



COFSE Newsletter

August 2021

Message from the COFSE President, Gina Londino-Smolar, MS:

Thank you for being a COFSE member. We all had a very rough year, and hopefully will be getting back into the classroom on a more regular basis starting this fall.



Update on Membership

As of February 2021, COFSE had a total of 199 members. Our member continues to grow in both university and high school educators as well as international members. We voted in 44 new members at the annual meeting. We are excited to continue to reach as many forensic science educators as possible.

COFSE launched a new website last year which allows members to update the profile and contact information online, and print their membership card under the profile page. When you log into the account under Membership Login, scroll down to the print membership card field and print your card. Your membership card is renewable annually.

Please make sure to pay your 2021 [membership dues](#), you can now mail checks as well. Once you pay your dues you will be able to print your Membership Card and have access to member only resources on the [COFSE website](#).

Webinar August 10, 2021

COFSE will be hosting our first webinar on August 10, 2021 at 4pm EST. Dr. Maureen Kazaba and Brian Olson from County College of Morris in New Jersey will be presenting on the virtual death scenes that were created and used in a forensic science course as a series of scaffolded assignments: one that covers fingerprints, another that covers DNA, and the third is open-ended, but forbids students from using fingerprints or DNA more than once during the investigation of the scene.

Please [register](#) for the webinar. The webinar will also be recorded and available on the members resources on the COFSE website.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences Call for Workshops and Abstracts

You are now able to submit a workshop proposal for the AAFS 2022 Annual Scientific Conference. Workshops are a very important part of our meeting and your willingness to help the Academy in this endeavor is sincerely appreciated.

Workshop proposals will be submitted through the new [Abstract Online Submission System](#). Please take the time to review the guidelines **before** you begin your submission. Workshops require additional information, so it is important for you to have all documents completed. You may download the Workshop Proposal Packet [HERE](#).

The deadline for all submissions is **September 1**. More information on AAFS Abstract submission [can be found here](#).



Contact abstracts@aafs.org with any questions or concerns on abstract submission.

Traditionally there has been an educational session on Friday afternoon during the General Section session. Please make sure to use "forensic science education" as a keyword in your submission to help reviewers identify abstracts specifically in forensic science education. If you are interested in submitting or organizing a workshop or breakfast on forensic education and need help from COFSE members, please reach out at cofse.ed@gmail.com

Awards and Call for Nominations

COFSE is excited to announce two new awards eligible for our members:

Outstanding Service Award

This award recognizes COFSE members for their outstanding service to COFSE and have contributed significant volunteer effort on behalf of COFSE. Award winners have gone above and beyond what has been asked of them and make COFSE operations more effective to the membership. Eligibility - current COFSE member in good standing (at any rank), minimum one year of membership, attended at least 1 COFSE event, serve on a COFSE committee, nomination from a current or former executive officer

Excellence in Forensic Science Education Award

This award recognizes and rewards forensic science educators who demonstrate instructional expertise, creativity, and innovation in their classrooms; who make learning engaging, vibrant, and relevant for students; and whose work and accomplishments set a standard of excellence for all teachers. Eligibility - current COFSE member in good standing (at any rank), minimum one year of membership, attended at least 1 COFSE event, nomination from a current COFSE member

Nominations are due October 15, 2021 and can be sent to cofse.ed@gmail.com

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to help organize a biannual COFSE newsletter. If you are interested, please reach out to cofse.ed@gmail.com

Delta Delta Epsilon Chapter Highlight

TBA

Fall Virtual Workshop

Please be on the lookout for my information on a COFSE virtual workshop during forensic science week, September 19th – 25th, 2021.