

# Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

## **Greetings Young Forensic Scientists!**

Welcome home all Young Forensic Scientists! For those of you who attended the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual AAFS Scientific Meeting in Seattle, I hope it was not only immensely enjoyable and educational but that it helped to light a fire in you and that you will continue attending. The 2010 Special Session had a very nice turnout and it was fantastic to see so many first-time meeting attendees in the audience! I hope you all enjoyed the speakers during the special session on Tuesday and at the breakfast on Thursday. I also hope you enjoyed the presenters at both the Poster Session Tuesday evening and the Bring Your Own Slide Session on Wednesday evening. I would like to personally thank all of you who participated and presented in the Poster and Slide sessions. It can be nerve wracking but you all broke through that barrier, presented, and did a fantastic job! After a long and exciting year of planning it was wonderful to see everything come to fruition and see so many people enjoy the fruits of our labor. Thank you all for your support of the YFSF, it is incredibly encouraging to see so many young forensic scientists come out to these meetings and it makes all our hard work even more worthwhile. The hope is that you will all continue coming to the YFSF events to present and possibly become active in the yearly planning. We would like to take a moment to thank the entire 2010 YFSF Program Committee for all of the hard work, time, and dedication they put in for this past year. The planning for all of the events begins in April and continues until the moments leading up to the meeting in February and all of the planning is done on a voluntary basis. If after having attended the special session on Tuesday, the breakfast session on Thursday, or the poster or slides session, you would like to get involved with planning, please contact anyone on the program committee. We would love to hear from you! The YFSF is constantly growing and changing and that is due to the comments, suggestions, and word of mouth recommendations from you all. YFSF offers a place to present, network with your peers and future colleagues, learn what the AAFS has to offer, and to be available to answer any

questions you may have. I promise, if we don't have the answer ourselves, we know someone who does and we are more than happy to help with anything. We do all of this not just for the college students or recent graduates but for the new forensic professionals as well. I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2011 in Chicago!

*Tanisha Henson, 2010 YFSF President*  
*Tanisha.henson@yahoo.com*

## **2010 YFSF Financial Support**

On behalf of the YFSF, I would like to thank everyone who attended and presented at the 2010 Young Forensic Scientist Forum Special Session in Seattle, WA. I want to give a special thanks to the following for their contributions: AAFS Criminalistics Section, West Virginia University Forensic Science Initiative, Marilyn T. Miller, and Nikon, Inc.

Every year the YFSF relies on the financial contributions and support of the forensic community to make our Special Session a success. The events held at each meeting include a day long scientific session, a working breakfast session, a poster presentation, and a "Bring Your Own Slides" presentation. The goal of the YFSF is to assist these scientists in establishing a solid foundation in their field; these sessions are critical in the professional development of our audience.

*Samantha H. Neal, YFSF Contributor Liaison*

## **Special Session**

The 2010 YFSF Special Session on Tuesday was a tremendous success! While beyond excited about the turnout and the presenters, we are very sorry for those who were unable to attend. Don't give up, keep trying, we would love to see each and every one of you in future special sessions. We would like to remind everyone to register early and to tell all their friends and colleagues about the YFSF events so that not a moment is missed in the future.

AAFS President **Thomas L. Bohan** welcomed the YFSF to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting and reminded us that we are the future of forensics. We would like to thank President Bohan for his support over this past year and for taking the time to make the YFSF feel welcome. Next, Membership Coordinator and all around fantastic membership guru, Cheryl Hunter took a few moments to update us on the new procedures for membership applications. Thank you, Cheryl, for updating us on the new online membership application process which appears to be a much easier process and more convenient than the traditional paper application. We look forward to having you come back next year to keep us up-to-date on the membership applications procedures and being available for any questions we may have.

**Anjali Swienton, Susan Ballou, Robin Bowen, and Lucy Davis** were up next and educated the YFSF on what not to wear and gave some tips on how not to behave during an interview. A few fashion citations were handed out during the session. This particular presentation was not only humorous but illustrated and drove home the point that what is worn leaves an impression. What kind of impression do you want to leave? Next up, was **Vincent Desiderio** who educated us on the differences between fictional CSI and real life CSI; he showed us how interesting and exciting trace evidence can be by presenting a few cases he has worked on. We next heard from **Randall Lockwood** from the ASPCA who opened the eyes of many and driving home the point about the correlation between animal abuse and domestic violence.

After lunch, **Vernon Geberth** showed just how far forensics has really come in the last thirty years. Geberth illustrated the point by showing clips of a homicide he worked many years ago in the Bronx where crowd control was non-existent and to preserve blood a simple cardboard box was placed on top of the blood and a cop placed virtually on top of the box to ensure the blood drops would be preserved. **Richard Vorder Bruegge** from the FBI discussed facial reconstruction and biometrics. Biometrics is another very interesting tool that offers more ways to not only identify an individual but to offer verification of identification. **Mark McCoy** offered us a glimpse into the Future of Digital Forensics and showed that old technology can be instrumental in helping to solve an old or a new case. So, do not discount those floppy disks as being antiquated and pointless, they can be very useful. We were very proud to have the Emerging Forensic Scientist Winner, **Christina Malone** round out the Tuesday Special Session by presenting her 2009 winning presentation, "A Radiographic Assessment of Pediatric Fracture Healing and Time Since Injury."

