

NEAFS Newsletter

Volume 51, Issue 1

Spring 2026



2026

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MEET THE 2026 BOD

Matthew Marino – President

New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences, East Regional Laboratory
Since 11/2011

Forensic Scientist 3, Drug Unit Technical Leader, and Fire Debris Analyst

Forensic Technician, Westchester County, NY Forensic Laboratory from 07/2007 to 09/2011

BS in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Chemistry-St. Thomas Aquinas College

Amanda White – President-elect

New York State Police Crime Laboratory, FS III- Controlled Substance Analysis from 2019-
Present

Westchester County Department of Labs & Research, Controlled Substance Analysis 2016-2019

NYPD Police Laboratory, Controlled Substance Analysis/Latent Print Development 2011-2016

MS Biomedical Forensic Science, Boston University

BS Biology & Anthropology, SUNY Oneonta

Anisha Paul M.S.F.S, D-ABFT-FT - Treasurer

Vermont Forensic Laboratory, Department of Public Safety - Forensic Chemist Toxicology
division since 2017

Adjunct professor at Champlain College since 2017

Masters of Science in Forensic Science from Arcadia University

Certified as a Diplomate by the ABFT in the field of Forensic Toxicology

Sarah Roseman - Secretary

Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Services, Controlled
Substance Analysis, 2015-present

BS in Biology, Binghamton University

MS in Forensics, Pace University

Danielle Malone - Director

NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Department of Forensic Biology from 2004- Present

BS Forensic Science with a concentration in Criminalistics, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal
Justice

Alyssa Berthiaume - Director

Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory, Criminalistics and Crime Scene Response Units,
2017 - Present

Bay Path University, Adjunct Professor, 2022 - Present

B.S. in Forensic Biology, University of New Haven, 2016

M.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology, University of New Haven, 2017

Keri LaBelle - Director

Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory, 2013-Present

Drug Unit, Crime Scene Response Unit, Clandestine Laboratory Response Unit,

Quality Assurance Management Section

M.S. Biomedical Forensic Sciences - Boston University 2012

B.S. Biochemistry - Suffolk University 2010



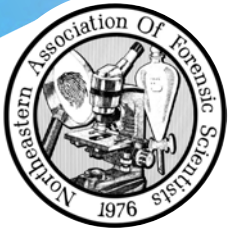
MATTHEW MARINO

NEAFS 2026 PRESIDENT

I hope everyone has had a healthy and productive start to 2026. As we begin to see the first signs of spring across the Northeast, it is an exciting time for NEAFS, and I am honored to be writing my first President's Message to our membership. It is a privilege to represent this organization and the talented community of forensic professionals that make it so special. I am committed to providing an exceptional experience for our members this year while continuing to build upon the strong foundation established by the many leaders who have come before me.

For five decades, NEAFS has played a vital role in advancing forensic science across the region by fostering professional development, collaboration, and innovation. A key focus of my term will be strengthening engagement and connection across our membership while encouraging even greater collaboration among the many disciplines represented within our organization. NEAFS thrives because of the knowledge, experience, and dedication that each of you brings to the field. By continuing to share ideas, research, and professional experiences, we can ensure that our association remains a vibrant and valuable resource for practitioners, educators, students, and researchers alike. I encourage members to become involved through committees, mentoring opportunities, volunteering, presenting at meetings, or simply connecting with colleagues across our region. Members are also encouraged to share professional achievements by submitting updates for inclusion on the [Member News](#) webpage.

NEAFS membership offers many valuable benefits that members are encouraged to take full advantage of. The [Training Scholarship Fund](#) provides a \$400 training stipend to four applicants annually. A [NEAFS Sponsored Training](#) request may be submitted to subsidize a training event up to \$10,000. Members are also eligible for ScienceDirect access to numerous scientific journals by requesting credentials through our [member area](#). There are many additional opportunities including, but not limited to, [certification reimbursement](#), [scholarship programs](#), discounted annual meeting registration, presenter reimbursements, and reduced-cost access to virtual trainings and workshops. I encourage all members to fully utilize these resources as we continue to support professional growth and advancement within our field.



MATTHEW MARINO

NEAFS 2026 PRESIDENT

Looking ahead, I am particularly excited about our historic 2026 Joint Annual Meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS) in October. Opportunities such as this are rare, and bringing together two outstanding regional organizations will provide a unique platform for expanded collaboration, training, and professional networking. This joint meeting represents an important milestone for NEAFS and reflects our continued commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships that benefit our membership and the forensic science community as a whole. I am confident that the program will offer an exceptional educational experience and a memorable opportunity to connect with colleagues across a broader professional network. Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements and begin making plans to participate.

Of course, none of the work that NEAFS accomplishes each year would be possible without the dedication of our Board of Directors, staff, committee members, volunteers, and the many individuals who contribute their time and expertise to our organization. I am deeply grateful for their continued support and look forward to working alongside them throughout the coming year.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to NEAFS and for the important work you do each day to advance the field of forensic science. Please be sure to read through the rest of this newsletter, stay connected through our website and social media, and keep an eye on your inbox for updates about upcoming events and opportunities.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the months ahead.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Matthew Marino'.

Matthew Marino

President, NEAFS



Make a Difference, Become a Forensic Scientist!

At Towson University you can turn your passion into a profession by earning a Master of Science in Forensic Science degree. The Master of Science in Forensic Science program is fully accredited by the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). The program has an application-focused, hands-on curriculum that provides students with an educational background and development of forensic science laboratory skills. Students can choose either the DNA track with a focus on genetic analysis or the Forensic Chemistry track with a focus on drug analysis, trace analysis, and toxicology. All students must complete a forensic research project or a capstone course.

