

# Youth Scholars Institute

## 2010 Program

**TITLE:** Forensic Science in Action

**INSTRUCTOR:** Courtney Lappas, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology

**DESCRIPTION:** The real-life science of solving a crime is unlike what is seen on TV and in the movies. We will debunk pop-culture stereotypes and learn the biology, chemistry and physics of forensic science. Emphasis will be placed on the three major facets of forensic science: field work, laboratory analysis, and expert testimony. In the context of a mock crime, students will learn how to collect evidence, how to choose and perform an appropriate method of laboratory analysis, and how to present their scientific findings to a “jury.” Laboratory activities will be focused on DNA profiling, blood typing, and the lifting of fingerprints. The inaccuracies in the portrayals of forensic science in the media and popular culture will be discussed.