



# ACADEMY NEWS

A M E R I C A N A C A D E M Y O F F O R E N S I C S C I E N C E S

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first weekend of December, I had the opportunity to represent the AAFS at a meeting of the United Nations Crime Prevention Program's International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council in Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Italy. The subject of the conference was "Measuring Human Trafficking: Complexities and Pitfalls." Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery and consists of commercial sexual exploitation or slavery-like labor exploitation. At a minimum, human trafficking encompasses 1) prostitution; 2) forced labor in factories, restaurants, or farms; 3) domestic servitude as servants, housekeepers, or nannies; 4) the sale of children and brides; and 5) the sale of human organs for transplantation. Migrants, oppressed or marginalized groups, runaways, displaced persons, and the poor comprise the vast majority of trafficking victims. Traffickers regularly employ psychological and financial control mechanisms, confinement, and violence to manipulate their victims. Because trafficking is an illegal activity, the true extent of the problem is difficult to determine. The U.S. State Department estimates that some 800,000 persons are victims of international human trafficking annually. Of these, 18,000 enter the United States by way of the border with Mexico. Outside the United States, poverty, unemployment, weak laws, and expansion of criminal organizations have contributed to the increasing sexual exploitation of children.

Academy Program Co-chairs Tracey Corey and Douglas Ubelaker, with the help of the section program chairs and other Academy members, have put together a truly outstanding program for the annual meeting



Edmund R. Donoghue, MD in Seattle, WA.

Likewise, the Plenary Session Co-chairs Gregory G. Davis and Paul Kish have assembled a remarkable presentation on the meeting theme topic "Mass Disasters: Natural and Man Made." If you have not registered to attend the AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle, please do so immediately; the deadline for pre-registration is Wednesday, January 25, 2006. After that date, meeting registration for AAFS members will cost an additional \$125. The deadline for making hotel reservations for the Seattle meeting is Tuesday, January 17, 2006.

This is my last President's Message, and I would like thank you for the opportunity of serving as your Academy President. One lesson that I have learned in organizations is that no one can do it alone. Fortunately, our Academy has a very experienced and dedicated staff that keeps our complex organization functioning smoothly. I would particularly like to thank Anne Warren, our executive director, Nancy Jackson, our meetings and expositions manager, and Jim Hurley, our development and accreditation director, who have been of invaluable assistance to me during my year as President. Lastly, I would like to thank AAFS Past President Ron Singer and AAFS President-Elect Jim Young for the wise counsel and assistance that they have given me during this year.

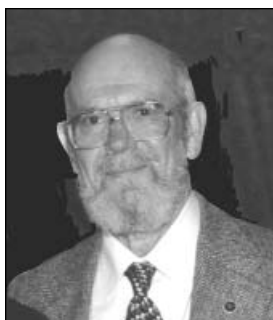
### LAST CHANCE TO PRE-REGISTER!

The 2006 AAFS Annual Meeting Pre-Registration Form is provided in this issue of *Academy News*, on page 25. Attendance at all special functions (breakfast seminars, luncheons, special sessions, workshops, and workshorts) is available by pre-registration only.

*The deadline for pre-registration is January 25, 2006. The deadline is firm.*

Pre-registration forms received after January 25, 2006, will be processed as on-site registrations which will VOID your registration/attendance for all special functions (breakfast seminars, workshops, etc.). To ensure your full participation, don't delay! Mail your registration form today, or go to the AAFS website ([www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)) and register online!

# REMEMBERING AAFS PAST PRESIDENT ART GOLDMAN



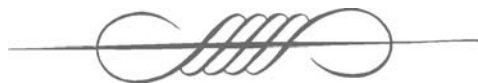
*Arthur D. Goldman, DMD  
1929-2005*

It is indeed sad to report the untimely death of **Arthur D. Goldman, DMD**, on December 3, 2005. He was 76. Dr. Goldman is survived by his wife, Martha, his son Erik, and his daughter, Karin. Dr. Goldman was a practicing dentist for over 40 years and was a pioneer in the field of Forensic Odontology. He joined the Academy in 1972 and immediately became active in the Odontology Section where he served as section chair from 1975 to 1977. In 1977 he was elected as the Odontology Section representative on the AAFS Board of Directors (formerly known as the Executive Committee), and served in that capacity until 1980. He served as the first chair of the ever-popular Student Academy (then called the Junior Academy) during the Academy's 1977 Annual Meeting in San Diego. He continued in this leadership role through 1980. Dr. Goldman was then elected Treasurer of the Academy for three terms from 1981 to 1984 at which time he was elected President-Elect of the Academy. He served as the Academy's 36th President in 1985-86.

During his presidency, in recognition of the tremendously increased responsibilities of the AAFS Program Committee, Dr. Goldman subdivided this committee into the various chairs for the Plenary Session, Workshops, Breakfast Seminars, Student Academy, etc., an organizational format that is still followed today. In 1985, the Academy conducted a very successful membership promotion campaign by staffing booths at the annual meetings of the regional societies. After his presidency, Dr. Goldman continued to serve the Academy by his participation on several committees, including the Awards Committee from 1993 until the time of his death.

In addition to his private practice, Dr. Goldman served as the Forensic Odontologist for the Office of the Medical Examiner of Rockland County, NY, and served as a volunteer for many government and private organizations. Among his many memberships, Dr. Goldman was a diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Odontology (ABFO) and served as its president in 1979.

A truly gentle man has left our midst, and he will be sorely missed. Donations may be made in Dr. Goldman's memory to the Student Academy of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, 410 N. 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2798.

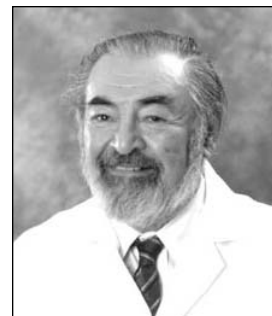


# RENOWNED TOXICOLOGIST FREDRIC RIEDERS DIES AT 83

**Fredric Rieders, PhD**, died at his home on November 26, 2005, at age 83. A renowned toxicologist, he was Philadelphia's first Chief Toxicologist, a Professor of Pharmacology at Thomas Jefferson University, and the founder of National Medical Services, one of the nation's largest and most respected forensic and clinical toxicology laboratories. In recent years, he established and led a charitable foundation for education and research, the Fredric Rieders Family Renaissance Foundation. During a scientific career that spanned more than five decades, Dr. Rieders testified in court as an expert in such cases as the O.J. Simpson murder trial, established Philadelphia's Poison Information Center, lectured internationally, and authored over 120 research and expository publications and book chapters. Dr. Rieders was a Fellow of the Academy and served as the Toxicology Section Secretary (1964-65) and Section Chair (1965-66). His numerous awards include the Alexander O. Gettler Award, the Thomas Jefferson University Distinguished Alumnus Award, and just last year, an honorary doctorate from Arcadia University.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Fredric Rieders emigrated alone at age 16 to the United States, escaping the holocaust that was to envelope Central Europe. After becoming a US citizen in 1944, he served his country as surgical technician in the 20th Armored Division of the U.S. Army in France and Germany, where he remained for a period after the war as part of the U.S. military government's denazification efforts. After returning to the States, he completed his education at New York University, earning a master's degree in 1949. In 1952, he received his PhD in Pharmacology at Thomas Jefferson University. Remaining in Philadelphia, Dr. Rieders was recruited to the faculty at Thomas Jefferson and also to his position at the City's Medical Examiners Office as Chief Toxicologist, beginning a long career dedicated to science, teaching and service in public health and justice.

Dr. Rieders is survived by his wife Betty-Jean, sons Eric and Michael, daughter Julia Satriano, and eight grandchildren. His third son Carl died in 1973 at age thirteen. Contributions may be sent to the Forensic Mentors Institute (part of Dr. Rieder's Foundation) c/o Michael Rieders, at 2300 Stratford Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090.



*Fredric Rieders, PhD  
1922-2005*

# LEGISLATIVE CORNER



Barry A.J. Fisher, MS, MBA

The House and Senate conference committee agreed on the appropriation bills in November. Some of the specific language concerning forensic science funding follows:

- *The conference agreement adopts, by reference, language included in the House report requiring a report on the various forensic centers that have received previous grant funding. The due date for the report is modified to January 15, 2006.*
  - *DNA and Forensics—The conference agreement includes \$108,531,000 for a DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program including eliminating casework backlogs, eliminating offender backlogs, strengthening crime lab capacity, training of the criminal justice community and identifying missing persons. Within the amounts provided, \$5,000,000 shall be for OLES to continue working with the COPS office to develop minimum standards for equipment and testing for forensic science labs.*
- *In addition, the conference agreement provides \$18,500,000 for Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants. Within the amounts provided for Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants, \$1,500,000 is for the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on forensic science, as described in the Senate report.*
- *\$108,531,000 is for a DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program, and for other State, local and Federal forensic activities, of which \$4,000,000 shall be for grant programs as authorized by sections 412 and 413 of Public Law 108-405.*
- *The Committee has reviewed the Bureau of Justice Statistics [BJS] Census of Publicly Funded Forensic Crime Laboratories and the NIJ `Status and Needs of Forensic Science Services: A Report to Congress.` The report identifies that the backlog in forensic science labs is not limited to DNA. In fact, these studies demonstrate a disturbing trend of increased cases and increased backlog in all disciplines of forensic science.*
- *According to the BJS Census, a typical lab finished the year with a backlog of about 650 requests, which was an increase of 73 percent from 2001, and 73 percent of the total backlogged requests at year end 2002 were attributable to controlled substances (46 percent), latent prints (17 percent), and DNA analysis (10 percent). Further, the study concluded that only 2 percent of all new requests were in the area of DNA analysis. The budget request proposes to allocate 100 percent of the Federal funds for forensic science to DNA even though it represents only 2 percent of the workload identified in the study. Further, these data do not include the nation's medical examiners and coroners who are responsible for investigating all homicides.*
- *Based on the study's findings, the budget should allocate funds to all disciplines as opposed to just one. The results of these studies are indicative of a larger problem within the forensic science and legal community: the absence of data. While a great deal of analysis exists of the requirements in the discipline of DNA, there exists little to no analysis of the remaining needs of the community outside of the area of DNA. Therefore, within the funds provided for the DNA and Forensics Initiative the Committee directs the Attorney General to provide \$1,500,000 to the National Academy of Sciences to create an independent Forensic Science Committee. This Committee shall include members of the forensics community representing operational crime laboratories, medical examiners, and coroners; legal experts; and other scientists as determined appropriate. The National Academy of Sciences Committee shall:*
- (1) assess the present and future resource needs of the forensic science community, to include State and local crime labs, medical examiners, and coroners;*
  - (2) make recommendations for maximizing the use of forensic technologies and techniques to solve crimes, investigate deaths, and protect the public;*
  - (3) identify potential scientific advances that may assist law enforcement in using forensic technologies and techniques to protect the public;*
  - (4) make recommendations for programs that will increase the number of qualified forensic scientists and medical examiners available to work in public crime laboratories;*
  - (5) disseminate best practices and guidelines concerning the collection and analysis of forensic evidence to help ensure quality and consistency in the use of forensic technologies and techniques to solve crimes, investigate deaths, and protect the public;*
  - (6) examine the role of the forensic community in the homeland security mission;*
  - (7) interoperability of Automated Fingerprint Information Systems; and*

*(8) examine additional issues pertaining to forensic science as determined by the Committee. The National Academy shall issue its report to the Committees on Appropriations no later than June 1, 2006.*

Comments:

The amount of money for Coverdell has been increased to \$18,500,000. Of that amount, \$1,500,000 will fund a National Academy of Sciences Forensic Science Committee which will issue a report to Congress by June 1, 2006.

