Dear Colleagues: The deadline has passed and the AAFS 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting program for Seattle, WA, February 17-22, 2014, appears to be similar in size to last year’s record-breaking meeting in Washington, DC. A total of 1,164 submissions were received, with respectable showings from all 11 of our sections. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the success of the program. Now the program committee works with the AAFS staff to review the submissions to help ensure the quality and scientific soundness of our program. Our annual meeting is the main activity of our organization in supporting our mission around support of valid, peer-reviewed forensic science, continuing improvement through research and validation, and education of our members young and old, in the latest findings, techniques and methods, and discoveries in our field.

Forensic science is in the spotlight. Facing up to errors in the past – bullet lead analysis, identifications based on hair comparisons, identifications based on bitmarks in open populations are examples I’ve been asked about lately – is an important part of our ethical responsibility to the field, and to the individuals whose fates hang on the opinion of the work done in our offices and laboratories. These are examples of where techniques were employed before they had been challenged or validated according to the standards expected in today’s legal or scientific environment, or where a lack of guidance resulted in individuals overstating the strength of the evidence.

I have given several interviews to media over the first half of my term as president, and their refrain goes something like, “Tell the public why they should have faith in forensic techniques,” or “How can the public be sure today’s forensic science is reliable?” There is no sound-bite answer to those challenges that doesn’t sound trite or apologetic, and the media doesn’t have the attention span for a thoughtful analysis of how today’s forensic science differs from that of forensic science practiced twenty or thirty years ago.

But there are differences. Forensic science, like every other science, is evolving. Of course new discoveries make us rethink the way we looked at things in the past. Not just about a technique or an opinion, but about how we approach the discovery process itself, and the care that needs to be taken in validating new science before it’s taken to court.

The courts play a key role as a gatekeeper to keep bad science out of court. They are getting better at policing the admissibility of novel science with the Daubert standard, which became the law in federal court in 1993, and has subsequently been adopted by 32 states. Daubert enhanced the rigor required of scientific evidence beyond “general acceptance” under Frye to include criteria requiring techniques to be empirically testable, subject to peer review and publication, consideration of their known or potential error rate, and the existence and maintenance of standards for performing the test.

Often overlooked is the fact that not only did Daubert provide additional safeguards against weak

continued on page 3

AAFS Membership Application Deadline: October 1

All completed applications, including any additional requirements, for membership and promotion must be submitted online or received in the AAFS Office by October 1 in order to be considered for approval at the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA.

See page 11 for information on submitting your application online at www.aafs.org.
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Future AAFS Annual Meeting Dates

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

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

February 22-27, 2016
Rio Las Vegas Hotel
Las Vegas, NV

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

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

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Remembering Doris Dominguez

The Academy sadly announces the death of one of its star volunteers, Doris Dominguez, who passed away after a short illness on June 28. She was buried at Arlington National Military Cemetery.

Doris was born on May 24, 1930, in Newark, NJ, and attended the same high school as her future husband, Gradwohl Laureate and former JFS editor, Dr. Abel Dominguez (Fellow, Toxicology Section). They were married in 1954 and had three children.

Doris served as the volunteer assistant to Dr. Dominguez when he was appointed editor of the Journal of Forensic Sciences in 1974. For the next 18 years, Doris handled the voluminous administrative tasks of the Journal and she also volunteered extensively at the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting. For nearly 20 years, she volunteered in the staff meeting office as well as at the AAFS registration desk. Many a weary traveler arrived at the registration desk and was greeted by the smiling face of Doris Dominguez.

The Dominguez family moved to St. Mary’s City, MD, when Dr. Dominguez retired. Doris became very active in the local government, the Historic St. Mary’s City Commission, and the yacht club. She crewed on their oceangoing sailboat, serving her turns at the helm, day or night, fair weather or foul. Doris was also recognized for her needlework talents which earned ribbons in national juried events. Gentle, helpful, smiling Doris Dominguez will be sadly missed.

Thank you to Ken Field for this contribution to the newsletter.

President’s Message cont.

science being admitted into court, it changed the way forensic scientists thought about their profession, and focused our attention and effort on the need for and value of certification, accreditation, research and validation, and education. As one index of this activity, the Proceedings of our AAFS annual meeting and the number of attendees have both doubled in size between 2002 and 2013.

Members of our Academy and our sister organizations are leading the charge in key areas that ensure the reliability and evolution of the science we practice. Examples include: the development of professional boards to set standards and to certify qualified individuals in many forensic disciplines; the adoption of an international framework for laboratory accreditation; the development of educational standards for forensic science graduate and undergraduate programs; the collaboration between practicing crime labs and academic institutions for research; our own Journal of Forensic Sciences to promote research, scholarship, peer review, and validation; the concept of uncertainty estimation in forensic science which was virtually unknown ten years ago, but this year became a component of the ISO standard that accredits most crime laboratories; and, our own Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) which in a modest way supports scholarship and research in all our disciplines. All of these are things we can be proud of, and point to as reasons for the public to trust today’s forensic science, to have faith in the ability of its practitioners, and to rely on the insight and perspectives we bring, shining some light on the truth in difficult cases. We’ve made these improvements largely with our own resources and without government support or oversight.

In our laboratory like many of yours, we adhere to the principle of Continual Quality Improvement (CQI). We believe there are lessons to be learned from every mistake. Evaluation of near misses today helps us better understand how to avoid a train wreck in the future. We challenge our assumptions and look for smarter ways of doing things. We try to eliminate special conditions or instructions that are fragile points in procedures and prone to failure. CQI acknowledges that there are always better ways of doing things than the way we do them today. We strive to be perfect, but don’t pretend we’ve attained that goal. We acknowledge our mistakes, and we right any wrongs arising. This is the mindset of modern forensic science and sets us apart from the way it might have been practiced in the past.

The chances of bad science making it to court today are substantially smaller than they were twenty, ten, or even five years ago. Forensic science and its practice, however, will continue to evolve and strengthen, more rapidly with financial assistance from and collaboration with supportive legislators and administrators, and in partnership with other professional groups, government agencies with similar goals, and academia. AAFS as an organization is strongly supportive of ongoing efforts in Congress and the Federal Government to enhance the practice of, and resources available to forensic science. The core values I referenced above: certification; accreditation; research and validation, and education will be the focus of the Plenary Session at our upcoming meeting. The AAFS needs to be open to collaboration with agencies, organizations, and legislators who share our vision and who are stakeholders in seeing forensic science strengthen, succeed, and prosper.
INTRODUCTION
Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary active agent found in cannabis, is classified as a “Schedule I Controlled Substance” by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This designation means that, according to the DEA, cannabis does not have an accepted medical use, nor has it been found/declared safe for medical use. Similarly, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a statement that it has “not approved smoked marijuana for any condition or disease indication” and that “[t]here are alternative FDA-approved medications in existence for treatment of many of the proposed uses of smoked marijuana.”

In 1996, California voters passed proposition 215, also known as the Compassionate Use Act, which permits patients with a doctor’s recommendation to possess and grow cannabis for personal use. Since then, 17 other states and the District of Columbia have passed similar measures to allow for the use of cannabis for medical purposes. Even more recently, Colorado and Washington voters approved the legalization of cannabis for recreational use. These measures have raised numerous complex legal, regulatory, political, and public health issues. For example, cannabis remains illegal under federal law, which places state law in direct opposition with federal law and raises the question of whether (and if so, how) the United States Department of Justice will enforce federal regulations within these states regarding the cultivation and possession of cannabis.

There also are many still unresolved issues of how to regulate properly the production and distribution of cannabis. For example, should medical cannabis be taxed and if so, to where (e.g., which state funds or programs) should the revenue be directed? If used, what dose is effective? What safeguards are in place to ensure purity and monitor potency? A recent commentary by Kleber and DuPont articulates these challenges.

In addition, the laws approving marijuana for medical use appear to assume that there is a medical benefit to using cannabis in patients, hence the popular term “medical marijuana.” While there is some evidence for the efficacy of cannabis in particular medical conditions in adults (such as chemotherapy-induced nausea) and research is ongoing in children, reports of its therapeutic potential remain anecdotal and largely based on extrapolation from studies in adults. For example, a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics states “[m]arijuana has been touted as ameliorating chemotherapy-induced nausea, wasting and anorexia associated with AIDS, intraocular pressure in glaucoma, and muscle spasticity arising from such conditions as multiple sclerosis.” To date, there is little to no evidence to support the use of cannabis for the treatment of psychiatric disorders in any population, let alone children and adolescents. It is well-known and empirically validated, however, that “cannabis intoxication can cause distorted perceptions, impaired coordination, difficulty with thinking and problem solving, and problems with learning and memory.”

Because cannabis can impact negatively the physical and mental health of users and because there are few well-accepted medical indications for cannabis, physicians are placed in the problematic situation of recommending a substance that has risks and benefits that are not understood fully.

The goal of this article is to review the current scientific knowledge of the impact of cannabis use on children and adolescents. Emphasis is placed particularly on those with an underlying predisposition to develop psychiatric disorders (and who therefore may be more susceptible to the potential short and long-term negative effects of cannabis use). We focus on the sequelae of cannabis use on child and adolescent brain development, cognition, the development of substance use disorders, comorbidities and mental illness, and functional outcomes.

NOTE
For the purposes of this paper “child and adolescent” will be defined as individuals under age 21 years. Although admittedly a somewhat arbitrary definition and not entirely consistent with the definition employed in some of the studies cited in this paper (which define adolescents as individuals under age 18 years), we utilize it to be consistent with organizational position papers as well as existing state and national alcohol-use policies.

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Forensic Science Education and Mentorship: Our Path Forward

Forensic Toxicology

Source: Loralie J. Langman, PhD, Toxicology Section Chair

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

In 2010, the Forensic Toxicology Council prepared a briefing entitled “What is Forensic Toxicology?” In this brief, they define forensic toxicology as a “thoroughly modern science, based on published and widely accepted scientific methods and practices, for both analysis of drugs in biological materials, and interpretation of those results.” Further, it goes on to say, “Thousands of articles related to forensic toxicology methods, instrumentation, and interpretation are published in hundreds of peer-reviewed journals every year, and increase our understanding of the benefits, risks, and dangers associated with use and abuse of illicit and recreational drugs, medications, and alcohol” (www.soft-tox.org/images/stories/otherfiles/WHAT_IS_FORENSIC_TOxICOLOGY.pdf).

The profession of forensic toxicology is deeply steeped in education, experience, and mentorship. There has been an explosion of universities and colleges offering forensic science programs but unfortunately, most are not accredited. A quick search of accredited programs shows only a few dozen offerings for bachelor’s and master’s degrees in forensic science. The number of accredited doctoral programs is even lower: both the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in Baltimore, MD, and the Center for Human Toxicology in Salt Lake City, UT, offer programs; in addition, there are three identified on the Society of Toxicologists’ (SOT) website that specify expertise and training in forensic toxicology (www.toxicology.org/ai/apt/careerprograms.asp). However, newer programs are arising, as seen in the AAFS 2012 Proceedings in which an abstract describes a forensic toxicology fellowship training model in the Harris County Institute of Forensic Science (Houston, TX).

