

## Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

### Another wonderful success for the YFSF!

Another exciting AAFS Annual Meeting has come to a close and the YFSF Committee would like to extend a special thanks to all of the speakers who took time out of a very busy and exciting week to present for us. We hope you enjoyed the speakers and that you had an opportunity to see the Bring Your Own Posters and the Bring Your Own Slides Sessions. The two sessions are not only your opportunity to get involved and make an impact as **President Joseph Bono** encouraged us to do, but is also your opportunity to support your current and future colleagues. If you have already taken the time to present during any of the YFSF sessions or the during the AAFS sessions, I want to congratulate you on taking your first step towards making an impact. I'm sure as you networked with Members and Fellows of the AAFS over the week you heard them tell you that you are the future of forensics and AAFS.

They're correct; you are the future of forensics and the Academy. You will get out of every meeting, conference or training what you choose to put into it. I hope after you heard President Bono speak on Tuesday that you made the decision to become an active participant. If you're nervous or not sure where to present or how to start, please contact any YFSF committee member and we will help you through the process. Furthermore, if we don't know the answer, we will make sure we find you a contact who can point you in the correct direction. That is one of the amazing benefits of becoming a member of AAFS. You will have access to amazing mentors and people with years of experience who will be willing to help you.

I would also like to thank all of the chairs and co-

chairs of our sessions, the contributor liaison chair, and our YFSF secretary for all of their hard work over this past year. The special session, breakfast session, poster and slide sessions take all year to plan and that planning will begin within the next couple of months. This is another opportunity to make an impact, we still have committee positions open and we would love to see new forensic scientists from every section involved on the committee. We are open to suggestions for speakers or topics you'd like to hear in the future.

We look forward to seeing you all in Atlanta next February.

*Tanisha Henson, BS*  
2011 YFSF President

### Questions and Answers from the YFSF Secretary

The AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago was a blast, and based on the feedback I received from participants, the YFSF was a huge success. I want to congratulate each officer on the success of the events this year and thank him/her for the amount of time spent organizing each YFSF event. I was amazed by the high level of scholarship displayed in both the poster session and in the bring your own slides event. The special session and breakfast session were also well-organized and included presentations from experts in the various fields. Reflecting on the week in Chicago, I cannot help but smile. The officers of the YFSF are both my colleagues and friends, and I am extremely proud of the tremendous achievement each officer accomplished to make this year's YFSF a huge hit. (Way to go guys and gals!)  
*continued on page 58*

## Young Forensic Scientists Forum cont.

Please submit your questions, which will be answered them in upcoming newsletters. You can send your questions to [Lpharr1@tigers.lsu.edu](mailto:Lpharr1@tigers.lsu.edu). Until next time, happy unpacking and thank you again to all the YFSF officers.

*Lauren Pharr, MA*  
*YFSF Secretary*

### Financial Liaison

A special thank you goes to the Criminalistics, General, and Pathology/Biology Sections because each of these sections donated \$1,500 to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum. The YFSF would not be possible without your financial support and guidance, so thank for contributing to the YFSF and making this year's YFSF a huge success

In addition, thank you to all of the AAFS section officers for allowing a Young Forensic Scientists Forum officer to speak at your section's business meeting. The YFSF operates through financial contributions, so we appreciate you allowing us to tell you about the benefits of the YFSF and the ways in which you can help at the YFSF at the 2012 meeting in Atlanta.

You may contact me at [jjenkins71@gmail.com](mailto:jjenkins71@gmail.com) if you would like to learn more about contributing to the YFSF.

*Jackie Jenkins, PhD, MSFS*  
*YFSF Financial Liaison*

### YFSF Breakfast Session

Greetings from the warm weather state of Mississippi! I hope everyone had a great time in Chicago and didn't freeze too badly! Regardless of the weather, we had a great turnout for the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Breakfast Session on Thursday. As expected, **Anjali Swinton**, **Susan Ballou**, **Robin Bowen**, and **Susan Johns** did a fabulous job in their presentation of *Professionalism 101: What Everyone Should Know*. I can only hope that students and young professionals starting out will take what they said to heart and strive for presenting themselves in a professional manner.

I also want to thank those Members of the Academy and vendors who took time out of their extremely busy schedules to participate in the resume panel. **Dan Anderson**, **Joe Crow**, and **Adam Freeman** were just a few of the academy members who offered their time and knowledge to aid the up and coming professionals in our field. I believe the students took the corrections and advice they were offered as positive constructive criticism and now understand what a forensic company and/or a forensic lab are looking for on a resume or CV.

It was a busy week and fun week as well. We had an opportunity to meet with old friends and colleagues and introduce ourselves to new ones. I can only imagine the meeting in Atlanta in 2012 will be just as though provoking and fun!

I look forward to seeing y'all in the south next year. Hopefully no snow or ice, just beautiful weather and a chance to offer advice or assistance in any way we can. Y'all come back now ya hear!!!!