On-campus research facilities house state-of-the-art equipment including DNA Extraction Robots, Rotorgene Real-Time PCR, Qiacube Liquid Handler, Thermocyclers, ABI 3500 Genetic Analyzer, MiSeq Next Generation Sequencer, and Pyrosequencers for forensic biological research. Forensic chemistry research instruments include Gas Chromatographs, Mass Spectrometers, Liquid Chromatographs, Infra-red Spectrophotometers, Ultraviolet-Visible Light Spectrophotometers and Polarizing Light, Compound, Comparison and Ballistic Microscopes.

For additional information see <https://www.towson.edu/fcsm/departments/chemistry/grad/forensic/> or contact mprofili@towson.edu



FORENSIC SCIENCE-IT'S MORE THAN A DEGREE; IT'S A CALLING!

THE
**NORTHEASTERN & MID-ATLANTIC
ASSOCIATIONS OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS**

INVITE YOU TO THE



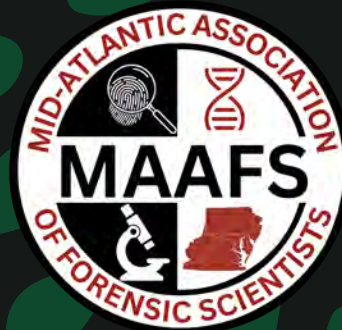
2026

**JOINT
MEETING**

Kalahari[®]



**RESORTS &
CONVENTIONS**



POCONO MOUNTAINS, PA

OCTOBER 5TH-9TH

WWW.NEAFS.ORG WWW.MAAFS.ORG

2026 NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING



EARLY REGISTRATION

**NOW
OPEN**

Member: \$225
Non-Member: \$350
Student: \$160
One-Day Pass: \$150

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU REGISTER ON-SITE, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A MEETING BOOKLET, MEAL OR DRINK TICKETS AND REGISTRATION IS ONLY PAYABLE WITH CREDIT CARD, CASH OR MONEY ORDER. NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.



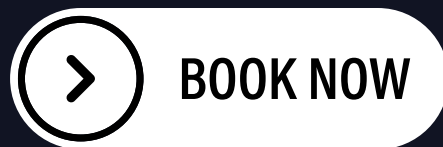
HOTEL INFORMATION

Kalahari Resorts & Convention Center
Poconos, PA

OCTOBER 5- 9, 2026

DISCOUNTED HOTEL RESERVATIONS ARE AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

*A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT RATE ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BOOK IN THE BLOCK? NEAFS HAS SECURED A ROOM BLOCK AND IS PROVIDING DISCOUNTED RATES TO NEAFS AND MAAFS 2026 ATTENDEES BASED ON A GUARANTEED PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDEES STAYING IN THE OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HOTEL. BOOKING A HOTEL ROOM OUTSIDE OF THE BLOCK IMPACTS THE MEETING SPACE, DATES AND RATES IN FUTURE YEARS. GUARANTEEING ROOM BLOCKS GIVES ASSOCIATIONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE CONCESSIONS, SUCH AS BETTER ROOM RATES, FREE INTERNET, LESS EXPENSIVE FOOD AND BEVERAGE, NUMBER OF MEETING ROOMS, AFFILIATE MEETING SPACE, GYM ACCESS, ETC. HOUSING IS A KEY COMPONENT IN HOW THIS LEVERAGE IS MEASURED, AND BOOKING OUTSIDE OF THE CONTRACTED BLOCK DECREASES NEAFS'S NEGOTIATING POWER—ULTIMATELY MAKING THE MEETING MORE EXPENSIVE AND FORCING FUTURE REGISTRATION AND HOTEL PRICES TO INCREASE! WE KNOW NONE OF US WANTS TO SEE HIGHER ATTENDANCE COSTS.

A detailed illustration of a savanna landscape. In the foreground, a lion with a thick, golden-brown mane is roaring with its mouth wide open, showing its teeth. The lion is holding a rectangular, parchment-like sign with its right paw. The sign has the text 'CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS' written in a hand-drawn, black, uppercase font. The background features a large, gnarled acacia tree on the left, and a vast savanna with scattered acacia trees, giraffes, and other animals under a bright, hazy sky.

CALL
FOR
PAPERS
AND
POSTERS

All presenters are eligible for \$50 reimbursement

Now Open, [Submit Here](#)

NEAFS AND MAAFS
JOINT ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 5TH -9TH , 2026

**Kalahari Resorts & Conventions
Pocono Mountains, PA**

Note: All presenters must register for the meeting. Request for reimbursement must be submitted after presentation has been given by submitting proof of registration and payment via [Presentation Reimbursement Form](#) which will be open from October 12th to October 31st.

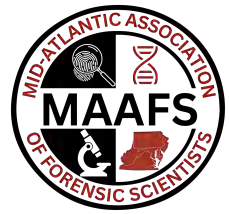
SUBJECT TO CHANGE



2026 Joint Annual Meeting

Tentative Agenda

October 5-9, 2026 - Poconos, PA



Monday October 5, 2026

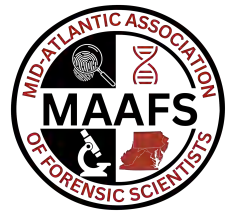
7:00am – 8:30am	Registration
7:00am – 8:30am	Breakfast
10:00am – 10:30am	Break
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch (Add-on purchase required for all)
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Registration
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Break
8:00am – 5:00pm	Full Day Workshops
	(W1) MassHunter Unknowns and Qualitative Workflows for Forensic Data Analysis
	(W2) Beyond Compliance: Unlocking the Power of ISO 17025 in Forensic Laboratories
8:00am – 12:00pm	Half-Day Workshops - Morning
	(W3) Applications of Vibrational Spectroscopy in Forensic Science
	(W4) Automated DNA Extraction Strategies for Sexual Assault and Missing Persons Casework
	(W5) Professional Ethics in Forensic Science: Challenges & Responsibilities
	(W6) Design and Implementation of Statistical Sampling Plans for Seized-Drug Analysis - Part I
1:00pm - 5:00pm	Half-Day Workshops - Afternoon
	(W7) Design and Implementation of Statistical Sampling Plans for Seized-Drug Analysis - Part II
	(W8) Next-Generation Sequencing: From Theory to Implementation
	(W9) How Can We Know If Drug Samples Are Related? Analysis, Association, and Attribution.
	(W10) Forensic Entomology Workshop
Time TBD	Forensic Educational Outreach and College Fair