Although program opportunities seem to be increasing, most practicing forensic toxicologists received their degrees in more generic science programs such as biology, chemistry, and pharmacology. This means by default that the vast majority of us are trained “on the job.” We learn from our colleagues, and we depend on their expertise to teach us what we need to know.

In complement to the discussion of education, mentorship is one of the themes for the upcoming AAFS meeting. The origin of the word mentor is in Greek mythology. In Homer’s Odyssey, Mentor was a friend of Odysseus, who cared for Odysseus’ household and son, Telemachus, when Odysseus left for the Trojan War. In Odysseus’ long absence, the goddess Athena visits Telemachus disguised as Mentor and encouraged Telemachus to search abroad for his father. Because of Mentor’s relationship as teacher and advisor to Telemachus, and the inspiration provided by Athena in Mentor’s guise, the name Mentor has come to be synonymous with a more senior individual who shares personal wisdom and knowledge with a less experienced colleague (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mentor). If that is not a description of how we all have come to where we are in our careers, I don’t know what is.

Regardless of whether we went through a training program or we were trained on the job, we all have mentors: some professional, some personal, some both. Please take the time to thank them.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the AAFS annual meeting in Seattle, February 17-22, 2014.

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: Heather Wagner, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904; or, by email to hwagner@aafs.org. Submissions must be received by December 31.

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; and
• A cash award of $350 to the author.
A Word From Your 2014 Program Co-Chair

September has arrived. That means various things to different people. To some, it marks the end of the summer break, which means school is back in session. To those who experience changes in the season, it means the leaves are preparing to take on their fall hues. Still, to others, it means football. To Academy members, it means the August 1 deadline for abstract submissions has passed! If you considered submitting an abstract, but missed the deadline, you now have a little more time to complete your research and a jump on the submission process for next year.

If you missed the deadline, don’t be discouraged. There are still ample ways for you to contribute to the success of the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting without presenting. For starters, you may serve as a moderator for a scientific session. The role of the moderator in maintaining the tight meeting schedule is well known. Less known or recognized is the contribution to the multi-disciplinary facet of professional development. With either the paper meeting calendar or smart phone meeting app in hand, attendees are able to freely move between the scientific sessions of different sections with confidence, knowing that the moderators are there to ensure the presenters follow the scheduled presenting times. This is a very important role and one that should not be taken for granted. You should contact your section program chairs if you have questions or to offer your assistance if you are willing to serve as a moderator.

You may also serve as a volunteer. Many volunteers are needed throughout the week of the meeting. Volunteers who are not members of the AAFS may receive complimentary registration to attend all non-ticketed sessions of the meeting. Although AAFS members are unable to receive the complimentary registration, your assistance is still needed and greatly appreciated. You may volunteer to serve (and receive the priceless gratitude of the anticipated 4,000+ attendees). It may also be possible for you to mention this to a non-member who may be able to take advantage of the complimentary registration. Consider this as a form of mentorship, if you will. As AAFS President Barry Logan mentioned in his July 2013 “President’s Message,” “Mentorship comes in many shapes and forms... At its core, a mentor is someone who takes an interest in the career and development of a more junior colleague.” Encouraging attendance of a junior colleague at a professional meeting demonstrates an interest in their career and development. However, providing a means to relieve a portion of the financial burden associated with attending a professional meeting may be appreciated even more. The volunteer form may be found on the Academy website (www.aafs.org) or in this newsletter on page 10. All forms are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, you may contact AAFS Volunteer Coordinator Heather Wagner.

Let’s stay with that mentorship thought for a moment. Program Chair Jeri Ropero-Miller also asked that AAFS members consider “a young scientist” as point #9 in the July 2013 issue of the Academy News. I would also like to mention that point #10 was to “Have Fun.” As an aside, I just love reading her points in the newsletter, but not nearly as much as I love cookies, of course.

But back to the matters at hand: MENTORSHIP and FUN. Plenary Session Chair Laura Liptai, and Co-Chair Susan Ballou, Past President Carol Henderson, Young Forensic Scientist Forum (YFSF) President
The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has selected four hotel properties for your stay during the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA: the Sheraton Seattle, the Hilton Seattle, the Grand Hyatt Seattle, and the Hyatt at Olive 8. All of the hotels are within walking distance of the Washington State Convention Center and offer great amenities to help you through your stay.

For hotel availability during the American Academy of Forensic Sciences’ 66th Annual Scientific Meeting, please go to the AAFS Annual Meeting “Accommodations” webpage to make your hotel reservation under the AAFS room block at any of the meeting hotel properties. By using the links on the “Accommodations” page, you will receive the discounted group rate for your stay during the annual meeting. By using this link on the AAFS Accommodations page, you will be taken to the hotel’s AAFS specific meetings page where you may secure your reservation at the group-contracted rate (see specific hotel rate and reservation deadline information below).

While early reservations are recommended to take advantage of discounted rates, please be sure to cancel your reservations by January 10, 2014, if you are unable to attend or you cannot use the reservations. This will make the rooms available for other attendees and will help AAFS avoid the financial penalties associated with cancellations made after the room block closes.

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**Sheraton Seattle**

- **Single/Double Occupancy:** $175
- **Room Rate Availability:** February 12-23, 2014
- **Check In/Check Out:** 3:00 p.m./12:00 p.m.
- **Reservations:**
  - Online: Go to [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org) and click on the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting’s link. Click on the “Accommodations” button and select the link to the hotel of your choice.
  - By Telephone: To make your reservation by telephone, please call 1 (888) 627-7056 with the following information: guest name, arrival date and time, departure date, and bed type preference (e.g., king or two double beds). All rooms are non-smoking.

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**Hilton Seattle**

- **Single/Double Occupancy:** $171/$191
- **Room Rate Availability:** February 17-22, 2014
- **Check In/Check Out:** 4:00 p.m./12:00 p.m.
- **Reservations:**
  - Online: Go to [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org) and click on the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting’s link. Click on the “Accommodations” button and select the link to the hotel of your choice.
  - By Telephone: To make your reservation by telephone, please call 1 (206) 624-0500.

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**Grand Hyatt Seattle**

- **Single/Double Occupancy:** $189
- **Room Rate Availability:** February 12-23, 2014
- **Check In/Check Out:** 4:00 p.m./12:00 p.m.
- **Reservations:**
  - Online: Go to [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org) and click on the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting’s link. Click on the “Accommodations” button and select the link to the hotel of your choice.
  - By Telephone: To make your reservation by telephone, please call 1 (402) 592-6464.

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**Hyatt at Olive 8**

- **Single/Double Occupancy:** $189
- **Room Rate Availability:** February 13-22, 2014
- **Check In/Check Out:** 4:00 p.m./12:00 p.m.
- **Reservations:**
  - Online: Go to [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org) and click on the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting’s link. Click on the “Accommodations” button and select the link to the hotel of your choice.
  - By Telephone: To make your reservation by telephone, please call 1 (402) 592-6464.
AAFS Guidelines For Presentations Using An LCD Projector

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:
Computers may not automatically be provided by the AAFS. However, the section you are assigned to present before may coordinate this effort and have a computer available for your use at the meeting. Otherwise, it will be your responsibility to provide a laptop computer for your presentation. All inquiries should be addressed to your presenting section’s program chair.

PREPARING YOUR PRESENTATION:
- Microsoft PowerPoint® 2003 or later is highly recommended. Other versions of PowerPoint and programs may be difficult to support at the conference. If the current version of Microsoft products is used to create the presentation, save the file as a PowerPoint 2003 version. If using MS Word, do not save the document as a “.docx” file (extension). Save the file as a “.doc” file (extension).
- Dark background and light text provide acceptable contrast and display well in the darkened meeting room. Avoid distracting or otherwise hard to read color combinations such as red and blue, and yellow and green.
- Arial, Times New Roman, or Helvetica are the recommended font styles. Avoid using fonts that project poorly. Unusual or custom fonts may not be available on the host computer.
- Use as large a font as possible and fill the screen. Anything less than 24 is too small. Suggested font sizes are Titles: 48-54, Main text titles: 32, Smallest text lines: 24.
- Keep your presentation simple. Do not crowd the frame. Limit the number of text lines per frame to a maximum of seven lines, with no more than 30 characters per line.
- Verify your computer resolution by going to your computer’s control panel, selecting “Display” then “Settings.” The recommended resolution is 1024 x 768.
- Avoid the use of commercial messages (e.g., logo), and video and audio clips unless requested previously in the abstract submission.
- Save your presentation on a CD-ROM or jump/flash drive. Always test your presentation on another computer to verify file compatibility, layout, and style.

IF YOU PLAN TO USE YOUR OWN COMPUTER WITH THE LCD PROJECTOR AT THE MEETING (ONLY IF ALLOWED BY SECTION):
- Test your presentation with the LCD projection unit provided in the speaker ready room.
- You must report to your assigned room at least 30 minutes before the session is scheduled to begin (not your scheduled presentation time). Introduce yourself to the session moderators. Bring your presentation on a USB Drive or CD-ROM that is clearly labeled with your name. Please contact your presenting section’s Program Chair for these details.
- If allowed, each section will provide specific instructions by email prior to the meeting.
- You will be given instructions on when to connect to the LCD projection unit.

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

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

AAFS reserves the right to remove commercial references not disclosed by the author.
AAFS Guidelines for Poster Presentations

Each poster session presenter will be provided with a 4 ft. (height) x 8 ft. (width) poster board and an ample supply of push-pins. The board will be labeled with the presentation title and pre-assigned AAFS presentation number. Presenters are responsible for posting their material at least one hour prior to the opening of the session and removing the material before leaving the presentation area or within one-half hour after the session closes if still presenting. Volunteers will be available to assist the presenters. AAFS is not responsible for material posted early or left after the session is over. Materials left will be disposed of after presentation hours.

AAFS 2014 Poster Presentation Format Is As Follows:
- Presenting authors are asked to have their posters ready for display at 9:00 a.m. for attendee viewing.
- Presenting authors will be required to be present from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to answer questions.
- Posters should be removed no later than 1:15 p.m.
- AAFS or its representatives will verify poster presentations during the hours of 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Authors who display a poster but do not present materials during required hours will not get credit for the poster presentations.
- Presenters should make arrangements with a co-author to cover lunch or breaks, or the presenting author should lunch or break before or after the 11:30 – 1:00 time period.
- Authors are also encouraged to bring reprints for distribution during the session and may wish to bring sign-up sheets for attendees who desire additional information.