*Melissa DeBerry*  
*YFSF Breakfast Session Chair*



*2012 YFSF Officers Taryn Mead and Melissa DeBerry.*

### YFSF Special Session

The 2011 Young Forensic Scientists Forum Special Session was a rousing success. We had 100 participants and even had a wait list for entry. Participants not only learned how cooperative forensic evaluation can be, but also how to apply for membership in AAFS and how to submit abstracts to the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

Our day began with a challenge from **President Joe Bono** to "keep the forensics in forensic science." He also urged the audience to make an impact in their career by reaching out and getting involved. Membership Coordinator Cheryl Hunter and *Journal of Forensic Sciences (JFS)* Editor **Michael Peat** offered ways to get involved as they explained how to join AAFS and how to properly submit papers to *JFS*, respectively.

**Paul Kish** kicked off the scientific presentations by sharing the role that bloodstain pattern analysis can play in a death investigation. Afterwards, **Ross Capps**, a DNA analyst, showed how multidiscipline evidence should flow through the lab to ensure that valuable evidence isn't lost. Next, **Mary Case** explained how pathology is useful in solving, and even discovering, crimes. The Emerging Forensic Scientist winner, **Jordan Brough**, finished the morning discussing his method for determining what software was used to print a questioned inkjet document.

The afternoon brought **Steve Ousley** discussing the holistic nature of anthropology, from ancient remains to new technologies. **Maria Allaire** demonstrated that things aren't always what they appear to be when she presented a case of suicide by blasting cap. **Robert Barsley** then explained how teeth develop and how they can be used to identify individuals. **Richard Vorder Bruegge** returned this year to share how forensics can benefit from biometric modalities. The special session culminated with retired

District Attorney **Rockne Harmon** showing how effective collaboration is needed in the justice system, especially in cold cases, to ensure appropriate outcomes.

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum would like to express a sincere thank you to all of the speakers. The Special Session would not be possible without your support and participation. Our audience greatly appreciates you sharing your time, knowledge, and experience with them.

This year is my last year severing as a member of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum Planning Committee, it was a pleasure to serve for the last three years and I thank my fellow committee members for all of their help and support. Serving with this committee gave me the opportunity to meet new scientists and the foremost experts in the field alike. I have been able to network and make connections that would not have happened without this organization. I highly recommend getting involved with the Young Forensic Scientists Forum. As President Joe Bono stated in his speech during the Special Session, no matter where you want to be in five or ten years, your future begins now. Getting involved in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum is an excellent way to begin your career.

*Jenna Oakes-Smith*                      *Amanda Kittoe, BA*  
*YFSF Special Session Chair*      *YFSF Special Session Co-Chair*

#### **YFSF Bring Your Own Slides**

Thank you all for contributing to a successful, informative, and enriching event in Chicago. **Ali Mostrom** and I would like to recognize the contributions of our speakers: **Michelli Schmidt, Charlana McQuinn, DeeAnn Turner**, Michelle Tetreault, and Seth Lamb. Each speaker presented useful and quality research among various forensic disciplines. We would also like to thank all the chairs and co-chairs of the Young Forensic Scientists Forum. The team effort and commitment to the success and growth of the YFSF continues to demonstrate the importance of our forum to the academy and forensic science as a whole. If you did not have the opportunity to present in Chicago, we invite you to submit an abstract for next year's meeting. We look forward to seeing you all in Atlanta in 2012.

*Martin Overly, MS*                      *Ali Mostrom, MSFS*  
*BYOS Chair*                              *BYOS Co-Chair*



*YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Speakers. From left to right: Charlana McQuinn, Seth Lamb, Michelli Schmidt, DeeAnn Turner, and Michelle Tetreault.*

#### **YFSF Poster Session**

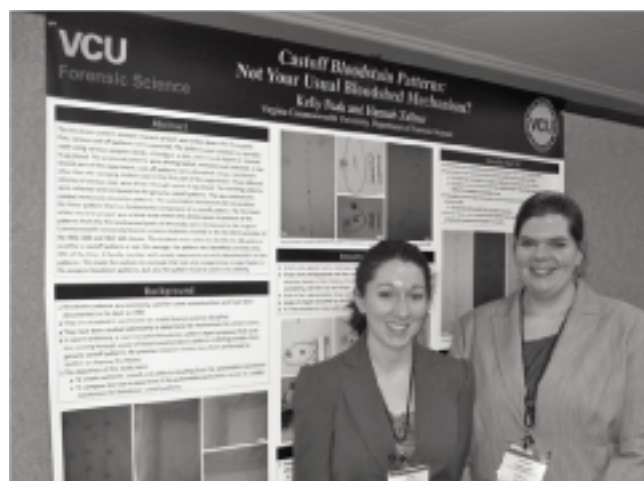
The Young Forensic Scientists Forum Poster Session had much to offer to attendees of the AAFS 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting. Young forensic scientists traveled from 12 universities and colleges, across the U.S. and Canada, to present 20 poster presentations in Chicago. The YFSF Poster Session provided attendees with research from a wide range of topics including bloodstain patterns, DNA, food testing, latent prints, physical anthropology, toxicology, and trace. Many Members of the Academy attended and showed interest in the presentations by asking the young forensic scientists about their work.

