

April 2020

Council of Forensic Science Educators

Edition 2 Volume 1



COFSE had over 60 applicants this past year and voted 50 new members into COFSE at our annual meeting at AAFS in Anaheim. Welcome to all our new members! This puts COFSE at almost 200 members. We are excited to see the growth of our organization and continued support of all forensic science educators worldwide.

COFSE now has social media presence on both Facebook and LinkedIn. Please join our pages where you can view and share resources for other educators in forensic science to see. Please remember to pay your COFSE dues by June 1st!

Success at AAFS 2020 in Anaheim, CA

High-Impact Practices in Forensic Science Education Workshop

During the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting on Monday, February 17th, 2020, COFSE held its 3rd workshop for educators in forensic science. The workshop was on High-Impact Practices used in multiple forensic science programs across the country. These included first-year seminars, field trips, casework and research projects, living learning communities, project-based learning assignments, and student transformative learning records. All the presentations will be available soon on the COFSE website under membership resources. There was a total of 50 attendees and the workshop was also part of the AAFS digitalization project.

Forensic Education Session

The General Section of AAFS hosted a session dedicated to forensic science education on Friday, February 21st, 2020. This included twelve oral presentations on forensic education and training, several which were given by COFSE members.

Annual COFSE Meeting

The annual COFSE meeting was held on Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 following the FEPAC directors meeting. This was a successful meeting with over 50 participants. The meeting minutes can be found on the membership resources page on the COFSE website.

COFSE Social

We hosted the second COFSE social on Thursday, February 20th, 2020 in the bar lounge of the Hilton Hotel. This was a great way for COFSE members to socialize, meet each other, and talk about forensic science education at other institutions.



Journal of Forensic Science Education

**Call for papers! Please
submit your
educational articles
and resources, see here
for more information.**



FSF Warren-Young Scholarship – 2020-21

This award is designed to encourage forensic science education at the middle and high school level and is intended to provide funds to purchase supplies, equipment, or reference materials to support forensic science education in teaching basic scientific principles. Applications will be judged based on how the funds will further the goals of the Foundation. Priority will be given to programs with apparent financial need and those that provide forensic science education in underserved population areas.

The Warren-Young Scholarship will receive up to \$3,000; a complimentary registration to attend one AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting and the Student Academy, including two free nights of hotel accommodations; and a scholarship to attend one Forensic Science Education Conference (FSEC).

To apply for funding, the following must be submitted:

- Teacher Letter—to include teacher's name, school affiliation, grades and classes taught, and a description of how the grant funds (e.g., tentative budget) and forensic science knowledge are/will be used in teaching basic scientific principles.
- Teacher Certifications—attach copies of current teaching certifications.
- Course Description—attach course announcements or proposed syllabus. Please advise if this will be the first time the curriculum will be presented or if this is an annual curriculum. Please advise if the course will be utilizing an outside source for guest lecturing (e.g., discipline experts).
- Demonstration of Financial Need and Support for Forensic Science Education – submit a letter from a school administration official concerning the level of financial need and the current availability of forensic science education (e.g., percentage of student body that qualifies for free lunches).

All submissions must be received and completed by May 1 (11:59 p.m. MDT). Please submit the aforementioned Warren-Young Scholarship Requirements electronically (with attachments in pdf format) to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org, or by mail to Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The FSF will confirm receipt of all submissions within two business days. If confirmation is not received within two business days, the applicant should contact Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org. The Committee chair will notify the scholarship recipient by June 1.

Delta Delta Epsilon Chapter Update

Alpha Chapter - The Forensic Science Institute - The University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

The Alpha Chapter of Delta Delta Epsilon (DDE) provides students pursuing a degree in forensic science at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) an opportunity to cultivate a broad understanding of the application of forensic science through service learning experiences and through interaction with fellow students, faculty, and professionals in the field. Campus involvement and community outreach are primary initiatives for DDE as the organization leadership works to promote and incorporate UCO's Central Six and facilitate transformative learning experiences for student members. The organization aims to develop leadership skills, offer guidance and mentorship to new students in the forensic science program, and provide networking and collaboration opportunities for members.

The Alpha Chapter of DDE promotes academic scholarship by hosting guest speakers to include Forensic Science Institute faculty, research scientists, local law enforcement, and former students now working in the field. This provides members insight into the various forensic science disciplines, requirements for different careers, information on new technology and techniques, and opportunities to hear the "success" stories of UCO graduates. This year DDE student leadership hosted a presentation by Dr. Alice Isenberg, Deputy Assistant Director of the FBI Laboratory Division, entitled the Effects of Stress and Vicarious Trauma in a Forensic Environment. The Alpha Chapter also provides students the opportunity to attend and present research at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Members of DDE also participate in a number of UCO sponsored events such as the Student Involvement Fair, the Homecoming Parade, and the Big Event.

Community service through the Alpha Chapter of DDE helps members develop a sense of social responsibility and exposes them to diversity and multiculturalism. Many of the volunteer events incorporate service learning and provide an opportunity for students to apply the academic to the practical. These efforts include teaching forensic science lessons at local schools, hosting the forensic science component of the Oklahoma Memorial STEM Camp, organizing the forensic science competition at the Oklahoma Science Olympiad, and volunteering at the International Association for Identification Conference.

This year the Alpha Chapter of DDE inducted 18 new members and currently has about 50 student members on campus.



2019-2020 Alpha Chapter New Inductees



Alpha Chapter DDE Executive Board at the 2020 AAFS Conference