President’s Message

As the Academy prepares to enter “meeting mode,” I want to begin this piece with two important thoughts. The annual meeting does not just happen; it takes a lot of hard work. And no group works harder than the Academy staff in making it “happen.” Under the leadership of Anne Warren, the pieces of the puzzle which will become February 2011 in Chicago have begun to come together. So to Anne, Nancy, Kimberly, Sondra, Debbie, Tracie, Sonya, Cheryl, Christie, Phyllis, Amber and Salena, on behalf of all 6,000 members, I want to publicly thank each of you for what you will do for all of us every day and especially for what you will do in the coming months.

During my incoming address at the 2010 Academy Annual Business Meeting in Seattle, I made the following statement:

“The Academy is about the eleven sections and your representatives to the Board of Directors who are seated on this stage and in the audience. The Board of Directors will be involved in the decision-making processes which will determine where we are going in 2010-2011. We will work together to evaluate how to provide the best forensic science work product possible to the justice systems we serve.”

I am but one of 18 members on the Board of Directors of our Academy. Our mission includes the following: promoting integrity, competency, education, fostering research, improving practice, and encouraging collaboration in the forensic sciences. No one person can accomplish this alone. Some believe the responsibility of a leader is to say “follow me.” I disagree. A leader’s responsibility should be to provide opportunities for those in positions of responsibility and the individual members to contribute to those processes which are in the best interest of the organization. Leadership is about encouraging collaborative thinking and this includes informing without inflaming. The collective wisdom of the group far surpasses the wisdom of any one member of the group.

As the President of the Academy, I have found that the 2010-2011 Board of Directors (BOD) has been there at every turn, providing advice, counsel and consensus for how best to serve the members of the Academy and the forensic science community. While we do not always achieve unanimity on how best to achieve goals and face challenges, we always agree that the goals must be achieved and the challenges must be addressed.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank and acknowledge every member of the Board of Directors for participating in the difficult decisions we have made to date, and for their continuing support in the months ahead as we get closer to February 2011 in Chicago. I also want to express my appreciation to the chairs of all eleven sections for their monthly contributions to each issue of the Academy News which address our theme leading up to our February 2011 meeting in Chicago. For those who take the time to

continued on page 3

AAFS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE!

All completed applications, including any additional requirements, for membership and promotion must be submitted online or received in the AAFS Office by October 1, 2010, in order to be considered for approval at the 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago.

See page 4 for information on submitting your application online at www.aafs.org.
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Future AAFS Annual Meeting Dates

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

February 20-25, 2012
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, GA

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

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

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

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

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One of my objectives this year has been to encourage a closer cooperation between lawyers and forensic scientists. We are all members of the same Academy. While we do not always speak the same language, we must find ways to educate one another and resolve the conflicts in the ways we document and testify to the products of our thought processes. I have spoken at a number of legal conferences this year representing the Academy. The most interesting was the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section meeting at Fordham University School of Law in June. There were representatives from both the prosecution and defense sides of the bar, judges, forensic scientists and academicians in attendance. During the meeting I suggested that we all listen to and learn from one another. None of us is always right, and none of us is always wrong. Afterwards, I again realized that we all actually have more in common than I sometimes care to acknowledge. I am no longer amazed that we can learn much about one another during post-meeting social events, when we let down our guard, sit across a table, sip from a glass containing a cold beverage, and then admit that we are all trying to improve forensic science.

In order to “strengthen” forensic science, lawyers and social scientists might consider tempering their arguments which sometimes focus on theoretical concepts in a vacuum without considering what really happens in a forensic science laboratory. Too often these arguments work in theory, but do not serve as stand-alone justifications for evaluating a forensic science method. Philosophy, psychology, statistics, and some theoretical concepts may provide additional factors for evaluating forensic science. Acknowledging these concepts will be more palatable if and only if, real world forensic scientists are brought into a discussion rather than being on the receiving end of a monologue. There are benefits for inclusion of these “points of view” in the discussion, but not at the expense of excluding reality from the discussion.

The forensic scientist has an absolute responsibility for being correct every time a report of analysis is finalized and corresponding testimony is presented in court. This requirement cannot be minimized or negotiated. Words, when used properly, are powerful; however, the ability to use the correct words when demonstrating the reasons for a conclusion is even more powerful. And this is where many forensic scientists fail to educate themselves when they enter the social science arena of the courtroom. Those who listen to testimony in a courtroom need not be sold on science when they can see it for themselves. The effective forensic scientist should leave little to the imaginations of those who are the decision makers in a trial. Those who believe in the “forensic” (adversarial discussion/debate/argumentation) part of forensic science must minimize the decoding which some infuse in their testimony. The courtroom is where this all comes together, not the laboratory.

A determining factor for everyone in the courtroom and the laboratory is predicated on something we learned in grammar school: Winning at any cost is not good; Playing by the rules is good. Does this fly in the face of the responsibilities of both prosecutors and the defense attorneys, especially where forensic science testimony is an important part of the trial? I believe the defense should do everything possible to ensure the requirements are met for providing the fairest possible processes in a trial. To do anything less in providing a proper defense is a miscarriage of justice. Ensuring that the government meets the “beyond a reasonable doubt” standard in the trial is another one of those non-negotiable requirements in the courtroom; however, there are many other ways to question the reliability of the forensic science testimony without resorting to “muddying the waters,” though this is justifiable and oftentimes effective. Let me be clear, the defense has a right and an obligation to elevate the reasonable doubt in trial. When this happens in a trial, the forensic scientist must be able to engage in the “forensic part” of the science. Remembering the definition above and understanding the adversarial part of “forensic” science, if the expert cannot explain it, the expert shouldn’t say it.

As a part of my speech in New York, I made the following statement which I know will upset many of my colleagues in the laboratory:

“A determining factor for everyone in the courtroom and the laboratory is predicated on something we learned in grammar school: Winning at any cost is not good; Playing by the rules is good. Does this fly in the face of the responsibilities of both prosecutors and the defense attorneys, especially where forensic science testimony is an important part of the trial? I believe the defense should do everything possible to ensure the requirements are met for providing the fairest possible processes in a trial. To do anything less in providing a proper defense is a miscarriage of justice. Ensuring that the government meets the “beyond a reasonable doubt” standard in the trial is another one of those non-negotiable requirements in the courtroom; however, there are many other ways to question the reliability of the forensic science testimony without resorting to “muddying the waters,” though this is justifiable and oftentimes effective. Let me be clear, the defense has a right and an obligation to elevate the reasonable doubt in trial. When this happens in a trial, the forensic scientist must be able to engage in the “forensic part” of the science. Remembering the definition above and understanding the adversarial part of “forensic” science, if the expert cannot explain it, the expert shouldn’t say it.

As a part of my speech in New York, I made the following statement which I know will upset many of my colleagues in the laboratory:

“The six most questionable words used to formulate the justification for a conclusion by any forensic analyst are ‘BASED ON MY TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE...’ Training and experience in the absence of demonstrative evidence mean little to me. A reputable examiner should be able to show the decision makers—the prosecutor, the defense attorney, the judge and the jury—the basis for a conclusion which is understandable and can be justified by data or images. If the examiner resorts [only] to the ‘trust me, I know what I am doing logic,’ a red flag should immediately go up: DON’T TRUST HIM!”

The bar we are required to clear in formulating conclusions should have been raised a long time ago. This especially applies to those of us who wrote minimal reports and refused to make all of our data available pre-trial. I encourage anyone representing either side in a criminal or civil case to demand that forensic scientists demonstrate the bases for their conclusions. Do not presume that the expert is always right.

For the second time in my 35 years as a forensic scientist, I was recently called upon by the defense to evaluate the report of a government witness at a sentencing hearing in San Diego. I evaluated the relationship of evidence to the requirements in the Sentencing Guidelines. After studying the science and law in this case, I believed that the government’s sentencing recommendation used an inappropriate Guideline. I made my argument in a report with structural drawings which showed the chemistry of the substance in question as it related to the requirements of the Guidelines. I eliminated from my arguments the following: philosophy, psychology, probability theory, statistics, differential equations and all those other
President’s Message cont.

“things” frequently used to attack forensic science. What a novel idea! I focused on facts. The public defender also argued facts and the science; she did not argue “what ifs.” She relied on the requirements of the Guidelines, not some nebulous, non-specific literature reference. Her questions were based on the actual wording of the Guidelines, not on what some would have tried to convince the judge the words meant. This was an example of citing more than “chapter and verse.” The “show him what you are talking about principle” was about to work again. The judge ruled that the arguments as presented by defense with molecular drawings of chemical structures, supplemental documentation actually obtained from the investigating agency (not some obscure literature reference), and the Guidelines, which others apparently had not bothered to question or read in detail, were substantive and convincing. The judge ruled that the government’s selection of the appropriate sentencing guideline in this case was incorrect. My faith was restored in “playing by the rules” as defined by the requirements of the Guidelines and addressing the substantive issues in the case. There is a difference between establishing “reasonable doubt” and meeting the “preponderance of evidence” standard by demonstrating the shortcoming in the presentation of forensic science testimony rather than by “muddying the waters.” Let me be clear again, the latter method is absolutely allowed and must be used in some instances; however, relaying facts is another option which can be very effective.

The decisions in the judicial system are, or should be, based on what has transpired in the individual case which is being tried. Arguments at trial should be based on the presentation of facts in the form of resulting data and justification for the methodology rather than the theoretic possibility that an error can occur. The question should not be: Is there a possibility that an error occurred? There is no arguing the fact that there is always a non-zero probability of an error having occurred with a resulting erroneous conclusion. The question should be: Did an error occur in this case? Arguing models which do not reflect reality usually fails to convince anyone.

I hope those who represent both sides in the courtroom pay more attention to the forensic science report and testimony, and the reliability for both. We all have a responsibility to get it right every time. I still remember the heated response of ABC news anchor, Frank Reynolds, after he received and reported incorrect information on the attempted assassination of President Reagan in 1981. The reports were that James Brady, Mr. Reynolds’ close friend, was dead and that Reagan had not been struck at all. With anger in his voice he turned to those behind him, and here is what he said within earshot of a national television audience: “Let’s get it nailed down somebody...let’s get it straight so we can report this thing accurately!” That moment stuck in my head. To my colleagues in the laboratory I say, let’s make sure that our reports and testimony nail down the facts so that we can report our

The Application for AAFS Membership is Online!

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has launched its new online membership application system which will allow: 1) current members or affiliates to complete an application to upgrade your status; and, 2) non-members to complete the membership application process to become an Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate.

Members
If you are currently a member or affiliate of the AAFS and are looking to upgrade your status, you may now complete your application online at www.aafs.org. You will need to log into your PeopleWeb account (if you are unsure as to your login information, please email the Membership Department at membship@aafs.org). Currently, all of the required documentation (e.g., references, CVs, case reports, etc.) still need to be emailed (membship@aafs.org), mailed, or faxed separately to AAFS. We hope to launch this portion of the online application system by the end of the year.

Non-Member Authors/Co-Authors
If you are not a member of the Academy, but you have served as an author or co-author on a presentation (oral or poster) at an AAFS Annual Meeting, a PeopleWeb account was established for you when your presentation was submitted. An email was sent to you with your login information. If you are unable to obtain your login information, please contact the Membership Department at membship@aafs.org.

AAFS Annual Meeting Attendees, Exhibitors, and Volunteers
If you have attended, exhibited, or volunteered at an AAFS Annual Meeting, you should have an account on record with AAFS. Please contact the Membership Department for your identification number at membship@aafs.org.

We welcome your feedback on the new online application process. Please send your emails to Membership Coordinator, Cheryl Hunter, at chunter@aafs.org.
President-Elect’s Message

In the last AAFS Academy News I focused well-deserved attention on the granting programs of the National Institute of Justice. Since writing that contribution, I have attended two events addressing key issues in the forensic sciences, both supported by NIJ. At a June 7-10 gathering in Scottsdale, AZ, I joined President Bono and many other AAFS colleagues in sessions focusing on forensic issues in death investigation. Shortly thereafter, June 17-20, I attended a continuing education event at Syracuse University, NY, exploring new directions in forensic anthropology. There, I joined colleagues Tom Holland, Dennis Dirkmaat, and Dawnie Steadman in making key thematic presentations followed by thoughtful discussion with many other forensic anthropology colleagues. Both very well-organized programs broke new academic ground and targeted key topics that are deserving of research attention. I fully expect that many of the new ideas generated by these discussions will evolve into grant proposals attracting funding and culminating in research publications that advance the field in important ways.

While the contributions of NIJ to stimulate quality research in forensic science are impressive, they are by no means unique. Our own Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) also represents a key source of research funding specifically targeting innovative research proposals from AAFS membership. Although founded in 1969, the Foundation began affiliation with the Academy in 1973. (For excellent detailed discussions of the history and impact of the Foundation, consult the book History of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, 1948-1998 by K.S. Field, ASTM, West Conshohocken, PA, 1998, and Letter to the Editor, Effectiveness of FSF Acorn and Lucas Grants by B.G. Brogdon JFS, 54(3), 2009.) Since 1973, the Foundation has become the educational, scientific, and research arm of the Academy with the following stated objectives:

- To develop and conduct education and training programs;
- To develop new ways to improve the forensic sciences;
- To promote public education concerning all disciplines in the forensic sciences; and
- To support research in fields relating to the forensic sciences.