\$118,000,000 is set aside for DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program, and for other State, local and Federal forensic activities. This language suggests that funds can be used for other forensic science programs in addition to DNA related testing.

There presently are four Forensic Resource Network Centers: two in West Virginia and two in Florida. The language requires NIJ to report on the centers to Congress.

While we would agree that more funds are still needed in support of forensic services at the State and local level, this year's efforts have made substantial progress in Congress. Of particular note is the National Academy's Forensic Science Committee which may well lay the ground work for important forensic science legislation in the future.

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations, our lobbyist Beth Lavach, and our PR consultant Melissa Milburn each have had a key role in passage of this legislation. Few AAFS members recognize the hard work that is required to influence the legislative process in a positive way. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, along with the other CFSO member organizations, have become important spokespersons for forensic science delivery in our nation. It has been a most significant year for our advocacy efforts.

## TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE!

"France Casting" has once again made a generous donation to the Forensic Sciences Foundation. Not one, but two skulls will be up for auction to benefit the Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc. One is a Peruvian skull showing cranial modification due to wrapping; the other is a Tinian skull of a large male with tubercles on the occiput and a massive healed fracture of the right malar (cheek). Both skulls will come with individual stands. The fund raiser will be a silent auction and will take place in conjunction with the 2006 AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle. More details on how you may acquire either of these unique displays will be available at the meeting.

## WHITE HOUSE SOLICITS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

**The President's Commission on White House Fellowships** is now accepting applications for the 2006-07 class. Founded in 1964, the White House Fellows program is American's most prestigious program for leadership and public service.

White House Fellowships offer exceptional young men and women first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the federal government. White House Fellows typically spend a year working as full-time, paid special assistants to senior White House Staff, the Vice President, Cabinet Secretaries, and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors as well as trips to study U.S. policy in action, both domestically and internationally.

**Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2006.** Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis. Employees of the federal government are not eligible unless they are career military personnel. There are no age restrictions; however, the program was created to give remarkable young Americans this experience early in their careers. Most competitive applicants have completed their graduate studies and are working in their chosen professions at the time of consideration.

For more information, call (202) 395-4522, or go to [www.whitehouse.gov/fellows](http://www.whitehouse.gov/fellows) to download an application. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has no influence over the application evaluation process and is announcing this invitation for information purposes only.

# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



*James P. Hurley  
Director of Development  
& Accreditation*

AAFS 2006 Northern Europe Tour – June 9-18, 2006  
Helsinki, Finland – Stockholm, Sweden – Tallinn, Estonia

There is still space available for the AAFS 2006 Northern Europe Tour which takes place June 9-18, 2006, and will coincide with the European Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting in Helsinki on June 13-16. Further information about the tour and an application may be found on the AAFS web ([www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)). The following photos are provided to rouse you from the winter doldrums and excite your adventurous nature:



*Estonian scenes of yesteryear.*



*Long, sunny days and gardens in full bloom await us.*

## Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC)

The Fall 2005 institutional application process has ended and Self-Study Reports with on-site evaluations and university responses have been received and forwarded to FEPAC for review and awards of accreditation. Commissioners will meet on January 14 and 15 to assess the responses pertaining to FEPAC Standards presented by the five institutions who welcomed the evaluation teams to their respective campuses: Duquesne University, Ohio University, Oklahoma State University, The University of North Texas, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Awards of accreditation will be made during that meeting and program directors, as well as institutional constituents, will be notified by January 20 of the Commission's decisions.

On November 15, FEPAC Chair **Max Houck** and I met with Mr. John Barth, Director of Accreditation & State Liaison at the United States Department of Education in Washington, DC. The purpose of our visit was to update the director of the Agency on the progress of accreditation by FEPAC. Following our visit, Max sent a letter to commissioners, excerpts of which I include in this article:

*Last week, Jim and I had the opportunity to meet with John Barth and discuss FEPAC's progress towards recognition as an accrediting body by the Department of Education. We found Mr. Barth to be open, interested, and supportive. Mr. Barth has been tracking the popularity of forensic science and the educational issues it faces as it grows and codifies as a discipline. Jim has been in regular contact with Mr. Barth and has kept him updated on FEPAC's progress, activities, and development. He was appreciative of Jim's communications and said that FEPAC was making progress at a rate that DoEd likes to see: Controlled growth with advancement. Overall, Mr. Barth was very positive about FEPAC's status.*

The Commission anticipates a formal application to seek recognition from the Department of Education within the next 12 to 18 months. Information about that process and a projected timeline will be posted to the AAFS website and will be included in future "Planning & Development" articles.

New Commissioners for 2006-2009: This past summer I sent out a notice of vacancies on the Commission to fill positions of four retiring FEPAC charter members: **José Almirall**, **Peter De Forest**, **Barry Fisher**, and **Susan Johns**. Nine AAFS members have sent me *curriculum vitae* and have requested that I submit their names for consideration to the Commission for three-year terms commencing February 25, 2006. They are **Robert Bost**, **Charles Michael Bowers**, **Benny Del Re**, **Michele Kestler**, **Ashraf Mozayani**, **Lawrence Quarino**, **Moses Schanfield**, **Ian Tebbett**, and **Diane Vance**. At the January 14-15 meeting commissioners will complete a slate of new commissioners to present to President Donoghue and the AAFS Board of Directors at the February 2006 Board Meeting.

## Forensic Science Educational Conferences

As reported in the November *Academy News*, three FSECs are "on the books" for 2006: the FSEC/FGCU (May 5-7) at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, the FSEC/IUPUI (June 22-24) at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and the FSEC/STL III (July 27-29) at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Conference details and applications regarding the May and June conferences may be found on the AAFS website; and, pending notification of grant status to **Mary Fran Ernst** from The Saigh Foundation, specifics relating to the conference in St. Louis will be posted by mid-February.

# A WORD FROM YOUR 2006 PROGRAM CO-CHAIR



Douglas H. Ubelaker, PhD

The 58th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Seattle is only one month away! Abstracts have been reviewed, speakers notified, and you should now have your preliminary program for this exciting and stimulating meeting. Many of the presentations relate in diverse and comprehensive ways to the program theme: "Mass Disasters: Natural and Man Made." We can all look forward to gathering together at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle, February 20-25, for a rewarding and educational experience.

As in previous years, please remember to pre-register for workshops, workshorts, breakfast seminars, luncheons, and special sessions. If you are uncertain about the equipment necessary for your presentation, check with your Section Program Chair. Also, don't forget to review your presentation in advance to ensure you stay within the time limitation assigned. Most importantly, come to Seattle and enjoy the excellent program that awaits you.

## 2006 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fellows and Members of AAFS will be held Wednesday, February 22, at 4:15 p.m., at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle, WA. All Fellows and Members are encouraged to attend this very important meeting. Agenda items include the election of 2006-07 Officers and recognition of all Members being promoted to Fellow status. You will be briefed on AAFS activities during the past year and plans for the future.

The Section Business Meetings will also be held on Wednesday, February 22. Please consult the *Advance Program* for specific times. Attendance at your Section's Business Meeting is strongly encouraged.

The AAFS Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, February 20, at 8:00 a.m.

## CYBER CAFÉ

While at the meeting, do you need to access the Web or check your email in between scientific sessions? Looking for another meeting attendee? Trying to meet for lunch? Can't find your spouse? Want to take the AAFS Meeting Survey? Visit the AAFS Cyber Café which will be located near the AAFS Registration Desk on the 4th floor South Lobby of the Washington State Convention & Trade Center. For your convenience, there will be 10 cyber café kiosks available Monday through Friday of the meeting week to keep you connected free of charge.

To log on and access personal messages or connect online, you will need your unique identifying number which will be located on the reverse side of your meeting badge.

## REGISTER FOR THE AAFS ANNUAL MEETING ONLINE AT [WWW.AAFS.ORG](http://WWW.AAFS.ORG)

The AAFS 58th Annual Meeting is just a month away! The same information you will find in your *Advance Program* is posted to the AAFS website ([www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)) - just follow the meeting link! The AAFS office has continued to update the website information weekly, so you'll want to check [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org) for the most accurate and up-to-date meeting materials. You may view, download, and print the .pdf session descriptions directly from the web. Best of all you, may register online at the same time! Through the secure server, this is a safe and convenient way to register. Remember, the pre-registration deadline is January 25!



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing professional education credits are offered for physicians, dentists, attorneys, psychologists, and chemists. Continuing education credit applications have been submitted for physicians, dentists, attorneys, psychologists, and chemists. Nurses may use the AAFS CME Credit Reporting Forms for filing CERP hours with their state accreditation agency. Please check with your state agency for details.

To register for continuing education credit, please complete the appropriate section on the Meeting Registration Form. An individual must be a registered attendee to obtain continuing education credits. Fees charged for continuing education credits are based on projected costs of supplies and other materials needed to comply with requirements of the various continuing education accreditation councils. The AAFS has adopted a user-pay approach so that those individuals who benefit from the specific continuing education program are responsible for the costs incurred.

Attendance reports are supplied to the appropriate state or national agency, as required. All continuing education credit recipients will be issued a "Certificate of Attendance."

**Chemistry:** Application has been made to the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, Inc., for ACCENT® credit. Credit will be awarded on an hour-for-hour basis. Awarded credit will be filed with AACC following the meeting.