On behalf of the YFSF Committee, we thank all authors and presenters of the YFSF Poster Session for sharing their work as well as the professors who continue to support their student's research and encourage them to present at meetings. We would also like to thank the Academy and its members for showing interest and supporting the Young Forensic Scientists Forum. We invite everyone to attend next year's YFSF Poster Session!

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum Poster Session is an excellent opportunity for students and young forensic professionals, of all ages and disciplines, to participate at the AAFS Annual Meeting. Students and young forensic professionals who are interested in presenting in Atlanta at the 2012 YFSF Poster Session should look for deadline information for the YFSF Poster Session submissions in future issues of the *Academy News*. It is not too early to start thinking of presenting at next year's YFSF Poster Session!

If you are interested in presenting at the 2012 YFSF Poster Session, please email me at [tarynmead@gmail.com](mailto:tarynmead@gmail.com).

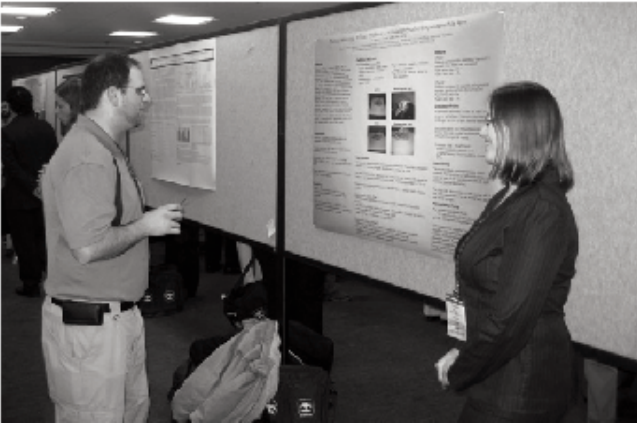
*Taryn Mead, BS*  
*YFSF Poster Session Chair*



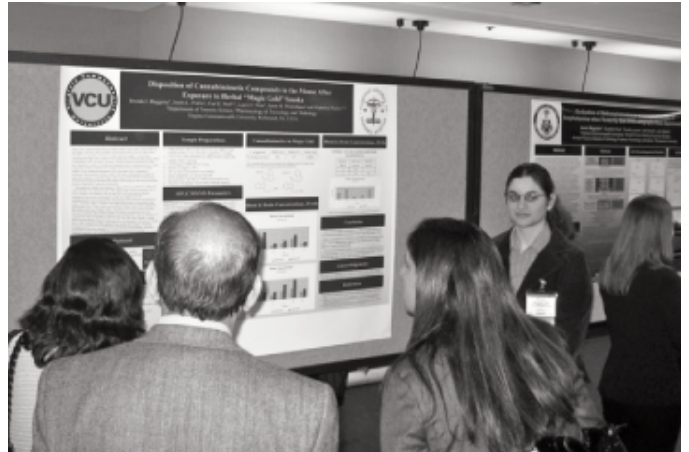
*YFSF Poster presenters Kelly Peak and Hannah Zellner stand ready to discuss their research at the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session.*

*continued on page 60*

## Young Forensic Scientists Forum cont.



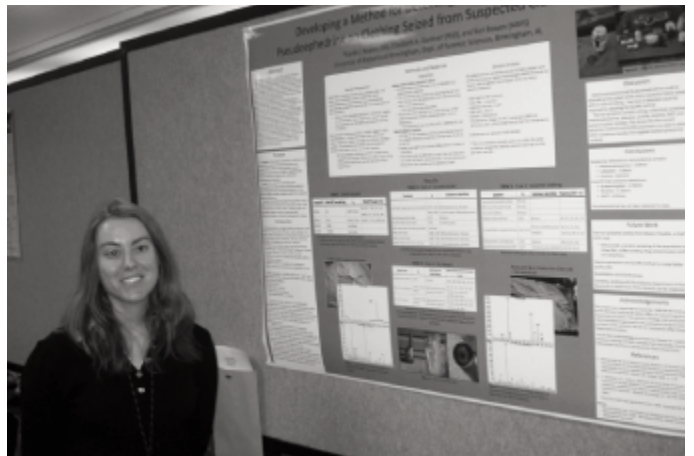
*A curious attendee questions Elizabeth Bartz during the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session.*



*Spectators admire the work of Brenda Haggerty at the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session.*



*Laura Regester presents her research to an attendee at the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session.*



*Sarah Keasey proudly displays her poster at the YFSF Bring Your Own Poster Session.*