The current Chair of the FSF is former AAFS President Ronald L. Singer. Immediate past Chairs include John D. McDowell (2006-2008) and Carla M. Noziglia (2000-2005). Through their leadership and those who served previously, the Foundation has achieved sufficient financial stability to conduct a much appreciated granting program. Awards such as Lucas (named in honor of former AAFS President and FSF Chair Douglas M. Lucas), Acorn, the Jan S. Bashinski Criminalistics Graduate Thesis Assistance Grant, Student Travel Grants, and the Forensic Science Student Research Program have directed about $133,000 over the years to many deserving projects. These awards have supported research initiatives throughout forensic science on a wide range of cutting-edge topics.

Our Foundation not only represents a model granting program but also a splendid example of volunteerism and philanthropy. As with other initiatives of the AAFS, Foundation...
In my last article I suggested that some form of mandatory forensic science oversight was overdue and that the time had come to enact some form of mandatory oversight of the forensic science system. I want to continue on that theme to explain why I believe this to be the case. Of course, these opinions are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect those of any particular organization. I also suppose that with forty years of experience in the forensic science profession, I am just as entitled to express my opinions as the next person. Naturally, you are free to agree or disagree with my assessment and I respect that.

Some may argue that existing regulatory efforts already in place are sufficient to ensure quality, timely, and effective forensic services. I suppose to a degree that is true. The various forensic science laboratory accreditation programs that are offered through ASCLD/LAB, FQS-I, ABFT, NAME, etc. are all excellent. However, these are voluntary (except for the handful of states mandating accreditation of forensic service providers). There are also a number of fine certification programs that assess examiner proficiency, but again, these are voluntary. There are no mandatory requirements for forensic science practitioners (with the exception of DNA standards). Forensic science practitioners are not required to meet any rigorous standards to demonstrate competency, although many of the TWGS or technical working groups recommend such minimum standards. But again, these are not mandatory. Judges decide whether an expert can proffer opinion evidence testimony. Many practitioners are very well qualified and clearly know their areas of expertise; others, perhaps less so. The point is that there are few mandatory objective requirements to demonstrate competency of laboratory operations or forensic scientists. Thus, it is a fair question to ask: should forensic science be regulated? Certainly, the National Academy of Science’s Report raises the issue, as have others.

Then there is the question of the many hundreds, and perhaps thousands of police agencies that provide forensic services but are not considered crime labs. How should any sort of oversight, voluntary or mandatory, be addressed in these cases?

Like laboratory accreditation, another element of a quality system is practitioner certification. With the exception of DNA, no other area of forensic science requires mandatory certification—accept for those areas where a practitioner is a physician or dentist and is licensed by the state in which he/she practices.

Imagine if you had to be hospitalized. Would you consider going to a non-accredited hospital? Would you willing receive treatment from a physician or dentist who was not licensed to practice (I’m using licensure which is not necessarily equivalent to certification but for my argument is similar as it reflects some level of competency)? Why is forensic science unlike all the other professions that require a mandatory demonstration of quality? Surely the suggestion that the trial serves the purpose of demonstrating competency and quality of forensic science providers and organizations has been shown not to be the case.
Reliable, Relevant and Valid Forensic Science: Eleven Sections—One Academy
Disciplines Within the General Section

Source: Robert C. Gaffney, MFS, General Section Chair and Claire E. Shepard, MS, General Section

President Joe Bono gave each section chair the opportunity to elaborate on the relevance, reliability, and validity of their forensic disciplines. The theme in part is “Eleven Sections—One Academy.” I was immediately faced with a dilemma, as the General Section is “One Section: Twenty-five Disciplines.” How can you possibly account for the relevance, reliability, and validity of each without writing a book? We have accountants, firearms examiners, nurses, educators, and researchers with a myriad of consultants and investigators. But, each discipline has a common thread; the identification, collection, and preservation of forensically relevant evidence. No other forensic discipline starts until we finish!

I decided to use the below article from Claire Shepard as an example of one of our disciplines with the hope we can highlight our remaining twenty-four in the future.

Crime Scene Investigation: Reliable and Relevant!

Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) is perhaps one of the most diverse fields in forensic science and one of the least standardized. This does not mean that CSIs across the country are not performing a quality job each day using reliable and relevant scientific methods. Not long ago, CSI consisted of detectives throwing items from a crime scene into the trunk of their patrol car and taking it back to the station. Once in their office, they would shove the items into their desk drawer or cabinet and go look for it months or years later when the case went to trial. Those days are long gone. However, without standardization of the CSI field it may be difficult to prove that as CSIs we are using reliable and relevant scientific procedures and methods to recognize, document, process, and collect evidence.

When working in a crime laboratory as a bench scientist certain qualifications are necessary for the examiner and the lab to retain American Society Criminal Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) accreditation. If someone is speaking of a laboratory analyst at any lab across the country one could easily establish the analyst has a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree in a natural science. There are no standard educational or training guidelines for Crime Scene Investigators unless they are attached to an ASCLD accredited lab. Each agency determines the appropriate standard of education and training for their investigators resulting in a wide variety of education, training, and/or levels of experience across the country.

A crime scene investigation unit in a metropolitan area might have over a dozen investigators on staff in addition to fingerprint technicians, AFIS technicians, forensic photographers, and administrative staff. These investigators typically work rotating shifts, are civilians and are required to have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree, even if the job description does not explicitly state that. Many require International Association of Identification (IAI) certification within six months to a year on the job and allow advancement within the unit. In addition, these units are typically so busy they do not handle calls such as stolen automobiles or misdemeanor thefts. In many cases, detectives and patrol officers are trained in fingerprint processing to handle some of the less serious cases while the CSIs concentrate on the felony cases.

In smaller cities there are typically one or two CSIs who are sworn police officers who have worked their way through the ranks to become a CSI. The extent of their forensic science education is typically the 16 hours in CSI training they received in the police academy or additional training they have received at a state-sponsored class. Most of these officers do not have science degrees, and they learned forensic science on the job. In their jurisdictions, they rarely have homicides or other major felony cases, which allows (or forces) the CSIs to concentrate mainly on smaller, less serious cases often not processed by larger departments.

The recent National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report focused on standardized practices across the board for forensic science, but also mentioned the lack of standards in the realm of CSI. This does not mean the sworn police officers at Griffin Police Department are doing a worse job than the civilian officers with bachelor’s degrees at Mesa (AZ) Police Department. What it does mean is we cannot just expect everyone to know that all our CSIs are held to a standard, when there are no standards in place. Imagine if in court it was acceptable to say, “Hey, just believe us; our crime lab is doing everything according to standards!” That would not be allowed and should not be allowed for CSI either.

However, we cannot generalize and assume all CSI units are the same. Our CSI units are arguably more diverse than our crime labs. While there may be one main crime lab in a state, that state could have multiple CSI units per county, and have over 100 counties. The rural units have vastly different needs and crime rates than the metropolitan units. For example, the training and call level for a CSI in metro Atlanta (where there are over 100 homicides a year) is completely different from the training and call level for a CSI in a town where one homicide occurs every two to three years.

We should not ignore the NAS Report and continue with business as usual. It is important that we contemplate the recommendations of the NAS Report and use them where appropriate. It is necessary for some standard practices to begin in crime scene investigation, but it is not without a cost. You are going to be hard pressed to tell a Sheriff of a rural county that he has to hire a civilian CSI with a master’s degree in forensic science. Not only could the county budget not afford it, the employment pool with that level of education likely does not exist.

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Reliable, Relevant and Valid Forensic Science: Eleven Sections—One Academy
Pathology/Biology: Validity and Reliability Through Diversity

Sources: Jeffery K. Tomberlin, PhD, Wendy Gunther, MD, and Kim A. Collins, MD, Pathology/Biology Section

Over the course of this year, each newsletter produced by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) has highlighted how AAFS sections are addressing the concerns of the National Academy of Sciences forensic science report as it relates to their reliability, relevance, and validation. And, in my opinion, these summaries have been very impressive and encouraging. It is apparent that we, as a collective group, are heading in the right direction as the scientific rigor is stronger, the membership continues to grow, and we continue to remain engaged with educating the general public as well as our respective legislative bodies.

The Pathology/Biology Section has met this opportunity without hesitation. Like the other sections that have already been highlighted in previous newsletters, Pathology/Biology has also been a major contributing force towards the success of the AAFS Annual Meeting (i.e., averaging over 100 presentations/year) and moving the Academy into the 21st century. Below are examples of efforts that have been made to improve the fields represented within the section:

Pathology—Validity & Reliability: After negative press, it is sometimes a relief to see positive accomplishments of forensic pathologists highlighted in the news. Larry Tate, a forensic pathologist in Canada, obtained permission to videotape an autopsy he was performing on a natural death. The videotape was shown to a select class of high school students described as “pathology enthusiasts.” One twelfth-grade student, Pneet Grewal, who hopes someday to be a pathologist, told the Edmonton Journal, “It’s nice to know now I can actually deal with this stuff. I was never grossed out. I look at it from a scientific perspective.” Their elders showed considerably less sangfroid; when Dr. Tate used typical forensic humor to answer the question of where the organs go after he has finished the autopsy, “We don’t have much of a cafeteria here,” the school librarian was overheard to respond, “I think I’ll be a vegetarian now.”

Moving from the world of Canadian high-school students to the much larger world of the popular media, Roger Byard, well known to many of us, reached beyond the audience of the Journal of Forensic Sciences when one of his scientific articles reviewing the potential forensic significance of traditional herbal medicines (JFS, Jan 2010) was quoted in “Self” magazine. “Herbal remedies such as ginseng and St. John’s wort are not federally regulated, leaving them vulnerable to problems like contamination that can cause illness, exacerbate existing conditions or even result in death – especially if mixed with prescription drugs, the Journal of Forensic Sciences reveals,” the “Self” article stated. When forensic medicine shows up in a health magazine, this is not only positive press, but possibly preventive medicine.

And last but not least, many of our institutions move forward in demonstrating how they can be trusted to supply reliable, valid, and relevant evidence. The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory, accredited through the ASCLD/LAB (American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Lab Accreditation Board) Legacy Program since December 13, 2004, has passed an internal audit every year since, and has just been re-accredited through an extensive external audit. Says Linda J. Perrot, Professor of Pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, “Accreditation is just one component of the ASCLD’s quality assurance program, which also includes proficiency testing, continuing education, and other programs to help the laboratory provide better overall service to the criminal justice system.” Accreditation is a means to demonstrate to law enforcement agencies, the court system, and to the public that the laboratory is meeting established standards.

Introducing high-school students to the world of pathology, writing valid scientific articles which reach the popular press, and passing rigorous tests of accreditation are all ways in which forensic pathology demonstrates that reliability, validity, and relevance are not only part of our foundation values but also make up our daily experience in the field we love.

Biology—Validity & Reliability: As we all recognize, DNA has set the standard by which many, if not all on some level, forensic sciences are measured. This comparison is for good reason as the DNA field has demonstrated its reliability and validity time and time again in various research communities, journals, and courtrooms world-wide (i.e., Daubert Standard). Of course, the elegance of applying DNA in the forensic sciences is that it continues to be challenged by advancements being made in basic sciences that span fields ranging from genetics to evolution. Researchers world-wide who may not even have any interest in the forensic sciences are contributing indirectly to this arena by simply continuing to conduct research in their respective fields, improving existing techniques, and developing novel methods. At the same time, forensic scientists monitor the pulse of the scientific community and through collaborations and support from agencies such as the National Institute of Justice, test, validate, and implement these advancements in forensic research and casework.

Entomology is an example within the Pathology/Biology Section that is suggesting that the same paradigm that exists with the discipline of DNA be applied to the use of insects in criminal investigations. Pathology/Biology Fellow, Jeff Tomberlin at Texas A&M University, in conjunction with Eric Benbow at the University of Dayton, Aaron Tarone and Rachel Mohr at Texas A&M University and AAFS member Sherah Van Laethoven at the University of Windsor, have developed a framework that will allow for the bridging of basic and applied decomposition

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The Science of Firearm/Toolmark Identification continues to be challenged by critics within the legal community and the media. The National Academy of Sciences has issued reports critical of the scientific foundations of the discipline. Other critics in the legal and academic fields have identified mistakes made by crime laboratories which have resulted in massive overhauls of the identified systems and evaluations of previous casework of the affected examiners. These critics have argued that there is a lack of empirical research and that the validity of the science has yet to be established. They also claim that the methods which examiners employ during the examination and evaluation of firearm and toolmark evidence have yet to be standardized. The reliability of the science has been demonstrated and supported through proficiency tests and validity studies over many decades. The calculated error rates indicate that the conclusions reached are accurate when appropriate methods are followed by a competent examiner. Methods and standards have been established by the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE), the Scientific Working Group for Firearms and Toolmarks (SWGGUN) and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). However, many of these standards and guidelines are presently recommendations and have not been mandated or universally applied across the United States.