2026 Joint Annual Meeting

Tentative Agenda

October 5-9, 2026 - Poconos, PA



Tuesday October 6, 2026

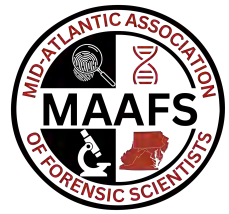
7:00am – 8:30 am	Registration
7:00am – 8:30am	Breakfast
10:00am – 10:30am	Break
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch (Add-on purchase required for all)
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Registration
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Break
8:00am – 5:00pm	Full Day Workshops
	(W11) LC-MS/MS Method Development and Validation – Fragmenting Ions While Keeping Your Sanity Intact
	(W12) Advanced Instrument Maintenance: Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)
	(W13) Polarized Light Microscopy - A Basic Refresher
8:00am – 12:00pm	Half-Day Workshops - Morning
	(W14) Navigating Leadership and Legal Topics that Affect Forensic Scientists
	(W15) Requirements and Implementation of the Standard for Forensic Autosomal STR DNA Statistical Analyses
	(W16) DESI, DART, ASAP Oh My: Discovering How Direct Ionization Can Enhance Your Forensic and Toxicology Workflow
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Half-Day Workshops - Afternoon
	(W17) Implementation OF ANSI/ASB Standard 175 and Best Practice Recommendation 171 Regarding DNA Contamination
	(W18) Understanding and Implementing OSAC IGSR Standards
	(W19) From the Street to the Morgue: Analytical Approaches for Drugs Across the Toxicology Spectrum
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Educators Forum and Student Forum
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Registration



2026 Joint Annual Meeting

Tentative Agenda

October 5-9, 2026 - Poconos, PA



Wednesday October 7, 2026

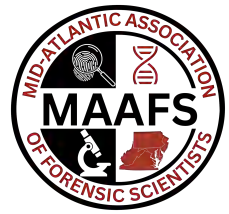
7:00am – 9:30 am	Registration
7:00am – 8:30am	Breakfast
7:00am – 8:00pm	Exhibits
8:00am – 11:00am	Vendor Spotlight Session
10:00am – 10:30am	Break
11:00am – 12:00pm	Keynote Speaker
12:00pm – 1:30pm	NEAFS Business Lunch (Add-on purchase required for non-members)
12:00pm – 1:30pm	MAAFS Business Lunch (Add-on purchase required for non-members)
2:00pm – 5:00pm	General/Plenary Session
3:15pm – 3:45pm	Break
5:30pm – 8:00pm	Vendor Reception & Poster Session
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Registration
8:00pm – 10:00pm	Evening Session & Dessert Reception



2026 Joint Annual Meeting

Tentative Agenda

October 5-9, 2026 - Poconos, PA



Thursday October 8, 2026

7:00am – 9:30 am	Registration
7:30am – 9:00am	Breakfast
7:00am – 11:00am	Exhibits
10:00am – 10:45am	Break
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Luncheon & Awards Ceremony
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Break
9:00am – 5:00pm	Breakout Sessions
	DNA/Forensic Biology
	Physical Evidence/Criminalistics/Crime Scene & Digital Evidence
	Trace/Arson & Explosives
	Forensic Toxicology
	Forensic Drug Chemistry
5:00pm – 6:30pm	George W. Chin Cup Competition
6:30pm – 11:30pm	President's Reception & Corn Hole Tournament

Friday October 9, 2026

8:00am – 9:00 am	Registration
8:00am – 9:30am	Breakfast
10:00am – 10:45am	Break
9:00am – 12:00pm	Breakout Sessions
	DNA/Forensic Biology
	Physical Evidence/Criminalistics/Crime Scene & Digital Evidence
	Trace/Arson & Explosives
	Forensic Toxicology
	Forensic Drug Chemistry



NEAFS

05
OCT

WORKSHOPS



MAAFS

FULL
DAY

(W1) MASSHUNTER UNKNOWNNS AND QUALITATIVE WORKFLOWS FOR FORENSIC DATA ANALYSIS

Presented by: Dr. Kirk Lokits, GCMS Applications Scientist
Agilent Technologies [VENDOR]

FULL
DAY

(W2) BEYOND COMPLIANCE: UNLOCKING THE POWER OF ISO 17025 IN FORENSIC LABORATORIES

Presented by: Deanne Emory, Instructional Designer
ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

HALF
DAY AM

(W3) APPLICATIONS OF VIBRATIONAL SPECTROSCOPY IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Presented By: Lewis Smith, Forensic Chemist
Cape May County Pros. Office Forensic Lab

HALF
DAY AM

(W4) AUTOMATED DNA EXTRACTION STRATEGIES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND MISSING PERSONS CASEWORK

Presented by: Sarah Rosenstein (HID-FAS), Josh Abernathy (HID-CSM), and Carole Cummings (HID-CSM) - QIAGEN North America - HID & Forensics [Vendor]

HALF
DAY AM

(W5) PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE: CHALLENGES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Presented By: Robin Bowen, Teaching Assistant Professor, West Virginia University and Jerome F. Buting, Attorney, Buting, Williams, & Stilling, S.C.

