300 Community Drive
Manhasset, NY 11030
(516) 562-4525

4-9
The Robert F. Borkenstein Course on Alcohol and Highway Safety: Testing, Research and Litigation—To be held at the Indiana Memorial University in Bloomington, IN.

CONTACT: Darlena Lindsay
Center for Studies of Law in Action
Indiana University
1033 East Third Street
Sycamore Hall 302
Bloomington, IN 47405
(812) 855-1783
Fax: (812) 855-7542
dlinsey@indiana.edu
www.borkensteincourse.org

4-9
Spring Bloodstain Evidence Institute—To be held in Corning, NY.

CONTACT: Darlena Lindsay
Center for Studies of Law in Action
Indiana University
1033 East Third Street
Sycamore Hall 302
Bloomington, IN 47405
(812) 855-1783
Fax: (812) 855-7542
dlinsey@indiana.edu
www.borkensteincourse.org

5-6
Digital Imaging for Managers—To be held at the Institute for Forensic Imaging in Indianapolis, IN.

CONTACT: Kristy Trumpey
Institute for Forensic Imaging
338 S. Arlington Suite 111
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 356-0245
www.ifi-indy.org

5-9
11th Semi-Annual Meeting of the California Association of Criminalists (CAC)—To be held at the Kona Kai Resort in San Diego, CA.

CONTACT: Frank Healy
fhcal@pd.sandiego.gov
http://www.cacnews.org/Spring%202008%20Seminar/Spring%20CAC%20Flyer.doc

7-8
Preparing Courtroom Presentations—To be held at the Institute for Forensic Imaging in Indianapolis, IN.

CONTACT: Kristy Trumpey
Institute for Forensic Imaging
338 S. Arlington Suite 111
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 356-0245
www.ifi-indy.org

12-14
Reconstruction of Violent Crimes—To be held at the East Texas Police Academy in Kilgore, TX.

CONTACT: Ed Hueske
(904) 383-8668
xptrwi@aol.com
www.edhueske.com

12-16
Fire and Arson Investigation Course —To be held at the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science in West Haven, CT.

CONTACT: Peter Massey
Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science
300 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 479-4596
pmassey@newhaven.edu
www.henryleeinstitute.com
28-31  Forensic Trends: Psychiatric and Behavioral Issues Training Course—To be held at the Las Vegas Hilton in Las Vegas, NV.
CONTACT: Contemporary Forums
(800) 377-7707
info@contforums.com
www.contemporaryforums.com

JUNE 2008

2-6  Discovery of Human Remains—To be held at the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science in West Haven, CT.
CONTACT: Peter Massey
Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science
300 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 479-4596
pmassey@newhaven.edu
www.henryleeinstitute.com

2-6  Death Scene Archaeology Short Course: Field Methods in the Location, Recovery, and Interpretation of Human Remains From Outdoor Contexts—To be held at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.
CONTACT: Dennis Dirkmaat, PhD
Dept of Applied Forensic Sciences
Mercyhurst College
501 E. 38th Street
Erie, PA 16546
(814) 824-2150
ddirkmaat@mercyhurst.edu
www.mercyhurst.edu

4-6  Advanced Bugs, Bones & Botany Laboratory Analysis Course—Presented by the University of Florida William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine and Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine. To be held at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL.
CONTACT: Virginia Institute of Forensic Science & Medicine
700 N. 5th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-0073
info@vifsfn.org
www.vifsfn.org

9-13  Laboratory Methods in the Identification of Human Skeletal Remains Short Course—To be held at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.
CONTACT: Dennis Dirkmaat, PhD
Dept of Applied Forensic Sciences
Mercyhurst College
501 E. 38th Street
Erie, PA 16546
(814) 824-2150
ddirkmaat@mercyhurst.edu
www.mercyhurst.edu

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23-25
Advanced Shooting Reconstruction—To be held at the Police Standards and Training Council in Concord, NH.
CONTACT: Steve Ostrowski
(603) 340-9675
sostrowski@focossforensics.com
http://www.focossforensics.com/
html/training.html

23-26
Forensic Digital Imaging, Phase II—To be held at the Institute for Forensic Imaging in Indianapolis, IN.
CONTACT: Kristy Trumpey
Institute for Forensic Imaging
338 S. Arlington Suite 111
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 556-0245
www.id-indy.org