Content:
The poster presentation should cover all key aspects of the work and contain the following items:
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- References

Presentation Format:
- Extensive narratives are not necessary. Short, “bulleted” statements are preferred.
- Results presented in the form of figures, diagrams, graphs, etc., are preferred, but may be presented in clear, concise tabular format.
- Statistical data should be titled and summarized in a clear, concise format.
- Material should be displayed in a logical sequence from top left to bottom right. Number all poster panels or use arrows so that the sequence of presentation is clear.
- All type should be a minimum of 14 pt and readable from a distance of 3-4 feet. Use standard type styles (e.g., Arial, Helvetica, Times New Roman).
- All poster panels should be printed with a laser or other high quality printer.
- The display does not need to be “artsy,” but the overall effectiveness of a poster presentation can be enhanced by using techniques such as mounting poster panels on colored paper or crescent board. Colors may be used to highlight important points.

FSF Travel Grants: October 15 Deadline

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to offer Travel Grants for students to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. The FSF Board of Trustees has allocated $7,500, not to exceed $1,500 per student, including complimentary meeting registration. This is a wonderful opportunity, and members are encouraged to promote it.

Travel Grant Eligibility Requirements:
1. The applicant must either be an AAFS member/affiliate or an AAFS applicant for membership.
2. The applicant must have submitted an abstract either as a presenter or co-author for the annual meeting he/she will be attending.
3. The applicant must be a fourth-year undergraduate or a graduate student at an accredited four-year college, university, or professional school whose accreditation is acceptable to the FSF Board of Trustees.
4. The applicant must have a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor or professor.
5. The applicant must submit a 400-600 word essay explaining how attendance at an AAFS meeting will impact his/her career decision.
6. The applicant must submit a curriculum vitae to include specifics regarding their involvement in forensic science.

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

Academy News
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 2014 AAFS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The 2014 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting will take place February 17-22, in Seattle, WA. We need volunteers to accomplish an array of administrative and gate-keeping 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 (8) 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 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 we need volunteers and an information form. Credit card information is now required; however, your card will only be charged should you fail to fulfill your volunteer commitment and attend the meeting. Volunteer applications must be received no later than December 31, 2013, and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Incomplete forms are not accepted.

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<th>AAFS Office Assistant</th>
<th>Luncheons</th>
<th>Plenary Session</th>
<th>Registration Desk</th>
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<td>Breakfast Seminars</td>
<td>Special Sessions</td>
<td>AAFS Annual Business Meeting</td>
<td>Scientific Sessions</td>
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**AAFS 66th Annual Scientific Meeting Volunteer Information Form***

Name: ___________________________ Salutation: _______ Degree: _______ Organization: ____________________________

Mailing Address: _____________________________ City: ____________________________

State/Province: _____________________________ Zip/Postal Code: ____________________________ Country: ____________________________

Home Phone: _____________________________ Cell Phone: _____________________________ Work Phone: ____________________________

Fax: _____________________________ Email: _____________________________ Gender: M[ ] F[ ]

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

AAFS Member? Yes [ ] No [ ] Member #: __________________________ Are you able to lift 50 lbs? Yes[ ] No[ ]

Are you bilingual? Yes [ ] No [ ] If needed are you willing to translate? Y[ ] N[ ] Language(s): ____________________________

Credit Card #: ____________________________ Ex. Date: __________________ MC[ ] Visa[ ] AE[ ]

Signature: ____________________________

AAFS is authorized to charge up to the 2014 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 Seattle, WA on ____________________________ (Date) and depart on ____________________________ (Date)

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: We make every attempt to fulfill your requests; however, there is no guarantee your requests will match our needs.

**Dates Available**

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Please check the boxes that apply.

I prefer to work: [ ] Full Days [ ] Half Days

Additional Comments/Needs:

__________________________________________

________________________

Signature: ____________________________

Maximum number of days willing to work:

[ ] I am requesting "Complimentary" registration as a non-member with a minimum of eight (8) hours of volunteer service.

*Return completed form by December 31, 2013, to:

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

*You must fill out the form completely. Incomplete forms are not accepted.
Lindsey Saunders and Distinguished Fellow Carla Noziglia have devised an innovative way to incorporate both fun and mentorship into the Academy’s Plenary Program. The Mentorship in Motion Pre-Plenary Game emphasizes the theme of the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting, Forensic Science Education and Mentorship: Our Path Forward, and gets our “younger members/attendees” involved in an AAFS networking-type activity. The event will include a team representing each of the 11 sections of the Academy. Each team will consist of a captain who has either a current or past association with the YFSF; an AAFS Past President or Vice President; section officers or program committee members; and pre-selected 2014 Annual Meeting attendees. The game will occur 30 minutes before the Plenary. The contestants, with the help of their teammates and portable electronic devices, will have a limited amount of time to answer a few well-crafted multiple choice questions projected onto the screen. The winning team will be announced at the AAFS Annual Business Meeting and there will be a prize or two involved. Team assignments will be made prior to the meeting, so please consider being a part of this fun, innovative, and wonderful mentorship opportunity. If you plan to attend the 2014 Annual Meeting, have less than five years of experience in the forensic field, and would like to be assigned to a team or have questions, you should email Laura Liptai at manager@biomedicalforensics.com.

Even if you are not part of a team, please join us before the Plenary Session to take part in the fun.

Everyone planning to attend the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, and I hope that includes the vast majority of you, should visit the annual meeting page found on the Academy website. Once fully updated, it will become a virtual one-stop site for all of your pre-meeting needs. There are links in place for such things as online registration, hotel accommodations, airline information, volunteer forms, and presentation instructions for presenters, just to name a few. The links are activated once information becomes available; therefore, you are encouraged to check early and often for the most current information (the online registration should be available in late October). You may access the page by clicking on the “Meetings” drop down tab on the AAFS homepage at www.aafs.org and selecting “AAFS 66th Annual Scientific Meeting - Seattle, WA 2014.”

Attend the AAFS Annual Business Meeting and Win!!

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fellows and Members of AAFS will be held on Wednesday, February 19, at 4:15 p.m., at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, WA. 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 2014-15 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 2015 AAFS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

Complete Your AAFS Membership Application Online!

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences online membership application system will allow: 1) current members and 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 Academy and wish to upgrade your status, you may complete your application online at www.aafs.org. You will need to log into your AAFS Web account if you are unsure as to your login information, please email the Membership Department at membership@aafs.org). Currently, all of the required documentation (e.g., references, CVs, case reports, etc.) will need to be emailed (membership@aafs.org), mailed, or faxed separately to AAFS.

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 Scientific Meeting, an AAFS Web account was established for you when your presentation was submitted. An email was sent to you with your login information. Please use this information to log into your “Author” account to start your membership application. If you are unable to obtain your login information, please contact the Membership Department at membership@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 membership@aafs.org.

If none of the above apply, please go to https://data.aafs.org/application/apply/start.aspx and click option C.

Please send your questions to Cheryl Hunter, AAFS Membership Coordinator at chunter@aafs.org.
Welcome to the AAFS Staff news page! Information from the staff will be found here throughout the year (e.g., membership, registration, meetings, etc.). This section is being developed to help our members and applicants with some of the frequently asked questions that are received through the year. Please take a moment to review the topics below:

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

While early reservations are recommended to take advantage of discounted rates, please be sure to cancel your reservations by January 10, 2014, if you are unable to attend or you cannot use the reservations. This will make the rooms available for other attendees and will help AAFS avoid the financial penalties associated with cancellations made after the room block closes.

**AAFS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE!**

Completed applications, including any additional requirements for membership and promotion, must be submitted online or received in the AAFS office by October 1 in order to be considered for approval at the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA. If you are having difficulties obtaining a reference to complete your application, please contact Cheryl Hunter, AAFS Membership Coordinator at chunter@aafs.org for assistance. You may be required to submit your most recent curriculum vitae. If you haven’t already done so, please upload your CV to your AAFSWeb account.

**2014 ANNUAL DUES**

2014 annual dues invoices will be mailed the third week of September. Please make sure your mailing address is up-to-date in your AAFS Web account. Invoices will also be available as a .pdf document in your AAFS Web account around the third week of September.

By paying your annual membership dues, you are reaffirming your commitment to the AAFS Code of Ethics and the AAFS Conflicts of Interest Policy. Please see Article II, Section 1 of the AAFS Bylaws and Section 1.4.7. of the *Policy and Procedure Manual*, respectively, on the AAFS website.

Elsevier will again offer reduced electronic subscription rates, available to AAFS members only, for two packages of journals. If you pay your dues online, you’ll be able to add the optional Elsevier subscription to your dues payment. Current subscribers are reminded that your subscriptions will terminate on December 31. If you would like more information about the different Elsevier electronic subscriptions, please email Tracie McCray (tmccray@aafs.org).

**STUDENT AND TRAINEE AFFILIATES**

As a reminder, your Annual Eligibility Form is available online in your AAFS Web account. Please print, complete the eligibility form, and return it to Cheryl Hunter, AAFS Membership Coordinator at chunter@aafs.org by September 20, in order to retain your AAFS membership. Failure to return the eligibility form or to apply for the Student Affiliate waiver will result in the termination of your membership on January 1, 2014. Please contact Cheryl with any questions regarding your eligibility.
Itinerary:

**October 7 – Beijing Arrival**
Arrive in Beijing. Upon arrival, you will proceed to the hotel. The remainder of the day is free for leisure and exploration.

**October 8 – Beijing**
Our first day will be a full-day tour. We’ll visit **Tiananmen Square.** Tiananmen Square (Gate of Heavenly Peace) is located in the center of Beijing and served as the main entrance to the Forbidden City. It’s the world’s biggest square—three times the size of Moscow’s Red Square. The present Tiananmen Square has an area of 440,000 square meters, allowing ample room to fly kites, walk, or just relax. Tiananmen Square is also a political focal point where many historical events in China’s modern history are celebrated. The Forbidden City is located just to the north of Tiananmen Square. Called Gu Gong in Chinese, it was the Imperial Palace during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Now known as The Palace Museum, it is the world's largest palace complex covering 74 hectares (more than 182 square acres). Rectangular in shape and surrounded by a six-meter deep moat and ten-meter high wall, it encloses 9,999 buildings. After lunch, we will visit the **Temple of Heaven**, a complex of Taoist buildings in the southeastern part of central Beijing. The complex was visited by the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties for annual ceremonies of prayer to heaven for a good harvest. The Temple of Heaven was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998 and was described as “a masterpiece of architecture and landscape design which simply and graphically illustrates a cosmogony of great importance for the evolution of one of the world’s great civilizations...” The symbolic layout and design of the Temple of Heaven had a profound influence on architecture and planning in the Far East over many centuries. After a full day, we’ll gather for a welcome dinner.

**October 9 – Beijing**
This is a full day of forensic science exchange. Colleagues will meet with fellow forensic scientists for a comprehensive forensic symposium, branching into several academic groups based on the different forensic specialties and investigations.