**Dental:** The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is designated as an Approved PACE Program Provider by the Academy of General Dentistry. The formal continuing education programs of this program provider are accepted by AGD for Fellowship, Mastership, and membership maintenance credit. Approval does not imply acceptance by a state or provincial board of dentistry. The current term of approval extends from 1/1/05 to 12/31/08. Awarded credit will be filed with AGD following the meeting. Credit for FAGD/MAGD credit and the California Board of Dental Examiners will be awarded on an hour-for-hour basis.

**Legal:** Continuing Legal Education credits are being sought from only Colorado and Washington. Credit will be awarded on an hour-for-hour basis. Please contact the AAFS Continuing Education Coordinator before January 1 if you are licensed in the states of Ohio or Delaware and would like AAFS to apply for approval as a sponsor of continuing legal education.

**Medical:** The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences designates this educational activity for a maximum of 50 hours in category 1 credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the activity.

**Psychology:** The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is an approved provider by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. The AAFS maintains responsibility for the program. Credit will be awarded on an hour-for-hour basis.

## PROGRAM 2006 — SEATTLE

### CE HELPFUL HINTS

A few reminders about Continuing Education (CE) procedures which may be helpful to meeting attendees:

- If you would like to receive CE credits for medical, legal, psychology, chemistry, or general attendance, please remember to check one of the items in Box 4 on your 58th AAFS Annual Meeting Registration Form. *Only registered attendees may request continuing education credits.*
- Continuing education materials will NOT automatically be placed in the registration packets of all registrants who have a DDS or DMD degree. In order to obtain dental credits, residents must check the appropriate item in Box 4 on the registration form.
- The Continuing Education Packet must be completed and returned to AAFS by March 15, 2006.
- In order to comply with the various accrediting agencies, AAFS now requires completion of evaluation forms to obtain CE credit.
- All comments and suggestions provided on evaluation forms are kept anonymous and are reviewed by the Program and Continuing Education Committees to detect program problems and facilitate improvement. Your input is needed.

# GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS USING AN LCD PROJECTOR

**Computers will not be provided by the AAFS.** It is your responsibility to provide the laptop computer for your presentation. However, your section may coordinate this effort and have a computer available for your use at the meeting. A LCD projection unit will be available in the speaker ready room for testing and practice purposes.

## Preparing your presentation:

- Microsoft PowerPoint® 2000 or higher is highly recommended. Other versions of PowerPoint and programs may be difficult to support at the conference.
- 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.
- Use simple graphs and illustrations with a minimum of captions. Avoid using thin lines, dots, dashes, or other specialty lines.
- 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.
- Save your presentation on a CD. Other media such as zip cartridges and memory sticks may be supported; please contact your Program Chair for these details. Always test your presentation on another host computer to verify file compatibility, layout, and style.

## If you plan to use an LCD Projector at the meeting:

- 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. You may be contacted by a moderator prior to the February meeting and asked to submit your presentation electronically.
- Bring your presentation on a CD that is clearly labeled with your name. Other media such as zip cartridges and memory sticks may be supported. Please contact your Program Chair for these details.
- You will be given instructions on how and when to connect to the LCD projection unit; or, your presentation will be loaded onto a laptop computer if provided by the section.
- If technical problems occur, you may be asked to present without visual aids.

# GUIDELINES FOR POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Each poster session presenter will be provided with a 4' (height) x 8' (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 within one-half hour after the session closes. Moderators will be available to assist the presenters. The AAFS is not responsible for material posted early or left after the session is over.

The presenting author and/or a co-author is expected to remain with the display during the entire session to be available to discuss their study with the attendees. Authors are 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
- Materials
- Results
- Conclusions
- Introduction
- Methods
- Discussion
- 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 "arty", 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.



# TRANSPORTATION



The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has selected United Airlines as the official airlines for its 58th Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, February 20-25, 2006.

**International Travelers:** If you or your travel agent call United's toll-free number (1-800-521-4041) to book your reservations, you will receive a 10% discount off the lowest applicable discount fare, excluding First Class, or a 15% discount off full coach fares, with no advance purchase. An additional 5% discount will apply when tickets are purchased at least 60 days in advance of your travel. Discounts also apply on United Express.

**Domestic Travelers:** United is offering a 2% discount off the lowest applicable fares, to all AAFS meeting attendees. An additional 5% discount will apply when tickets are purchased at least 30 days in advance of the attendee's travel. This special offer applies to travel on domestic segments of all United Airlines and United Express flights. UAL / UAX / UA\* convenient schedule and discounted fares are available through United's Meeting Desk or your travel agent. Call 1-800-521-4041 and reference Meeting ID Number 537TJ. Dedicated reservationists are on duty Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST.

For special car rental discounts in conjunction with the meeting, contact: Avis at 1-877-289-2611 and reference the Avis Meeting Discount Number K019303, OR Budget at 1-800-214-6092 and reference the Budget Meeting Discount Number X914201.



## SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability that may impact your participation at the 58th AAFS Annual Meeting, please check the appropriate box on the AAFS Pre-Registration Form (page 25), and include a statement regarding your special needs. Someone from the AAFS headquarters will contact you prior to the meeting to discuss accommodations. Availability of appropriate accommodations cannot be ensured without prior notification of need.

# PROGRAM 2006 — SEATTLE

## NEED TO SHARE A ROOM IN SEATTLE?

If you would like to have more spending money to take in the "must see" sights while in Seattle during the AAFS 2006 Annual Meeting, then share a room!

The AAFS office is maintaining a list of meeting attendees who would like to share a room with a colleague. For more information, please contact the AAFS office at (719) 636-1100.

## ANNUAL MEETING EMPLOYMENT FORUM

Due to an overwhelming response, and often confusing jumble, of traditional job posting boards at the AAFS Annual Meetings, AAFS will be hosting its fourth annual Employment Forum. The intention is to provide a means for employers and applicants to meet, exchange information, conduct informal interviews, or schedule interviews for later in the week.

This special event will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., directly adjacent to the AAFS Welcoming Reception.

Space is limited! Employers, to reserve your place at the Employment Forum, please notify Nancy Jackson at the AAFS headquarters by e-mail: [njackson@aafs.org](mailto:njackson@aafs.org), or fax: (719) 636-1993. Nancy will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Plan on joining us for the AAFS Annual Meeting Employment Forum!

Source: John D. De Haan, PhD, *Section Chair*

After spending days reviewing hundreds of applications for Student Affiliate, Trainee Affiliate, and new Associate Members, it is evident that many graduate and even undergraduate programs in forensic science are encouraging their students to join. This is not only true of older institutions like UI-Chicago, MSU, John Jay, and GWU, but especially of the newer programs like Pace, Virginia Commonwealth, University of North Texas, Arcadia, Marshall, and West Virginia. Congratulations to all of these programs for encouraging students to take part in Academy (and Regional) membership. Thank you to the many volunteers who came forward to assist in contacting the hundreds of affiliates, and even some members, that had not renewed their membership. The amount of “dropped memberships” was overwhelming. Student Affiliates and Trainee Affiliates must submit an eligibility every year to retain their status. Maybe this wasn’t understood by them or their sponsors. While e-mail is a very useful tool for contacting people, it is somewhat ephemeral. Carriers change, servers and services merge or collapse, and e-mail becomes as useful as smoke signals. Many e-mail addresses were found to be faulty in some way with no way of “forwarding” that mail. Students move, graduate, find jobs out of the criminalistics profession and become ineligible. Many Trainee Affiliates find other careers or lose “temporary” positions and become ineligible. What to do? If you are an Affiliate Member, remember to keep the Academy office advised if you move or change your e-mail address. The Academy staff does an amazing job of processing membership information for a huge number of people, but they need your current information to keep you as contributing members of our Academy.

Speaking of contributing, **Lucy Davis Houck** has put together a great technical program for Seattle, so please plan on attending and taking part in the social events (like the free lunch (hint, hint) at the Criminalistics Section Business Meeting). There will also be several great receptions for meeting your colleagues. Remember, you have to attend annual meetings after (or when) you reach Associate or Member status, but before you may be voted on for promotion to the next level.



Source: Laura L. Liptai, PhD, *Section Secretary*

Program Committee Co-Chairs **Holly Adams** and **April Yergin** have been very busy reviewing abstracts for oral presentations and posters, and two full days are filled with the program. There will be very interesting papers on accident reconstruction, tasers, computer forensics and biomedical, environmental and industrial engineering.

Section Fellow **Tom Bohan** underwent double coronary bypass surgery on November 23, 2005. Those of you who know Tom may be surprised to learn that he had an anatomical variant — two arteries in his right arm. If you would like to wish Tom well, cards and letters are welcome at: MTC Forensics, 54 Pleasant Avenue, Peaks Island, ME 04108. We wish Tom a speedy recovery.

See you all in Seattle!



## SECTION & PROGRAM NEWS

### GENERAL

Source: Paul E. Kish, MS, *Section Secretary*

Program Committee Co-Chairs **Julie Howe** and **Gary Deegeear** have been diligently working to assure the section has an educational and enlightening scientific session. The General Section luncheon speaker will captivate your attention while keeping with the conference theme, “Mass Disaster Natural and Man Made.” You should consider registering for the section luncheon. It’s a great opportunity to meet the members of your section.

Section Chair **John Gerns** and Section Secretary **Paul Kish** continue reviewing General Section applicants as well as those applying for promotion within the section. Thus far, we have reviewed nearly 200 applicant and promotion packages.

The positions of General Section Chair and Secretary for the year 2006 are open for election during the 2006 General Section Business Meeting that will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2006. The General Section Nominating Committee, chaired by **Mary Fran Ernst**, received no petitions to place individuals on the ballot for any of the Section Officer positions. Consequently, the committee has nominated **John Gerns** for Section Chair and **Paul Kish** for Section Secretary.

A brief resumé from each candidate nominated by the committee will be mailed to section members before the business meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the business meeting. To be eligible for nomination, an individual must be a Fellow in good standing in the General Section.

# SECTION & PROGRAM NEWS CONT.

## JURISPRUDENCE

Sources: **Betty L. DesPortes, JD, MS, Section Chair**  
**Margaret L. Tarver, JD, MS, Section Secretary**

**A.R.W. Forrest** became President of the UK Forensic Science Society in November 2005.

**Robert Joling**, Chair of the History Committee, asks members to bring with them to Seattle any photos, letters, or other records relating to section activities over the past 50 years. If members cannot attend the Seattle meeting, please mail the materials to him at: 770 W. Greenview Place, Green Valley, AZ 85614, or send the materials as an e-mail attachment to: [rjjoling@cox.net](mailto:rjjoling@cox.net).