23-27
Documentation of Human Remains and Physical Evidence at the Terrorism Crime Scene Short Course—To be held at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.
CONTACT: Dennis Dirkmaat, PhD
Dept of Applied Forensic Sciences
Mercyhurst College
501 E. 38th Street
Erie, PA 16546
(814) 824-2150
ddirkmaat@mercyhurst.edu
www.mercyhurst.edu

23-27
Blood Stain Pattern Analysis Course—To be held at the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science in West Haven, CT.
CONTACT: Peter Massey
Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science
300 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 479-4396
pmassey@newhaven.edu
www.henryleecenter.com

JULY 2008

7-11
Taphonomy in Forensic Anthropology Course—To be held at the University of Tennessee’s Forensic Anthropology Center in Knoxville, TN.
CONTACT: Rebecca Wilson
(865) 974-4408
fac@utk.edu

7-11
Tire Impression and Tire Track Evidence: Recovery and Examination Course—To be held at the Lakewood Police Dept in Lakewood, CO.
CONTACT: Bill Bodziak
38 Sabal Bend
Palm Coast, FL 32137
(386) 447-3567
Fax: (386) 447-3568
wbodziak@earthlink.net
www.bodziak.com

21-23
Forensic Science Educators Conference—Presented by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in partnership with Saint Louis University and the Saigh Foundation. To be held at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO.
CONTACT: Julie Howe
(314) 977-3970, ext. 2
Fax: (314) 977-3695
howej@slu.edu

21-23
Reconstruction of Violent Crimes—To be held at the St. Louis County & Municipal Police Academy in Wellston, MO.
CONTACT: Becky Murphy
(314) 889-8500
bamurphy@stlouisco.com

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

24-25
Fracture Match Identification: The Scientific Basis—To be held at the St. Louis County & Municipal Police Academy in Wellston, MO.
CONTACT: Becky Murphy
(314) 889-8500
bamurphy@stlouisco.com

16-20
Introduction to Shooting Incident Reconstruction—To be held at FoCoSS Forensics in Concord, NH.
CONTACT: Steve Ostrowski
(603) 340-9675
sostrowski@focossforensics.com

16-20
Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Course—To be held at Elmira College in Elmira, NY.
CONTACT: Paul Erwin Kish
Forensic Consultant & Associates
PO Box 814
Corning, NY 14830
(607) 962-2892
paulkish@stny.rr.com

16-20
Analysis of Bone Trauma and Pseudo-Trauma in Suspected Violent Deaths Short Course—To be held at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.
CONTACT: Dennis Dirkmaat, PhD
Dept of Applied Forensic Sciences
Mercyhurst College
501 E. 38th Street
Erie, PA 16546
(814) 824-2150
ddirkmaat@mercyhurst.edu
www.mercyhurst.edu

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CONTACT: Paul Erwin Kish
Forensic Consultant & Associates
PO Box 814
Corning, NY 14830
(607) 962-2892
paulkish@stny.rr.com

16-20
Tire Impression and Tire Track Evidence: Recovery and Examination Course—To be held at the Baltimore County Police Department in Towson, MD.
CONTACT: Bill Bodziak
38 Sabal Bend
Palm Coast, FL 32137
(386) 447-3567
Fax: (386) 447-3568
wbodziak@earthlink.net
www.bodziak.com

16-20
Detection, Recovery and Examination of Footwear Impression Evidence Course—To be held at the Indiana Forensic Institute in Indianapolis, IN.
CONTACT: Kristy Trumpey
Institute for Forensic Imaging
338 S. Arlington Suite 111
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 556-0245
www.id-indy.org

9-11
Introduction to Shooting Incident Reconstruction—To be held at the Texas Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Austin, TX.
CONTACT: Lt. Erwin Ballarta
(512) 788-0113
erwin.ballarta@txdps.state.tx.us

8-14
Tire Impression and Tire Track Evidence: Recovery and Examination Course—To be held at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.
CONTACT: Dennis Dirkmaat, PhD
Dept of Applied Forensic Sciences
Mercyhurst College
501 E. 38th Street
Erie, PA 16546
(814) 824-2150
ddirkmaat@mercyhurst.edu
www.mercyhurst.edu