**October 10 – Beijing-Xian**
In the morning you’ll enjoy a **Hutong tour by rickshaw.** With its narrow, deep, and gray-tiled lanes, Hutong provides a window into the history and culture of Old Beijing. You can witness a day in the lives of ordinary families as they go about the daily routine of speaking with neighbors, playing chess in the park, and creating the historic atmosphere of the Hutongs. After lunch, we’ll head to the **Great Wall at Mutianyu.** UNESCO enlisted the Great Wall, one of the greatest wonders of the world, in the World Heritage in 1987. The Great Wall of China extends 4,000 miles (6,400 km) westward from the seaside town of Shanhaiguan to Gansu Province. It is not just a wall, but a symbol of the bravery and wisdom of the Chinese people. After the tour, we’ll embark on a flight to Xian, where we will be met by our guide and transported to the hotel.

**October 11 – Xian**
In the morning, we’ll visit forensic colleagues who teach at Xian Jiaotong University. We’ll also meet with the specialists who perform forensic investigations. After lunch, we’ll visit **City Wall**, which is one of the most complete military defense systems in the world. Here the military defense facilities include the city wall, city moat, drawbridges, watchtowers, corner towers, parapet walls, and gate towers that once made up a complete city defense system. Afterward, you may enjoy a leisurely stroll around **Xian Muslim Quarters**, home to a myriad of interesting handicraft shops, Muslim restaurants, and vendors. In the evening, we’ll enjoy the **Tang Dynasty Musical Show with a dumpling banquet.** The Dumpling Dinner refers to the cuisine of Xian. The Chinese dumpling has a long history and is an essential part of celebratory meals such as those prepared for the Chinese Spring Festival. The Xian Dumpling Banquet has evolved through time, presenting a variety of color, fragrance, taste, and style while maintaining its place as part of the ancient culture. Thus, the dumpling is no longer one kind of simple flour food. Now the traditional use of pork, beef, mutton, and vegetable as its filling also includes chicken, duck, fish, egg, and delicacies from land and sea. Its presentation may include lovely designs such as flowers, birds, grasses, fish, etc. People who experience the Xian Dumpling Banquet have left with deep, happy memories.

**October 12 – Xian-Chengdu**
The **Terracotta Warriors** are one of the greatest and most famous archaeological discoveries of all time. Six thousand life-size figures of warriors and horses were interred in the Mausoleum of the First Emperor of China—each is individually carved, and they are thought to represent real members of the emperor’s army. The figures vary in height (183 – 195cm or 6ft – 6ft 5in), according to their role, the tallest being the
The figures include strong warriors, chariots, horses, officials, acrobats, strongmen, and musicians. Current estimates are, that in the three pits containing the Terracotta Army, there were over 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses, and 150 cavalry horses, the majority of which are still buried in the pits. In the afternoon, we will travel on to Chengdu.

**October 13 – Chengdu**

Day six of the IEOP is a full-day tour to the **Dujiangyan Irrigation System**. It is an irrigation infrastructure built in 256 BC during the Warring States Period of China by the Kingdom of Qin. It is still in use today and still irrigates over 5,300 square kilometers of land in the region. Moving on, we’ll visit the **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding** to view pandas, a Chinese national treasure. We’ll take a stroll along **Jinli Street**. This ancient street has been fully restored in the traditional Sichuan style. Picturesque, bustling, and cheerful, you can sample local arts and crafts, as well as traditional Chinese food. Enjoy Chinese tea in a **local teahouse**.

**October 14 – Chengdu-Shanghai**

On this morning we will visit forensic educators at Sichuan University and the Sichuan police facility. The forensic fellows of Sichuan University play an important role in China’s forensic science research and teaching. Chengdu and Sichuan demonstrate a different culture and the sceneries here are splendid. In the afternoon, we’ll head to our next stop, Shanghai.

**October 15 – Shanghai**

We will spend the morning in a forensic science exchange. In the afternoon, we will visit **Yu Garden**, one of China’s finest examples of Ming Dynasty gardens and architecture. In the center of Yu Garden is the **old town** of Shanghai where it is easy to lose yourself in the narrow winding alleys as you stroll through the local bazaars and shop for traditional handicrafts. The **Bund** is one of the symbols of Shanghai. The Bund shows off Shanghai’s outstanding foreign buildings, most of which were erected before 1937. **Nanjing Road** is the number one street in China for shopping.

**October 16 – Shanghai-Beijing**

In the morning, we’ll visit the **Oriental Pearl TV Tower**, the world’s third-tallest TV and radio tower. In the tower’s pedestal, we’ll also tour the **Shanghai Municipal History Museum** where you’ll find a wonderful introduction to the interesting history of the city. In the afternoon, we’ll head to the railway station for the high-speed train back to Beijing. In the evening, our last night together, we’ll say goodbye over a farewell dinner.

**October 17 – Beijing**

Thoroughly exhausted, those of us heading for home will head to the airport with happy memories and new friends.

**Land Tour Price:**

The program price of $2,675 USD.

The tour price includes:

- Hotel accommodations
- Daily breakfast at hotel
- Welcoming Dinner on October 8
- Admission fees to all of the sightseeing locations previously mentioned
- Dumpling Banquet Dinner on October 11
- Private air-conditioned vehicles
- English-speaking local city guides
- Domestic flights with taxes: Beijing-Xian, Xian-Chengdu, Chengdu-Shanghai
- High-speed train (2nd-class seat): Shanghai-Beijing
- Farewell Dinner on October 16
- Basic tips for drivers and guides

For planning purposes, lunches and dinners (not included above) will be approximately $8 per person at our hotels. Going out to a good local restaurant will average $22 for lunch and $39 for dinner.
AAFS 2013 International Educational Outreach Program (IEOP) - China

October 7 - October 17

President Barry Logan invites you to join him in the IEOP of China. The itinerary will include stays in Beijing, Xian, Chengdu, and Shanghai. Following the design of previous tours, AAFS members will have opportunities to meet with forensic science colleagues in China and take advantage of the cultural and historical riches of the wonderful cities to be visited.

APPLICATION

Please complete the following application and return it by fax (719-636-1993) or by U.S. Postal Service to the attention of Nancy Jackson, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Reserve your place today!

*Please ensure that you have the proper documentation. All necessary travel documents for China must be presented at airport check-in. Refunds will not be granted for failure to secure proper travel documentation. Presently, all American citizens entering China must apply for a tourist visa. Details can be found at http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/hzqz/zgqz/t84246.htm. Non-U.S. citizens are encouraged to confirm the travel requirements for their country.
IEOP Package Details

The cost of the AAFS 2013 International Educational Outreach Program (IEOP) to China is **$2,675** per person, based upon single/double occupancy at all hotels.

The **$2,675 per person tour package includes the following:**

**Hotel Accommodations (10 Nights):**
- Beijing: October 7, 8, 9, 16 (four nights)
- Xian: October 10, 11 (two nights)
- Chengdu: October 12, 13 (two nights)
- Shanghai: October 14, 15 (two nights)

**Meals:**
- Breakfast: Breakfast each morning is included.
- Dinner: Three dinners – Welcoming, Dumpling, and Farewell.

**Other (as Specified in the Itinerary):**
- Admission fees to all the sightseeing activities as indicated.
- Private air-conditioned vehicles.
- English-speaking local city guides.
- Domestic flights with taxes: Beijing-Xian, Xian-Chengdu, Chengdu-Shanghai.
- High-speed train (2nd-class seat): Shanghai-Beijing.
- Basic tips for drivers and guides.

**Items not included:**
- Round-trip airfare to China
- Entrance fees when on your own
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Personal expenses (laundry, fax, phone, internet, etc.)
- Personal & travel insurance
- Optional excursions
- Room service

Payments of $2,675 per person single/double rate, may be made by check to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). MasterCard, American Express, and VISA credit cards are also accepted. A cancellation policy applies. Please see the next page for cancellation policy details.

**Payment Schedule:** Tour participants may remit payments per the following schedule: (1) one payment with application for the full amount; or (2) a deposit of 50% of total cost with application and the second 50% on or before September 1, 2013.

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

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Cancellation Policy for AAFS 2013 International Educational Outreach Program to China

All requests for tour cancellations must be made in writing and sent by fax (719-636-1993) to the AAFS Headquarters. Phone cancellations will not be accepted. If a registration is cancelled, fees will be refunded based upon replacement availability and tour refund policies negotiated with China Peace International Tourism Co., Ltd., less a $50 administration fee. Restrictions and fees will apply and refunds are not guaranteed.

The quoted price in U.S. funds is good through June 30, 2013.

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

Release of Liability

I/we hereby acknowledge that I/we have voluntarily applied to join this program (AAFS 2013 IEOP) and to engage in activities conducted during the program by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, its associates and agents, and with this registration I/we certify that I/we have no physical, mental, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for me/us or other program participants.

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

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

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, its associates, and agents act only as agents for the suppliers of transportation, lodging, meals, sightseeing activities, and other program activities, and have no responsibility for any damages, injuries, or accidents that might occur in relation to the use of these suppliers. Neither are they nor the suppliers to be held responsible for damages, injuries, or accidents that occur due to Acts of God, natural disasters, weather conditions, terrorism, or any other matters beyond their control. They retain the right in their sole discretion to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of a program. They are not liable for any penalty cost of a nonrefundable air ticket purchased in connection with this program.

Participant Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: ____________________

Email Approval: _______________ (Please check)

Save the completed document to your hard drive and either email as an attachment to njackson@aafs.org or fax to AAFS (719) 636-1993.

Follow us on facebook
Over the last three years, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) amassed a thirteen book collection containing proceedings from twelve years of AAFS meetings and totaling over 6,000 pages, from the eleven sections of forensic science. The AAFS Reference Series is perhaps the largest collection of abstracts of forensic case studies and research results worldwide. As you recall in last year’s Plenary Session, the AAFS Reference Library was accepted into the Library of Congress. Now, our Proceedings are easily accessible from the AAFS website in an instant. You can search by keyword, author name and/or state, or author country making your search effortless and trouble-free. Abstracts can then be viewed and/or downloaded.

Laura Liptai, as well as the entire Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the months of hard work on behalf of Nancy Jackson, AAFS Director of Development & Accreditation and her team in formatting the proceedings from the thirteen AAFS Reference Series volumes into the electronic library.

All of the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting Proceedings from 2002 to 2013 are now available in an easy-to-use database. This new electronic AAFS library allows for at-your-desk discovery of relevant case studies for research. The online search allows for queries on particular words in an abstract, author names, and the location of authors by state and/or country.

To access the library, choose the “Quick Link” on the right-hand side of the AAFS homepage or go to https://webdata.aafs.org/RefLibrary/Ref_Search/Search.aspx and type in your last name or try a search by key word.
The Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made to the Foundation and its Endowment Fund. Please accept our apologies if your name does not appear below and contact the AAFS office as soon as possible with the correction. This listing reflects contributions received from 07/01/13 through 08/01/13.

The Fund’s balance through 08/01/13 was $879,989.77. Additionally, the FSF Endowment Fund has provided $190,418.42 in awards and grants since its inception in 1990.