Errors in casework that have been identified appear to have been caused by examiners with poor ethical standards, inadequate training, scientifically unsound protocols, and/or working under undue pressure to produce results. Apparently, the laboratories identified lacked sufficient quality assurance measures necessary to ensure a reliable work product. The Scientific Working Group for Firearms and Toolmarks Identification (SWGGUN) requirements/recommendations to guide forensic science laboratory management in the development and maintenance of a competent Firearm and Toolmark Identification Unit may be found at www.swggun.org/pages/systemic.htm. Through proper training, ethical standards, continued education, and a comprehensive quality assurance program, the reliability of the science can be demonstrated.

(References for this and the referenced document can be accessed at www.swggun.org/pages/systemic.htm).

References:
1. www.swggun.org

Academy News
NEW! The Leica FS M comparison macroscope offers straightforward manual control of the stages, comparison bridge, and illumination for flexibility and convenience. The system can be configured for dual viewing, and the comparison bridge provides split, full left, full right, and superimposed imaging. In less than one second, the user can continuously adjust the viewing field and imaging modes.

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A Word From Your 2011 Program Co-Chair

The deadline for abstract submissions has passed. Thank you! Once again, the AAFS membership has come through and submitted quality scientific papers, posters, and workshop proposals. I applaud those who took the time to document their hard work and/or research to enable your material to be presented in Chicago. For those who intended to present in 2011 but work schedules precluded you from meeting the deadline, I encourage you to continue with your zeal to share your knowledge and consider submitting for the 2012 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The AAFS membership is the backbone of the Academy and the AAFS Annual Meeting. Whether you are an attendee or you present a scientific paper, poster, or a workshop, your dedication to enhancing the forensic science community enables the annual meetings to succeed. I also wanted to commend each section program chair for taking the time to review all submitted abstracts. You each have the daunting task of choosing the best of the best abstracts for your sections and organizing them into a logical flow. All of these efforts are the critical factors in the equation for the success of the annual meeting. Everyone involved in this process has been awesome. Both Sue and I are totally indebted to you for your outstanding support and your superb accomplishments.

Another important group that makes the annual meetings succeed are the volunteers who work behind-the-scenes to ensure all moving parts work smoothly. No aspect of the meeting could function without this cadre of individuals who have taken the time to assist. If you, your partner, or a friend anticipate having some extra time during the meeting, I encourage you to contact Amber Olson, the AAFS Volunteer Coordinator, at aolson@aafs.org. You can find the volunteer application on page 15. The deadline to submit your name to be considered for volunteer service is December 1.
The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has selected Hertz® (www.hertz.com) as the official car rental agency for the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting to be held February 21-26, 2011, in Chicago. To reserve a vehicle at our special meeting rates, go to the AAFS website at www.aafs.org:

1. Click on the “Meetings” tab.
2. Click on “AAFS Annual Meeting.”
3. Click on the “Ground Transportation” button.
4. Click on the Hertz® logo to go to the Hertz® website.
5. Make sure the “I have a discount (CDP, PC, Coupon or other code)” box is checked and the code 04E70002 is entered in the “Convention Number - CV” box.

You may also provide the CV# (04E70002) to your corporate travel department or travel agent when making reservations. You can also make reservations online at Hertz.com or call Hertz directly:

- In the U.S. and Canada: 1-800-654-2240
- Other: 1-405-749-4434

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has selected United Airlines as the official airline carrier for the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago. The meeting ID number for United Airlines is 585WH and should be used when booking travel on United.

The same code (585WH) may be used by international travelers. Reservations may be made through United’s Meetings Plus Reservation System or a travel professional. In the U.S. or Canada, contact United’s MeetingsPlus reservation service at (800) 321-4041. For international travel, contact your local reservation office.

Please Donate to the FSF 2011 $ilent Auction!

With your help, the Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) Annual Silent Auction can exceed expectations during the 2011 meeting in Chicago, IL. Does your agency or department have “logo” gear such as hats, patches, pins, coffee mugs, T-shirts, denim shirts, polos, etc., that you would be willing to donate to the auction? Many of us are collectors of such items for display at work or at home.

Through extensive research, the FSF will obtain a number of fun items, but YOUR donation will make a huge difference. Please forward items to Kimberly Wrasse at the Academy office no later than December 31, 2010. You and your agency will be recognized for your donation. Auction items received after the deadline will be accepted for the following year. Thank you in advance.
Make Your Hotel Reservations Early!

**AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting**

**February 21-26, 2011**

**Hyatt Regency Hotel**

Chicago, Illinois

151 East Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601  
U.S.A.

**Single/Double: $169**

**Reservation Instructions:** For hotel availability during the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting, there are two ways to make your reservation online: 1) go to the AAFS website (www.aafs.org); click on “Meetings,” “AAFS Annual Meeting;” then click on the “Accommodations” button to be transferred to the Hyatt Regency Chicago’s reservation system; or, 2) enter the following website address in your browser: https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AAFS2011. You will be taken directly to the online reservation system.

By using this link, you will receive the group rate for your stay during the AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting. In order to receive the meeting rate, you must make your reservations through the online system or by calling (888) 421-1442. The hotel does not accept reservations by fax. Be sure to book your hotel reservation by **January 16, 2011**. After this date, the conference rate will no longer be available.

**Badge Alert!**

It is the policy at AAFS annual meetings for attendees to have name badges in order to enter special sessions, workshops, breakfasts, and scientific sessions. In the past, attendees and guests have been allowed to enter the Exhibit Hall without a badge. Please note, **ALL** functions will require a name badge in order to enter. All attendees, guests, and the press will not be allowed to enter to any function without a badge. This policy will be strictly enforced, so please come prepared.

**Want to Win a Complimentary Meeting Registration? Attend the AAFS Annual Business Meeting**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fellows and Members of AAFS will be held on Wednesday, February 23, at 4:15p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, IL. It is essential for all Fellows and Members to attend this very important meeting in order to reach a quorum for the voting process. Agenda items include the election of the 2011-12 Officers, recognition of all Members being promoted to Fellow status, and proposed amendments to the AAFS Bylaws. You will also be briefed on AAFS activities during the past year and plans for the future.

As an incentive to attend, all Fellows and Members present will automatically be entered in a drawing to receive a complimentary meeting registration to attend the 2012 AAFS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to offer Travel Grants this year for students to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting in Chicago. The FSF Board of Trustees was able to approve the expenses, not to exceed $800 per student, for five (5) students this year, including complimentary meeting registration. This is a wonderful opportunity, and members are encouraged to promote it.

Travel Grant Eligibility Requirements:
• 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.

All submissions must be received by October 15. The deadline is firm with no extension. Please submit the aforementioned Travel Grant Requirements electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

Guidelines for the Richard Rosner Award for the Best Paper
The Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences announces its annual award, “The Richard Rosner Award for the Best Paper by a Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry or Forensic Psychology.” To qualify: 1) the paper should have been completed as part of the work of the forensic fellowship year, OR within one year of the completion of the forensic fellowship year based upon work or research that took place during that year, 2) the paper must have not been previously published, and 3) submission constitutes permission for publication in the Journal of Forensic Sciences.

To apply for the award: 1) send the original paper, plus six copies, 2) send an original letter, plus six copies, from the director of the forensic fellowship program affirming that the author was a forensic fellow and the year of the author's forensic fellowship, and 3) send seven copies of the author's curriculum vitae. All submissions should be sent to: Amber Olson, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Submissions must be received by December 31, 2010.

The award consists of:
• Free membership for one year in the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section of the AAFS, if the author meets the requirements and completes the application process
• Free registration to the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting
• Acceptance of the paper for presentation at the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section
• Free subscription for one year to the Journal of Forensic Sciences
• Recommendation of publication to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Forensic Sciences
• A cash award of $350 to the author

AAFS reserves the right to remove commercial references not disclosed by the author.

Deadline Approaching - FSF Travel Grants
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• Free subscription for one year to the Journal of Forensic Sciences
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• A cash award of $350 to the author

AAFS reserves the right to remove commercial references not disclosed by the author.
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE 2011 AAFS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The 2011 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting is scheduled for February 21-26, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois. Volunteers are needed to accomplish an array of administrative and gatekeeping tasks throughout the week of the meeting. Volunteers who are not members of the Academy may receive complimentary registration to attend all non-ticketed sessions of the meeting with a minimum of eight hours of completed volunteer service at the meeting. This does not include sessions requiring pre-registration or fees other than the basic meeting registration fee. If you plan to attend any of the special sessions (e.g., workshops, breakfasts, luncheons, etc.), please contact the Volunteer Coordinator for the AAFS Registration Form. Inactive members of the Academy are not eligible to receive complimentary registration.

Although AAFS members do not receive complimentary registration for volunteering, the Academy needs its members to volunteer. Your service to the Academy is recognized as instrumental in making the event a success. Persons accompanying registered attendees are also welcome to volunteer if they wish.

Below is a list of the various areas where volunteers are needed as well as an information form. Credit card information is now required; however, your card will only be charged should you attend the meeting for free and fail to fulfill your volunteer commitment. *Volunteer applications must be received no later than December 1, 2010, and are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

AAFS Office Assistant  Luncheons  Plenary Session  Registration Desk
Breakfast Seminars  Special Sessions  AAFS Annual Business Meeting  Scientific Sessions
Workshops  Student Academy  Evening Sessions  Section Business Meetings

**AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting Volunteer Information Form**

Name: ___________________________________ Title: ____________________ Organization: __________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________

City: _________________________________________________ State/Province: _____________________________________
Zip/Postal Code: _______________ Country: _______________________ Home Phone: ________________________________
Fax: __________________________ Work Phone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: _________________________
Email: _________________________________________________

AAFS Member? Yes [ ] No [ ] Member #________________

The best way to contact me during the meeting is: [ ] Phone [ ] Email [ ] Other ________________________________

Ex. Date: ___________ MC [ ] Visa [ ] AE [ ]

Signature: ______________________________________

Credit Card #: _______________________________

AAFS is authorized to charge up to the 2011 Non-Member registration rate for registration fees should I attend the meeting and not fulfill my volunteer work assignment(s).

I plan to arrive in Chicago, IL, on __________________________ and depart on __________________________

Please check all dates you are available to volunteer. Mark the time(s) of day you are available (am and/or pm) as well as the maximum number of days for which you are willing to volunteer. Please Note: Every attempt is made to fulfill your requests; however, there is no guarantee your requests will match our needs.

Dates Available

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Maximum number of days willing to work: ______________________________________________________________________

[ ] I am requesting “Complimentary” registration as a non-member with a minimum of eight hours of volunteer service.

*Return completed form by December 1, 2010, to:

Amber Olson
AAFS Volunteer Coordinator
410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
Fax: (719) 636-1993
aolson@aafs.org

*Form must be filled out completely. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
Looking for ways to save the earth’s resources? Then become part of the Academy’s “Go Green” Campaign.

In an effort to be responsible stewards of the earth and of the Academy’s resources, the “Go Green” options below are available to all who have a PeopleWeb account set up with the Academy. Depending on your access level (e.g., member, author, applicant, non-member, etc.), the options available to you will display on the screen. Each option is independent of the other and can easily be changed by returning to the PeopleWeb account and deselecting the item.

Please be aware that by selecting any of the checkboxes on the Go Green Tab, you are “opting out” of receiving the paper version of the checked item. For each option selected, an email will be sent to the email address on record once the item becomes available for viewing on the Academy’s website.

Beginning September 1, there will be four ways for Members to opt out of receiving the paper versions of your AAFS: 1) Dues Notice; 2) Academy News newsletter; 3) Advance Program; and 4) Membership Cards.

Log on to your AAFS PeopleWeb account, click on the “Go Green” tab and select the item that you wish to view in an electronic format.

Four Ways to “Go Green” With AAFS

Enjoy Free Online Access to a *Journal of Forensic Sciences* Virtual Issue

**DNA Analysis in Degraded and Unusual Specimens**

Recently there has been an increasing interest in improved DNA testing techniques and the interpretation of these. For example, LCN and Real-Time PCR are two instances of improvements in technology that have advanced the applications of DNA testing in forensic science. More recently the use of familial searches has also generated attention with the ‘Grim Sleeper’ case in Los Angeles.

This virtual issue of papers published over the last few years in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* includes information on the analysis of DNA in degraded and unusual specimens. These have application in criminalistics, physical anthropology, odontology, and the identification of victims of mass disasters. They demonstrate how DNA testing has become commonplace in the forensic sciences.

AAFS 2010 - International Educational Outreach Program: France
The response to the AAFS 2010 International Educational Outreach to France has been everything hoped for with 22 registrants. Our hosts, AAFS President Joseph Bono and Eric Baccino have planned an exciting educational opportunity for both AAFS travelers and local forensic scientists. From the 21st of September through the 27th, the excursion will visit forensic laboratories, teaching facilities, and cultural attractions in Paris, Lyon, Montpellier, and Versailles. Members of the educational outreach will have an opportunity to present within their forensic specialty and exchange information with their French counterparts.

A detailed account of this exciting program will be offered in a future AAFS newsletter.

