

Supplement to the Academy News
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Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

Young Forensic Science Forum A Wild Success!

The 2006 Young Forensic Science Forum was extremely successful. This year's session "Frontiers in Forensic Science" focused on a variety of aspects to forensic science that many people are unaware exist or that even fall under the discipline of forensic science. The special session included twelve presentations from the most diverse and interesting backgrounds in forensic science today. One of the most popular presentations was "The New York County District Attorney's Cold Case DNA Project." This presentation was the closer for the session and was presented by Martha Bashford, JD and Melissa Mourges, JD – both Assistant District Attorneys in NYC. The 3rd Annual YFSF Poster Session social, which was held on Tuesday night after the Special Session again, was an enormous success. The YFSF Bring Your Own Slides was well attended by young forensic scientists as well as those more experienced! Thursday was the YFSF Breakfast Session. Resumes were reviewed and the Knowledge Skills and Abilities questions required for federal positions were thoroughly discussed giving attendees an advantage in successfully interviewing for forensic scientist positions! Throughout the years the Young Forensic Scientists Forum has made great efforts to keep in tune with the changing face of forensic science. The program has grown and changed drastically since its establishment in order to provide students, and scientists with five years experience or less, the most quality information possible. Thank you to the entire community of young forensic scientists who attended the AAFS meeting in Seattle. We look forward to seeing you all again next year in San Antonio, TX.

—Allison Curran, PhD
YFSF President



"This was an excellent experience! It was informative, diverse, and helped put students in touch with forensic practitioners!"
—Stephanie Migchelsen and Arliss Dudley-Cash,
2006 YFSF participants

YFSF Special Session

The Young Forensic Scientist Forum's Special Session was a great success. The speakers provided a broad-spectrum of diverse, valuable, and highly entertaining information for the session participants. AAFS President **Edmund Donoghue** provided an important lesson in expert testimony. Both **Claire Shepard** and **Max M. Houck** provided indispensable information regarding how to advance in the AAFS organization as well as in the field of forensic science. **John Lentini** spoke on the need for standards in forensic science and also provided information on ways in which young forensic scientist can become involved in the standardization process. There were several presentations on special topics in subfields of forensic science! For example, **Linda Rourke's** talk on novel forensic DNA analysis; **Sreetharan Kanthaswamy's** talk on animal forensics; **Anita K. Y. Wonder** and **G. Michele Yezzo's** talk on blood spatter analysis; and **Melissa Mourges O'Rourke** and **Martha Bashford's**

presentation on New York's cold case files, just to name a few. There were two additional speakers, **John Williams** and **Jeannette Fridie**, who highlighted forensic anthropology and methods of human remain identification in mass disasters. The editor of *Forensic Magazine*, Christine Janson, discussed how to publish articles in different sources. A representative from the FBI Visiting Scientist Program, Brian Eckenrode, updated attending young forensic scientist to the ongoing research and student opportunities at the Counter Terrorism Forensic Science Research Unit (CTFSRU) in Quantico, Virginia. Many of the speakers attended the upscale and delicious lunch providing an opportunity for attending young forensic scientist to interact with the presenters. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding something you enjoyed at this year's session or if there is something specific you would like to see at next year's session, please feel free to contact us directly. If you are an AAFS Student Affiliate, Trainee Affiliate, or Member and wish to help plan next year's session, please contact YFSF president **Allison Curran** at Amcurran@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

—Marrah E. Lachowicz BA, MFS
YFSF Program Co-Chair



YFSF President Allison Curran welcomes the crowd of young forensic scientists and introduces the YFSF Special Session.

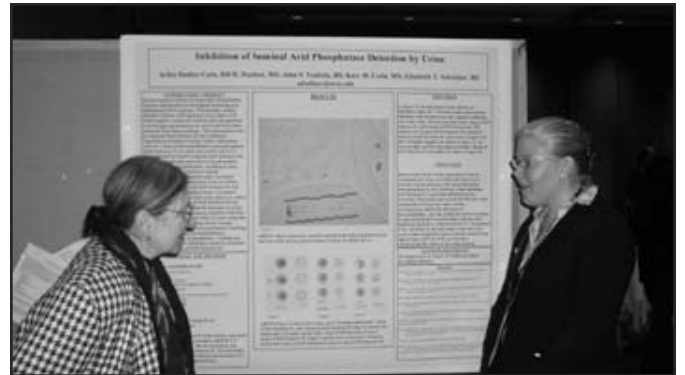


Scenes from the YFSF lunch – YUMMY!

