

Annual Awards Banquet
Tuesday 24 May 2011

FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

Kacey Cliburn
Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation



The popularity of TV shows, such as CSI and Law & Order has aroused much interest from students and the public about the field of forensic science. The interesting cases coupled with the fascinating ways to solve these cases is great entertainment, but in reality, it is simple chemistry principles that are used every day in forensic laboratories to help investigate crimes. Forensic toxicology is one area of forensic science that relies heavily on the applications of chemistry to identify alcohol, drugs, and other poisons in biological specimens. In Oklahoma, there are two state-wide forensic toxicology laboratories that handle thousands of cases each year. The laboratory at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is responsible for helping answer questions pertaining to the cause and manner of death of an individual, while the laboratory at the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation deals primarily with human performance toxicology in driving under the influence cases. Despite the great leaps in technology and growing knowledge over the last several decades, forensic toxicologists still face challenges that arise because of drug use and abuse. A recent problem facing many labs is the need to detect and evaluate new designer drugs and synthetic cannabinoids. As evident by national surveys each year, alcohol and drug use is prevalent in the United States, and therefore, the help of the forensic toxicologist will continue to be a vital part of the forensic science community.

6:00-6:30 pm Social Hour
6:30-7:30 pm Dinner
7:15-7:30 pm Awards
7:30-8:30 pm Presentation

Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City
Student Center 3rd Floor, Conference South
900 N. Portland Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73107
map: <http://www.osuokc.edu/map/default.aspx>



OSU-OKC map
QR code

Italian Buffet

Chicken Parmesan
Fettuccine Alfredo
Italian Salad
Italian Green Beans
Garlic Bread
Iced Tea or Coffee

Cost

\$20 members
\$5 students

RSVP Deadline

Monday, May 16th, 5 pm
Contact: Dyanne Rutledge
405-945-9112
cdr@osuokc.edu

RSVP is NOT required to attend the presentation.

Kacey Cliburn Biographical Sketch

Kacey Cliburn is a Senior Criminalist in the Toxicology Unit with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. She received her BS in Chemistry from Oklahoma Christian University in 2002 and her Masters in Forensic Science from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2007. Kacey has been in the field of forensic toxicology for more than eight years starting in the laboratory at Oklahoma's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. She enjoys researching and developing new methods for the identification of drugs and working with practicum students. She is married to Chad and has a son, Grant.