Full Day Workshop Cost

- Member \$250/Non-member \$300

Half Day Workshop Cost

- Member \$125/Non-Member \$225

[FOR WORKSHOP ABSTRACTS:](#)

subject to change



NEAFS

05
OCT

WORKSHOPS



MAAFS

HALF
DAY AM

(W6) DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATISTICAL SAMPLING PLANS FOR SEIZED-DRUG ANALYSIS - PART I

Presented by: Jack Prothero, Mathematical Statistician, National Institute of Standards, and Technology and Laurel Bobka, Forensic Scientist Advanced, Maryland State Police, Dr. Jennifer Bonetti, Virginia Department of Forensic Science and MAAFS SWGDRUG representative, and Tiffany Ribadeneyra, Naussau County Office of the Medical Examiner and NEAFS SWGDRUG representative

HALF
DAY PM

(W7) DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATISTICAL SAMPLING PLANS FOR SEIZED-DRUG ANALYSIS - PART II

Presented by: Jack Prothero, Mathematical Statistician, National Institute of Standards, and Technology and Laurel Bobka, Forensic Scientist Advanced, Maryland State Police, Dr. Jennifer Bonetti, Virginia Department of Forensic Science and MAAFS SWGDRUG representative, and Tiffany Ribadeneyra, Naussau County Office of the Medical Examiner and NEAFS SWGDRUG representative

HALF
DAY PM

(W8) NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING: FROM THEORY TO IMPLEMENTATION

Presented by: Kelly Elkins, Cindy Zeller, and Filipa Simão - Department of Chemistry & Forensic Science, Towson University

HALF
DAY PM

(W9) HOW CAN WE KNOW IF DRUG SAMPLES ARE RELATED? ANALYSIS, ASSOCIATION, AND ATTRIBUTION

Presented By: Dr. Joshua DeBord, Senior Scientist; The CFSRE and Dr. Agnes Winokur, Director, DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory

HALF
DAY PM

(W10) FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP

Presented by: Dr. Jennifer Rosati, Associate Professor of Forensic Entomology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Full Day Workshop Cost

- Member \$250/Non-member \$300

Half Day Workshop Cost

- Member \$125/Non-Member \$225

[FOR WORKSHOP ABSTRACTS:](#)

subject to change



NEAFS

06
OCT

WORKSHOPS



MAAFS

FULL
DAY

(W11) LC-MS/MS METHOD DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION – FRAGMENTING IONS WHILE KEEPING YOUR SANITY INTACT

Presented by: Dustin L. Abbott, MS, D-ABFT-FT Forensic Scientist III NYSP – Toxicology and Alaina Holt, PhD, Associate Research Faculty, Laboratory for Forensic Toxicology Research, Virginia Commonwealth University

FULL
DAY

(W12) ADVANCED INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE: GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY-MASS SPECTROMETRY (GC-MS)

Presented by: Mikaela Romanelli, Marilyn De Apodaca, and Mark Filandro, Senior Forensic Chemists, and John McIlroy, Supervisory Chemist/Laboratory Quality Assurance Manager, Drug Enforcement Administration

FULL
DAY

(W13) POLARIZED LIGHT MICROSCOPY - A BASIC REFRESHER

Presented by: Jack Hietpas and Peter Diaczuk, Assistant Professors, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

HALF
DAY AM

(W14) NAVIGATING LEADERSHIP AND LEGAL TOPICS THAT AFFECT FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Presented by: Theresa DeAngelo, QA Manager, Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division and Dr. Kelly Elkins, Professor | Chemistry and Forensic Science, Towson University

HALF
DAY AM

(W15) REQUIREMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARD FOR FORENSIC AUTOSOMAL STR DNA STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Presented by: Michael Coble, Ph.D.; Executive Director, Center for Human Identification, UNT Health, Caitlyn Taveira, M.S.; Forensic Scientist, Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Services, and Charlotte J. Word, Ph.D.; Consultant

Full Day Workshop Cost

- Member \$250/Non-member \$300

Half Day Workshop Cost

- Member \$125/Non-Member \$225

[FOR WORKSHOP ABSTRACTS:](#)

subject to change



NEAFS

06
OCT

WORKSHOPS



MAAFS

HALF
DAY AM

(W16) DESI, DART, ASAP OH MY: DISCOVERING HOW DIRECT IONIZATION CAN ENHANCE YOUR FORENSIC AND TOXICOLOGY WORKFLOW

Presented by: Dr. Ciara Pitman, Clinical and Forensic Account Manager, Waters [Vendor]

HALF
DAY PM

(W17) IMPLEMENTATION OF ANSI/ASB STANDARD 175 AND BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATION 171 REGARDING DNA CONTAMINATION

Presented by: Beth Ordeman, MS, ABC-MB, DNA Analyst/CODIS Administrator, Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory and Charlotte J Word, Ph.D., Consultant

HALF
DAY PM

(W18) UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING OSAC IGSR STANDARDS

Presented by: Mary Keehan, Trace Evidence Section Supervisor, Virginia Department of Forensic Science and Thomas (Rusty) White, Team Lead ILR/GSR, Texas Department of Public Safety

HALF
DAY PM

(W19) FROM THE STREET TO THE MORGUE: ANALYTICAL APPROACHES FOR DRUGS ACROSS THE TOXICOLOGY SPECTRUM

Presented by: Laura Kimble, Chief Drug Analyst, Hamilton County Coroner's Office, Michelle Peace, Ph.D., Professor – Department of Forensic Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, Teeshavi Acosta, PhD, Head Toxicology Technician, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and Aria McCall, Senior Toxicologist/Technical Lead, Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office