FSF Endowment Fund Contributors

**PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY**

$51-$100 - “Trustee”
Abubakr Marzouk, MD

**AAFS SECTIONS**

Criminalistics Section
Engineering Sciences Section
General Section
Jurisprudence Section
Pathology/Biology Section
Physical Anthropology Section
Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section
FSF Needs Your Help With the 2014 Silent Auction!

With your help, the Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) Annual Silent Auction can exceed expectations during the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA. Does your agency or department have “logo” gear such as hats, 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.

Forensic Sciences Foundation Endowment Fund Contribution

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Mail to: Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc.
410 N. 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 636-1100 Fax: (719) 636-1993

Thank you for your commitment to forensic sciences. Contributions to the Forensic Sciences Foundation are deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Your contribution will be acknowledged in the Academy News.

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Enclosed Check (Payable to: FSF)
Account No: __________________________________________
Signature: ____________________________________________
Expiration Date: ______________________________________

Signature, Account Number and Expiration Date Required for Credit Card

AN HOUR OF MY TIME IS WORTH $__________ TO THE FORENSIC SCIENCES FOUNDATION

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80% Restricted Endowment, 20% General: $___________

Forensic Sciences Foundation Restricted Endowment Contribution: $___________

Forensic Sciences Foundation General Contribution: $___________

Mail to: Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc.
410 N. 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 636-1100 Fax: (719) 636-1993

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Enclosed Check (Payable to: FSF)
Account No: __________________________________________
Signature: ____________________________________________
Expiration Date: ______________________________________

Signature, Account Number and Expiration Date Required for Credit Card

Thank you for your commitment to the forensic sciences.
In thinking about the theme of this year’s meeting, *Forensic Science Education and Mentorship: Our Path Forward*, mentors in forensic science must instill more than scientific competency in the people entrusted to them. Mentoring is so much more than teaching how not to contaminate a DNA sample or how to use the latest and greatest technology employed in forensic science laboratories. Whether those being mentored are students, young professionals, or even those who have entered forensic science as a second career, mentorship is a multi-faceted dynamic that should serve as the springboard for a meaningful career in forensic science.

The development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills are essential to any career in science and mentors must teach how to use the scientific method to approach forensic problems. In addition, the developing forensic scientist must constantly be reminded that their work may forever change the lives of crime victims, crime suspects, and their families; thus, mentors must continually stress the need to embrace the enlightened values of science.

Mentors must always be a personification of professionalism. People just entering a career in forensic science must be taught that professionalism is not what they believe it is but what others perceive it to be. Standards of dress in professional environments and expectations of conduct both in and out of the workforce must be elucidated.

Mentors must ensure that the people in their charge develop a respect for the discipline by communicating the history of forensic science, particularly a knowledge of all those who came before and contributed to the betterment of the profession. Respect for the discipline was admirably illustrated in the remarks made by the 2013 Criminalistics Section’s Paul Kirk Award winner, JoAnn Buscaglia, at the last Criminalistics Section Business Meeting. In her acceptance remarks, JoAnn stated that she considers herself a third generation “Kirkee” since she was a student of Peter De Forest who studied under Paul Kirk. Knowing the history will provide a greater appreciation of the profession of forensic science, hopefully encouraging people new to the profession to make their contribution. Unfortunately, the history of forensic science is not well documented and often what is known are stories of individuals who have disgraced the field. It is important that the new professional learn about the pioneers of forensic science and to realize that a standard of excellence has been set for them to strive to meet.

Finally, a sense of history will lead to a sense of community. It is distressing to know that there are a large number of forensic science practitioners who are not members of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences or even their regional organizations. Such individuals miss out on the sense of community and history that professional organizations provide, and may never learn important shared values. They are more likely, in my view, to see their employment as a “job” not a “profession” and may not realize that they are part of something larger than their immediate sphere. Even though many of these individuals are likely competent in their day-to-day work duties, it is difficult to imagine that they hunger to make a lasting positive contribution to forensic science. When history and community are part of mentorship, the entire profession of forensic science benefits. Isn’t this what we all hope for?
Section News cont.

Fortunately, the vast majority of the members in the section possess that sense of community and desire to make a mark on the scientific sessions of the annual meetings. If you are a Fellow with that same desire and have an interest in taking a more active role in coordinating the scientific session for the 2015 Annual Meeting as the Criminalistics Section Program Co-Chair, you should submit a curriculum vitae to the Nominations Committee Chair, Ken Williams (lppwillc@gw.njsp.org) by October 15 for consideration.

The Awards Committee is still accepting nominations for both Criminalistics Section Awards. Nominations for either the Paul L. Kirk or Mary E. Cowan Outstanding Service Award must be submitted to the Awards Committee Chair, Ken Williams (lppwillc@gw.njsp.org) by the October 15 deadline. Remember, nominations should be accompanied by the curriculum vitae of the nominee and a brief narrative to support the nomination. This is a wonderful opportunity for you, as a member of the section, to recognize the contributions of members to the section and the forensic science community as a whole.

Finally, if you are coming to the 2014 annual meeting, please remember that February can be a cruel month and flight delays are common. Please plan accordingly, particularly if you are presenting.

DIGITAL & MULTIMEDIA SCIENCES

Source: Rhesa G. Gilliland, MS, Section Secretary

I would like to thank Jill Spriggs, Crime Laboratory Director for the Office of the District Attorney, representative of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations, for her testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation on June 26. She specifically mentioned Digital Evidence. Below is an excerpt from her testimony,

“we (CFSO) must admit that we have concerns after seeing the Charter signed by the Attorney General…..Second, it will not be developing or recommending guidance regarding digital evidence. Is digital evidence not as important a forensic discipline as DNA analysis? Digital evidence includes the analysis of cell phones and computers. Most of these cases involve homicides, sexual assaults, and white collar crime. Should digital evidence not be accredited, adhere to a quality assurance system, or receive training and is research not important? Currently, digital evidence is seen as “forensic” in nature and includes its own Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE). If it is not considered a forensic discipline, we will be sitting here ten years from now discussing why it was not considered a forensic discipline.”

You may read her entire testimony, here: www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=f0921115-4c0-2-436e-40a-7bfa6eb417d0&Statement_id=0b66557-4f7d-40a-8a94-89a97a4d408&ContentType_id=1f9935b-4da-07a-9435-5ec7152a7ed&Group_id=b06c39a-033-4cba-9-221-de668ca1978a&MMonthDisplay=6&YearDisplay=2013.

There is also support for digital evidence in the proposed 2014 Senate Budget for the Department of Commerce, Science, & Transportation. Here is an excerpt: “Building Digital Forensics Capabilities - The Committee continues to stress the importance of training and equipping state and local law enforcement with the tools and expertise needed to investigate and prosecute electronic crime. As smartphones and the Internet have become fundamental parts of daily life, these technologies have also become a fundamental part of criminal acts and enterprises, including drug deals and murder hits by text, to ATM heists via laptops, to child pornography Web sites. Given that more than 95 percent of all criminal cases are investigated and prosecuted at the state and local levels, the Committee remains concerned that the ability of state and local law enforcement to investigate and effectively prosecute cases involving digital evidence- and computer-based crimes will diminish without the Department’s support of training and research. The Committee encourages the Department to prioritize state and local assistance toward computer forensics and digital evidence training and investigations surrounding drug, violent, and financial crimes, and crimes against children. If merited, the Department should consider establishing one or more centers of excellence in the field of digital forensics so that this valuable expertise is developed and researched in a sustained, coordinated, and focused manner.”

I will continue to keep our section updated on developments on these important topics in future articles. On a final note, please remember to submit your applications for promotion by the October 1 deadline. You should also encourage any individuals that are involved in our discipline to consider joining the Academy and our section. Eoghan Casey, DMS Membership Committee Chair, is taking point on updating our section’s contact information and answering questions concerning membership in our section. He may be reached at coghan@disclosedigital.com.

ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Source: James Millette, PhD, Section Chair

The deadline for applying for entrance into the International Board of Forensic Engineering Sciences (IBFES) is September 30. The oral exam will be held on the Monday of the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting week in February, 2014.

The IBFES is an independent board that certifies professionals with a specialty in forensic engineering sciences. An IBFES certification indicates that an individual has been determined by his or her peers to be technically competent, forensically experienced, dedicated to ethical work, and professionally correct.

Certification is only conferred upon individuals who meet the strict criteria established by the IBFES. The applicant’s education,
professional forensic experience, competence in technical matters
and ethics issues, and general knowledge are all considered during a
process of peer review, culminating in both written and oral
examination. Applicants are additionally required to accept and
agree to be bound by the IBFES Code of Ethics and Rules of
Professional Conduct in their professional engineering science
practice.

Forensic engineering science professionals who become certified by
the IBFES are awarded a Certificate of Qualification as a Diplomate,
IBFES.

Forensic engineering science professionals who become certified by
the IBFES include those with degrees in the many traditional
engineering disciplines such as mechanical, electrical, civil, industrial,
and chemical engineering, etc., along with those in the engineering-
related physical sciences including physics, chemistry, metallurgy,
geology, meteorology, biomechanics, optics, and computer science, etc.

The IBFES has been accredited by the Forensic Specialties
Accreditation Board (FSAB), an independent board which was
sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the National
Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC), and the American
Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS).

To determine if you may be qualified to apply for certification or for
application forms and instructions, go to: www.iifes.org.

GENERAL

Source: Claire Shepard, MS, Section Secretary

Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts for the 2014
Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle. Program Chair Dave Zeliff
and co-chair Steve Clark are busy reviewing those abstracts and
developing a program for the February meeting. They will also be
selecting the moderators for the Scientific Sessions during this
process. Thus, it is time to start planning for our next meeting.
Don’t forget to make your travel plans early as the headquarters
hotel often sells out.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Bill Andrews, Paul Kish,
and James McNamara, reminds you that a Director (1.3.2.), Section
Chair (7.3.2.), and Section Secretary (7.3.3.) will be elected during
the section meeting in Seattle, WA. A list of officer responsibilities
can be found in the cited paragraphs (also see paragraph 7.5.4. III.)
of the Academy’s Policy and Procedure Manual. Nominees can be
placed on the ballot in one of three ways: a) selection by the
Nominating Committee; b) nomination from membership by
petition, supported in writing by a minimum of three Members or
Fellows of the General Section; or, c) nomination from the floor
during the election process at the annual section business meeting.
Petition(s) must be submitted to Bill by October 15 in order to
verify the nominee’s eligibility and willingness to serve, and to obtain
an AAFS-specific resume. Bill can be reached at
williamandrews@mfs@hotmail.com or william.andrews@dodig.mil.

Based on the information provided by many members and gathered
by the Disciplines Committee, chaired by Jim Bailey, the committee has
determined it feasible to explore adding more disciplines to the
existing list. The proposed disciplines include forensic blood
pattern analyst, forensic wildlife scientist, and forensic latent print
examiner, among others. With the creation and adoption of these
disciplines, the committee feels it will provide a better representation
of the disciplines within our section. Of course, the membership
will receive information about these changes prior to the February
meeting and no changes will be made until a discussion is held and a
vote taken at the February General Section Business Meeting. Feel
free to forward your thoughts regarding the matter to Jim or another
committee member before February, if you wish.