**Andre Moenssens** has been retained by the publishing house of John Wiley & Sons as a co-general editor for the *Wiley Encyclopedia of Forensic Science*, tentatively projected to be a 6-volume set published in 2007 (hard copy and online version).

**Michael Perlin** reports that New York Law School will offer two new courses as part of its online, distance learning mental disability law program: (1) International Human Rights and Comparative Mental Disability Law, and (2) Lawyering Skills in the Representation of Persons with Mental Disabilities, as well as a new section of the online class: The Americans with Disabilities Act: Theory, Law and Practice. Anyone interested in registering for any of these courses should contact Prof. Perlin ([mperlin@nyls.edu](mailto:mperlin@nyls.edu)). The courses are appropriate for practicing lawyers, mental health professionals, activists and advocates. The International Human Rights and the ADA courses begin on January 9, 2006; the Lawyering Skills course will begin in late March.

## ODONTOLOGY

Source: **Harvey A. Silverstein, DDS, Section Program Chair**

Happy New Year to all! Soon it will be time to be 'Sleepless in Seattle' for the 2006 AAFS Annual Meeting. The program is now complete and offers something for all section members. There will be a full and varied program on Thursday and Friday. The Tom Krauss Bite Mark Breakfast will feature a Deputy Chief from the New York Fire Department. Check the *Advance Program* for full details about this breakfast lecture. It will be well worth getting up early for, but remember, you must pre-register to attend.

Section Chair **Bryan Chrz** and **Bob Barsley** coordinated a great response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Many AAFS members worked very hard giving their time during this time of need.

Being from Brooklyn, this Section Program Chair was quickly turned into a real cowboy after spending time in Perry, OK, this fall with **Bryan Chrz**. Time was spent herding cows while slipping in cow chips, and washing the calves in preparation for the cattle show.

See you soon in Seattle. Have a happy and healthy new year!

## PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY

Source: **Victor W. Weedn, MD, JD, Section Secretary**

You should make plane and hotel reservations if you have not already done so for the annual meeting in Seattle. Signing up for the interim NAME meeting is also pertinent for many section members.

Please renew your AAFS membership for the 2006 calendar year, if you have not already done so. This can be easily and quickly accomplished online. Dues payments are deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

Everyone is encouraged to check out the AAFS website ([www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)). There are many new things of interest, but some will require your AAFS membership number. The 2005 Membership Survey is a 155 page document prepared by Steve Clark. The survey and the comments received make for interesting reading and points of discussion for the section business meeting.

In terms of general news, it appears that Congress will fund a National Academy of Sciences study on forensic science. The extent, to which medicolegal death investigation will be part of it, remains unclear. The National Association of Counties has called for a national study on death investigation systems. The Bureau of Justice Statistics census on medicolegal death investigation systems is on-going and will be important to the community. Through the efforts of the CFSO, \$18M in Coverdell grants has been garnered for the coming year, a significant increase in such funding.

## PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Source: **Todd W. Fenton, PhD, Section Secretary**

The 58th AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle promises to be an interesting and informative meeting. Program Chair **Mike Warren** ([mwarren@ufl.edu](mailto:mwarren@ufl.edu)) reports that the Physical Anthropology Section will be addressing this year's theme, "Mass Disasters: Natural and Man Made" with more than 20 papers related to anthropology's role in mass fatalities, terrorism, genocide, and the identification of the war dead. Themes range from methodology to logistics, including a special session titled, "Working With Family Members of Decedents: A Discussion of Techniques for Forensic Scientists." The program is once again research-oriented, featuring several new high tech approaches to solving the most pressing research questions. Also, the popular "Forensic Bone Histology" Workshop is again offered this year.

The section business meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22. Section Secretary **Todd Fenton** is still accepting agenda items ([fentont@msu.edu](mailto:fentont@msu.edu)). Todd and Section Chair **Paul Sledzik** are requesting input from members on "New Business," including items involving the

following three ad-hoc committees: Membership; Ethics; and Nominations. The Membership Committee, chaired by **Marilyn London** (mlondon@hers.com), is currently addressing a few issues, including the requirements for the Trainee Affiliate level. The Nominations Committee, chaired by **Beth Murray** (elizabeth\_murray@mail.msje.edu), is examining ways to formalize the officer nomination and selection process. Finally, the Ethics Committee, chaired by **Norm Sauer** (nsauer@msu.edu), is discussing several issues. If members have any comments or questions regarding these committees, please contact the appropriate chairs.

The Ellis R. Kerley Forensic Sciences Foundation Annual Paper Award Committee has announced a new process for the 2006 award. All eligible abstracts (those with an Associate Member, Member, or Fellow as senior author) will be considered. Before the final review is completed, however, an email will be sent to the author asking if they wish to opt out of award consideration. More information is at <http://www.kerleyfoundation.org/>

2005 was another banner year for the section membership, as Paul and Todd have reviewed over 65 applications.

Student Affiliates **Angela Soler** and **Colleen Milligan**, both from Michigan State University, have been awarded graduate fellowships from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Homeland Security Scholarship and Fellowship program is coordinated for the DHS Science and Technology directorate by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, a U.S. Department of Energy facility focusing on scientific initiatives and educational programs. For more information about the Homeland Security Scholarship and Fellowship Program, visit [www.ora.gov/dhsed](http://www.ora.gov/dhsed).

## PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Source: **Stephen B. Billick, MD, Section Secretary**

Section Program Chair **Mohan Nair**, with the assistance of **Manuel Lopez-Leon**, has put together an outstanding program for the section at the upcoming annual meeting. The program emphasizes topics of special importance for today's forensic consultant: legal aspects of sexually violent predator laws, biological treatments of sexual paraphilias, genetic origins of criminal behavior, neuropsychiatry, and neurotoxicology are a just few examples of this rich and diverse upcoming program. Seattle is a terrific city to visit and you won't want to miss it. Plan on attending this exciting group of scientific sessions. Go to [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org) for more information on the meeting.

**Alan Felthous** organized a panel on "Suicide: A Forensic Sampler" investigating and understanding suicide with contributions from four AAFS disciplines which was presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) in Montreal, October 27, 2005. Speakers from each of four sections of the Academy - Jurisprudence, Pathology/Biology, Toxicology, and

Psychiatry & Behavioral Science - were represented in a four part panel presentation on understanding, investigating, and litigating suicide. **Danielle Ruttman**, representing the Jurisprudence Section, described different types of suicide by jumping from heights and in front of subway trains in New York City. She discussed legal aspects of litigating claims of negligence, especially professional negligence, that can arise when a person commits suicide by jumping in front of a train, a not uncommon means of suicide in Manhattan. Pathology/Biology Section member **Julia Goodin**, illustrated by case example how suspected suicides are investigated by post-mortem examination, and how suicides are distinguished from deaths caused by accident or homicide. Although most suicides are accomplished by firearm or by hanging, a significant fraction occur by self-poisoning or overdose. **Daniel Isenschmid**, representing the Toxicology Section, discussed patterns of death in Detroit, in particular suicide by chemical or gaseous (e.g., carbon monoxide) means, and how cases of suspected overdose are investigated by toxicologists. The rate of teenage suicide has increased yearly since the 1950s, according to section member **Stephen Billick**, although the rate has decreased slightly in the past ten years. Of special interest were the recent results of a survey conducted by the Canadian Institute for Health Information that identified five assets consistent with emotional health among Canada's youth. **Robert Weinstock** co-moderated the panel.

# SECTION & PROGRAM NEWS

The AAPL Liaison with Forensic Sciences Committee is planning a forensic sampler on motor vehicle accidents for the 2006 AAPL Meeting in Chicago. **Laura Liptai**, representing Engineering Sciences; **Clare Cunliffe**, Pathology/Biology; **Adam Negrusz**, Toxicology; **Haskell Pitluck**, Jurisprudence; and **Neil Kaye**, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science, will be among the speakers.

Meanwhile, AAPL members with an interest in interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration were encouraged to attend the next annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Seattle, Washington, February 20-25, 2006. Information regarding AAFS and membership were distributed to interested attendees.

**Richard Rosner**, Chair of the section's Nominating Committee, announced that **J. Arturo Silva** will be honored with the Maier J. Tuchler Award, the section's highest award, at the AAFS meeting in February. **Daniel Martell** will be nominated for Fellow-at-Large; **Stephen Billick** for Section Chair, and **John Young** for Section Secretary.

**Stephen Billick** received the AACAP Outstanding Mentor Award of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at their annual meeting October 17, 2005.

The section would like to receive information about its members to be included in the newsletter. Please email [stephen@billick.com](mailto:stephen@billick.com) with news.

## SECTION & PROGRAM NEWS CONT.

### QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

Source: **William M. Riordan, BA, Section Secretary**

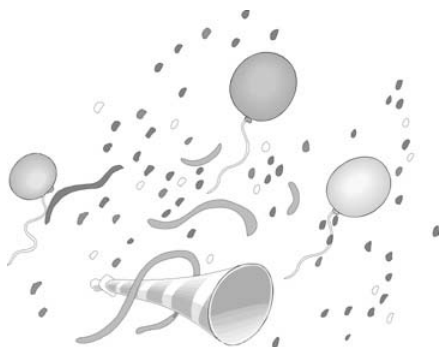
The AAFS annual meeting is next month, and Section Program Co-Chairs **Jim Tarver** and **Dave Oleksow** have developed a great program. All section members are encouraged to come to Seattle and participate in the February meeting.

The 2006 program will include a multi-disciplined workshop entitled, "How Frye & Daubert Have Changed the Presentation of Criminalistics & Questioned Documents in Court" which will begin with an introduction by Judge **Joseph Maltese**, who will present an overview and basics of the historical *Frye* Standard and the current standards developed from the *Daubert* trilogy of cases. **Andre Moenssens**, the next speaker, will be discussing how *Frye* and *Daubert* have changed the presentation of criminalistics, fingerprints, and questioned documents in court. **Robert Muehlberger** will discuss preparing for and testifying in a *Daubert* challenge to forensic document examination, particularly in the area of handwriting comparison. **Max Houck** will discuss the expert's role in gaining admissibility for trace evidence with an emphasis on forensic hair examination and comparison. Also, **John Lentini** will cover the admissibility challenges faced by experts testifying in a variety of types of suspicious fire cases.