Full Day Workshop Cost

- Member \$250/Non-member \$300

Half Day Workshop Cost

- Member \$125/Non-Member \$225

[FOR WORKSHOP ABSTRACTS:](#)

subject to change

THINGS TO DO

STUDENT FORUM

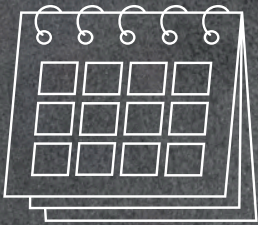


OCT 6,
2026

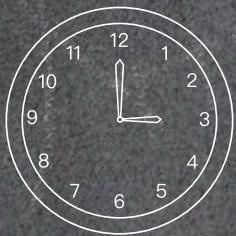
6-8 PM

EDUCATORS

FORUM



6 OCT, 2026

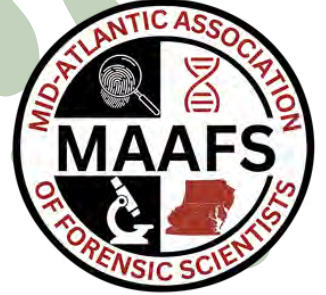


6:00-8:00 PM

THE NORTHEASTERN & MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATIONS OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS



INVITE YOU TO
DESIGN OUR MEETING T-SHIRT



T SHIRT DESIGN

CONTEST

Theme: Wild For Forensics/Joint Meeting!

Email Designs to merchandise@neafs.org by

June 1st

Winner receives FREE meeting T-Shirt!

Due to printing restrictions please keep the colors to a minimum.

If you would like to use the Kalahari Logo visit:

<https://www.kalahariresorts.com/media-center/multimedia/logo-gallery/>

NEAFS.ORG | MAAFS.ORG



GET INVOLVED

Are you ready to jump right in and get involved on a NEAFS committee?

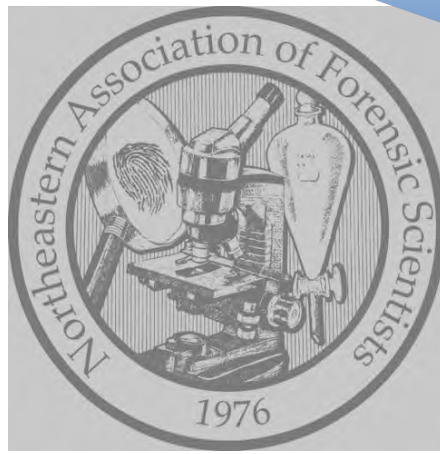
Exhibits Committee, Registration Committee, Education Committee, Outreach Committee, Social Media/Merchandise Committee, Awards Committee, or anyway you would like to get involved.

Want to learn more about the volunteer opportunities for next year's?

Exhibits, Registration, Poster Session, Workshops, Scientific Sessions, Education, Outreach, Social Media, Merchandise, Awards Committee (be a Judge), Photographer, or any other way you would like to help.

Sign up today!





ATTENTION STUDENTS

Are you a current full-time undergraduate student in your junior or senior year, or are you either a part-time or full-time graduate student completing his or her degree in a forensic program at a regionally accredited institution located in the Northeastern U.S. (Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania)?

THEN YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR:

George W. Neighbor Jr. Memorial Scholarship (undergraduate) – Award is \$1750
George W. Neighbor Jr. Memorial Scholarship (graduate) – Award is \$1750
George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship – Award is \$2500

Carol De Forest Forensic Science Research Grants – Award is \$2500

*Note – eligibility is for both full-time undergraduate and graduate students ** Note – Up to two Research Grants will be Awarded.

All submission materials for either the scholarships or the research grants must be completed, and electronically submitted by April 30th. The Awards recipients will be notified no later than September 1st.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FORMS CLICK HERE.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? PLEASE EMAIL AWARDS@NEAFS.ORG

<https://www.neafs.org/scholarships-awards>



CHIN CUP COMPETITION

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 8TH

5:00PM - 6:30 PM



**COME OUT AND
SUPPORT YOUR TEAM**

and then celebrate
at the President's
Reception!

HELP SUPPORT THE

Chin Cup Competition



New Forensic Science Questions are Needed



Help Keep the Competition Fresh



With New and Up to Date Questions



How Can You Help?



Click & Submit Your Question & Answers

Question with correct answer and 3 incorrect answers - please include source



Please Feel Free to Submit More Than One

Call For MENTORS

NEAFS's mission has always been to exchange ideas and information within the field of Forensic Science, to promote recognition of Forensic Science as an important component of the criminal justice system, and to stimulate increased implementation of existing techniques, along with research and development of new techniques within the field.



[BECOME A
MENTOR](#)

[MORE INFO](#)

NEAFS would like to call on their members to help maintain and enhance the quality of forensic science education through mentoring. It is through mentoring that we can encourage a strong interest in the science fields among college and high school students alike. Mentoring helps develop leadership skills such as public speaking, communication, and teamwork.

In addition, individuals new to the field of Forensic Science can be mentored to advise them on professional development and counsel them on career opportunities. In this way, NEAFS members can use their knowledge and experience to mentor young professionals and foster friendships and cooperation among laboratory personnel.

Opportunities for mentoring can include providing lectures to students, interacting with newer forensic scientists, having meaningful interactions and discussions with students (ie employment requirements, discussion of daily tasks and duties, college preparation and course selection), or research and project development.

Need A MENTOR

NEAFS's mission has always been to exchange ideas and information within the field of Forensic Science, to promote recognition of Forensic Science as an important component of the criminal justice system, and to stimulate increased implementation of existing techniques, along with research and development of new techniques within the field.