See you in Seattle!

JURISPRUDENCE

Source: Andrew Sulner, MSFS, JD, Section Chair

The 2014 Jurisprudence Section Program Co-Chairs, Pam King
(pam.king@mnpol.us) and Donald Shelton (sheltond@ewashtenaw.org)
report having received many interesting abstracts for presentations
and workshops at the upcoming AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in
Seattle which they will be reviewing over the next few months.
Moderators are needed for various programs and members are
encouraged to volunteer to serve; if you are willing to volunteer as a
moderator, please contact one of our two program co-chairs.

Please make an effort to encourage your legal colleagues to apply for
membership in the Jurisprudence Section of the Academy. Our
section will continue to grow and attract more members as long as
we inform our professional colleagues of the meaningful learning
and networking opportunities offered by membership in the
Academy. Applications for membership are available online at
www.aafs.org. Also, please notify me (andysulner@aol.com) and
Section Secretary Christine Funk (christine.funk@dc.gov) of news
pertaining to you or to an upcoming event that might be of interest
to our members.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Seattle!

ODONTOLOGY

Source: Paula Brumit, DDS, Section Chair

As we launch into the fall quarter, all abstracts, posters, and
workshop proposals submitted to the Academy are currently under
review. The Odontology Section Program Chair, Ray Miller, is
constructing a topically based program at this moment. By all
indications, the program will be filled with quality presentations for
the February meeting.

The Thomas Krauss Memorial Bitemark Breakfast speaker in
Seattle will be one of our very own, FBI Special Agent Dr. Scott
Hahn. He will be presenting “The Role of an FBI Forensic
Odontologist/Special Agent In Federal Crime Scenes.” Please
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register early as the Bitemark Breakfast has sold out in recent years for this popular annual Friday breakfast session.

The American Society of Forensic Odontology (ASFO) is sponsoring a full day program on Tuesday, February 18, in conjunction with the week of Academy activities. The theme of the meeting is entitled “Disaster Victim Identification Operations Related To Severe Weather,” organized under the capable leadership of Richard Weems. This is an opportunity for additional continuing education hours as well as catching up with friends since our last meeting in Washington, DC. Registration is available online at www.asfo.org/store.asp.

It is not too early to begin conducting research in preparation for the 2015 Academy Meeting. Scientific research in all Academy sections has never been more important than now and our members should consider not just learning from the useful findings of others but also being a contributor or collaborator to the process. Planning for future workshops should also be contemplated now since these do take time to formulate.

The deadline for membership and promotion applications is rapidly approaching. Completed applications including references and any additional section requirements must be received by October 1, in order to be acted upon at the AAFS Annual Meeting this February. This is a firm deadline. Please check the specific requirements of the Academy for the Odontology Section at (http://aafs.org/membership). If you have remained at the level of Trainee Affiliate, Associate Member, or Member too long, please consider setting new goals to advance to the next level of membership to ultimately gain the status of Fellow of the section. The promotion application can be found at http://aafs.org/promote-member-or-fellow. Our section officers are here to help and encourage advancement in the Academy.

It is also time for those who are proposing newly developed hands-on educational courses in forensic odontology to make a request for credit toward section membership. Courses are evaluated by the Odontology Education Requirements Committee and points toward membership are assigned. If a course already received approval last February, it is not necessary to resubmit at this time. For new course submissions, please send a detailed syllabus with topics and names and credentials of presenters to Committee Chairman, Roy Sonkin (ths12@nyu.edu).

Be aware that the deadline for registration of both excellent ABFO workshops is rapidly approaching. For additional information on the Dental Identification Workshop, contact Rick Cardoza by email at rickandkim@cox.net. For Expert Testimony Workshop information contact Paula Brunitt by email at PBrunitt@abfo.org. Now, you may register online for the ABFO workshops at www.abfo.org/shop.

And finally, don’t forget to make reservations for Seattle as soon as possible. See you in Seattle!

PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY

Source: J.C. Upshaw Downs, MD, Section Secretary

A nip is in the air, meaning that our hard work to get those abstracts in is over! Which also means that our program chair for the upcoming annual meeting, Kathryn Haden-Pinneri, is hard at work selecting from literally hundreds of excellent submissions to ensure a great and informative 2014 Seattle meeting.
That also means that now is the time to nudge colleagues and friends to apply for membership (www.aafs.org/membership), upgrade (www.aafs.org/upgrade-trainee-affiliate-or-associate-member), or promotion (www.aafs.org/promote-member-or-fellow), as appropriate. The criteria and guidelines are readily available on the Academy web site. Associate Member, Student Affiliate, and Trainee Affiliate applicants are strongly encouraged to take action. While we highly encourage expansion of our own section, one of the other ten sections may be a better fit for an associate.

Regardless, the Academy and the Pathology/Biology Section benefit from active participation from each and every member. This is especially significant this year, with President Barry Logan's theme for the 66th Annual Scientific Meetings, Forensic Science Education and Mentorship: Our Path Forward. The Academy leadership is reaching out to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum to put that theme into action. Likewise, efforts to recruit and inspire high school students into the forensic sciences remain strong, as exemplified with the Student Academy. Join a committee! Attend the annual meeting! Opportunities to volunteer to assist abound – please take advantage of them. Recall that action takes many forms – please remember the FSF Endowment Fund efforts, including the "I Gave An Hour" donation.

Speaking of openings... the Path/Bio Research Committee is soliciting proposals for financial support. All that is needed for submission is a worthy proposal idea and the application. The time tends to sneak up – please remember that the hard deadline is December 1 for consideration for awards for the 2014 cycle. Perhaps now is the time to get that idea submitted so that you might present the data in beautiful Orlando in 2015! Please also note other important deadlines for AAFS events - FSF Travel Grants (October 15) and pre-registration for the annual meeting (January 22, 2014). This issue also means that the NAME meeting is quite nearby, October 11-15, in Milwaukee and that the Interim Meeting held in conjunction with the Academy’s annual meeting will soon follow. Look for more information on the latter in the next newsletter.

Again, thanks to all for a great abstract submission process and your section officers look forward to seeing each and every one of you in February for fellowship and forensics!

PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Source: Christopher R. Thompson, MD, Section Secretary

Our section is continuing to plan an excellent program around the theme of the 2014 AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting, Forensic Science Education and Mentorship: Our Path Forward. The Program Chair and Co-Chair (Eugene Lee and Lauren Reba-Harrelson, respectively), have solicited presentations from many section members.

Section members continue to actively recruit new members with good success, particularly focusing on their respective academic institutions’ training programs or colleagues from other professional organizations (e.g., AAPL, APLS). Please attempt to promote within the section in a timely fashion, so that more members of our section are able to hold leadership positions in the Academy at large and so that our section’s visibility and representation in the Academy continues to grow. If you are unsure of your membership status and/or eligibility for promotion, please visit the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) to review both. If you have any questions, please contact me or any of our section’s officers to assist you.

Stephen Billick, current AAFS Vice President and section Fellow, has been nominated for the Agnes Purcell McGavin Distinguished Career Achievement Award (given to an outstanding child and adolescent psychiatrist by the American Psychiatric Association).

Richard Rosner, AAFS Past President as well as former Section Chair, continues to develop the 3rd edition of his authoritative Principles and Practice of Forensic Psychiatry. He has enlisted section Fellows and Members to serve as section editors (e.g., Stephen Billick, Robert Weinstock, Alan Felthous, Christopher Thompson) or chapter authors.

As a reminder, the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) will be held at the historic Hotel Del Coronado in sunny San Diego, CA, from October 24-27. This annual meeting, like the Academy’s is typically varied and intellectually stimulating. In addition to this intellectual edification (and CME credits), attendance at this meeting offers our section members a chance to see each other again prior to the AAFS Annual Meeting and also potentially to recruit new section members. Congratulations are in order for Robert Weinstock, section Fellow, who will be inaugurated as the new AAPL President. Dr. Weinstock’s term as AAPL President will begin during the October meeting in San Diego.

Finally, remember that the AAFS 66th Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, WA, February 17-22, 2014. We look forward to an excellent program. Please note that there will be a section luncheon at noon on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 (prior to the Section business meeting). You may pre-register for and purchase the lunch option either through the online registration system or by mailing in the form by selecting the Psych Luncheon checkbox option. Section members will not be able to add this option/event once they arrive in Seattle. The pre-registration form and pre-registration deadline date will be printed in the November and January newsletters.

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

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

Source: Pamela Zilly, BS, Section Secretary

The following two QD workshops have been proposed for the AAFS 66th Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA:

1. Monday, February 17, 2014, a one-half day workshop titled “Skillfully Simulated Signatures” (Chair: Andrew

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Szymanski, Co-Chair and instructor: Linton Mohammed. In this proposed one-half day, hands-on workshop, Linton will instruct attendees on how to examine and give opinions on signatures that may be genuine or the product of skillful simulations. The participants will learn the requirements for a skillful simulator and the characteristics one should look for in the examination of a signature that may have been skillfully simulated. A group discussion will follow the hands-on session about the strengths of opinions that can be rendered and examiner awareness when conducting these types of examinations.

2. Tuesday, February 18, 2014, a full-day workshop titled “Questioned Document Examination and Enhancement of Evidence, Interpretation of Evidence Using Various Light and Filter Techniques” (Chair: Andrew Szymanski; Co-Chair: Jim Lee). In this proposed one-day, hands-on workshop, Jim will lead a team of faculty who will instruct participants on the background and the fundamentals of the examination of questioned document evidence using various light source and filter enhancement techniques. Attendees will learn about various instrumental analyses, methods, and the interpretation of examination results. This workshop will include a hands-on session following the introductory lecture to re-enforce attendee participation on practical subject areas.

In addition, some very interesting presentations are planned including: “All Copies are Problematic,” “Report Writing and Opinion Terminology” with Question and Answer panel discussion to follow, “Revealing Writing That Has Been Covered Using Correction Tools,” and “Effective Court Charts,” just to name a few.

A great deal of work is going into the planning of this meeting to ensure that it will be extremely beneficial, interesting, and enjoyable. Please plan now to attend and reap the benefits of this great learning and networking opportunity.

If you have questions about the program please contact Andy Szymanski (andy.szymanski@wsp.wa.gov; 509-625-5412) or Jim Tarver (james.tarver@wsp.wa.gov; 206-262-6050). If you would like to volunteer to assist at the upcoming meeting, contact Tom Vastrick at Vastrick@yahoo.com.