AAFS 2011 - International Educational Outreach Program: Portugal
Plans for the next AAFS International Outreach Program are already underway. President-Elect Doug Ubelaker has selected Portugal as the 2011 destination. He and IAFS President Duarte N.P. Vieira are planning an educational outreach to include Lisbon, Sintra, Coimbra, Santiago, and Madeira. The 19th Triennial International Association of Forensic Sciences Meeting will be hosted in Madeira, and Dr. Vieira has invited AAFS members traveling with the Outreach Program to present at a special AAFS session September 16, 2011, during the conference. If you need further enticement, Portugal’s old-world charm will offer pristine beaches, picture-perfect villages, medieval castles, and flower-covered hillsides—something for everyone! Final dates of the IEOP are forthcoming so keep your calendar open for the month of September 2011 and plan to be among those traveling with the IEOP!

Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC)
Eleven forensic science programs are under consideration for accreditation. The new applicants are: California State University at Los Angeles, Master of Science, Criminalistics; Cedar Crest College, Master of Science in Forensic Science; Chaminade University of Honolulu, Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Forensic Science; Loyola University Chicago, Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science; Pennsylvania State University, Master of Professional Studies in Forensic Science; Towson University, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Master of Science in Forensic Science; University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, Master of Science Forensic Genetics; and Virginia Commonwealth University (reaccreditation), Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Forensic Science.

With this record number of programs under review, the Commissioners and evaluation teams are very busy. Final results will be announced in February 2011.

To date, there are 29 programs from 27 institutions that have been accredited by FEPAC. Specifics regarding these and all awards of accreditation may be found on the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) under the “FEPAC Accreditation Information” link.

There will be one Academician vacancy on the Commission in February 2011. A “Call for Commissioner Applications” has been posted to the AAFS website and correspondence to all currently accredited institutions has been sent with details for academicians interested in applying for the vacant seat. As defined in the FEPAC Policies and Procedures, Section 2.2 (Composition), “All Commissioners (except the Public Member) must be either a Member or Fellow of the AAFS. To serve as a forensic science educator, an individual must be a faculty member or an administrator at a college or university that offers a FEPAC-accredited forensic science program.” AAFS Members or Fellows may submit letters of intent with a curriculum vitae to the Director of Accreditation by fax (719-636-1993) or electronic communication (njackson@aafs.org).

FEPAC’s commitment is to maintaining and enhancing the quality of forensic science education through a formal evaluation and accreditation system for college-level academic programs that lead to a baccalaureate or graduate degree.

Academy News
Forensic science education has matured a great deal since the first U.S. forensic science program was created at Michigan State University in 1946. Adding to that maturation has been the work of the Forensic Science Educational Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) and the educational programs that have invested in that process: Currently, 30 undergraduate and graduate programs are accredited through FEPAC. Considering its origins, FEPAC has also matured, now financially in the black and recognized by the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA). Our Policies and Procedures were refined through strategic planning and trial and error as were our Standards, all for the better, in my opinion. One of FEPAC’s policies is term limits and I’m facing mine. In February at the AAFS meeting in Chicago, I have to step off FEPAC at the end of my second term, having spent the majority of my FEPAC tenure as Chair. I thought it would be fitting, since I’m vacating my bully-pulpit, to discuss some of my interests, hopes, and concerns about forensic science education’s future.

Let’s start with some concerns. First, I am still surprised at the number of potential forensic students who have no idea that the NIJ report, “Education and Training in Forensic Science,” exists. Years later, it is still an excellent resource (and free!) for those students who are interested in forensic science but are not sure if a career in it is right for them. The AAFS website is also an excellent resource for information about careers in forensic science, but the report from the Technical Working Group on Education and Training in Forensic Science (TWGED) is still the modern touchstone for the new foundations of forensic education. It is free (did I mention that?) through www.ncjrs.gov, addresses the interests of students in Section 1, and provides good information on the coursework necessary for forensic casework. Please promote it and use it to counsel prospective students (again, it’s free). I think it is a great antidote to the “CSI Effect” and provides correction for the legions of interested yet misguided students who think “forensics” means “criminal justice,” “criminology,” or “I don’t have to take hard classes but get to be cool.”

One only has to read Glenn Jackson’s fascinating 2009 article in Forensic Science Policy and Management on educational programs in forensic chemistry to see the need for counseling students who are interested in, but may not be qualified for, forensic science (Disclaimer: I am co-editor of that journal).

My second issue with the community’s use of the NIJ report is Section 4 on continuing educational programs. Many laboratory supervisors have told me that they are loath to send someone to a training course unless they know the instructor or have sent someone before and gotten positive reviews. With the increasing and necessary specialization of forensic science, not everyone can be an expert on who’s an expert. It has always disappointed me, then, to not see someone pick up Section 4 from the TWGED report and turn it into a standard or at least a guideline for quality assurance of training. My patience ran out this year and, with my Assistant Director of the WVU Forensic Science Initiative, Robin Bowen, we turned Section 4 into a draft ASTM manuscript and sent it to them for review as a standard for...
Volume 14.02. It is still “in process” but my understanding is that it should go out to vote soon. Another related item is that of continuing educational units or credits—why are there none for forensic science? Many industries have them, medical and legal just to name two, and they provide a uniform, standard assurance of content provided, curricular needs, and pedagogy. Some continuing educational programs do offer CEUs, or the newer Instructional Learning Units (ILUs), but not all. With certification looming over us professionally, it seems that there should be some way to develop a consensus system for issuing verifiable instructional credits.

My last thought for this issue of the newsletter regards a little history and the process of TWGED. Up to the time the working group was formed, masters degrees were a majority of the programs that were viewed positively in forensic science. Many of the laboratory directors who participated in TWGED voiced their concern about undergraduate degrees being able to have sufficient science in them to prepare students for work in forensic laboratories; this was an echo of opinions voiced in published surveys. TWGED laid that concern to rest, I believe, and all were satisfied with the result. The graduate degree curricula were, largely, left alone in the TWGED process.

Cut to today, where I hear many laboratory directors and students with BS degrees from FEPAC accredited programs commenting that many forensic masters degrees do not seem that different from some undergraduate degrees, apart from the research conducted. I have heard laboratory directors say they would just as soon hire a baccalaureate rather than a masters graduate because they have sufficient knowledge and skills. I have also heard many of those baccalaureates discuss how their lab-mates with masters degrees do not seem to know much more than they do; some of those with forensic BS degrees have gone on to forensic masters programs and determined that they were not worth the time and expense, FEPAC accredited or not.

If we take these criticisms as valid, then it begs the question: Did TWGED rob Peter to pay Paul, that is, did we bleed the graduate curriculum to make the undergraduate curriculum what it should have always been? If so, what does that say about the graduate curricula that is in place? Is it in need of updating? And, more importantly, how do we structure graduate curricula for the future? Many program directors may be feeling flushed at this point because I may have suggested that some may consider their baby to be less than attractive. However, for us to succeed as an industry and a discipline, we need to be brutally honest and open-minded about what we do, who we are, and what we teach. Using the NAS-NRC report as a foil, we have an opportunity to ask deep questions about where we want to go. What remains, then, is this: Will we ask those questions and will we go where the answers take us?

Do You Remember When?

Source: Kenneth S. Field, Academy Historian

1950...

...The Meeting Minutes for the Academy’s 1950 “Organizational Meeting” contained an error in the first paragraph. It stated that the meeting was held in Northwestern University’s Thorne Hall when, in fact, the meeting took place in a far more interesting location — in Lincoln Hall. Lincoln Hall is a replica of London, England’s Central Criminal Court — commonly known as “Old Bailey.” Today, somewhere in the Hall, is a plaque noting that the Academy held its Organizational Meeting there.

Above: The first AAFS Banquet held in 1950 during the “Organizational Meeting” at the Sheraton Hotel.
Right: 1950 Program Cover
Section News

CRIMINALISTICS

Source: Barbara E. Llewellyn, PhD
Section Secretary

On May 5, 2010, a draft of Forensic Science Reform Legislation was put forth by the Senate Judiciary Committee chaired by Senator Patrick Leahy. Many of the items included in the bill address the recommendations prescribed in the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report on Forensic Sciences. The potential impact of the legislation, either positive or negative, cannot be overstated. The legislation calls for the establishment of a Forensic Science Commission which will set standards and requirements for accreditation, certification, procedures and protocols. While this legislation will directly affect those agencies and laboratories receiving federal funding, the legislation also tasks the Commission with considering changes to the Federal Rules of Evidence with regards to certified experts. All section members should read the proposed legislation and become involved in the process. You will be contacted in the near future with information on how you can share your comments and suggestions.

In addition to the Senate Judiciary Committee, The Executive Office of The President of the United States has established a Subcommittee on Forensic Science [http://www.forensicscience.gov/] under the Committee on Science and the National Science and Technology Council. The goal of the subcommittee is to evaluate the recommendations of the NAS Report and address the most practical method for adopting those proposals. The subcommittee is comprised of practitioners and members from all levels of government and academia. Five Interagency Working Groups have been formed to address recommendations: Education, Ethics, and Terminology; Outreach and Communication; Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation; Accreditation and Certification; Standards, Practices, and Protocols. Numerous members of the Criminalistics Section of AAFS have been invited to serve as advisory members to the various working groups.

In other business, the section has extended financial support to the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) for its Annual Meeting being held October 4-8, 2010, in Kansas City, MO. Attendance and support of the regional meetings is vital to the success of these organizations and local laboratories. Many individuals do not have the opportunity to travel to the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting, especially in the current economic climate. Regional meetings offer scientific workshops and a forum in which to exchange ideas and disseminate information to a wide audience but on a smaller, more personal scale than the larger, national meetings. Check your schedule and try to take advantage of the opportunities your regional association has to offer.

Applications for promotion to Member and Fellow must be completed and received by October 1 for consideration at the meeting in Chicago. This deadline also applies to individuals who would like to join the AAFS as an Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. The application process is now available online at www.aafs.org. Please encourage your colleagues and friends who are not currently members to join!
The Engineering Sciences Section wishes to hold a joint reception with the Jurisprudence Section on Wednesday evening, February 23, 2011, during the annual meeting. The section business meeting will be held earlier on Wednesday, and I look forward to seeing you at both events! There will also be a joint technical session with Jurisprudence on expert-lawyer-court interactions and expectations. Joint sessions have been well attended, and this one should prove no exception. More details on the program will be available in following newsletters.

Professional meetings are an integral part of professional development and continuing education. Please note that the ASTM E30 Forensic Sciences Committee meeting will be held as usual in conjunction with AAFS, Saturday, February 19, 2011, and Sunday, February 20, 2011. Some additional upcoming meetings are:

- SFES  October 2010  Napa, CA
- NAFE  January 2011  Tuscon, AZ
- NACE  March 2011  Houston, TX

In other section news, at the suggestion of our Chair Helmut Brosz, the Engineering Sciences Section is creating an expertise database of its full Members and Fellows only. It will be made available to those who might avail themselves of forensic engineering services offered by Fellows and Members. We encourage all associates and affiliates to achieve full membership so you will be eligible for inclusion in future versions of the database. If any member wishes to opt-out of this database, or requires further information, please contact Professor Brosz at hgb@brosz.net.

**GENERAL**

**Sources:** Julie A. Howe, MBA, *Section Secretary*

Thanks to everyone who submitted an abstract for the upcoming meeting in Chicago. Program Chairs Claire Shepard and Alan Boehm are busy reviewing abstracts to develop an outstanding educational program for 2011. We especially appreciate those who submitted a workshop abstract, as income generated from workshops contribute to the section budget. Four workshops sponsored or generated by the General Section at the 2010 meeting produced $1,220 towards the 2011 operating budget.

The June 2010 National Institutes of Justice and National Center for Forensic Science’s Forensic Death Investigation Symposium held in Scottsdale was well attended. The discussions that took place among invited attendees were designed to begin the Path Forward, as the NAS Report suggests, by identifying potential solutions for best practices and protocols within the death investigation community. Attendees represented the various fields within the forensic community from across the nation.

For those of you seeking membership or promotion, the deadline for applications is October 1. We encourage everyone to reach Fellow status and receive full benefits of membership, including voting privileges or serving as section or AAFS officer. Prior to submitting a request for promotion, please read not only the Academy requirements but also those of the General Section to ensure that you comply. The application process is now available online at www.aafs.org.

The General Section offices of Chair, Secretary and AAFS Board of Directors representative are open for election this year. Nominating Committee members Jim Adcock (Chair), Timothy Palmbach, Neal Haskell, Catherine Doughtery, and Frank Ciaccio will identify one candidate for each of these positions. In addition to floor nominations at the February 2011 meeting, any Fellow in the General Section may be placed on the ballot for these positions by petition. Petitions must be supported in writing by a minimum of three Members or Fellows of the General Section to be valid. Petitions must be received by the Academy office no later than October 15, 2010. Candidates nominated by the committee or placed on the ballot by petition will be asked to provide the committee with a one-page resume no later than December 15, 2010. The committee will publish a list of the candidates for General Section offices in the January issue of the Academy News.

**JURISPRUDENCE**

**Source:** Andrew Sulner, MSFS, JD, *Section Secretary*

The programs for the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago promise to be enlightening and entertaining. The Program Committee has put together Joint Sessions with Criminalistics and Engineering Sciences Sections as well as other scientific sessions covering an array of interesting and thought provoking topics. The Jurisprudence Section has proposed several workshops devoted to some timely and controversial topics. Look in the November issue of the Academy News to see which workshops will be presented in February. Members of the Jurisprudence Section are encouraged to attend and participate in these programs. The program chairs are seeking moderators for some of the sessions. If you would like to volunteer as a moderator, please contact Section Program Chairs Christine Funk at Christine.Funk@state.mn.us, or Stephanie Domitrovich at sdomitrovich@eriecountygov.org.