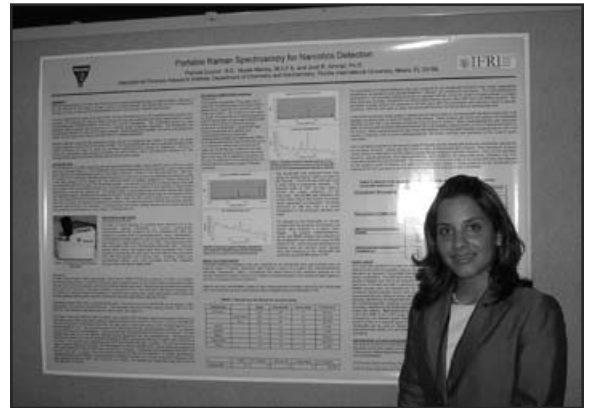
YFSF Bring Your Own Poster

The 2006 YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session was amazing. Having the session just steps from the Annual Meeting Reception led to a sizable increase in foot traffic compared to last year's session. Although the BYOP is meant to be informal, the increased attendance gave rise to more discussion, more networking, and even some internship opportunities. One presenter, Jenn Beach, said "There was a steady flow of people viewing my poster. It seemed like there was a lot of interest." Seven schools were represented and topics included blood detection, color testing of drugs, post-mortem interval, arson debris detection, DNA analysis, human scent analysis, portable drug detection, and entomotoxicology. Work will soon begin for next year's session and interested presenters or volunteers can contact **Jennifer Mercer** at jennifer.w.mercer@gmail.com.

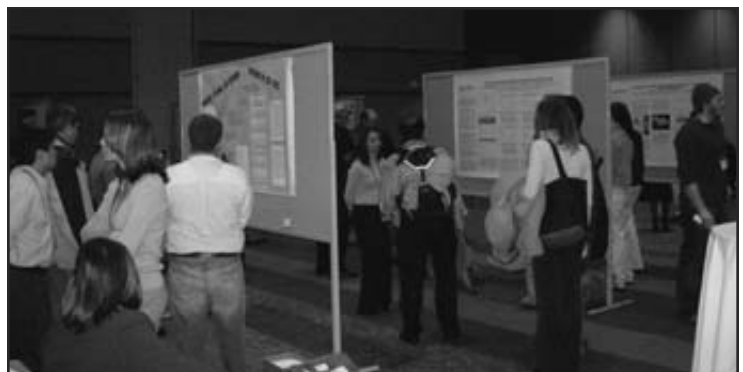
—Jennifer W. Mercer
YFSF Program Co-Chair



Arliss Dudley-Cash is engaged in a lively discussion over her poster presentation!



Patricia Guerra is happy to be in Seattle presenting at the BYOP session!



As you can see the BYOP session was well attended, relaxed, and informative!



Thanks again to all poster presenters! There is no way we could of done it without you!

YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

This year's program was wonderful! We had a total of six young forensic scientists who presented their work and research. This even included a sophomore pre-forensic science major from West Virginia University. The program had a very strong emphasis in Forensic Chemistry. The BYOS presentations are a good starting point to share accomplishments with peers so keep that in mind when you are considering your presentation for next year! Thank you again to the presenters, attendees, and the membership for supporting the Young Forensic Scientists Forum and creating a wonderful BYOS program. We are in the process of adding new members and expanding the possibilities for the forum. If you have any suggestions or would like to be a part of the planning committee, please let us know. Next year is right around the corner so start thinking about what you will be presenting in San Antonio!

—Robin Bowin, BS
YFSF Program Co-Chair



BYOS presenters pose for a quick picture!



Two larger than life screens used for the BYOS session helped the large crowd see the slides clearly from afar.

YFSF Breakfast Session

Greetings to all young forensic scientists! Hopefully, those of you who attended the AAFS meeting in Seattle had a fun and informative trip. This year's YFSF Breakfast Session proved to be one of the best yet. Thanks to all attendees for making it such a success. A special thanks goes out to session presenters Beth Carpenter of the Oregon State Police Portland Metro Forensic Laboratory, Jeffrey Comparin of the DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory, George Johnston of the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division, Nelson Santos of the DEA Northcentral Laboratory, and Douglas Shaffer of the United States Secret Service Forensic Services Division. These professionals shared their time and knowledge with the group by reviewing resumes, explaining hiring exam processes, explaining knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA) writing, and answering all of the questions that participants threw at them! In addition to useful information and advice, we also had some great food thanks to the sponsorship of Virginia Commonwealth University's Forensic Science Department. If you have any comments on this year's session or suggestions for next year's meeting please feel free to contact the YFSF through the AAFS website. We look forward to seeing all of you for another successful session next year in San Antonio!

—Amanda Frohwein
YFSF Program Co-Chair

About the YFSF

The YFSF is dedicated to the education, enrichment, and professional development of young forensic scientist. YFSF participants can be non-AAFS members while organizers must be AAFS members from any section within the AAFS. The Forum provides a medium to educate and network with young forensic scientist to facilitate their establishment within the forensic science community. The YFSF is composed of a Special Session, a Poster Session, a Bring Your Own Slides Session, and a Breakfast Session during the AAFS Annual Meeting. Outside the Academy meeting the YFSF works to further the endeavors of young forensic scientists through the YFSF newsletter and the YFSF website (<http://www.aafs.org/yfsf/index.htm>). YFSF President **Allison Curran** (allison.curran@fiu.edu) and YFSF Secretary **Jeannette Perr** (jeannette.perr@fiu.edu) can answer any questions about the YFSF and are looking to many different levels of young forensic scientist participating next year's session.

YFSF Website

The YFSF is looking for a technologically savvy person to help design the new website. If interested please contact **Jeannette Perr** (jeannette.perr@fiu.edu). Look for the improved website soon!