This workshop has been designed to give a clear understanding of the legal requirements outlined in *Daubert* and subsequent decisions for expert testimony, and to provide some examples of how expert witnesses have handled the challenge of admissibility hearings. There will be time for questions after each presentation and an open forum at the end of the session. Because the workshop will be limited to approximately one hundred participants and availability will be equally provided to the Criminalistics, Jurisprudence, and Questioned Documents Sections, interested members are urged to sign-up early.

Anyone with questions regarding the 2006 program should contact Jim ([james.tarver@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:james.tarver@wsp.wa.gov)) or Dave ([doleksow@att.net](mailto:doleksow@att.net)).

Remember to support the Questioned Documents Section by attending the annual meeting and encourage a colleague to attend.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### TOXICOLOGY

Source: **Robert A. Middleberg, PhD, Section Program Chair**

The toxicology program for the 58th AAFS Annual Meeting is set! The program is certainly exciting and action packed. There will be 26 poster presentations, 32 platform presentations, the Annual Forensic Pediatric Toxicology Session, the Awardees' Reception, the Open Toxicology Forum, and the Annual Lectureship. Included in the platform presentations will be a special session dedicated to updates in Drugs and Driving and two multidisciplinary sessions, one with Pathology/Biology and one with Jurisprudence. Thanks to all of you that submitted such high quality abstracts and those who helped review them. Socially, besides Academy-sponsored events, the Annual "SOFT Night Out" is certainly bound to be exciting under the oversight of **Ann Marie Gordon**.

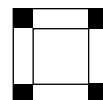
Obviously, putting together such a program requires the assistance of many people, some whom deserve special recognition, including: **Peter Stout**; **Sarah Kerrigan** (even in the face of giving birth!); **Lee Blum**; **Ed Barbieri**; **Laura Labay**; **Tony Costantino**; **Sondra Doolittle** (of the AAFS office); and **Paula Oberholzer**. Additionally, sponsors of this year's Toxicology Program include *Agilent*; *Cerilliant*; *Immunalysis*; *National Medical Services*; *Neogen*; *United Chemical Technologies*; and *Waters*, have been extremely generous thereby allowing us to offer a strong scientific and socially rewarding event. A sincere thanks to each of them for their continued support of our endeavors.

As reflected by the number of abstract submissions, I suggest making your reservations for the meeting as early as possible. Seattle is always a popular venue and, undoubtedly, the meeting will be well attended. So, gather your umbrellas, your yearning for coffee and your thirst for knowledge and fun and join us for what promises to be a meeting worth remembering.

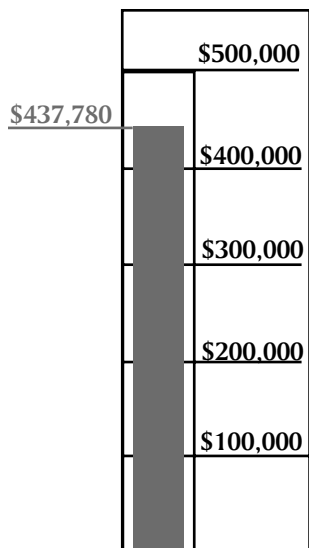
On a sad note, many of you will have learned of the loss of **Fredric Rieders** to the toxicology community. Dr. Rieders, the founder of National Medical Services, dedicated his working life, along with some other vaunted colleagues, to forensic toxicology in a way that reflects a unique breed of individual. He was respected worldwide for his innovation and constant striving to push forensic toxicology forward. To me, he was my mentor, my "hair shirt" as he liked to say, my patriarchal surrogate and, if I could be so bold, my friend. His legacies abound, including the development of one of the world's most respected private toxicology laboratories and, his pride, a Foundation, the Forensic Mentor's Institute, for the teaching of forensic science to underprivileged high school students. But his greatest legacy, in his mind, was his family, but not just his immediate family. He considered all those practicing forensic toxicology as part of his extended family, a true reflection for his love of the field. And just like the loss of any family member, I, and our community, will miss him the same.

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 has been inadvertently omitted and contact the AAFS office as soon as possible with the correction. This listing reflects contributions received from 8/01/05 through 12/01/05.

*The Fund's balance through 12/01/05 was \$437,780. Additionally, the Endowment has provided \$68,962.50 in awards and grants since its inception in 1990.*



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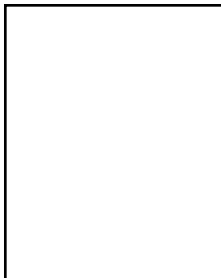
American Academy of  
Forensic Sciences

# FSF TRAVEL GRANT ESSAY WINNERS

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is proud to announce the winners of the “Annual Meeting Travel Grant for Students” essay contest. This Travel Grant will assist with travel expenses in attending the 2006 American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.

The FSF Board of Trustees was able to approve the expenses, not to exceed \$600 per student, for up to three students this year. A complimentary meeting registration is included with the \$600 grant for travel expenses. It is hoped more student support will become available in the future.

Applications were judged by the FSF Travel Grant Task Force on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being outstanding) based on the documents submitted. This year’s winners are Joan Bienvenue, Danielle Miller, and Kelly Rees. Their essays follow.



**Joan Bienvenue, MS**, is a fifth year doctoral student in chemistry at the University of Virginia in the laboratory of Dr. James Landers. She received her BS in chemistry from Rivier College, Nashua, NH, and went on to pursue her MS in forensic science at the University of New Haven, West Haven, CT. Following her master’s and an internship at the New Hampshire State Police Crime Laboratory, she joined the Landers laboratory where her research has focused on the development of microfluidic devices for genetic analysis. Specifically, Joan’s research has centered on DNA extraction in microfluidic systems and integration of sample processing for genetic analysis in microdevices. Following completion of her doctorate, Joan hopes to pursue a postdoctoral position in a forensic research laboratory setting.

## Forensic Sciences Foundation Student Travel Grant Award Essay

Currently entering my fifth and final year as a graduate student in the Chemistry Department at the University of Virginia, I am hoping to complete my doctoral dissertation by the summer of 2006. Consequently, it is my intent to utilize my experience at and participation in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting as a means to explore postdoctoral opportunities in forensic science. Having previously attended and presented at the annual meeting several times since becoming a Student Affiliate in 2001 (2002 attendee, 2004 poster presentation, 2005 oral and poster presentation), I have already reaped the many benefits of this international meeting, forming lasting contacts with potential collaborators, interacting with my peers and more established members of the community, while broadening my knowledge of the field by attending a wide variety of research presentations. In addition, I have obtained invaluable feedback from the community on the research that I have presented which has allowed me to further explore, refine, and improve the methods being developed by myself and others in the research lab I belong to. These past experiences have permitted me to grow and mature as a young scientist in the field, providing an excellent view of the potential for future career advancement following my doctoral degree.

For this year’s meeting, in anticipation of my graduation, I have submitted abstracts for one oral and two poster presentations on my research and, in addition, was just recently invited to moderate a session. I believe these opportunities would provide an excellent occasion for me to further extend my contacts in the field, as well as offer me, as in previous years, the added chance for the enlightened and constructive feedback on my current research that has proven so invaluable to me throughout my graduate career. I realize the importance of this opportunity to present my research to a wide audience of caseworkers, researchers, and scientists, and I value the chance to have my results challenged and critiqued by this diverse community. I will be presenting the advancements of our microfluidic technology for forensic genetic analysis (previously presented on at the 2005 meeting) which I hope will invite collaborative discussions with other researchers and caseworkers. In addition, I will be presenting data from two new research projects, and it is my desire to engage in an active dialogue with the members of the forensics community to help determine future application, research direction, and strategies for these fledgling ideas. It is through these discussions that I hope to improve and expand my research in the time I have left at the University of Virginia and which future career path best suits my talents, interests, and abilities, as well as where I can best contribute to the field.

I firmly believe that the AAFS Annual Meeting brings the forensic science community together for scientific discourse that allows for the betterment of the field and, as a result, believe it also offers one of the best opportunities for the career development of young forensic scientists. Accordingly, I believe that my attendance and participation in the 2006 meeting is of critical importance to my future career goals and decisions and would appreciate your consideration of my application for a travel grant to aid in my effort to attend.





**Danielle Miller, BS**, is currently an MA student at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She received a BS in biology and a minor in Spanish from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and completed both the Medicolegal Death Investigation Course at St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO, and Neal Haskell's Forensic Entomology Course at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, IN. She runs the anthropology library at MU and works in the Human Skeletal Identification lab for Dr. Daniel Wescott. Her research interests include blunt and sharp force trauma, taphonomy, human and animal paleopathology, and zooarchaeology.

#### **Forensic Sciences Foundation Student Travel Grant Award Essay**

I am a second year master's student at the University of Missouri-Columbia studying physical anthropology with an emphasis in forensic anthropology. Last year was my first AAFS conference, and I discovered it to be a great place to meet and interact with anthropologists as well as scientists in other fields. It was also an excellent opportunity to learn about current research in a number of disciplines. The contacts made and the knowledge gained last year has already significantly influenced my career directions. My attendance at this year's meeting will not only help me make further contacts and learn about new research, but will also greatly impact my current thesis research.

My thesis research is aimed at examining gross and microscopic changes in long bone cut marks and fracture morphology at multiple intervals during a 141 day postmortem exposure period and how these changes, if any, correlate with the moisture content of the bone. Little is known about why, how, or exactly when bone ceases to appear perimortem in its response to modification and instead begins to manifest postmortem modification characters. The purpose of my thesis is to more clearly define the differences in cut mark and fracture macro- and microscopic characteristics when evaluated at 28 day intervals over a period of 141 days. Using this data, I hope to establish a "perimortem interval" for the given variables and environment. I am also developing a detailed analysis protocol for skeletal modifications that will aid in the determination of whether a bone was modified postmortem or perimortem.

Since June 2005, I have been subjecting bones in various stages of decomposition to both blunt and sharp force trauma. As part of my research, I will have a number of forensic anthropologists attending the AAFS meeting evaluate a sample of these bones and characterize the trauma as perimortem or postmortem. Last year I spoke to a number of individuals who agreed to participate. I will also have these professionals describe the characteristics they used in their evaluations. This will greatly aid my effort to learn more about how the timing of blunt and sharp force trauma is evaluated by these professionals.

The University of Missouri has a fairly small anthropology department and a quite limited travel budget. This grant will provide me with an opportunity to consult with a large number of professionals in one central location.

In closing, attending the 2006 AAFS meeting will greatly impact my future career goals in the forensic sciences. I will use the opportunity to interact with other scientists, learn about new research, and strengthen my thesis research. The opportunity to have a number of qualified professionals evaluate my specimens will provide valuable information for both my thesis and future research regarding trauma analysis standardization. The FSF travel grant will ensure that I do not miss this excellent opportunity to further my research and career.