Judge Stephanie Domitrovich of the 6th District of Pennsylvania, has recently authored an article entitled “State Trial Judges Use of Court Appointed Experts: Survey Results and Comparisons” at Volume 50 Jurimetrics Journal at pages 371-389 (Spring, 2010). This article is a summary of Judge Domitrovich’s PhD dissertation at the University of Nevada at Reno.

Jurisprudence Section Chair, Joseph Maltese of the New York Supreme Court, has served as a Co-Editor for The Resource Guide for Managing Complex Litigation published by The

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Section News cont.

National Judicial College, where he is an instructor of law and scientific evidence.

Section members are encouraged to send noteworthy news about what they are doing, or about any interesting matters affecting forensic science and the law, to me at andysuher@aol.com, and to our Section Chair at jmaltese@nycourts.gov.

See you in Chicago!

ODONTOLOGY

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

By the time you receive this newsletter, summer will be winding down and we will be heading into our fall section officer activities. This time normally includes the evaluation of numerous submitted scientific abstracts and posters, as well as membership and promotion applications. Your completed application, including reference forms and any additional section requirements, must be received and completed by October 1, in order to be acted upon at the AAFS Annual Meeting in February. Earlier submission is encouraged so that any deficiencies can be corrected before the final deadline. The application process is now available online at www.aafs.org.

At the 2010 Odontology Section Business Meeting, updated course information was requested for ALL courses currently approved for those wishing to gain membership in the section. Since the Odontology Section is unlike most sections with very few formal course curricular opportunities in academic centers, the value of all approved courses is high. Courses are evaluated by the Educational Committee and credits toward membership will be assigned. If you have not submitted this material by the annual meeting, it is possible that the course will be dropped from the list of approved courses. This is also the time to submit such materials if any newly developed courses wish to be considered for credentialing in the future. Please send a detailed course syllabus with topics, hours, and names of presenters to Educational Committee Chair Roy Sonkin at rbs@nyu.edu.

Shortly after the 2010 meeting the section was requested to forward several names of individuals who would be willing to present section information at an interdisciplinary session to take place in Chicago in February. The 2011 Interdisciplinary Session will be entitled “Eleven Sections—One Academy: Current Perspectives on the State of Relevant, Reliable, Valid Forensic Science in a Multidisciplinary Context.” The purpose is to provide attendees with the current state of research and training in each discipline and how those disciplines interact with other disciplines to achieve relevant, reliable, and valid science. Frank Wright was selected to represent our section and has solicited input from several other section members.

See you all in Chicago.

PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY

Source: Jeffery K. Tomberlin, PhD, Section Secretary

AAFS annual meeting abstracts have been submitted, check! Conference registrations are being made, check! Well, it seems that everything is falling into place in regards to the 2011 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting which will be held in Chicago, February 21-26. However, there are a few items still to be addressed. Keith Pinckard would like to remind everyone that the Pathology/Biology Research Grant is still open and those interested can obtain the submission information from him at kpinckard@dallascounty.org. The deadline to apply is December 1. Wendy Lavezzi would like to thank the pathology residents who submitted abstracts and plan to compete for the Best Resident Paper Award. Below are the requirements as well as additional information in regards to the structure of the competition:

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

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

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

Presentation: The candidate must present the research at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Chicago, February 2011. The presentation may be either a platform oral presentation or a poster presentation.

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

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

On a separate note, Members, please visit the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) and review the “AAFS Comments Regarding the Draft Outline of Forensic Reform Legislation.” We are asking the membership to be aware of such developments and to become familiar with this information as it develops.

**PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Source: Susan M.T. Myster, PhD, Section Secretary

The most recent Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology (SWGANTH) meeting was held June 1-3, in Washington DC, and was the most prolific meeting to date. Angi Christensen, SWGANTH Secretary, reports that the Board voted to approve 10 best practice documents for publication. These documents can be found on the “Documents” page of the website (www.swganth.org). Documents approved for publication included: Code of Ethics and Conduct; Qualifications, Laboratory Management and Quality Assurance; Facial Approximation; Skeletal Sampling and Preparation; Determination of Medicolegal Significance; Age Estimation; Personal Identification; Sex Assessment; and, Pathological Conditions and Anomalies. This meeting also had the greatest turnout in SWGANTH meeting history, with more than 30 anthropologists in attendance. Other accomplishments included the approval of a SWGANTH logo (currently undergoing minor revisions), and the formation of several new committees: The Education Committee will be working to identify basic components of forensic anthropology graduate and continuing education programs; the Gap Analysis Committee will be working to identify research needs in the field of forensic anthropology; and the Self-Assessment Committee will be working to develop a self-assessment checklist that laboratories and practitioners can use to evaluate their compliance with SWGANTH guidelines. For more information about previous and upcoming meetings, as well as other activities and opportunities for participation, please visit the SWGANth website or email secretary@swganth.org.

Erin Kimmerle and Ann Ross would like to introduce a new organization, the International Consortium of Forensic Anthropology Programs (COFFA). COFFA was founded in 2010 as a consortium to provide support for faculty and departments who teach forensic anthropology. The mission is to support the development and success of fundamental education and training for students, faculty, and practitioners of forensic anthropology (www.coffa.usf.edu). Current members of COFFA hope to present a poster at the 2011 AAFS meeting that will include further information about the mission and goals of the consortium, as well as details about becoming a member.

Bruce Anderson, Emily Craig, Mike Finnegan, Krista Latham, and Beth Murray all participated in the first NamUs Training Academy which covered ten Midwestern states and was held in St. Louis in mid-July. The next regional NamUs Training Academy will be for the Southwestern states, to be held in November in Albuquerque. Visit https://academies.orainc.com for more information.

**Lisa Leppo.** President of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA), would like to invite qualified practicing forensic anthropologists to apply to take the 2012 ABFA certification exam. The exam is administered on the Monday of the AAFS annual meeting and consists of both written and practical components. For further information about the application and examination processes, please see the website (theABFA.org) and if you would like to apply or have questions about the process, please contact Susan M.T. Myster, ABFA Secretary, at smyster@gw.hamline.edu; applications are due December 1.

**TOXICOLOGY**

Source: Philip M. Kemp, PhD, Section Secretary

The Toxicology Section Program Committee for the 2011 AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago (February 21–26) is working hard to put together a great program. Ruth Winecker, Scientific Program Chair (winecker@ocme.unc.edu) and Workshop Chair, Loralie Langman (langman.loralie mayo.edu), are masterfully organizing an impressive list of presentations and social events. They have received a number of good proposals and abstracts and the review process is underway. The speaker for the Annual Toxicology Lectureship has been selected and Dr. Winecker is pleased to announce that it will be Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer and New York Times best-selling author Deborah Blum. Please look for updates on this and other events in upcoming newsletters. Ruth and Loralie are always looking for volunteers to moderate sessions and help in other ways. Please contact them and help them out where you can.

To coincide with the theme of this year’s AAFS meeting theme, “Relevant, Reliable and Valid Forensic Science: Eleven Sections—One Academy,” the Toxicology Section program will include an open session to discuss the formation of the new Scientific Working Group on Forensic Toxicology (SWG-Tox). As presented in the July 2010 issue of Academy News, this group is composed of members representing all forensic toxicology organizations. It was formed “to investigate, analyze, develop, and disseminate consensus in the standards of practice for forensic toxicology.” Plan to attend this informative session to keep up with the latest developments in this important endeavor on the part of your colleagues to maintain and improve the highest quality standards.

In a portion of his incoming chair address at the 2010 Annual Meeting, Ken Ferslew discussed a plan to increase the Toxicology Section’s membership. He proposed the idea that everyone should invite one colleague to join the section this year, effectively doubling the size of the section. Remember, the larger our section becomes, the more monetary benefits become available from the Academy. Another way to benefit the section is to consider your advancement within the Academy and to encourage and help someone else to get promoted. The application process for continued on page 24
When we discuss how we get started with this process of standardization, the answer is we have already begun. The IAI has a wonderful crime scene certification process that can be used by all agencies and required of all CSIs within a six month to year period of employment. The certification for a crime scene investigator is at three levels with ever increasing knowledge and experience. Both AAFS and IAI offer great annual meetings and training opportunities to further educate both students and practitioners. Many states also offer training or continuing education for CSIs through their police academies. We also know that college level forensic science programs are more prevalent than ever with their own accreditation process through Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).

We must also recognize our similarities and our differences when we begin the standardization process for CSI. Laboratories are extremely different than crime scene units and the characteristics and needs of those units vary widely. We need to focus on standardization of practices, which are more than likely already in place, then move towards standardization of education and facilities with regards to individual needs. We must find a way to make CSI units and crime scene investigators adhere to standard practices from county to county and state to state without causing undue burdens on our prosecutors, police departments, and victims.

Remember, a big action point is to consider your participation in this year’s program by moderating a session or baking cookies for the section secretary. If you can help, please let Ruth or any of the section officers know: Section Chair, Kenneth Ferslew (ferslew@mail.etsu.edu); Secretary, Phil Kemp (pkemp@arlok.com); and the other officers are willing and able to assist with any issues you may have. Thanks, everyone, and we’ll see you in Chicago!

Finally, the Toxicology Section would like to express our deep appreciation to those corporate vendors who have provided financial support for our programs over the years. In these tough economic times, understandably some of our corporate friends have not been able to contribute this year. As a result we may be forced to reduce some programs and amenities from the 2011 Annual Meeting. If you are a corporate entity, please consider underwriting a portion of the Toxicology Section’s program this year. Please contact Ruth Winecker for more information.

One of the questions that needs to be addressed is: who “owns” forensic science? By this I mean, whose responsibility is it to make sure that the forensic science delivery system works well? Should forensic science police itself? How much input should other stakeholders (e.g., police, prosecutors, defenders, innocence projects, the courts, other scientists, and the public) have in this process? To develop an effective system, all stakeholders need a place at the table and the chance to be heard. To accomplish this, some entity needs to administer the process and it needs to be funded appropriately. How is it to operate? How can it influence state governments to comply with regulations? How will it be funded? Will it be transparent? These are just a few of the many questions that need to be considered.

Having gone this far, readers might think I have some grand scheme of what the next steps should be. Alas, I do not. However, Congress and the Administration have been considering many of these issues and have a great opportunity to set the stage for the future. I wish them well in that endeavor.
research. The fruits of their efforts have resulted in two invited manuscripts submitted to the *Annual Review of Entomology* and *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*. These journals represent two high-profiled journals in entomology, ecology, and evolution that have a broad audience globally.

The framework consists of two intervals. The pre-colonization interval encompasses the period from death of a person, or animal, to the time when arthropods have contact with it, while the post-colonization interval spans from arthropod contact to their dispersal from the body or discovery of the remains and termination of the decomposition process. Within each of these intervals are defined phases that focus on explicit stages of decomposition.

The purpose of the framework presented in these manuscripts is to develop a unified language and structure through which basic researchers with a common interest can formulate and test hypotheses at the most basic levels of science. The framework contains discrete intervals and phases in the context of evolutionary ecology which should allow for all fields examining the decomposition process to align their research to address basic biological processes that could yield greater accuracy with estimates of the postmortem interval.

These two articles emphasize that continued bridging between basic and applied research will enhance the forensic sciences. The number of researchers within a given forensic discipline pales in comparison to the number of basic researchers across the various natural and physical scientists world-wide.

**Summary**: As this review demonstrates, the Pathology/Biology Section continues to move forward with demonstrating that associated fields of practice are in fact Reliable, Relevant, and Valid Forensic Sciences. We only presented a few examples in this newsletter of how pathology continues to have an impact educating the general public, publishing and demonstrating high standards through accreditation, while entomology, as an example of the biological sciences, continues to reach out to the general scientific community and bridge basic and applied research. However, much more is being done, and while we were unable to highlight all major accomplishments by Pathology/Biology membership, it is certain that the AAFS and Pathology/Biology Section’s futures are bright. We applaud all AAFS member who willingly invest their time and energy towards increasing the reliability, relevance, and validity of forensic sciences. Job well done!
FSF Endowment Fund Contributors

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

Up to $50 - “Board Member”
Janis Tweedy, BA

FSF “I Gave An Hour” Contributors

FSF Trustee Gil Brogdon came up with a great idea for Academy members with advanced degrees. The idea was for everyone to consider contributing to the FSF the equivalent of one hour of their annual salary or the equivalent of the fee charged for one hour of consultation. The forensic sciences have been good to all of us. If you make a lot, consider contributing a lot! For salaried persons, one hour represents about 1/2000th of annual income. For those who receive consulting fees, please consider contributing an amount consistent with one hour (or more) of what you charge for consultation. The fund’s balance through 07/31/10 was $26,010. For those of you who would like to contribute, please complete the IGAH form below and return to the AAFS office. Please consider digging deeper than you ever have before to support the Forensic Sciences Foundation’s grant and research fund.