[FIND A
MENTOR](#)

[MORE INFO](#)

If you are interested in being partnered with a more seasoned colleague who can advise you in your career progression, help you network, guide you learning new skills please click on find a mentor to get connect. If you are a student that needs to interview a forensic scientist, needs help with or review of a project please click on find a mentor. NEAFS will make every effort to answer requests but there is no guarantee of availability.

NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Certification Reimbursement

The NEAFS Board of Directors has voted to reimburse the American Board of Criminalistics and International Association for Identification exam sitting fees for five NEAFS members (regular or associate) in good standing who pass the ABC, IAI, ABFT or the NFSA Certified Forensic Manager Series exam. This offer is for any exam completed during the current year. After passing the examination, please fill out the Certification Reimbursement Form (<https://www.neafs.org/certification>). The reimbursement is based on a first come first served basis. Remember you must pass the ABC, IAI, ABFT or NFSA Certified Forensic Manager Series exam to be considered for reimbursement.

For more information about the examination sitting, please contact...

•
The Certification Chair at certification@neafs.org

For more information about certification with the ABC, please visit...

•
American Board of Criminalistics
<http://www.criminalistics.com>

For more information about certification with the IAI, please visit...

•
The International Association for Identification
<https://www.theiai.org/certifications.php>

For more information about certification with the ABFT, please visit...

•
The American Board of Forensic Toxicology
<https://www.abft.org/certification/>

For more information about certification with the NFSA, please visit...

•
The National Forensic Science Academy
<https://thenfsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/CFM-Certification-FAQ.pdf>





NEAFS
MERCHANDISE



CHOOSE BETWEEN
EMBROIDERY
AND
SCREEN PRINTING

CHOOSE YOUR LOGO STYLE (ADDITIONAL LOGOS AVAILABLE)

Proceeds go to the Carol De Forest
Research Grant Fund

MERCHANDISE FOR

YOUR OFFICE



YOUR HOME



YOURSELF



Embroidery
<https://neafs.qbstores.com/>



Screen Printing
<https://www.cafepress.com/neafs>



NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION
OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

MERITORIOUS
SERVICE AWARD
NOMINATION

THE NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS IS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD.

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1ST. THE WINNER OF THE NEAFS MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS VISIT THE NEAFS WEBSITE OR CLICK THE LINK BELOW.

[HTTPS://WWW.NEAFS.ORG/MERITORIOUSSERVICEAWARD](https://www.neafs.org/meritoriousserviceaward)



SEA CREST BEACH RESORT NORTH FALMOUTH, MA

October 25th - 29th, 2027

Program Chair Anisha Paul, treasurer@neafs.org

NEAFS 2027

»»» NOW ACTIVE «««

SCIENCE DIRECT SUBSCRIPTION

ScienceDirect



ELSEVIER

INFORMATION

»»» READ MORE

Our organizational subscription to Science Direct is now active, and we are thrilled to announce that all members may now submit a request to receive their login credentials. The subscription covers almost 800 scientific journals (list attached) in the Physical Sciences category – one which we felt covered as much of the diverse and technical disciplines within our organization as possible while also maintaining a financially responsible commitment.

READ MORE «««

In order to request your credentials, you must log in to the Member Area of the NEAFS website by navigating to www.neafs.org and selecting “Member Area” under the “Membership” header on the main page. There you will be prompted to enter your name, preferred e-mail address, and member number. In return, you will receive an e-mail from a member of our board and staff with your registration ID and password. Instructions on how to activate will be attached to the email.

HOW TO ACCESS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

»»» READ MORE

By requesting your Science Direct credentials, you agree to the following terms and conditions listed on the NEAFS website. All of this information will also be hosted on the Member Area of the website for future reference along with a listing of journals that can be accessed with the subscription. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Minero (presidentelect@neafs.org).

NEAFS has partnered with



SPEAKHIRE develops the social and cultural capital of individuals from immigrant families to become leaders in the workforce.

Spanish-speaking Champions needed



Become a Champion

SPEAKHIRE ensures diverse individuals get a fair chance of pursuing colleges and careers of their choice. We envision a future workforce with more professionals of color of all backgrounds in positions of power across a variety of careers.

If you're looking for an opportunity to empower the next generation of leaders, join SPEAKHIRE as a Career Pathways Champion. Deliver a Seminar about a career skill, coach a young person through the Foundational Year, or share your school to career pathway through Pathways Days or SPEAKHIRE Series. As a Champion, you help young people explore careers and learn early career skills, supporting them as they pursue a career pathway, preparing them for future careers, and empowering them toward life success.

LEARN MORE AT [HTTPS://WWW.NEAFS.ORG/SPEAKHIRE](https://www.neafs.org/speakhire)

**NORTHEASTERN
ASSOCIATION OF
FORENSIC SCIENTISTS**

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND



**OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD
JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st
OF THE CURRENT YEAR**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS) is proud to offer its members a Training Scholarship Fund (TSF). Members in good standing are eligible to receive up to \$400 towards training, workshop or non-NEAFS meeting registration and travel expenses. Individuals will only be allowed reimbursement once per application period. Any NEAFS Annual Meeting expenses are ineligible to receive funding. Reimbursement will occur upon receipt of a certificate showing successful attendance and completion of the course along with an article summarizing the course for the NEAFS newsletter.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit a Pre-Approval Application prior to attending the training for which they wish to obtain funding. For additional instructions, requirements and forms visit the NEAFS website.