TOXICOLOGY

Source: Loralie J. Langman, PhD, Section Chair

This year the annual meeting’s theme is Forensic Science Education and Mentorship: Our Path Forward www.aafs.org/aafs-66th-annual-scientific-meetings-seattle-wa-2014. The deadline for abstract submission for the 2014 meeting has come and gone, the peer review process is underway, and the final program elements have been submitted to AAFS for approval. It’s a huge job, and your Section Program Chair Sarah Kerrigan (sarah.kerrigan@shsu.edu) and Co-Chair Rebecca Jufer (rphipps@phipps.ws) deserve a round of applause for keeping within the tight AAFS deadlines. Official acceptance letters for abstracts and workshops from AAFS are to be sent by November 15 and the preliminary program should be available shortly thereafter.

Membership in our section is growing. As of July 2013, total membership was at 542, an increase of almost five percent from last year. Currently, there are 47 going through the approval process. This is a good start but we need more members in order to keep our section thriving within AAFS both fiscally and academically. One way to ensure the section’s financial health is to increase the size of the section membership. Please encourage your colleagues to complete an application for membership. The application process is completely online and details are located on the AAFS website (https://data.aafs.org/application/apply/start.aspx).

To maintain and improve the academic productivity of our section, we need to get active at the annual meeting. The annual meeting is an opportunity to interact not only with other forensic toxicologists, but also colleagues from other forensic disciplines. We can do this by participating in meetings as an attendee, presenter, moderator, or volunteer. As an added bonus, these activities fulfill some of the requirements for promotion. I would encourage all of you who are eligible for promotion to complete an application for promotion, as some section activities (e.g., section officer or committee chair) require full Member or Fellow status in order to participate. As a reminder, time is short; the deadline for receipt of all application materials is October 1.

The Toxicology Section Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Chair, Secretary, Program Chair, and Program Co-Chair. Please submit your nominations to the committee no later than November 1. Nominations should be submitted to the Nominating Committee Chair, Ruth Winecker (ruth.winecker@dhhs.nc.gov).

The National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) will present a half-day interim meeting in conjunction with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting. NAME’s Interim Meeting will be in Seattle on Tuesday, February 18.

NAME has selected a topic for the 2014 interim meeting that will be of interest to Toxicology Section membership, and NAME invites toxicologists to attend. The presentation, “The Opioid Epidemic and the Medical Examiner: Investigation, Diagnosis, and Certification of Opioid Deaths,” will be centered on recommendations made by the CDC-sponsored expert panel which convened in 2012 to study opioid deaths. The panelists were comprised of members of the American College of Medical Toxicology and the National Association of Medical Examiners.

The four sessions will consist of presentations by Dr. Leonard Paulozzi of the CDC (detailing the epidemiology of the opioid epidemic and current problems with death certification), Robert Middleberg of National Medical Services (addressing “what toxicologists wish medical examiners knew”), Dr. Lewis Nelson of
Neuropsychiatric Implications of Cannabis Use in Adolescence cont.

**EPILOGUE AND TRENDS OF USE**

Cannabis is the most widely used illicit drug in the United States. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 17.4 million Americans used cannabis in the past month, and the prevalence of use is increasing. Between 2007 and 2010, the prevalence of “past-month use” increased from 5.8% to 6.9%. Among youth age 12-17 years, the rate of current cannabis use (defined as past-month use) increased from 6.7 to 7.4% in the same time period (though this rate is down from an 8.2% high in 2002). At the same time, the percentage of people age 12-17 years who perceive great risk in regularly smoking cannabis decreased from 54.7% to 47.5% and almost one-half of these young people report “fairly easy” or “very easy” access to cannabis. Among high school juniors, there were increases in reports of “peer use, perceived availability, and lack of harm.” A worldwide study describes that “occasional cannabis use has become normative among a substantial minority of adolescents.” The article further states that peer acceptance of drug culture “is an important facilitator of cannabis use” and that within a country, “perceived availability of drug stands out as the single most important predictor for use.”

Amid these trends in adolescent cannabis use, there appears to be a national trend toward decriminalization of cannabis use for adults. It remains unclear how changes in the legal status of cannabis for adults will affect the prevalence of its use in those under 18 (or 21) years of age.

**THE EFFECTS OF CANNABIS ON THE BRAIN AND COGNITION**

Although cannabis contains numerous compounds, many of which are likely to be psychoactive, as mentioned previously, the main compound mediating its effects on the brain is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). This molecule is rapidly absorbed when cannabis is smoked and more slowly absorbed when eaten. It becomes widely distributed throughout the body. THC and the other cannabinoids in marijuana bind to a number of endogenous cannabinoid receptors located on neurons. These receptors are found throughout the brain, including in areas important for learning and memory formation, and they modulate neuronal activity in the brain when they are activated by cannabinoids such as THC.

Adolescence is a critical period of structural brain development, and environmental exposures, such as cannabis use, may alter the course of this process and ultimately have behavioral and forensic psychiatric implications. A number of research studies have demonstrated that adolescent and early-adulthood cannabis use is associated with significant alterations brain anatomy and physiology. These alterations, in turn, have been associated with poorer performance in cognitive tasks. These studies suggest that cannabis use during adolescence may alter the brain circuitry utilized during cognition.

Because of the diffuse location of cannabinoid receptors in the human brain, cannabis has a wide range of both acute and chronic effects on cognitive processes. Acutely, in adults, THC administration leads to deficits in attention, working memory, and all other stages of memory consolidation/formation, slower processing speed and longer planning times, and increased impulsivity. Studies of adolescent cannabis users have revealed lasting effects on cognition including worse performance on tests of IQ, attention, memory and executive function. Many of these decrements in performance were correlated positively with the lifetime amount of cannabis use and were more pronounced in those persons who began use earlier in life. While more longitudinal studies of longer duration are needed to clarify these issues, current evidence suggests that regular cannabis use is detrimental to adolescent cognition and that its effects last well beyond the period of intoxication.

**ADOLESCENT CANNABIS USE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS**

There is mounting evidence that cannabis use is associated with the development of psychotic illnesses, including schizophrenia. Meta-analyses of longitudinal studies have confirmed that there is an increased risk of psychosis in people who have used cannabis, with a “dose-response” effect apparent (i.e., the magnitude of the negative effects increases with greater cumulative cannabis use). In patients with psychotic illnesses such as schizophrenia, the age of onset of psychosis is 2.7 years younger in cannabis users than in non-users. These results suggest that cannabis use may contribute to the development of serious mental illness. Anecdotally, cannabis is often thought to alleviate anxiety and depression and these reported effects are often cited as reasons for use. With regard to mood, in adult patients with
chronic pain associated with fibromyalgia, THC has been shown to improve mood as well as provide modest pain relief. However, in adults, high doses of THC can induce intense anxiety and fear as well as panic attacks, and a significant proportion of individuals experience episodes of anxiety after smoking cannabis. A number of longitudinal studies examining the relationship between cannabis use during adolescence and the later development of depression and anxiety disorders have suggested that adolescents who use or have used cannabis are more prone to develop these disorders than adolescents who do/have not. Although these studies indicate that cannabis use during adolescence is associated with an increased likelihood of mood, anxiety and psychotic disorders, it is not currently known whether cannabis use causes the disorders or whether the disorders (or early manifestations thereof) predispose children to use cannabis.

THE POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE OF CANNABIS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
During adolescence, different areas of the brain develop at different rates, with the “reward-hedonic” networks (e.g., nucleus accumbens, striatum) maturing prior to the pre-frontal “control system.” The early maturation of the reward system makes adolescents more sensitive to the rewarding experiences of illicit drugs and alcohol at a particularly vulnerable time, when executive control systems required for impulse control and judgment are less well-developed than in adults. This confluence of factors may, in turn, predispose adolescents to develop alcohol or drug abuse/dependence more readily and more frequently than adults. Along these lines, youth more quickly progress to an abusive pattern of cannabis use than adults.

THE EFFECTS OF ADOLESCENT CANNABIS USE ON FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES
Cannabis’ impact on adolescent brain development and cognition, coupled with adolescents’ generally heightened vulnerability to develop substance abuse and dependence, can lead to worse functional outcomes later in life. These functional outcomes may have significant ramifications on the socio-economic development of individuals who begin using cannabis during adolescence. The results of a number of longitudinal studies seem to indicate that more frequent use of cannabis is correlated with an increased likelihood of leaving school without a degree, a lower income, greater dependence on welfare and unemployment, and lower life satisfaction as an adult. Although these studies attempted to control for co-morbidities and predispositions correlated with cannabis use, the data must be interpreted with caution because of the possibility of unaccounted for correlations.

SUMMARY
Chronic cannabis use during adolescence produces alterations in brain anatomy and functioning that, in turn, impair cognition and that may contribute to the development of mental illness (particularly psychosis). Because children and adolescents have brains that are still developing, they are more sensitive to reinforcement from alcohol or drug use and have a greater propensity to develop substance abuse or dependence than adults. Finally, cannabis use early during adolescence is associated with lower social and occupational functioning in adulthood. Many of these phenomena exhibit dose-response relationships (i.e., the magnitude of the negative effects increases with greater cumulative cannabis use).

Although there is still much to learn about the impact of adolescent cannabis use on brain function, mental health, and functional outcomes, the great majority of evidence from scientific studies indicates that cannabis use should be minimized or completely avoided during this critical period of human development. Despite the potential risks of cannabis use in childhood and adolescence, the data on cannabis’ impact on youths’ cognition, development of mental illness and substance use disorders, and overall level of functioning is far from definitive. Further studies are needed in order to better understand the effects (both therapeutic and harmful) of the numerous cannabinoids on the brain. To this end, it may be prudent to reclassify THC as a Schedule II Controlled Substance so that it can be studied further in the adult population (i.e., those age 21 years and older). Hopefully, some of these future studies can yield useful results which can be extrapolated (to some extent) to the adolescent population in order to guide and refine future local, state, and national policies regarding adolescent cannabis use.

REFERENCES


Applicants

The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1 will be considered for approval at the February 2014 Board of Directors Meeting. Due to space constraints, AAFS does not list members who are applying for promotion to Fellow or to Member; however, a list of these individuals is found on the AAFS website under “News & Current Events.” 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 3, 2014.