**Kelly A. Rees, BSc**, was born in Swansea, Wales. She has gained a first class degree in physical geography and geology from the University of Glamorgan. Following this she directed her education toward forensics and moved to Bournemouth, England, to study for an MSc in forensic archaeology and international crime scene investigations. Kelly's research project for the MSc has examined the effects of heat on the survival of DNA in the pulp cavity of porcine molars, and the relationship between pulp temperature and furnace temperature. Kelly received funding from the American Society of Forensic Odontology for this project. She is currently completing her dissertation, after which time she will graduate and receive her MSc. Since completing the taught section of her MSc program, Kelly has moved back to Wales and is studying forensic chemistry at Glamorgan University.

She is now in the second year of the degree. Kelly works part time at an accredited drug testing laboratory while attending the university. After graduation, she hopes to work in the U.S. in the field of criminalistics. She is also interested in working in research with a focus on forensic taphonomy and time since death.

#### **Forensic Sciences Foundation Student Travel Grant Award Essay**

I have attended the last two AAFS meetings as a volunteer and funded the trips myself. It has put a strain on my finances two years running, but this has not deterred me from attending. My passion for criminalistics became clear around three years ago when I began reading forensic based novels and watching forensic documentaries; I knew that I would enjoy the challenge involved with this type of work. Despite the fact I was currently in my final year of BSc physical geography and geology, I was determined to seek a career in forensics. I enrolled on an MSc course in forensic archaeology and international crime scene investigation. The course was fascinating and I began looking into possible careers in the UK. Unfortunately I discovered that I would have to choose between scene of crime work and the laboratory analysis of evidence. This discovery was frustrating as I would ideally like to be involved with all aspects of crime scene investigation including laboratory analysis. After more research I discovered that the career I desired existed in the United States and attending the AAFS conference seemed logical if I was to pursue a career as a criminalist in America.

The best way I can describe how attending the AAFS meeting in 2006 will impact my career decision is to explain the impact attending the last two meetings has already had. I attended my first meeting in Dallas (2004) when I was studying for my master's. I hoped to speak to professionals regarding possible placements/internships in the fields of criminalistics. After speaking to several people at the conference I was informed that I would need a chemistry qualification if I wanted a serious career in this field. On my return to the UK I began looking into chemistry courses and enrolled myself on BSc forensic chemistry at Glamorgan University. I am now entering the second year of this degree. Whilst at the 2004 meeting I was fortunate enough to speak with Victor Weedn who gave me invaluable advice regarding DNA analysis; the main focus of my MSc research project. Although logistical problems prevented me from carrying out the experiment in the summer of 2004, I was granted an extension and have recently completed my research.

During my second trip to the States I attended the AAFS meeting in New Orleans (2005). At this meeting I met Dr. Tom Richardson, a forensic dentist who advised me on the logistics of my MSc project and became so involved that he traveled to the UK to help with the harvesting of the teeth (an incredibly difficult task). Without his help it might not have been possible to carry out the experiment to such a high standard. At the New Orleans meeting I also heard about an opportunity to apply for funding from the AAFS and ASFO, I accepted \$900 from the ASFO. The funding has had a significant impact on my research as I have been able to afford vital supplies and materials needed for the project. I will be presenting my findings at the 2007 AAFS meeting in the odontology section and I hope to publish these findings in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

Attending the AAFS meetings has already helped me achieve so much and knowing the positive affect it has had on my career thus far, I know that attending the next one can only benefit me further. Aside from the educational aspect, becoming acquainted with potential employers and making professional contacts is the main reason for my attending the meetings, and, since I will be qualified and seeking employment in the States two years from now, I feel that this process is a vital one. It is especially important that I attend the Seattle meeting as I should have the opportunity to meet a representative from the Aegis Laboratory in Nashville, TN, where I will be applying for an internship on completion of my degree. I hope that by introducing myself to professionals from this laboratory, I will be increasing my chances of being chosen from a long list of candidates.

I have no doubt that even without the grant I will still attend the 2006 meeting; I just hope that you will seriously consider me for the award as it would provide me with a much needed financial resource.

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## FSF ANNOUNCES 2005-06 LUCAS AND ACORN GRANT RECIPIENTS

Five Douglas M. Lucas Grants were awarded, totaling \$8,250:

Ann W. Bunch, PhD — \$750 for *The Decomposition Process in Cold Climate*

Dennis C. Dirkmaat, PhD — \$1,500 for *Assessing Effectiveness, Efficiency and Accuracy of Recovery and Documentation Protocols for Multiple-Victim Scenes*

James P. Landers, PhD, Katie M. Horsman, and Michael G. Roper, PhD — \$3,000 for *Multi-color Capillary-Electrophoretic Immunoassay for Identification and Species Determination of Suspected Bloodstains*

O.C. Smith, MD, and Elayne Pope, MA — \$1,500 for *Forensic Fires: Correlation Environment with Burn Patterns of Fire Victims*

Steven A. Symes, PhD, and Anne M. Kroman, MA — \$1,500 for *A Reassessment of Human Skeletal Trauma Molding and Casting Methodologies: Preserving the Evidence*

In addition, five Acorn Grants totaling \$1,750 were awarded for the following proposals:

Marie E. Danforth — \$300 for *Assessment of Ancestral Affinity Using Mandible Metrics*

Joanne Bennett Devlin, PhD — \$450 for *Extraction of DNA From Experimentally Burned Bone*

Danielle Miller — \$500 for *Perimortem Characteristics of Blunt Force Fractures and Hacksaw Cut Marks and the Degree of Bone Dryness Resulting From Postmortem Taphonomic Processes*

Salvador L. Murillo, BS, and Steven B. Lee, PhD — \$200 for *Recovery of DNA From Human Blood Bound in Unique Substrates*

Vicki Wedel — \$300 for *Determination of Season at Death Using Dental Cementum Increment Analysis*

Congratulations to all of the 2005-06 FSF Grant recipients! The 2005-06 FSF Research Committee is comprised of **Gil Brogdon** (Chair), **Carla Noziglia**, **Diane France**, **John McDowell**, **Mechild Prinz**, **Cynthia Windsor**, and **James Young**. The deadline for all FSF Research Grant submissions is June 15, 2006.

# GRIZZLY MAN: MOVIE REVIEW OF A BIZARRE DEATH IN THE WILDERNESS

Source: *Mark L. Taff, MD*

For medical examiners who cannot get enough of the bizarre from their own caseload, then “Grizzly Man” is just the forensic flick for you. In a nutshell (with emphasis on nuts as in crazy), this documentary film directed by Werner Herzog is about a displaced mentally disturbed New Yorker named Timothy Treadwell who decides not to conveniently commit suicide by jumping into the polar bear cage in Central Park. Instead, he follows his version of Henry David Thoreau’s back-to-nature death wish all the way to scenic Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska where he and love-blinded girlfriend Amie Huguenard become Yogi’s and Boo Boo’s picnic lunch.

Treadwell, a 47-year-old white male, has an unimpressive CV consisting of injured competitive swimmer, hobbyist surfer, rejected sitcom actor, and drug overdose survivor. For some illogical ecological reason, Treadwell reinvents himself as Dr. Doolittle who engages in deranged dialogues with dangerous grizzly bears and foxes memorialized on his home-on-the-range video camera. After about 13 summers of successfully playing “Grizzly Bear Roulette,” his luck runs out and he ends up being retrieved by rescuers in bits and pieces from the digestive tract of one of his old bear buddies.

Medical examiners will probably find the morgue scenes starring Franc Fallico most enlightening as to how a rural coroner handles a death by multiple “bear” force trauma and the restitution of personal property/evidence to a significant other (Treadwell’s wristwatch was still ticking after taking a bear licking!). Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on one’s comfort zone with reality), the

audience never gets to see or hear the actual mauling and devouring. The reconstruction of the animal attack is nicely performed by the coroner in true Vincent Price fashion based on autopsy findings and a 6-minute audiotape recovered from one of Treadwell’s video cameras. Interviews with people who knew Treadwell before he met his fate also provide viewers food for thought about the benefits of conducting psychological autopsies on psycho-eccentrics involved in equivocal deaths.

Unfortunately, other trendy medicolegal issues such as classification of manner of death (suicide, accident, or undetermined), conscious pain and suffering, wrongful death litigation, criminal trespass, victim contributory negligence, and park range negligence were never raised in the film. Even if these issues were not specifically addressed, the movie will definitely stimulate viewing medical examiners to think about them.

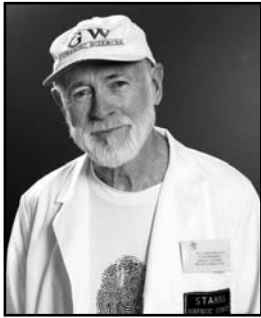
Since truth is stranger than forensics, it is only a question of time that the sequel will be made about a bipolar inuit with paranoid schizophrenic tendencies who comes to New York where he thinks he can befriend taxicab drivers during rush hour traffic and instead ends up in the city morgue. Having lived in New York for over 50 years, there is a good chance the case has already happened and the movie “Taxi Man” is ready for release at a selected theater near you.

*Dr. Taff is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology at the Mount Sinai Medical School in New York, NY. He is also a Member of the Academy’s Pathology/Biology Section.*

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# THE SUPREME COURT CONFRONTS A SELF-INFLICTED WOUND



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The United States Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights, is not a stable, immutable document even though the newspapers currently emphasize a contrary point of view in connection with the nomination of new members to the Supreme Court bench. A recent and startlingly unexpected reflection of the ongoing evolutionary aspects of the Bill of Rights occurred with the decision on March 8,

2004, in Crawford v. Washington (124 S.Ct. 1354 (2004)). Writing for a seven member majority of the court Justice Scalia upended the 1980 decision of Justice Blackmun for the same court in Ohio v. Roberts (100 S.Ct. 2531 (1980)).

The impact of the overruling of Ohio v. Roberts has been far-reaching, especially with respect to forensic scientists of whatever stripe. Why, simply because the ability of forensic scientists to substitute a written report, affidavit or even deposition in lieu of oral in court testimony has now been rendered all but passé as being in violation of the new-found construction of the Confrontation Clause of the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The opinion in Crawford is responsible for this sea change but Crawford, in engraving a radically revised meaning onto the Confrontation Clause of the Sixth Amendment, is not yet a done deed. The decisions flowing from the state and Federal courts in its wake have evoked a situation of near chaos forcing further evaluation by the Supreme Court of the appropriate application of the new standard articulated in Crawford. The dire need for re-interpretation can be said to have been occasioned by the Supreme Court's self-inflicted wound adumbrated in Crawford. It is this essay's objective to elucidate that self-inflicted wound for the understanding of forensic scientists and to point to the measures now in play to minimize its consequences. But first to the decision in Crawford v. Washington.