<https://www.neafs.org/trainingscholarshipfund>



KERI LABELLE

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND COURSE SUMMARY

31st Annual New England Division of the International Association of Identification (NEDIAI) Educational Conference

I was thrilled to attend a NEDIAI meeting for the first time since 2017. I can remember my first NEDIAI meeting back in 2012 when I attended while interning at the Worcester Police Department under Lt. Dave Grady. One of my favorite aspects of past meetings has been the quality of their workshops and while I was unable to attend a workshop this year with time constrictions, I was still very impressed by the options that they offered. Their workshops really focus on an interactive approach, practicing scenarios to achieve high quality forensic science when the conditions are not ideal. Several workshops were focused on practicing night-time photography skills, courtroom testimony, and discussing advancements in latent print technologies. They focus heavily on hands-on experience working with Nikon Camera systems, practicing crime scene processing techniques, and applying chemicals for bloodstain enhancements.

My primary reasons for attending the NEDIAI conferences are the case studies. There is so much to be gained from lessons learned – what did we do good, what could we have done better, and how did we overcome the unexpected. “Bones at the Will” highlighted a case in a familiar part of Massachusetts for me where skeletal remains were located off a hiking trail in Worcester. The body recovery posed many challenges due to the terrain in a more remote location and the scattering of the remains by scavengers over the years the body had lain. A coordinated effort between the Worcester Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services section, and the OCME’s Forensic Anthropologist was executed over several days, with extensive planning, documenting and collection of the bones. The patience demonstrated by the entire team resulted in clean and organized crime scene processing. This presentation by Michael Harris and Anne Marie Mires really highlighted the importance of taking a step back and calling the right people to ensure scenes are secured and that the OCME can have everything they need to recreate the events in such a complicated case.

Cory Brown gave an incredibly moving presentation on “The Murder of Corporal Ronil Singh” of the Newman Police Department and the resilience of the responding officers and crime scene team who had to process the investigation after losing one of their own. In 2018, Corporal Singh was gunned down by a suspect during a traffic stop in the small California town that he patrolled. Department members had to focus past the fatigue to ensure that the scene was secured and that the BOLO was sent out to try to apprehend the suspect. The communication challenges between the Newman Police Department and the Sheriff’s department, exasperated by the shock of the dispatch officer, lead to the suspect eluding police on the night of the shooting. Through a valiant effort and extensive cellular evidence, the suspect was apprehended 55 hours later. The shooting reconstruction faced its own set of challenges when unexpectedly frigid temperatures in California impeded the utilization of the trajectory lasers. The resilience of the entire team to focus on the investigation through the shock and sadness of losing Ronil was heartbreaking, but it brought important issues to mind regarding the strength and toughness required in members assigned to these roles.

An extensive presentation by the Maine State Police’s Major Crimes Unit, Evidence Response Unit, and numerous other organizations covered the Lewiston Active Shooter Case which resulted in the mass shooting of 31 individuals, 18 of which lost their lives. This was an incredibly complex investigation which spanned two crime scenes, an initial scene at a bowling alley and a second scene at a bar, followed by an immense manhunt for the shooter, Robert Card. This case involved a

KERI LABELLE

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND COURSE SUMMARY

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massive response: wounded victims required immediate medical attention, large scale operation was needed to document, collect, and preserve evidence, and there was a demand for the quick identity and apprehension of the shooter. The organization of the Maine State Police to coordinate the collection, and ultimate return, of hundreds of pieces of evidence and the Medical Examiner's Office to work tirelessly to complete 18 autopsies in a few days was incredible. It once again showed the importance of preparedness and teamwork to accomplish a truly overwhelming scene.

Outside of case studies, additional presentations covered the integration of body-worn cameras and benefits of having them as a tool at crime scenes. Reviewing body-worn camera footage, although a time-consuming process, could aid certain investigations to provide context where questions exist. Upon initial contact, the devices begin recording and can be used to compare what had changed from the initial arrival to the securing and processing of the scene. In many instances, items get moved as medical aid is rendered and individuals enter and exit the scene. Additionally, body worn cameras can serve as training tools, used during debriefs to improve upon future operations. Worcester Police Department was generous in showing us some of their footage from recent cases and how they were able to utilize the information from the cameras.

The NEDIAI provides critical training to those in the field of crime scene processing and investigations, and of course part of that includes preparing the future generation for a career in our footsteps. I was happy to attend the "Student to Mentor" presentation which is part of the IAI Student Advocacy Committee's Student Educational Series. A panel of forensic science professionals shared their career paths to high school and college level students and answered questions they had. What was most interesting were the questions from the students which focused more on "how do I know this is a good fit for me". It was great to hear not only the drive students had for entering the field, but a true appreciation of the stressors and challenges those in the field of forensic science and scene investigations face every day. Students were focused on finding balance in their personal and professional lives and ensuring that they have support systems in place to deal with vicarious trauma.

Unfortunately, I was only able to attend a portion of the four-day conference, but in the short two days I was present I gained a deeper appreciation for those in our line of work. It was humbling to hear so many personal stories and experiences and made me proud to work in a career motivated by teamwork and passionate about advances in forensic technologies. The combination of workshops, presentations, and exhibitors made for an excellent conference and I'd be happy to attend again in the future.



Keri LaBelle

ALYSSA BERTHIAUME

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND COURSE SUMMARY

2026 American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting

Attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Conference has become one of the highlights of my work year (second to attending NEAFS of course!) and I was very grateful to NEAFS for assisting me in my attendance this year. Each year attending the conference brings unique and exciting experiences and I can confidently say that this was my favorite year yet. This year's conference was held in New Orleans, a part of the country I have never been to before. While I was unfortunately not able to explore the surrounding areas too much, I did really enjoy the parts of the culture and environment I was able to experience.