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Taylor, Terrell</td>
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<td>Troy, Meghan</td>
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Simser, Christopher L., JD
Syracuse, NY
Vázquez, Ignacio J., Jr., LLM
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Weiss, David J., JD
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White, Brian J., JD
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Borries, Janel, BS
Largo, FL
Brundage, Adrienne L., PhD
Bryan, TX
Bundock, Elizabeth A., MD, PhD
Burlington, VT
Carson, Henry J., MD
Iowa City, IA
Choi, Byung Ha, MD
Seoul, SOUTH KOREA
Cravello, Maurizio, MD
San Maurizio Canavese, ITALY
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34
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Weimer, Katrina
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de Guzman, Ma. Teresa G., PhD
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Gold, Claire L., MA
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Gray, Alexis A., PhD
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Ingoldstad, Megan E., PhD
Hickam AFB, HI
Lanfear, Alicia K., PhD
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Honolulu, HI
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Oveland Park, KS
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Fernandez, Katherine M.
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Harris, Crystal L.
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Jung, Go-Uu
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Kenny, Rachel M.
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Naples, FL
Mulingtapang, Bernardo L., Jr.
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O’Neill, Jessica E.
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Perrone, Alexandra
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Pittman, Stephanie A.
Wilmington, NC
Plemmons, Amber, BS
Starkville, MS
Ratliff, Melody D., BA
Missoula, MT
Reynolds, Patrisha L., BA
North Ease, PA
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Ruiz, Michael
Bozeman, MT
Ryan, Jocelyn N., BS
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Stewart, Chelsea N., BA
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Kelly-Cobos, Marcus
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**Questioned Documents**

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Rivera, Denise M., MSc
Rio De Janeiro, BRAZIL

Trainee Affiliate
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Karachi, PAKISTAN

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Tacoma, WA
Damiri, Basma, PhD
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Allahabad, INDIA
Nagar, Rachna, MSc
Dadri, INDIA
Nesc, Amanda L., BS
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Shu, Wayne, MS
Pikesville, MD
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Zuccala, Jovana, MS
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Tampa, FL
Kosmach, Alyssia, BS
Lester, PA
Mohs, Amanda J.
Afton, MN
Osawa, Kei A., BS
New Orleans, LA
Reid, Tanaia N., BS
Stone Mountain, GA
Santo, Jason, BS
Bath, PA
Seither, Joshua
Sunrise, FL
Siler, Jessica N.
Lutherville-Timonium, MD
Wilson, Janey L.
Oxford, MS
Zachea, Jessica
Las Vegas, NV

In Memoriam

Donald Jeffries, DDS, Retired Fellow of the Odontology Section, June 2013
Stanley R. Kern, MD, Retired Fellow of the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section, July 2013
William M. Morlang, DDS, Retired Fellow of the Odontology Section, August 2013
Marshal H. Paulo, MSc, Member of the Engineering Sciences Section, July 2013
Fred M. Sorenson, DMD, Retired Fellow of the Odontology Section, July 2013
Gerald L. Vale, DDS, JD, Retired Fellow of the Odontology Section, July 2013
A Letter from the YFSF President
It is hard to believe that another summer is winding down and the 2014 AAFS abstract submission deadline has come and gone! Although the Academy’s abstract deadline has passed, there are still two opportunities for young forensic scientists to present. The Young Forensic Scientist Forum’s (YFSF) Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) and Bring Your Own Poster (BYOP) chairs are accepting abstract submissions until December. For more information on how to submit abstracts, as well as the deadlines, please see the BYOS and BYOP sections of this newsletter.

In addition to presentation opportunities, the YFSF events at the AAFS 66th Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, WA, are a great way to experience the meeting theme Forensic Science Education and Mentorship: Our Path Forward in action. The Special Session, BYOS, BYOP, and Breakfast Sessions are all excellent opportunities to meet and interact with experienced members of the forensic science community who can provide wonderful insight to education and career questions! The events will include speakers from the different academy sections who will present on topics pertaining to their exciting fields.

While the August 1 abstract deadline has passed, another important deadline is right around the corner. The deadline to apply for AAFS membership is October 1. YFSF will have a number of committee positions open after the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle. In order to serve on the committee, individuals must be a member of the Academy effective February 2014. The YFSF committee is a great opportunity for involvement in AAFS. For more information on joining the YFSF committee, please contact LEC385@gmail.com. YFSF looks forward to seeing you in Seattle!

Lindsey Saunders, BS
YFSF President

A Note from the YFSF Secretary
The last of summer is fading away and with it comes fall, bringing the AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle closer. The YFSF would like to remind everyone that the deadline for AAFS membership is October 1. This deadline is for those individuals looking to apply for new membership or for promotion to a higher membership status. AAFS membership is a great way to network and can lead to exciting opportunities. One of those opportunities is serving on the YFSF committee. Individuals who would like to serve on the committee must be members of AAFS effective February 2014. As our YFSF president stated, there will be several committee positions open in 2014, so those interested in joining the YFSF committee can contact us. The YFSF is a great way to become involved in the forensic science community. Individuals will be able to network with their peers, present their research, and enhance their knowledge in various forensic disciplines. Presenting is a big part of the YFSF and the deadline to submit abstracts for the YFSF sessions are as follows: BYOP – December 1; and, BYOS – December 15. Individuals who are interested in presenting their research or have questions may contact any one of the YFSF chairs or co-chairs.

Sarah Ellis, MS  Alicja Lanfear, PhD
YFSF Secretary Chair  YFSF Secretary Co-Chair
Sarahjellis2@gmail.com  Alicja.Lanfear@mtsu.edu

Financial Liaison
Each year at the Academy meeting, the YFSF hosts a special session for forensic scientists just starting out in the field. Students and young professionals participate in our program to network with others in their field and to establish themselves in the forensic science community. This is achieved through a day-long educational session, a working Breakfast Program, a Bring Your Own Slides session, and a Bring Your Own Poster presentation.

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The YFSF has been able to continue to organize the session each year through monetary and educational contributions from the AAFS sections, universities, and various forensic science vendors. There are multiple ways to contribute to YFSF, including donating supplies, financial contributions, or by speaking and participating in the Special Session events.

Anyone interested in contributing to the YFSF program should contact Katie Knurek (katherine.knurek@ohioattorneygeneral.gov).

**Katie Knurek**  
Financial Chair

### YFSF Special Session – Tuesday, February 18

This year’s Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session, *The World of Forensic Science: The Future of Education and Research*, will highlight the future trends in research and education regarding forensic science. This special session will provide the audience with a look at how the future of forensic science is evolving and changing over time. The speakers will provide unique casework experience, guidance, and mentorship for students and young professionals alike. This is an exciting opportunity to make contact with established professionals in the field as well as learning what different disciplines are doing to further the field of forensics!

The day of speakers will consist of professionals discussing future trends in the forensic field as well as providing unique and interesting case studies relative to their field. We have speakers from a variety of disciplines, including Criminalistics, Toxicology, Pathology/Biology, Odontology, and many more. We are very excited for all of the speakers who will be presenting. More detailed speaker information will be available in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum’s November newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding this year’s special session, please contact yfsfs@gmail.com.

**Lara Newell, MA**  
YFSF Special Session Chair

**Christina Hayes, BS**  
YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

### YFSF Poster Session – Tuesday, February 18

Aloha, young forensic scientists! The YFSF Bring Your Own Poster (BYOP) Session is looking for forensic scientists in the early stages of their careers and students to present their research or an interesting case. Individuals interested in presenting should submit a one-page abstract and CV by December 1. Early submissions are encouraged. The YFSF BYOP Session is a great opportunity to gain experience presenting and to contribute to the research in the forensic community.

Individuals with questions about presenting at the BYOP Session or on how to submit their abstract and CV should contact Jennifer Curnow at yfsf.postersession@gmail.com.

**Jennifer Curnow, MSFS**  
YFSF Poster Session Chair  
curnow.jen@gmail.com

### YFSF Breakfast Session – Thursday, February 20

Bring your résumé and your business cards to this year’s Young Forensic Scientists Forum Breakfast Session! Every year, at the Thursday morning Breakfast Session, the YFSF focuses on professional development. This year is no different. Drs. Jacqueline Helfgott and Matthew Hickman from Seattle University will present on preparing for careers in forensic science and forensic psychology, including networking and expanding career options. Former YFSF President, Tanisha Henson, will provide insight on networking and the importance of being involved, while Raymond Kusumi, an established forensic scientist at the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory, will focus on personal branding and social media. Finally, Kristin McDonald will represent the American Board of Criminalistics, to talk to attendees about the process and importance of certification.

Following the presentations, Breakfast Session attendees will have the opportunity to interact with and receive résumé feedback from an experienced panel of AAFS members. Veteran forensic professionals interested in joining the résumé review panel should email the YFSF Breakfast Session Chair.

Contact YFSF.Breakfast@gmail.com with any questions or to volunteer. See you in Seattle!

**Ali Kidder-Mostrom, MSFS**  
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

**Lara Newell, MA**  
YFSF Special Session Chair

**Christina Hayes, BS**  
YFSF Special Session Co-Chair

**Jennifer Curnow, MSFS**  
YFSF Poster Session Chair  
curnow.jen@gmail.com
Meetings & Conferences

SEPTEMBER 2013

7
Psych Congress 1-Day Regional Meeting-To be held in Philadelphia, PA.
CONTACT: www.psychcongress.com/psychregionals/exhibitorsponsorship

9-13
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course-To be held at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO.
CONTACT: Marcia R. Weis
(314) 577-8476
mweis4@slu.edu
http://medschool.slu.edu/mldi

9-13
Introduction to Crime Scene Investigation-To be held at the CSI Academy of Florida in Alachua, FL.
CONTACT: Debbie Mongiardo
Debbie@csiacademyflorida.com
(386) 518-6300
www.CSIAcademyFlorida.com

13-14
Forensic Archeology to Maximize Evidence Recoveries: A Two-Day Exercise 16-20-To be held at Rutgers Pinelands Field Station in New Lisbon, NY.
CONTACT: http://forensicscienceeducation.org/forensic-archaeology-to-maximize-evidence-recovery-a-2-day-field-exercise/

18
Budgeting Principles for Law Enforcement Managers-To be held in Troy, OH.
CONTACT: www.regonline.com/BudgetingPrinciples-TroyOH-091813

23-27
Advance Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Workshop-To be held at the Northeast Forensic Training Center, Center for Business & Industry in Bethlehem, PA.
CONTACT: LeeAnn Singley
Grayson Singley Associates, LLC
(717) 554-3739
lsingleygsa@msn.com
www.northampton.edu/Documents/Business/nfc/AdvancedBPA_Sept2013.pdf

25-28
Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists - 2013 Annual Meeting-To be held in Cromwell, CT.
CONTACT: kam4@westchestergov.com
www.neafs.org/index.php/annual-meeting

29-Oct. 4
2013 Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists Fall Meeting - A Twist on Forensic Science-To be held in Dayton, OH.
CONTACT: www.mafs.net
www.mcohio.org/government/mvrcl/mafs_2013.html

30-Oct. 4
IAI Latent Print Certification Test Preparation Class-To be held at the Louisiana State Police Headquarters in Baton Rouge, LA.
CONTACT: (866) 832-6772

OCTOBER 2013

8-10
Crime Scene Photography Phase 1-To be held at Sirchie’s facility in Youngsville, NC.
CONTACT: (800)356-7311
www.sirchie.com
www.sirchie.com/training/training-programs/crimescenephotograph-phase1.html

11-15
NAME 47th Annual Meeting-To be held in Milwaukee, WI.
CONTACT: www.name2013.org
Do you know someone who may be interested in AAFS membership?

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

Name: _______________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________
City: _______________________________________________________________________
State: ___________________________________________ Zip: _______________________

Please provide your name so the potential applicant will know who requested the application. AAFS will also recognize you by placing a Sponsor ribbon in your 2014 Annual Meeting registration packet. Please detach form and return to AAFS. Thank you.

Your name: ___________________________________________________________________