Michael Crawford was charged in a Washington state court with assault and attempted murder of Kenneth Lee. The motive was, in the prosecution's estimation, to even the score. Crawford was incensed over Lee's attempt to rape Crawford's wife, Sylvia. As a consequence of his anger he and Sylvia tracked Lee to his apartment where in a violent scuffle Lee was stabbed by Crawford. Sylvia was an onlooker but only a bystander to the affray. So much was uncontroverted at the trial.

At his state court trial Crawford maintained he acted in self-defense only after Lee had either attacked him or was gesturing menacingly to do so. Due to Crawford's invoking the immunity of the marital privilege Sylvia did not testify in his behalf. But the prosecution was granted leave to introduce Sylvia's tape recorded, Miranda-warned interrogation by the police, which could be interpreted as sandbagging her husband's claim of self-defense.

Even though Sylvia's recorded statement was hearsay it was admissible as a hearsay exception since her statement was against her own penal interest. Crawford objected to his wife's recorded testimony being admitted as being in violation of his Sixth Amendment Right of Confrontation. The Washington Supreme Court disagreed, citing Ohio v. Roberts to buoy it.

In the United States Supreme Court the majority of seven justices, in an opinion by Justice Scalia (with then Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justice O'Connor dissenting), refused to follow the path that had been set out in 1980 in Ohio v. Roberts. In Roberts former Justice Blackmun had concluded, over the strong, even testy, dissent of Justice Brennan, joined by Justices Marshall and Stevens, that hearsay evidence will not contravene the Confrontation Clause so long as there is "adequate indicia of reliability." That standard, described by Justice Scalia in Crawford as "amorphous" and contingent on the "vagaries of the rules of evidence," left much to the discretion of the trial court. Justice Scalia was far more anxious to have the truth or falsity of such hearsay subject to "testing in the crucible of cross-examination" rather than the subjective judgment of each trial judge, state and federal.

The raison d'être for Justice Scalia's position was based in the historical meaning of the Confrontation Clause, as the majority perceived it. He summed up his view in the statement that "categorical constitutional guarantees" of the likes of the Confrontation Clause should not be bested by "open-ended balancing tests" of the "manipulable" and "vague" kind Ohio v. Roberts promulgated. The key word in his analysis was "categorical."

But the guarantee of the right of confrontation firmly implanted in the Sixth Amendment is categorical only when the subject to be confronted is testimonial in nature. Other evidence which is rightly termed non-testimonial, in the majority's opinion, was outside the categorical confines of the Confrontation Clause. As to that evidence the States were accorded the "flexibility" to subject them to their own local hearsay rules or to exempt them from "Confrontation Clause scrutiny altogether."

Testimonial evidence was said to be bounded by the dual requirements of "unavailability (of the declarant) and a prior opportunity for cross-examination." The question that the majority left unresolved was the linchpin distinguishing testimonial from non-testimonial evidence.

Was the test to be whether the declarant knew or should, as a reasonable person, have known that the evidence was litigation-bound? Or was it to be a question of the involvement of law enforcement in the gathering of the evidence, the lack of which would demonstrate the evidence's non-testimonial nature? Is the sum and substance of the Confrontation Clause to be restricted to "statements" which "are the product of government efforts to garner evidence" against an accused? (the view of Whitebread and Slobogin in Criminal Procedure: An Analysis of Cases and Concepts, N.Y.: Foundation Press, 4th Ed., 2005 Supp., p. 59).

Or was the measure of testimonial evidence to be marked by some other yardstick, keeping firmly in mind the

need to eschew Roberts case by case and therefore “unpredictable” standardless standard? In answer Justice Scalia chose to leave the inquiry untouched. “(W)e leave for another day any effort to spell out a comprehensive definition of ‘testimonial’,” he said.

As a result the decision on this momentous, even crucial, issue was left to fester and to foment as a self-inflicted wound awaiting a future decision from the Supreme Court to give it more ballast than sail. The gestation period for the arrival of such a definitional opportunity was to be short, what with the Supreme Court’s granting certiorari in 2005 to Davis v. Washington 905-5224) and Hammon v. Indiana (05-5705).

Both of these cases are linked by the testimonial vs. non-testimonial problems bulking large in them as well as by the fact that they both stem from domestic disputes, not that that fact should have a bearing on the pending constitutional issue in them. In Davis (111 P.3d 844 (Wash. 2005)) it was an abused woman’s 911 phone call which was the centerpiece of the prosecution’s case against Adrian David for the felony of violating a no-contact order. The Washington Supreme Court, as did the lower courts in Washington, upheld the admission of the 911 tape in lieu of the victim’s testimony at Davis’ trial. The emergency 911 call was declared to be non-testimonial under the Washington court’s construction of Crawford.

In Hammon (829 N.E. 2d 444 (Ind. 2005)) the police responded to a domestic disturbance report and generated two evidentiary items introduced at Hershel Hammon’s trial for Domestic Battery. The first of these incriminating details came from the words spoken by his wife, Amy Hammon, to the police during their preliminary inquiries at the Hammon’s home. The second was an affidavit of the occurrence under police investigation given to the police by Amy Hammon who did not testify at her husband’s trial.

The Indiana Supreme Court held the Confrontation Clause as interpreted in Crawford to have been violated when Amy’s affidavit was put into evidence in her absence at the trial. But her oral statements to the police, unlike her affidavit, were said to be non-testimonial and as such beyond the reach of the Confrontation Clause. The different outcomes as between the two statements rested on the formal, litigation-conscious nature of the affidavit in contrast to the less formal, less litigation-driven oral statements to the police by the wife, Amy Hammon.

In none of these decisions, not Roberts, not Crawford, not Davis, not Hammon, were forensic scientists or even expert witnesses involved. But hold! That feature is an insufficient basis for experts, scientists or otherwise, to heave a misguided sigh of relief. Much in the forensic workings of experts is implicated by the Confrontation Clause, so long as the opinions or work product of those experts are presented in court without an opportunity for the accused to cross-examine the individuals themselves as required by the Confrontation Clause, unless that right is knowingly waived. The state and federal court decisions since Crawford have made that fact pellucidly clear, if not also with the clarity and persuasion required by Crawford nor with any serious effort to court uniformity or to avoid embranglement.

The decision in People v. Lonsby (2005 Mich.App. Lexis 2533) is paradigmatic. Larry James Lonsby, a step grandfather, was charged and convicted if first-degree criminal sexual conduct with his twelve-year-old step-granddaughter. In the main the case, without the scientific evidence, was a question of credibility between the twelve-year-old’s version of the events and that of Lonsby, supported in some measure by the testimony of his wife, the girl’s grandmother. It was a classic case of he said – she said until the crime lab’s report played its pivotal role.

The twelve-year-old said that she had acceded to Lonsby’s request to touch his penis, which had caused him to ejaculate leaving a seminal stain on his swim trunks. Lonsby, however, testified that he never asked his granddaughter to touch his genitals and that the stain on his trunks was urine, not semen. It seemed like the perfect situation for the interposition of the crime laboratory.

The state police crime lab’s serologist, Melinda Jackson, tested the stain and recorded her testing and findings in her lab notes and her report. Jackson, in spite of her testing, did not testify at Lonsby’s trial for some unexplained reason. In her place another serologist, David Woodford testified to the testing and the results of the testing by Jackson. Woodford had not himself done the testing nor did he participate in a supervisory role or otherwise at Jackson’s testing. However he did testify that *we* did find semen when *we* tested the stain. Further he testified that two “foreign pubic hairs” were found on the twelve-year-old’s swim suit. He *guessed* about the reason Jackson had not done hair testing on those two samples. The trial was replete with the prosecutor’s emphasizing to the jury “the considerable importance of Woodford’s testimony regarding Jackson’s tests and observations ... to bolster” the state’s case against Lonsby.

The Michigan Court of Appeals reversed Lonsby’s convictions due to the prejudicial error occurring at the trial when Woodford, acting “as a mere conduit for the opinion of” Jackson, was allowed to testify disabling Lonsby from fully exercising his Right of Confrontation as defined by the Supreme Court in Crawford. Not only had Woodford only “read from, summarized, interpreted, and speculated from Jackson’s written notes,” but Jackson’s work was said to be directed by the “ultimate goal of uncovering evidence against a defendant and successfully prosecuting him.” Both were, therefore, functioning as agents of law enforcement and, as such, not impartial, objective experts as medical examiners and coroners are frequently said to be in order to negate the taint of law enforcement partiality.

Speaking of medical examiners and coroners a very recent opinion from the Kansas Supreme Court (State v. Lackey) is more than instructive for it adds an ingredient to the confrontation mix not previously examined or remarked upon in Crawford although it has been featured in some state cases presented with Confrontation Clause and hearsay conundrums. (Moreno Denoso v. State, 156 S.W. 3d 166 (Tex. App. 2005 and People v. Durio, 794 N.Y.S. 2d 863 (N.Y. Kings County Sup. Ct. 2005)). The issue is two-fold: first, will the presumptive non-litigation aspects of the work of the expert whose report, in the absence of his/her oral testimony, is received in evidence be a basis for deciding that

## THE SUPREME COURT CONFRONTS A SELF-INFLICTED WOUND CONT.

the report is therefore non-testimonial? Secondly, will the practical effects of holding such a report to be testimonial be a sufficient cause to find it to be non-testimonial?

The prosecution of Robert Henry Lackey II for premeditated murder and rape resulted from a cold case review many years after the crime had occurred. It appears implicit in the Kansas Supreme Court's extensive opinion affirming Lackey's convictions that the genesis of the cold case review was the availability of DNA profiling.

The murder occurred in Salina, Kansas in December 1982, and went unprosecuted until 2002 when, through an extradition from Alabama, Lackey was brought back to Kansas to stand trial. The investigation of the crime had gone dormant from 1982 until 1996 when Canadian officials brought Lackey's possible involvement (he then being known by the alias Robert Moore) in the crime to the attention to Kansas law enforcement authorities. Fortunately relevant samples of the deceased victim's bodily fluids and her stained garments had been preserved for DNA profiling. Lackey submitted a sample of his blood to go along with stains from an undergarment found under his bed at the time of the investigation of the murder in 1982. The DNA was found to be a match with the random probability of its being that of someone other than Lackey in the Caucasian population said to be 1 in 194 billion.