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Thank you for your commitment to the forensic sciences.
In Memoriam

Vickie M. Bailey, MS Associate Member of the Criminalistics Section, 2010
James Halligan, MS former Fellow of the Criminalistics Section, September 1999
Ralph R. Hankes, BS Member of the General Section, June 2000
James E. Hanson, DDS former Associate Member of the Odontology Section, September 1998
Sanders F. Hawkins, PhD former Member of the Toxicology Section, May 2005
William Lowry, PhD Fellow of the Toxicology Section, June 2010
George Stephens, PhD Associate Member of the General Section, November 2009
Donald G. Wright, MD former Fellow of the Pathology/Biology Section, September 2008
Forensic scientists are rightly wedded to conclusions based on verifiable and controlled studies to separate fact from fiction. And yet folklorists rely more on practical experience to support their theorizing. Consequently, the legends that animal lore promotes and certifies as experientially credible, often take highly quirky guises.

Case studies in animal lore:
Bears, it has been said, mate just once every seven years and their mating is supposed to be such an helaciously noisy affair that farm animals in the vicinity will miscarry due to their trembling with fear. Also dairy farmers have been noted to be exempt from diseases of the lungs. That immunity is said to devolve from the fact that dairy farmers inhale so much of cow’s breath. Then again billy goats (as well as other assorted animals) seem to have the magical quality of being able to calm fretful horses. But if the horse with whom the billy goat is regularly stabled is a racehorse and the billy goat is absent on the day of the horse’s race, it is likely to run a poor race. Thus a situation is created where the horse’s trainer will become vocally intemperate, leading to its being said the effect was “to get his goat.”

Other animals have also played a part in the creation of diverse types of animal lore. So if you want to retain a blithe spirit and a free-wheeling manner, do not eat rabbit for doing so will leave you steeped in melancholy. Again another proof that a dog is man’s best friend is found in the belief that an effective remedy for a dog’s bite is to dress the wound with a clutch of hair from the offending canine.

An ancient, quick, fail-safe remedy for one afflicted with whooping cough, assuming the person is not vaccinated, is claimed to result from adding fried field mouse to the sufferers’ diet. Further the bite of a poisonous snake can be neutralized, so it is traditionally credited, by eating the meat of a weasel, always assuming a weasel is readily available for the purpose.

Case studies in animal law:
Aside from animal lore there is the law on the books or the enforcement of those laws which can mightily affect the life-style of animals or those who have befriended them. Prescinding from discussions on the legitimacy of vivisection, animals of many types have had a presence in the law or in the law courts. A selection of some of those recent occurrences follows.

According to one translation of the opening declaration in Aristotle’s Metaphysics “all men by nature desire understanding.” That maxim in essence glorifies the work of scientists by its terse explanation of the foundation stone upon which scientific research is erected. In order to see what makes things tick so as to satisfy the natural craving for understanding, scientists rely upon experimentation for such is the life blood of forensic science, as it is in science in general. Experimentation ensures that assertions concerning anticipated results are factually well-founded. But even when those experiments’ ultimate goal is to benefit mankind or certain sub-classes of mankind it may not be legally, morally, or otherwise acceptable to experiment directly on living humans. It is then that animals are called upon to act as surrogates for the humans the experimentation is designed to benefit.
However, animals have rights too and humans charged to protect those rights in their role as animal guardians, must respect and uphold those rights. Recognizing these precepts, it becomes a sizeable challenge to decide where the greater good lies and, indeed, whether the greater good should be allowed to control the outcome and the processes used in the experimentation under review.

Which brings us to the decompression experiments with sheep as “the guinea pigs,” standing in for all humans, so to speak, which testing has been ongoing for a number of years quite openly at the Diving Physiology Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The ostensible purpose of these sheep-based tests was to study the impact of decompression sickness (the bends) on those humans involved in deep-sea activities (such as members of the U.S. Navy.)

Regrettably the experiments had a down side. A number of the sheep used in the tests either died or suffered less harmful physical consequences. Animal rights groups, when alerted to these tests and their dire results, sought to block them. In the knowledge that Wisconsin has a statute making it a violation “to kill an animal by means of decompression” (Wis. Stat. Anno. 951.025 (2009)) the objectors took their complaint to the local District Attorney (DA). But DA Brian Blanchard declined to take action arguing that to do so “would not be a wise use of limited resources.” Not dissuaded from their goals the animal rights activists took their grievance to court, which under Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. sec. 968.023(3)) they could do when a DA refuses to take action and there is probable cause to believe a crime has been committed by the person to be charged.

Now in a twenty-four page opinion issued on June 2, 2010, Judge Amy Smith, a judge on a Wisconsin Circuit court, has rendered an opinion siding with the petitioners and has appointed David A. Geier as a special prosecutor to look into the controversy and to propose a suitable remedy.

Judge Smith viewed the Wisconsin anti-decompression testing on animals statute as plainly and unequivocally banning any testing of any animal by decompression. In that sense the statute is unlike its sister statute (section 951.02) which exempts “bona fide experiments carried on for scientific research...” from the reach of that statute.

The intentional or negligent violation of the anti-decompression statute would, per Judge Smith, be a crime and persons in league with such an activity are to be considered conspirators (Wis. Stat. 939.05) in the violation of the statute. The history of decompression studies and the knowledge the university researchers had of the likelihood of harm to the sheep, acting as pawns for humans, indicates their intentional or negligent disregard of the statutory mandate. Thus, some university officials were said by Judge Smith to be implicated in this animal abuse criminality and others (two university deans) were exempt from that stigma.

Judge Smith did not find the merits of the animal research or the subjective beliefs of the university staff that the research was legitimate to be a valid excuse for this research’s bald-faced violation of the plain meaning of the Wisconsin statute. Indeed the judge did not recognize the existence of an “unwritten research exception” to the enforcement of the statute.

But on the crucial question of the appropriate remedy, the judge left that decision to the specially appointed prosecutor since that prosecutor could entertain and develop additional facts concerning the depth of the culpability of the university personnel in question. Moreover, whereas Judge Smith lacked the statutory authority to issue an injunction or to do anything more stringent than to authorize the filing of a criminal complaint, the special prosecutor’s authority was said not to be so restricted.

In essence, Judge Smith deplored the sheep experiments as wrongful (and she was not sheepish about saying so) but she refused to put a halt to them, rather deferring to her appointed special prosecutor’s opinion on the matter. Judge Smith’s well-crafted opinion reveals how manifestly difficult it is for animal rights activists to obtain definitive relief against even statutorily prohibited experiments on animals. Two wide-ranging questions remain for a future dialogue: What is it about sheep that makes them supposedly adequate surrogates for humans in decompression testing? We know that the flesh of horses more closely resembles that of humans but, for reasons of sensitivity to criticism, pig tissue is instead used in ballistics testing by firearms examiners. And why, among the many types and varieties of testing methodologies for all manner of purposes does Wisconsin single out decompression tests alone and then on any and all animals, not sheep alone?

When it comes to research with animals substituting for humans, issues arise which are commonplace in any research enterprise and not unique to experiments with animals, such as transparency (openness) and intellectual candor. Research with animals as the fulcrum has its very stern and righteous objectors, even within the scientific community itself. Among other complaints that have been voiced it is said there is a lack of transparency in experimentation with animals. Researchers themselves assert that “not all aspects of animal experimentation are as robust (unchallengeable) as they should be.” (New Scientist, 3 July 2010, p. 3)

Among other shortcomings in animal research, it is maintained that “key information was missing from many of the 300 or so publications” analysed by the UK’s National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) according to Vicky Robinson, the chief executive of NC3Rs. (New Scientist, supra)

It is argued that “poor (sic incomplete) reporting erodes confidence in peer review, the bedrock of quality control.” As a result of this recognition and troubled by it the NC3Rs has published “new guidelines” (termed ARRIVE Guidelines) to improve the quality of animal research reporting. It is a 20-point checklist to better examine “the scientific worth” of animal studies. Now “the aim of the research and the number of animals used (sic abused) will be open to public scrutiny as long as the check-listed items are implemented with rigor. Such transparency may alter the view that

continued on page 33
The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1, 2010, will be considered for approval at the February 2011 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 11, 2011.

Applicants

Criminalistics

Associate Member

Adesunkanni, Senefat Omotayo, MSc
Ikoyi, Nigeria
Agbo, Benedict, MSc
Lagos, Nigeria
Beaven, Mary A., MFS
Cheyenne, WY
Bobyn, Michele L., MS
Pueblo, CO
Bride, Mollie K., MS
Baton Rouge, LA
Brunner, Lorne L., MS
Chamberlain, SD
Cabrall, Meiling, MS
Los Angeles, CA
Cohen, Peter A., PhD
Honolulu, HI
Colen, Alan H., PhD
Kansas City, KS
Corbin, Kerre, BS
Springfield, VA
Flegel, Erica L., BS
Indianapolis, IN
Fogelberg, Christopher W., BA
Sacramento, CA
Fratpietro, Stephen W., MSc
Thunder Bay, ON Canada
Frazier, Nicole R., MS
Fayetteville, GA
Fu, Jun, PhD
Tulsa, OK
Goltz, Kristina L., MFS
Fullerton, CA
Graves, Joseph W., BS
Pensacola, FL
Hogan, Jessica R., MS
Anchorage, AK
Hokanson, Stephen P., BS
Norfolk, VA
Hurston, Heather H., MS
Austin, TX
Icard, Misty Star, BS
Statesville, NC
Jackson, Bruce A., PhD
Wayland, MA
Jimenez, Malena B., BS
Jefferson City, MO
Jones, Patrick J., BA
Kansas City, MO
Kay, Rebekah, BS
Salt Lake City, UT
Lenz, Erin J., MSFS
Indianapolis, IN
Lodhi, Shamin, MS
Richmond, KY
Marchen, Michael S., MA
Toronto, ON Canada
Mathis, Andrea M.
Arlington, VA
McAnany, Peter John Kevin, MS
Fort Myers, FL
Merth, Michael G., BS
Crystal, MN
Mundo, Jose A., III, BS
Buford, GA
Murray, Lola J., MS
Albany, NY
Neith, Susan L., BS
Willow Grove, PA
Okorocha, Okorie C., JD
Pasadena, CA
Pollock, Sharon M., BS
Lowell, IN
Sertil, Odeneil, PhD
Phoenix, AZ
Shaw, Dirk A., BS
Indianapolis, IN
Silvia, Michael L., MS
Albany, NY
Smith, Lindsey G., MS
Forest Park, GA
Southall-Malone, Amy L., BA
Jackson, MS
Sran, Gagandeep, BS
Cleveland, OH
Steven, Colin R., MS
Ellicott City, MD
Streichel, Robert J., BS
Colorado Springs, CO
Taylor, Shaena M., BSAS
Cleveland, OH
Texidor, Vivian, BS
Hartford, CT
Tidwell, Mark A., BS
Fort Worth, TX
Uvaydov, Yuriy, MS
New York, NY
Uzoemeka, Elias, MSc
Ikoyi, Nigeria
Valentine, Jennifer A., MS
Fort Worth, TX
Verma, Ritu, MS
New Delhi, India
Vrana, Michele C., MNS
Shreveport, LA
Trainee Affiliate
Ahouri, Mohammad T., BS
Garden Grove, CA
Browne, Shanta A., BS
Richmond, VA
Burleson, Garrett L., MS
Houston, TX
Bybelezer, Michael R., MFS
Boston, MA
Call, Michelle M., MS
Westminster, CO
Cossota, Kristen P., MS
Irving, TX
Cox, Hannah M., BS
London, OH
Crass, Lindsey E., BS
Morgantown, WV
Delph, Janet B., BS
Eauless, TX
Edwards, Jamie L., MA
Joliet, IL
Felix, Jeremy Ryan, BS
Stockbridge, GA
Fitzpatrick, Melanie E., BS
Eureka, CA
Harris, Jennifer K., MS
Richmond, VA
Hayes, Ashley N, MS
Millersville, MD
Krieger, Caroline E., BS
Des Plaines, IL
Lambert, Lindsay M., MS
Jefferson City, MO
Lazarecki, Lisa M., BS
Milford, CT
Nguyen, Diana M., MS
Runnemede, NJ
Norcross, Heather A., MS
Chadds Ford, PA
Paulus, Amanda M., MS
Carbondale, IL
Renson, Christine M., MS
Troup, TX
Roche, Kathryn M., MSFS
Saint Paul, MN
Schmidt, Carrie L., BS
Indianapolis, IN
Speed, Lindsay M., BS
Meridian, MS

Swiss, Rachel L., MS
Hamden, CT
Tarvin, Megan Bottega, PhD
Washington, DC
Thompson, Michel
Locust, NY
Truong, Dinh C., BS
San Jose, CA
Vensel, Denise L., BS
Grand Junction, CO
Washington, Crystal R., BS
Yonkers, NY
Young, Rebecca C., MS
Stone Mountain, GA
Zaldana, Italo, BS
Brookville, NY