A special thank you to all speakers for donating their time, their support and willingness to educate the YFSF. To the financial contributors, you really do help to make this all possible; to all participants for taking advantage of the YFSF activities; and to all YFSF organizers for their hard work throughout the year. The 2010 Special Session was fantastic and we look forward to an amazing 2011 Special Session that we will begin planning within the next few months. We welcome any comments, suggestions, or questions, so if you have any, please do not hesitate to let us know. If you are interested in helping and want to be a part of

the planning committee, please contact us. See you all in 2011 in Chicago!

*Tanisha Henson, BS, 2010 Special Session Chair*

### **Bring Your Own Slides Session**

After a week in Seattle, taking in all of the presentations and meetings, it is time to recap. I wanted to take a moment to thank all of the people who presented at the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Bring Your Own Slides Session as well as everyone who attended. We had an audience of approximately 100 people which is great attendance considering the other simultaneous program events. Our four presenters, **Sophia Renke, Jeff Kelly, Lauren Pharr,** and Robyn Thompson did an excellent job and several people stayed to ask questions or to congratulate them. The presentations covered a wide range of disciplines from anthropology ("Scavengers of the Louisiana Bayou: Activity Affecting Research on the Postmortem Submersion Interval" by Ms. Renke and "Fire Ants as a Potential Error Source in PMI Calculations" by Ms. Pharr), firearms ("Analysis of Non-Toxic Ammunition by Double Shot Pyrolysis Gas Chromatography Mass Spectroscopy" by Mr. Kelly), and DNA ("The Application of Melt Curve Analysis on Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction Inhibition" by Ms. Thompson). To those of you who are contemplating presenting with the YFSF next year in Chicago, do not hesitate to contact us, we are always looking for next year's presenters. As an additional note for students, double check with your program to see if student travel grants are available as presenting at the YFSF BYOS is a qualifying presentation for most travel grants. In conclusion, both Dade Chisler and I would like to thank you for your participation and we look forward to seeing you at the 2011 AAFS meeting in Chicago!

*Cassandra L. Hernandez, BYOS Chair  
Dade Chisler, BYOS Co-Chair*

### **YFSF Poster Session**

This year's Poster Session for the Young Forensic Scientists Forum was amazing. A total of 52 authors presented 16 posters from 8 different schools and institutions. Their topics ranged from Radio Frequency Identification to DNA Degradation to Gas Chromatography. Each poster was excellent and every author representing their poster was extremely prepared and able to answer any question asked of them. Several board members and fellows made it a point to attend this year's poster session and we were all impressed with the great work being presented. The YFSF Committee Members and myself would like to thank each of the presenters and authors for sharing their work with the rest of the academy. We would also like to thank everyone that took time out of their evening to stop by and show their support to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum.

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum's Poster Session provides the unique opportunity for students to present their work at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Scientific Meeting in a relaxed and supportive environment. If you are interested in presenting your work, or know someone that is

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## Young Forensic Scientists Forum News cont.

interested in presenting at the 2011 meeting please e-mail me at crider\_sm@yahoo.com.

*Stephanie M. Crider, 2010 YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair*



*Eryn Daugherty (first time meeting attendee) discussing her poster at the YFSF Poster Session.*

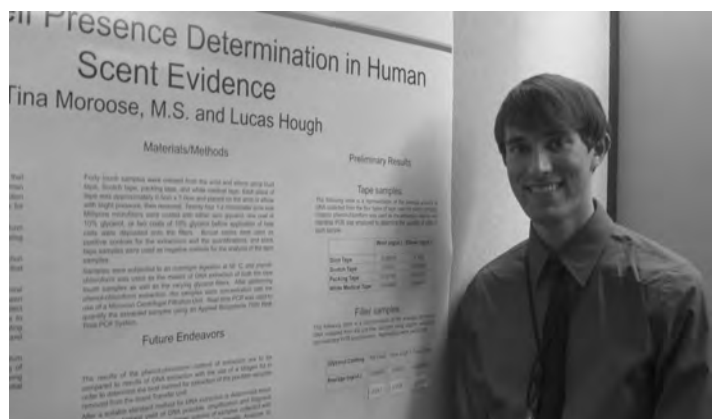
### YFSF Breakfast Session

Greetings from Mississippi! I hope everyone is relaxing and resting up from an extremely busy and very informative week in Seattle. The Breakfast Session on Thursday was a huge success and I want to express a sincere thanks to **Anjali Swienton** and **Greg Schmunk**, our two speakers on the “CSI Effect”. Their presentations were both informative, entertaining and showed us that watching CSI and the other forensic shows are fantastic research and that if you’re not watching, you should be! Following the presentations, attendees were given the opportunity to participate in a resume review panel. The attendees were separated into groups based on their area of interest. At which time, they were able to discuss their resumes, what employers look for in a candidate, and general questions about their particular interests one-on-one with resume panelists. I also wanted to express a special thank you to **Jon Lentini**, **Norah Rudin**, **Chesterene Cwulik**, **Laura Liptai**, **Robert Weinstock**, **Wendy Adams**, and **Sherri Kacinko**, who are members of the Academy that participated with our resume review panel. I cannot express how happy I am to get such a positive response from so many members of the Academy. We look forward to continuing the trend next year with even more participants! See you all in Chicago in 2011!

*Melissa DeBerry, YFSF Breakfast Co-Chair*



*Stephanie Crider (YFSF Poster Session Chair), Tanisha Henson (YFSF President), and Melissa DeBerry (YFSF Breakfast Chair) at the YFSF Poster Session.*



*Lucas Hough with his poster at the YFSF Poster Session.*