With such weighty evidence against him what defense could Lackey possibly present in his own behalf? He argued that the time of death was an issue which stood to exonerate him and the estimate of the time of death by the medicos at the time of the victim's death and at the time of his trial was grievously flawed. It was on this matter that the Confrontation Clause became a crucial concern.

The facts revealed that in 1982 the local coroner Dr. David Clark observed the deceased where her body was found and released the body to Dr. William Eckert, who was deceased at the Lackey trial in 2002, for an autopsy. Dr. Eckert conducted the autopsy and submitted his report of his findings. At the trial in 2002 Dr. Erik Mitchell gave evidence, over a Confrontation Clause objection, based on Dr. Eckert's report as to the cause of death of the victim and that she had been dead "at least 1 or 2 days prior to the body's discovery" or possibly longer. Dr. Clark had reported the victim as having been dead "6 to 8 days" when found.

Among other controverted matters brought to the attention of the Kansas high court on Lackey's appeal the correct interpretation of the relevance of Caldwell's reassessment of the meaning of the Confrontation Clause was a focal point.

On that score the court decided that the testimony of Dr. Clark, although hearsay, did not offend the Sixth Amendment since, under Caldwell, it was non-testimonial, not testimonial. The court's reasoning was at best creative and at worst erroneous. Which of the two it might be in the Supreme Court's estimation remains to be seen.

The Kansas reviewing court was much moved by what it described as "the practical implications" of finding Dr. Mitchell's reliance on the autopsy report of Dr. Eckert to be testimonial and in view of Dr. Eckert's death not subject to cross-examination in 2002. Quoting from a New York State trial court's opinion (People v. Durio, supra) the court said "Certainly it would be against society's interests to permit the unavailability of the medical examiner who prepared the report to preclude the prosecution of a homicide case." That viewpoint is entirely inapposite under the protections provided to the accused under the Confrontation Clause. In the same vein of expedience the Kansas court stated its antagonism to the likelihood that its holding might have the untoward result of "requiring the pathologist who performed the autopsy to testify in every criminal proceeding... We view this as a harsh and unnecessary result."

The opinion in the Kansas Supreme Court took a solomonic approach, giving a modicum of solace to the defense and an equal share to the prosecution. The parties were told that "factual, routine, descriptive, and nonanalytical findings made in an autopsy report are nontestimonial and may be admitted without the testimony of the medical examiner." On the contrary, "contested opinions, speculations, and conclusions drawn from the objective findings in the report are testimonial and are subject to the Sixth Amendment right of cross-examination set forth in Crawford." However, after announcing this very pragmatic resolution of the Confrontation Clause enigma it was decided that the evidence against Lackey was so overwhelming that the Eckert autopsy report and Dr. Mitchell's reliance upon it was in any event of minimal significance in the conviction of Lackey. In short, receiving it in evidence at the Lackey trial was harmless error.

It may well be that all the pathos and confusion consequent upon Caldwell will boil down to a very subjective, case by case analysis founded on the Supreme Court's toleration of the harmless error doctrine in this context. It may well be the most pervasive paradox that in sidestepping one "amorphous" standard under Roberts the Supreme Court, via the harmless error route, will be backed into another equally "amorphous" and vague and case dependent and non-categorical rubric that will upend all the historical and categorical gleanings of Caldwell.

## IN MEMORIAM

Arthur D. Goldman, DMD, Retired Fellow of the Odontology Section, December 2005.

Kim Kruglick, JD, Associate Member of the Jurisprudence Section, October 2005.

Fredric Rieders, PhD, Fellow of the Toxicology Section, November 2005.

The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. **Applications that are received and completed by October 1, 2005, will be considered for approval at the February 2006 Board of Directors Meeting.** Due to space constraints, AAFS does not list members who are applying for promotion to Fellow or to Member. Comments regarding an applicant should be submitted in writing to: Kimberly Wrasse, Membership Services Coordinator, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2798. **Comments must be received by February 15, 2006.**

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# Young Forensic Scientists Forum *Newsletter*

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES**

January 2006

Editor: Jeannette M. Perr, PhD

## YFSF Special Session

The 2006 Young Forensic Science Forum Special Session is a must see event for any “young forensic scientist” who will be attending the AAFS meeting in Seattle. “Young forensic scientist” is a title for people who are new to the field of forensic science, not necessarily young people. The YFSF is a good place to start getting to know others in the profession. AAFS membership is not required to participate in the Young Forensic Scientists Forum.

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. Due to the focus by the media on certain careers in forensic science, many aspiring and emerging scientists are not aware of the diversity of careers in the field. This year’s session, “Frontiers in Forensic Science,” will focus on a variety of aspects to forensic science that many people are unaware exist or fall under the discipline of forensic science.

We have assembled twelve presentations from perhaps the most diverse and interesting backgrounds in forensic science today. A new presentation that has been added to the schedule is “The New York County District Attorney’s Cold Case DNA Project” which will be given by Martha Bashford and Melissa Mourges — both Assistant District Attorneys working on the project. Another can’t miss this year will be the 3rd Annual YFSF Poster Session Social, which is being held on Tuesday night after the Special Session. The annual breakfast is shaping up to be the best yet which will include a panel discussion on interviewing skills, a resume review, and a presentation on how to approach writing Knowledge Skills and Agility (KSA) questions. Hope to see you in Seattle!

— Allison Curran, PhD  
YFSF President

## YFSF Bring Your Own Poster

The Young Forensic Scientists Forum is hosting a poster session to be held at the 58th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. This is an excellent chance for students and those new to the field to present their research or work. Also, all levels of education and expertise are welcome to present ongoing research and case studies at the session.

Last year’s poster session featured a forensic text book giveaway for visitors of the poster session. The textbook giveaway is scheduled to occur again at this year’s poster session. Presenters will be able to speak about their work in a comfortable environment while learning about research available at other institutions and meeting other researchers and employers. Students interested in furthering their education in the field of forensics will have the opportunity to learn more about research at several prestigious institutions which participate regularly at the poster session. Members and affiliates from all levels of the Academy participate and view the poster session held by the YFSF.

Last year’s posters covered topics such as forensic chemistry studies in explosives, vehicle paint analysis, congenital heart defects caused by the toxicity in ground water contaminants, and a ballistics study. If you are already presenting at another poster session, this is a great opportunity for you to reach another audience.

Those interested in presenting a poster should contact **Marrah Lachowicz** at [Gradpath@aol.com](mailto:Gradpath@aol.com) or **Jennifer Mercer** at [jwiseman@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:jwiseman@mix.wvu.edu). We wish everyone a very Happy New Year, and we are looking forward to seeing you in Seattle in February.

— Marrah Lachowicz, MFS  
YFSF Program Co-Chair

## YFSF Bring Your Own Slides

The YFSF Bring Your Own Slides has some excellent presentations scheduled! Josh Gunn will discuss the selective determination of morphine in the larvae of *Calliphora stygia* using chemiluminescence detection coupled with flow injection analysis and high performance liquid chromatography. Melissa Ely will discuss the utilization of a Pyroprobe Coupled to GC/MS in Drug Analysis and Toxicology. Since many drugs are ingested by inhalation, the goal of this presentation is to illustrate the potential of pyrolysis as a tool for detecting biomarkers of abused drugs. This presentation will discuss the usefulness of a pyroprobe in detecting pyrolytic products of single drugs as well as mixtures of cocaine and methamphetamine. Emilio Nuzzolese, an Italian forensic dentist, will focus on chaos and order in forensic dental identification principles and forms. This presentation will specifically discuss software used in the Tsunami victim identification. Amy Richmond-Aylor will be presenting her findings on analysis of fingerprint residue by Pyrolysis GC-MS. The goal was to simulate the high heat conditions that latent prints may be exposed to in situations such as when a cartridge is fired from a weapon, arson, or other related combustion events. Jennifer Beach explored the stability of forensic test color reagents to determine if reagents degrade over time and if degradation affects the results of a color test. Rebecca Haynes's presentation will cover a micro-fluidic device integrating color and crystal tests and ATR. This presentation discusses the combination of color and crystal tests with IR microscopy via a simple microfluidic device. An indispensable aspect of such application is a searchable database of both crystal morphologies and IR spectra.

Space is still available for more speakers! If you would like to present casework or research please submit a CV and an abstract to **Robin Bowen** (robin.bowen@mail.wvu.edu). Presentations will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2006, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Each presentation should be about 10 minutes or less. We would love to know what our fellow Young Forensic Scientists are doing! If you are interested in sharing your experiences, please contact **Robin Bowen** (robin.bowen@mail.wvu.edu). We look forward to learning from your experiences and can't wait to see you in Seattle!

— Robin Bowen, BS  
YFSF Program Co-Chair

## YFSF Breakfast Session

Hopefully, everyone is excited to attend the meeting in Seattle in just a few short weeks! The YFSF coordinators have been working hard to provide a session that promises to be one of the best. You are encouraged to get those resumes ready and bring them to the session. Resumes submitted on Tuesday will be reviewed by the breakfast session panel members and will be returned at the breakfast on Thursday morning. This year's panel members come from various disciplines within the Drug Enforcement Administration, the

United States Secret Service, the Washington State Police Crime Lab, and the Oregon State Police Crime Lab. These speakers will offer advice on writing knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA) answers, preparing for hiring exams, writing resumes, developing interview skills, and whatever other questions you can throw their way! All of the panel members offer a great deal of knowledge and experience, not to mention they're always looking for some great new young forensic scientists! Come to Seattle prepared for this session and leave Seattle ready to get those jobs!

— Amanda Frohwein  
YFSF Program Co-Chair

## YFSF Crossword Answers

Were you able to solve the first ever YFSF crossword puzzle? Check out the answers below! Thanks again to Melissa Smith of the NYC OCME Department of Forensic Biology for submitting the crossword.

### Across

5. forensic biology
7. soil
8. toxicology
9. SOSC
10. accredited
13. pigeonhole
14. poaching
16. FIU
17. mtDNA

### Down

1. AFIS
2. Fraud Investigation
3. IBIS
4. blood alcohol
6. gall bladders
11. FEPAC
12. fossils
15. AAFS

## 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.

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!



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/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your name so the potential applicant will know who requested the application. AAFS will also recognize you by placing a Sponsor badge in your 2006 Annual Meeting registration packet. Please detach form and return to AAFS. Thank you.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_



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Your involvement will contribute to the advancement of the forensic sciences.

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