

Supplement to the *Academy News*
May 2011
Editor: Lauren R. Pharr, MA

Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

History of the YFSF

The Young Forensic Scientist Forum (YFSF) has grown in leaps and bounds since **Steven Batterman** created it while he was AAFS President in 1995. YFSF began as a Breakfast Session where 15 people attended. The first YFSF Special Session was conducted at the 1996 meeting in Nashville; the first Bring Your Own Slides (BYOS) Session was held at the 2000 meeting in Reno; and the first Bring Your Own Poster (BYOP) Session was held at the 2004 meeting in Dallas. Today, the YFSF annually holds the YFSF Special Session that includes the BYOP, BYOS, and a breakfast.

When the YFSF was originally formed, it operated with only a President and a Secretary. Today, because of the amazing growth and interest in YFSF, additional offices have been established to support the growing activities. In 2003, in addition to the offices of President and Secretary, the office of Program Chair was established and session chairs were named for each of the special events. Shortly thereafter, the YFSF incorporated the offices of the Bring Your Own Slides Chair and the Bring Your Own Posters Chair, as well as the Financial Liaison who originally carried the title of Treasurer. Today, because of the growth and success the YFSF has had, we have added co-chairs to several of these offices in order to assist in all of the hard work it takes to put on these programs.

Purpose of the YFSF

The original concept was and still is for the YFSF to be a helpful starting place for those who are in the beginning stages of their forensic career and

those who know they have a passion for forensics but are not sure where to go or how to get started. The special session is an amazing eight hour session held on Tuesday of the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting, with information and advice from individuals who are established in their chosen profession and are excited to share their experience and knowledge with newcomers, as well as answering questions from them. While the title and theme of the special session changes from year to year, the heart of the special session remains the same. And that is to showcase the wide variety of fields not only within the forensics community but also within the AAFS.

The YFSF, Present and Future

The participants of the YFSF are drawn from all 11 sections and membership statuses of the AAFS. The YFSF plans to continue to provide an avenue for new forensic scientists to interact with and become a part of the established forensic science community and an active member of the AAFS. This is accomplished through the Special Sessions at the AAFS Annual Meeting via a bi-monthly newsletter, through informational databases, and the website. Drawing on advice and inspiration from Past President **Joe Bono**, today is when you start making an impact. Get involved with the YFSF committee and other committees within AAFS. The YFSF currently has officer positions open, so please contact **Tanisha Henson** (tanisha.henson@yahoo.com) if you are interested in serving as an officer.