16-20
Analysis of Bone Trauma and Pseudo-Trauma in Suspected Violent Deaths Short Course—To be held at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.
CONTACT: Dennis Dirkmaat, PhD
Dept of Applied Forensic Sciences
Mercyhurst College
501 E. 38th Street
Erie, PA 16546
(814) 824-2150
ddirkmaat@mercyhurst.edu
www.mercyhurst.edu

16-20
Introduction to Shooting Incident Reconstruction—To be held at FoCoSS Forensics in Concord, NH.
CONTACT: Steve Ostrowski
(603) 340-9675
sostrowski@focossforensics.com
AUGUST 2008

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

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

11-13
Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Course—To be held in London, England.
CONTACT: Tony Larkin
Metropolitan Police Service
London, England
anthony.larkin@met.police.uk
Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 7230 0342

16-21
American Society of Questioned Document Examiners Annual Conference—To be held at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel in Asheville, NC.
CONTACT: Charlotte Ware
US Postal Inspection Service
PO Box 3000
Charlotte, NC 28228-3000
(704) 329-9168
cware@uspis.gov

20-23
7th International Conference on Forensic Inference and Statistics—To be held at the Lausanne University Campus in Lausanne, Switzerland.
CONTACT: Franco Taroni, PhD
Ecole des Sciences Criminelles
Institut de Police Scientifique
Université de Lausanne
Batochime
1015 Lausanne
Switzerland
icfis@unil.ch
http://www.unil.ch/icfis

23-27
4th Virtopsy Basic Course—To be held at the Institute of Forensic Medicine at the University of Bern in Bern, Switzerland.
CONTACT: Prof. Dr. med. Michael Thali, MD
Centre Forensic Imaging / Virtopsy at the University of Bern
Institute of Forensic Medicine
Buchstrasse 20
CH-3012 Bern
Switzerland
Tel: +41 31 631 8458
sandra.salzmann@irm.unibe.ch
www.virtopsy.com

SEPTEMBER 2008

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

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

22-26
28-Oct 2
The Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS) Fall Meeting—To be held at Sam’s Town Hotel and Casino in Shreveport, LA.
CONTACT: Randall Robillard
General Program Chair
(318) 227-2889
Fax: (318) 227-9013
robillard@nlcl.org
www.southernforensic.org
www.nlcl.org/safs2008info.html

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

OCTOBER 2008

2-5
Making Sense of the Sixties: A National Symposium on the Political Assassinations and Legacies of Martin Luther King Jr., Robert F. Kennedy, and John F. Kennedy—To be held in Pittsburgh, PA.
CONTACT: The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law
Duquesne Univ School of Law
Edward J. Hanley Hall
900 Locust Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15282-4070
(412) 396-1330
Fax: (412) 396-1331
wechtinstitute@duq.edu
www.forensics.duq.edu

6-10
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course—Sponsored by Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Division of Forensic Pathology. To be held in St. Louis, MO.
CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst or Julie Howe
Saint Louis University
School of Medicine
1402 S Grand Blvd; R512
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 977-3970
Fax: (314) 977-5695
mldi@slu.edu
http://medschool.shu.edu/mldi/

6-10
40-Hour Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Training Course—Hosted by the Tacoma Police Department in Tacoma, WA.
CONTACT: Daniel V. Christman, MS
PO Box 823
Bothell, WA 98011
(206) 919-8392
dan@christmanforensics.com

7-10
International Conference of South Asian Congress of Forensic Medicine, Forensic Science & Toxicology—To be held at the Amity Institute of Behavioral Health and Allied Sciences, Amity University, in Gautam Budh Nagar, India.
CONTACT: Cindi Lilly
FACSS International Office
2019 Galisteo Street, Bldg I-1
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 820-1648
www.facss.org

20-24
California Association of Criminalists Semi-Annual Seminar—To be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento, CA.
CONTACT: Cara Gomes
Sacramento County Laboratory of Forensic Services
1800 Broadway, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95820
(916) 87-6936
gomesc@saccounty.net
www.cac.org
Do you know someone who may be interested in AAFS membership?

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

Name:  
Address:  
City:  
State:  
Zip:  

Please provide your name so the potential applicant will know who requested the application. AAFS will also recognize you by placing a Sponsor badge in your 2008 Annual Meeting registration packet. Please detach form and return to AAFS. Thank you.

Your name:  

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

New Applicant Services Only:  
(800) 701-AAFS

E-mail: membership@aafs.org
Website: http://www.aafs.org