Student Affiliate
Aldoriso, Catherine, BS
Los Angeles, CA
Bray, Sherry
Newcastle, CA
Brooke, Phillip J., BS
Davis, CA
Caldwell, Jarred D., BS
Davis, CA
Campbell, Jacque N., BS
Malta, OH
Cope, Fredericka E., BS
Reading, PA
Engelhardt, Samantha M., BS
Philadelphia, PA
Force, Lauren A., BS
Berwick, PA
Frazzini, Amy L.
Broomonfiel, CO
Good, Natalie J., BS
Philadelphia, PA
Gorecho, Esmeraldo N., BS
San Francisco, CA
Haw, Erik J., BS
Los Angeles, CA
Hight, Kelley R.
Kokomo, IN
Hong, Kristin M., BS
Oceanside, CA
Juddkins, Eileen C.
Garland, TX
Keeling, Sarah A., BS
Pascoag, RI
Kellett, Emily M., BA
Pipersville, PA
Lee, Elizabeth A., BS
Flushing, NY
Malley, Barbara, BS
Bensalem, PA
Mareucci, Karen R., BS
Churchville, PA
Martinez, Adrienne Marie
Oklahoma City, OK
Miller, Caitlin E., BS
Blue Bell, PA
Morfin, Hector
Bell, CA
Mulawka, Marzena H., MFS
La Jolla, CA
Nestlerode, Amy M., BS
Endicott, NY
O’Hehir, Catherine M., BS
Burlington, NJ
Outman, Alan M.
Canton, NY
Riggs, Blandy Alisia
Bowling Green, KY
Riggs, Jennifer R., BSE
Lancaster, PA
Rodriguez, Priscilla A.
Modesto, CA
Salas, Cesar
Canyu, PR
Scott, Kenneth
Richmond, CA
Scriven, Katherine A., BS
Orange, CA
Smith, Taunya M.
Wahiawa, HI
Spera, Joseph V., BS
Philadelphia, PA
Stoffel, Michelle C., BS
East Lansing, MI
Vent, Wendy M., BA
Upper Sandusky, OH
Voeller, Karen E., BS
Elkins Park, PA
Yearsley, Sarah M., BS
Glenside, PA

Associate Member
Belo, Curt Michael, BSME, MSM
Abington, PA
Johnson, Lindsay W., PhD
Glendale, AZ
Lanoue, Mark A., BS
Bay Saint Louis, MS
Pedder, Jocelyn, PhD
North Vancouver, BC Canada
Zweig, Gil, MS
Randolph, NJ

Associate Member
Aarts, Maurice, BS
Zwolle, Netherlands
Agellon, Al B., BS
Tucson, AZ
Akin, Jennifer T., MS
McKinney, TX
Anderson, Crissie E., MS
Destin, FL
Appleton, Robert B., MPA
Albany, NY
Beard, Von Gretchen, MS
Manassas, VA
Benicvenga, Patricia A., BS
Clearwater, FL
Blozis, Joseph, BS
Wantagh, NY
Cavender, Ann, DVM
Salem, MI
Cebra, Karen, MSFS
Davis, CA
Childers, James M., MS
Lubbock, TX
Christian, Donnell R., BS
Lake St. Louis, MO
Delporte, Steve, BA
Evergem, Belgium

Digital & Multimedia Sciences
Associate Member
Baird, Stephen D., MS
New Fairfield, CT
Carvey, Harlan A., MSEE
Stone Ridge, VA
Glickman, Jeff B., BS
Woodinville, WA
Gurkoc, Cem, MBA
Coral Gables, FL
Huber, Eric, MPA
Morristown, NJ
Leschke, Timothy R., MS
Linthicum, MD
Olivier, Martin S., PhD
Preatoria, South Africa

continued on page 32
Applicants cont.

Wissman, Dawn, BS, MAT
San Juan, PR

Giordano, Andrea, MPA

Albany, NY

Gordon, Nathan J., MA
Philadelphia, PA

Harvell, Karen D., BA
Pensacola, FL

Hays, Rachel M., DVM
Austin, TX

Holt, Michelle Y., BS
Riverdale, GA

Hoch, Jeffrey, BS

Lubbock, TX

Jena, Germany

Bismarck, ND

Colorado Springs, CO

Sanford, Kenneth B., DDS

Galt, CA

Trainee Affiliate

Canfield, Angela C., DDS

Rincon, GA

Clark, Mike L., DDS

Yakima, WA

Muramoto, Ann Marie, BDS

Kailua Kona, HI

Simon, Matthew S., BA

Buffalo, NY

Sonkin, Zachary S., DDS

Wantagh, NY

Walsh, Thomas G., DDS

Coeur d’Alene, ID

Student Affiliate

Zacharopoulos, Georgios
Kalamata, Greece

Jurisprudence

Associate Member

Erfe, Erwin P., MD
Quezon City, Philippines

Leveco, Stanley M., JD
Evansville, IN

McLendon, Keith, JD
Westminster, CO

Stauffer, Cameron M.
Bluffton, SC

Baca, Colorado Springs, CO

Retief, Jannine

Sydney, Australia

McShane, Justin J., JD
Harrisburg, PA

Brady, Philadelphia, PA

Cochran, Los Angeles, CA

Hart, Oklahoma City, OK

Student Affiliate

Forrester, Scott M.
Spokane, WA

Renke, Sophia G.D., BA
Edmonton, AB Canada

Odontology

Associate Member

Beecher, Richard R., DDS
Victoria, BC Canada

Ethier, Joanne E., DMD
Montreal, PQ Canada

Formeller, John M., DDS
Northbrook, IL

Hansen, Wayne L., DDS
Billings, MT

Kovalski, Paul, Jr., DMD
Englewood, NJ

Lee, Leland H., DDS
Sacramento, CA

Pittenger, Gina R., DDS
Thompson Station, TN

Risos, Deanna, DDS
Chula Vista, CA

Sevilla, Samantha
Seattle, WA

Smith, Sarah C.
Glenwood, IN

Walker, Victoria E.
Stockbridge, GA

Trainee Affiliate

Canfield, Angela C., DDS

Rincon, GA

Clark, Mike L., DDS

Yakima, WA

Muramoto, Ann Marie, BDS

Kailua Kona, HI

Simon, Matthew S., BA

Buffalo, NY

Sonkin, Zachary S., DDS

Wantagh, NY

Walsh, Thomas G., DDS

Coeur d’Alene, ID

Student Affiliate

Zacharopoulos, Georgios
Kalamata, Greece

Pathology/Biology

Associate Member

Barnhart, Erin A., MD
Galveston, TX

Brooks, Erin G., MD
Albuquerque, NM

Deisch, Jeremy, MD
Arlington, TX

Gabaeff, Steven C., MD
Carmichael, CA

Goldschmidt, Ariel, MD
Columbia, MO

Hamilton, Stuart John, MB, ChB
Consett, United Kingdom

Johnson, Michael W., MD, PhD
Louisville, KY

Jones, Tera A., MD
Castle Rock, CO

Mock, Allen R., MD
Albuquerque, NM

Purcell, Polly L., MD
Louisville, KY

Rubio, Ana, MD, PhD
Baltimore, MD

Usenchik, Ronald H., MD
Chevy Chase, MD

Watson-Horzelewski, Erin J., PhD
Hammond, LA

White, Steven M., MD, PhD
Chicago, IL

Willoughby, Vickie, DO
Austin, TX

Yoshida, Ken-Ichi, MD, PhD
Tokyo, Japan
such research is “a thorn in the side of researchers” by the simple mechanism of extirpating the thorn itself.

Other thorns in society’s treatment of animals cannot so readily be removed. There are those who would say that the U.S. Forest Service’s plans to trap and relocate black-tailed prairie dogs on the Thunder Basin National Grassland in August 2010, is not justified simply because the prairie dogs tear up the landscape by their incessant and natural burrowing. Also, the round-up of wild horses in Nevada courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management already underway, via a Federal court’s refusal to enjoin the activity, has resulted in the death from dehydration of at least 22 wild horses. That number is nothing in comparison to the thousands that are scheduled to be removed from their 482,000 acre tract in Nevada using helicopter stampeding. The horses are multiplying at such a rate that without the roundup, so BLM maintains, the horses will expire for lack of grassland, water and other necessaries in the food chain. Further, the geese in the New York City area must go due to their impeding the flow of airplane traffic within seven miles of New York City. Nearly 400 have been euthanized with carbon dioxide after being rounded up in Brooklyn’s Prospect Park. Can golfers on courses laden with geese now ask for a similar round-up. Where and when does the “good” end not justify the death, removal, euthanizing or testing of an animal population?
A Letter from the YFSF President
As you are making plans to attend the AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago, do not forget to take advantage of all the wonderful events AAFS holds each year. Attending the section sessions is a great way to meet people in your field. An additional cost but also a great way to get continuing education is to attend the workshop, special sessions, breakfasts, or luncheons. If you plan to take advantage of any of these wonderful events, do not forget AAFS has a continuing education program. With this program you can receive general education credits, as well as continuing education credits, for other organizations to which you may already be a member. Please review all upcoming registration materials carefully ensuring you make the most of your meeting experience.

The 2010 YFSF Special Session planning is well underway. We will be holding our special session on Tuesday, February 22, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We are also continuing our tradition of the annual YFSF Poster and Slides Sessions to be held on Tuesday, February 22, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM and Wednesday, February 23, following the AAFS Annual Business Meeting. If you would like to present a poster or a brief slides presentation, please contact the chairs for these sessions with: 1) title; 2) brief abstract; and, 3) CV for your submission. If you are interested in presenting a poster, please contact the YFSF Poster Chair, Stephanie Crider at crider_sn@yahoo.com. If you are interested in presenting slides, please contact the Bring Your Own Slides Chair Martin Overly at martin.overly@mail.wvu.edu. Finally, we will hold our Breakfast Session on Thursday February 24, from 7:00 AM to 9:30 AM. If you are interested in participating in the YFSF Breakfast Session Resume Review, please contact Melissa DeBerry at mdeberry@mcl.state.ms.us. All of these events are included with registration for the YFSF Special Session.

To keep the registration cost of these events low for our target audience (forensic science professionals new in their careers and students), each year we ask for financial contributions to supplement the cost of our events. We hope a low cost to participate in the YFSF Special Session will allow meeting registrants to attend other events at the AAFS annual meeting. If your group or organization is interested in donating to the YFSF, please contact the YFSF Financial Liaison Jackie Jenkins at j.jenkins71@gmail.com. Finally, if you are a student, please take advantage of the wonderful grant opportunities the Forensic Sciences Foundation has to offer. Each year travel grant funding is offered to students to supplement the cost to attend the meeting. Also, the FSF provides funding for research projects ($500-$5000) annually. Please do not hesitate to apply for these grants at any stage of your undergraduate or graduate research. If you would like more information please visit their website at www.forensicsciencesfoundation.org/grants/travelgrant.htm. If you plan to present your research at the AAFS meeting, you may also want to consider applying for the Emerging Forensic Scientist Award. Your poster or slide presentation will be reviewed by members of the FSF during the meeting and if selected, you will receive an award to cover all expenses to attend the 2012 meeting. For more information please see www.forensicsciencesfoundation.org/downloads/12thEFSAForm.pdf.

Tanisha Henson, BS
(tanisha.henson@yahoo.com)
YFSF President

A Note from the YFSF Secretary
As secretary, I have decided to implement a new question and answer section to the YFSF portion of the newsletter. The Q&A section found within the newsletter will primarily pertain to the upcoming meeting in Chicago. If you have
questions concerning either a career in forensics or the educational path you should take, please refer to the Q&A section posted on the YFSF website www2.aafs.org/yfsf/info_request.html.

In each newsletter between now and February, I will answer a series of questions you have sent me. Here is an overview of the types of questions to be addressed in this newsletter and future newsletters:

September 2010 – travel plans, YFSF abstracts

November 2010 – YFSF abstracts continued and conference registration

January 2011– what to pack and what to leave at home

I enjoy reading and answering the questions you send me, so please keep them coming!

Lauren Pharr, MA (lpharr1@tigers.lsu.edu)
YFSF Secretary

Questions and Answers from the YFSF Secretary
1. How do I join the YFSF?
The only requirement to be a participant of YFSF is a willingness to dedicate some of your time and to have less than five years of forensic work experience. You will need to pre-register for the YFSF Special Session when you pre-register to attend the 2011 AAFS meeting. Keep in mind that you cannot register for our session at the AAFS meeting.

If you wish to serve as an YFSF officer, you must be a current Student Affiliate, Trainee Affiliate, or Associate Member of the Academy or have an application on file with the AAFS.

2. Can I submit an abstract to present either a YFSF slides presentation or YFSF poster presentation if I am not a member of AAFS?
Yes, we encourage new and young forensic scientists, as well as students, to present at either the YFSF Bring Your Own Slides or YFSF Poster Sessions. You also may present at both sections as long as you do not present the same research twice. Presenting with the YFSF is a fantastic opportunity to practice public speaking and to present to your peers. If you are in the process of completing your master’s degree or any other graduate program, this is a wonderful opportunity to present your research.