On Monday I attended a full day workshop titled "Building on Basics: Revisiting Foundational and Emerging Practices to Prevent Missed and Misdiagnosed Intimate Partner Homicides." I was very interested in this workshop as I am a crime scene responder for the Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory and a sizable portion of the crime scenes I respond to involve intimate partner homicides. I wanted to learn more about these crimes and see if there is anything in particular I should be focusing on or keeping my eyes open for at the crime scene. This workshop focused mainly on what can be found during autopsy or during the death investigation but I still found it very worthwhile. Several different pathologists spoke about cases they have had and what aspects of the case history may have been overlooked. It was very eye opening to hear how many potential homicides have been deemed suicides due to a decents history of self harm or the method in which the decedent passed. This workshop was a great reminder of how cognitive bias can creep into our analysis and how we must make attempts to mitigate it. There were several great discussions throughout the workshop which is always one of my favorite parts of attending a nationwide conference. It is very interesting to see how different parts of the country do things differently!

On Tuesday I participated in the Student Academy as the faculty member representing the Criminalistics Section of AAFS. This was my first year working at the Student Academy but I definitely plan on continuing to attend in the future. Students from four local high schools attended the meeting for the day to participate in a mock investigation. They were given a case scenario and then went to eleven different stations, one for each branch of the Academy. At each station particular items of evidence related to that branch were introduced and discussed by a faculty member. At the criminalistics station I gave the students a brief overview of serology and DNA testing. We then discussed a receipt that was found near the scene. It had an apparent fingerprint in a red-brown stain that screened positive for blood. After DNA analysis both the suspect and victim were included in the stain (if only it was always that easy!). The students took this portion of the evidence into consideration along with the evidence from the ten other stations and participated in a discussion with a member from the jurisprudence section. It was interesting to see that even though the criminalistics evidence was so strong the students did not think there was enough evidence overall for a conviction. One of the most interesting parts of the day for me was a group of educators that came to all the stations. As I am also an adjunct professor it was interesting to discuss different ways to explain these concepts to students or some hands on exercises they could do in class. During the lunch break I was interviewed by AAFS TV which was a unique experience! These interviews are broadcasted throughout the conference so attendees can see what is going on at events they may have missed.

ALYSSA BERTHIAUME

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND COURSE SUMMARY

2026 American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting

On Wednesday I attended the Plenary Session which was titled “Navigating Invisible Wounds: Mental Health and Well-Being Across the Forensic Spectrum.” This consisted of a panel discussion of vicarious trauma and other aspects that can affect forensic scientists. Members of the panel included a police officer, an online child sexual abuse investigator, a DNA analyst and a judge. It was clear each of them has been affected by the job we do and they discussed the ways they cope to be able to continue doing the work. Vicarious trauma is something I focus on with my students as I find it to be a part of forensics that is very under-discussed. I’m very happy it is now getting attention on the national level. As a part of the session they incorporated a survey they sent out to academy members regarding mental health and vicarious trauma. Most responses were positive but a few people made very disparaging remarks about admitting to needing help. This is one of the reasons why we need to keep talking about mental health in the forensics field; the more we talk about it the less taboo it becomes.

Thursday and Friday consisted of scientific sessions where students and practitioners discussed their research or interesting cases they worked on. One of my favorite presentations was by an Odontologist who thinks Maura Murray’s dental records in NamUs may be incorrect. As a lifelong Massachusetts resident this case is one I know very well so I found it very interesting. The presenter was looking for contacts within the Massachusetts State Police to discuss this potential development so I introduced myself to her and provided her with a contact to explore this lead. I’m excited to see if anything comes of this! I also attended a few presentations by NEAFS members. I am always so proud to watch the friends I have made through this organization present on a national level. I attended Alexa Figueroa’s presentation “A Bug’s Life: A Soft Ionization Mass Spectrometric Approach for the Species Identification of Unknown Entomological Evidence for Postmortem Interval Determination.” I have seen her present on other research at NEAFS and as always she did an excellent job. I also attended Dr. Tom Brettell’s presentation “Moving Toward a More Sustainable Forensic Science.” This was an interesting explanation of how we can be more “green” in the lab. Both of these presentations were excellent showcases of what our NEAFS members are doing!

My AAFS experience this year was unique as it was the first year I attended as a NEAFS director. Although I have a few years to go, planning my meeting is always on my mind, especially while at conferences. I was happy to make new connections and tell them about NEAFS, as well as getting ideas of what I want to incorporate into my meeting when it is my turn. I also made sure to tell all the vendors about our upcoming meeting so hopefully we can see some new exhibitors in the future! I am very thankful to NEAFS for helping me attend AAFS this year, it was such a great week and I am looking forward to attending both meetings again in the future!

Alyssa Berthiaume

Alyssa Berthiaume



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

AFQAM Cooperative Training Program

The AFQAM Executive Board is pleased to announce the release of the AFQAM Cooperative Training Program! This training program is designed for those new to forensic quality assurance and will provide a key steppingstone to achieving success in the position and with the responsibilities. The training program was developed by experienced forensic quality assurance experts and is broken up into courses that focus on key topics in quality assurance. The first two courses available are 'Introduction to ISO' and 'Accreditation – What Is It Good For?'.

The AFQAM Cooperative Training Program is open to everyone, and you do not need to be an AFQAM member to participate. Each course can be purchased individually, and a certificate of completion will be given to the student at the successful completion of the course. The interactive training will keep you engaged, motivated, and eager to learn as you progress through the course.

This training program is ideal for those new to quality assurance or interested in quality assurance such as new Quality Manager's, Technical Leader's, new hires, or other roles that assist with quality assurance in the laboratory. Whether you are simply seeking to learn more about what the job entails, or seeking tools to help you succeed in your job, this is for you!

To review the available courses and register please follow this link: <https://afqam.org/cooperative/>. Additional courses will be released in the near future. For questions, please email contact@afqam.org.

**TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES**



Employment Application

Personal Information

John

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