3. I am a student–plane tickets, transportation, and hotel rooms are expensive. Can you suggest any ways for me to keep my travel costs down if I do not receive a travel award?
Travel costs can be reduced in many ways: 1) Consider volunteering for AAFS as they are always in need of volunteers, and certain volunteer opportunities can result in free meeting registration. However, some restrictions apply so be sure to get more information from the website: http://aafs.org/sites/default/files/pdf/11VolunteerFormRev7-10-10.pdf. Volunteering is also a great way to network. 2) Each year AAFS partners with an airline to offer discounted air fare. This year, AAFS has partnered up with United Airlines. You can either purchase your airline ticket online at www.united.com or contact them at 1-800-521-4041 and give them the promotion code 585WH. 3) A roommate is another great way to save money. AAFS has partnered with the Hyatt Regency Chicago to be the headquarter hotel for the 2011 Annual Meeting. The Hyatt Regency has a block of rooms available at the conference rate of $169 per night (plus tax). Reserve your hotel room early because once the block of rooms are filled the reduced hotel rate will not be available. Visit http://aafs.org/make-your-chicago-2011-hotel-reservations for more information. 4) Take snacks with you from home and buy bottled water or snacks from a local grocery store or drug store when you arrive. 5) Research the city you are going to and look for inexpensive restaurants. 6) Last but not least, try to carpool, take public transportation, or walk to as many places as you can.

Financial Liaison
The YFSF relies on the support and contributions of the forensic community to make our Special Session a success each year. Events held at each meeting include a day-long scientific session, a working breakfast session, a Bring Your Own Slides presentation, and a poster session. These sessions are critical in the professional development of young scientists trying to establish a solid foundation in the field of forensic science.

If you or your organization is interested in providing support, whether through a financial contribution or donation of materials, for the 2011 YFSF Special Session, please contact Jackie Jenkins at jjenkins71@gmail.com.

Jackie Jenkins, PhD, MSFS
YFSF Financial Liaison

YFSF Breakfast Session – 2011
Greetings from Mississippi!! I hope that everyone has had a pleasant and somewhat relaxing summer. We have lots of exciting things planned for the Young Forensic Scientists Forum. In keeping with the Academy’s theme of “Eleven Sections, One Academy,” the topic of the 2011 breakfast session will be “Professionalism 101: WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW.”

I am excited to welcome back Anjali Swienton, Susan Ballou, and Robin Bowen. Lucy A. Davis will be joining us too. These well-respected forensic scientists have graciously agreed to speak on professionalism in the workplace. Some of the topics they will cover at our Breakfast Session include: 1) how to dress for an interview; 2) how to present yourself in the best light to a potential employer; and, 3) how to speak in front of prominent members of the Academy.

Also, we will have a resume panel at the end of the session. We hope to have members of every section available to review your resume and answer any questions you may have concerning the reviewers’ respective jobs, the interview process, or the Academy.
I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago!

Melissa DeBerry
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

YFSF Special Session – 2011
A criminal investigation is like putting together a puzzle without the box top—there are a whole lot of pieces, but you do not know what the final picture is really supposed to be. As the investigator receives more information, connections are made, links are unveiled, and the picture, while it may never truly be complete, becomes a little clearer.

Large portions of these connections are made through forensic science and analysis. Individual analysts may work with different pieces of evidence, or a single analyst may interpret the reports of other examiners to come up with new conclusions. All of the work results in a web of information that a prosecutor can use to create a single theory of a crime that will be presented in court. This year’s YFSF Special Session will focus on how evidence connections are made and interpreted.

The morning will begin with a bloodstain pattern analyst who will show how an effective crime scene reconstruction relies on the report of the pathologist, DNA analysts, and even first responders. A trace chemist will show how the processing of a single item can preserve or destroy the work of multiple sections, and a pathologist will tell us how much work really goes into determining a cause of death. The afternoon brings anthropologists discussing ancient and modern remains, an entomologist establishing time of death, and an odontologist determining identity. The session will come together as a retired district attorney explains how evidence is successfully presented in a court of law.

The schedule for the YFSF Special Session is currently being finalized, so look for speaker information to be introduced in the next YFSF newsletter. Start planning your trip to join us in Chicago in February. Until then, please send any comments or questions to Jenna Oakes-Smith (jloakes-smith@slmpd.org) or Amanda Kittoe (akittoe@gmail.com).

Jenna Oakes-Smith
YFSF Special Session Chair

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides – 2011
It is September—classes have begun, vacations are winding down, and it is time to start thinking about presenting at the 2011 AAFS Meeting in Chicago! Are you a new forensic professional with an interesting case to share? Are you a student with an exciting research project? The YFSF Bring Your Own Slides session is the perfect place to present your work to peers at an international meeting. All disciplines are welcome! Do not miss out on this opportunity. To participate, please submit a one page abstract and your resume or CV by December 15, 2010.

We would love to hear from you. If you are interested in presenting or have any questions, you can contact us at martin.overly@mail.wvu.edu or alison.p.mostrom@usdoj.gov.

Martin Overly, MS
BYOS Chair

Ali Mostrom, MSFS
BYOS Co-Chair

YFSF Poster Session – 2011
Hey ya’ll! We continue to accept abstracts for the YFSF Poster Session. The Poster Session provides an excellent opportunity for students to showcase their research and receive feedback from AAFS Members, Diplomats, and colleagues alike. It also is a great opportunity to help build your resume and network while presenting interesting research. The Poster Session is open to all who want to present. If you are interested in presenting your research at the Poster Session, please contact either the Poster Session Co-Chair Taryn Mead (taryn.mead@sfgov.org) or myself (crider_sm@yahoo.com) with your abstract and CV. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Both Taryn and I are looking forward to reading your abstracts!

Stephanie M. Crider, MA
YFSF Poster Session Chair

Taryn Mead
YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair

Jenna Oakes-Smith
YFSF Special Session Chair

Amanda Kittoe, BA
YFSF Special Session Co-Chair
Meetings and Conferences

SEPTEMBER 2010

11-12
FBI NCIC Dental Coding Workshop—Sponsored by The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Criminal Justice Information Services Division—To be held in Scottsdale, AZ.
CONTACT: Mrs. Stacey C. Davis
Stacey.Davis@leo.gov

12-16
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors 38th Annual Symposium—To be held in Baltimore, MD.
CONTACT: www.ascld.org/content/2010-symposium

13-16
2nd International Workshop on Security in Cloud Computing (SCC 2010)—To be held in San Diego, CA.
CONTACT: http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~ychen/SCC2010.htm

14-17
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Pathology Course—To be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Bethesda, MD.
CONTACT: Oscar Molina, TSgt, USAF
(202) 782-2637
Fax: (202) 782-5020
came@afip.osd.mil
www.askafip.org

15-17
13th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Intrusion Detection—To be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
CONTACT: www.raid2010.org/

20-22
2010 HTCIA International Training Conference & Exposition—To be held in Atlanta, GA.
CONTACT: www.htciaconference.org/

20-22
European Symposium on Research in Computer Security—To be held in Athens, Greece.
CONTACT: www.esorics2010.org/

21-23
New Security Paradigms Workshop (NSPW)—To be held in Concord, MA.
CONTACT: www.nspw.org/2010

22-23
Homicidal Drowning Investigation Program—To be held in Grand Junction, CO.
CONTACT: Bo Tibbetts
Public Safety Dive Services
(970) 261-1134
Fax: (970) 245-1177
bo@psdive.com
www.psdive.com

23-26
Rapid Deployment Search & Rescue/Recovery—To be held in Grand Junction, CO.
CONTACT: Bo Tibbetts
Public Safety Dive Services
(970) 261-1134
Fax: (970) 245-1177
bo@psdive.com
www.psdive.com

26
ASTM International Committee E52 on Forensic Psychophysiology—To be held at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC.
CONTACT: Joe Koury
(610) 832-9804
jkoury@astm.org
www.astm.org/COMMIT/E52.htm

27 - Oct 1
Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists (NWAFS) Annual Meeting—To be held in Portland, OR.
CONTACT: Celeste Grover
(971) 673-8245
celeste.grover@state.or.us
http://nwafs.org/meetings.htm
Meetings and Conferences cont.

29- Oct 1
VB2010 Fighting Malware and Spam——To be held in Vancouver, BC, Canada.
CONTACT:
www.virusbtn.com/conference/vb2010/

OCTOBER 2010

1-6
National Association of Medical Examiners 44th Annual Meeting——To be held at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel in Cleveland, OH.
CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst
(314) 422-6846
Fax: (314) 522-0955
ernstmf@slu.edu

4-6
2nd International ICST Conference on Digital Forensics & Cyber Crime (ICDF2C)——To be held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
CONTACT: www.d-forensics.org/

4-8
2010 Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists 39th Annual Meeting—Jointly sponsored by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Crime Laboratory——To be held at the Marriott Kansas City Downtown in Kansas City, MO.
CONTACT: www.mafs.net

4-8
Basic Facial Reconstruction Sculpture——To be held at The University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Gatliiff
(405) 321-8706
www.sculpture.outreach.ou.edu

11-15
Advanced Facial Reconstruction Sculpture——To be held at The University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Gatliiff
(405) 321-8706
www.sculpture.outreach.ou.edu

18-20
eDiscovery Summit Discovering Electronic Evidence——Sponsored by the American Society of Digital Forensics & eDiscovery——To be held at the Cobb Galleria and Performing Arts Center in Atlanta, GA.
CONTACT: Shauna Waters
(866) 534-9734
www.asdlced.com/

20-23
International Congress “Combustion and Fire Dynamics” — Hosted by the University of Cantabria (Spain)——To be held in Santander, Spain.
CONTACT: University of Cantabria
+34 942 201826
Fax: +34 942 201873
cdf2010@unican.es
www.gidai.unican.es/

25-26
Techno Forensics 2010——To be held in Gaithersburg, MD.

27-30
International Association of Forensic Nurses 18th Annual Scientific Assembly——To be held at the Omni William Penn Hotel, in Pittsburgh, PA.
CONTACT: Melanie Hughes Younger
(410 626-7805
myounger@iafn.org

NOVEMBER 2010

1-5
Detection, Recovery and Examination of Footwear Impression Evidence——Hosted by the Salt Lake City Police Department in Salt Lake City, UT.
CONTACT: William J. Bodziak
(386) 447-3367
wbodziak@earthlink.net

2-4
The 3rd International Conference on Criminal and Environmental Soil Forensics——Sponsored by the California Association of Criminalists and the California Department of Justice——To be held in Long Beach, CA.
CONTACT: Marianne Stam
marianne.stam@doj.ca.gov
https://www.acsmeetings.org/

4-7
Forensic Medical Investigation: Comprehensive Review and Skills Workshop——To be held in Phoenix, AZ.
CONTACT: Dr. Mary Dudley, MD
(913) 499-1520
mdudley2@kcrr.com
www.forensicMI.com

8-10
2010 IEEE International Conference on Technologies for Homeland Security——To be held in Waltham, MA.
CONTACT: http://ieee-hst.org/

11-12
4th International Workshop on Computational Forensics——To be held in Tokyo, Japan.
CONTACT: http://iwcf10.arsforensica.org/index.php/Main/Home

15-19
Syracuse University Dialogues In Forensic Science: Trauma——To be held at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY.
CONTACT: forensics@syr.edu
www.forensics.syr.edu

18-21
H2O Criminalistics & Pathology Symposium——To be held at Magna Graecia University in Cantanzaro, Italy.
CONTACT: www.underwatercsi.unicz.it
underwatercsi@unicz.it

19-20
Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law 10th Annual Conference - Cause and Manner of Death——Hosted by The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law——To be held at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA.
CONTACT: wechtinstitute@duq.edu
(412) 396-1330
www.duq.edu/forensics
22–25
10th International Symposium on the Analysis and Detection of Explosives (ISADE)—To be held at the Shine Dome in Canberra, Australia.
CONTACT: www.ncfs.edu.au/isade.html

29–Dec 2
The Annual Conference & AGM of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science—To be held at The Grand Hotel in Toronto, Canada.
CONTACT: Monica.Sloan@ontario.ca

DECEMBER 2010

6–10
Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Workshop—Presented by the Metropolitan Police Institute of the Miami-Dade Police Department—To be held in Doral, Florida.
CONTACT: Toby L. Wolson, MS, F-ABC
(305) 471-3041
Fax: (305) 471-2052
Twolson@mdpd.com

6–10
Forensic Evidence Course—To be held at the Double Tree Hotel San Diego Mission Valley in San Diego, CA.
CONTACT: www.ndaa.org/ncda

FEBRUARY 2011

20–21
2nd International Conference on Recent Advances in Forensic Sciences, Forensic Medicine & Toxicology—Organized by Indian Association of Medico-Legal Experts (Regd)—To be held at the Hotel Reveria De Goa in Ximer, Arpora, Bardez Goa-403518, India.
CONTACT: www.iamleconf.in

MARCH 2011

21–25
Forensic Human Identification Course—Hosted by the Queen Mary’s School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of London.
CONTACT: Professor Peter Vanezis
+44(0)20 7882 3401
Cameron-forensics@qmul.ac.uk

MAY 2011

12–14
55th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry—To be held in Honolulu, HI.
CONTACT: Executive Office (AAPDP)
(888) 691-8281
Fax: (860) 286-0787
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JUNE 2011

20–24
7th ISABS Conference in Forensic, Anthropologic and Medical Genetics—To be held in the Town of Bol, Island of Brač, in Croatia.
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SEPTEMBER 2011

12–17
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