

FSU

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

PANAMA CITY

CSI Majors Newsletter Summer 2025

Learning, Friendship & Forensic Fun



As we transition into the fall semester, I want to reflect on the exciting experiences we had during this summer's CSI labs. The eagerness and collaboration displayed were impressive. It was enjoyable to witness new friendships, teamwork, and the practice of valuable skills.

The summer labs are not only a highlight of our program but are a culmination of the foundational knowledge gained throughout the academic year. I encourage you to approach your fall and spring coursework with the same diligence and interest.

In addition to your academic efforts, I encourage you to engage with forensic science outside the classroom. There are many opportunities available to enrich your academics and prepare for a career in the field:

Volunteer with criminal justice-related organizations to gain practical exposure and contribute to your community.

Internships, not for academic credit but personal growth, offer invaluable hands-on experience and professional networking opportunities.

Consider joining the FSU CSI Cold Case Unit or the FSU Ballistics IQ Unit, where you can work on real cases and develop investigative skills.

Participate in the FSU Panama City Annual Research Symposium, an excellent venue to present original research in a scientific poster format.

Explore opportunities to present at professional conferences such as the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) or the International Association for Identification (IAI). Both organizations offer student memberships and provide platforms to demonstrate your commitment to the field and to lifelong learning.

Engagement in these types of activities not only enhances your academic journey but also signals to future employers your dedication to forensic science and your desire to seek additional experience.

Go Noles!

Charla
cperdue@fsu.edu



A Message from a CSI Alumni

My name is Madison Nelson, and I began my career at the Bay County Sheriff's Office, where I served for nearly six years. During that time, I gained experience in multiple areas of law enforcement. I spent a year and a half in the Crime Scene Unit processing scenes and collecting evidence, one year on patrol as a Deputy Sheriff responding to calls for service, and three years in the Criminal Investigations Division. While in investigations, I specialized in violent crimes, tracked gang activity, and worked on undercover child exploitation cases.

I now serve as a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) within the Department of Homeland Security, where my work focuses on cases that directly impact national and community safety. My career has enabled me to appreciate the significance of both investigative work and the broader mission of protecting the public, and I am excited to share my journey with the Florida State University CSI community.

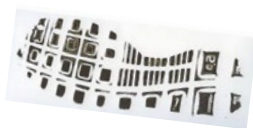


HSI Special Agent Madison Nelson

Thank you to our
Summer 2025
CSI Mentors!

Caylynn Aaron
Hannah Lee
Dennis Rozier
Ceanna Thomaston

CSI Majors Making an Impression!



President's List Kaedence Ault Layne Mikesell

Dean's List Beau Eisen Daniel Guy Evon Sanders

Graduating Class of Summer 2025

Shelina Lionnel Baxter
Seth Alex DeWitt
David Samuel Feliciano
Mallorie Grace Fletcher
Jaheim N. Forrest
Grace Isabella
Hejmanowski
Kassidy Rose Hutchins
Alexandria Janea Joseph
Kevin Long
Cassie Marie Mack
Kaitlyn EmmaRee Newell
Heather Leigh Vivier
Lacy Whittle
Amber Renee Wilkinson

Congratulations Graduates!



Grads,

If you have not yet sent Charla your next step (e.g., work, graduate school) and personal email address, please do so. You will only have your FSU email for one semester post-graduation. We want to share job postings, trainings, etc.

CSI Internship Highlight

Hi! My name is Cassie Mack. I recently graduated on August 1, 2025, with a Bachelor's degree in Public Safety and Security, majoring in Crime Scene Investigation and minoring in Underwater Crime Scene Investigation.

My career goal is to work with a police department or federal agency that specializes in violent crime. My internship took place during the summer semester, but I started it about two weeks late due to summer labs. I was able to increase my Capstone credit hours to 6 and worked more than the required hours, allowing me to gain more experience and avoid taking another elective class.

My internship was at the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, DC, within their homicide unit. My hours typically consisted of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 to 4:00; however, I occasionally did "ride-alongs" on some evenings to add to my hours.

I often arrived when my supervisor did, so she would immediately give me a task(s) for the day. My supervisor was a civilian; however, we worked directly with sworn detectives and officers. Most of my tasks consisted of watching surveillance footage to track vehicles or suspects. I would often speak with the detectives regarding which cameras they needed me to watch, as well as the specific timeframe. I spent most of my days doing these types of tasks; however, if a call came out, I would then go out with the detectives. Each death scene that I attended was natural and not a homicide. At these scenes, I saw how the detectives work closely alongside the officers and the forensics team. Some of the scenes that I attended were of overdoses, old age naturals, and occasionally the more rare

deaths, like a flooding accident inside an apartment complex.

DC is a very violent city with an average of about 250 homicides a year, so I can say that I was never bored. I would often work on up to 10+ cases at a time during the day.

During the internship, I sometimes felt extremely overwhelmed on certain days and could sense myself starting to spiral. I learned it is okay to take a step back from everything and take a deep breath.

I also learned not just to sit and watch, but to ask questions! No question is stupid, especially in this career field, where most of the information that you will learn is from watching others and asking questions. Never feel uncomfortable speaking up if you are confused or have questions. This is a learning experience for you, and your input may assist your coworkers learn something new.

The best advice that I can give current CSI students is to show your work ethic in school. One of the first things agencies do when considering you for an internship or job in their department is to investigate your academic work. The pride and effort you put into school will open up many more opportunities!

Some classes can be difficult, and some may be boring to you; however, do your best, no matter what, as that is what stands out for most jobs.

Another piece of advice I can offer is to maintain a good relationship with your professors. Your professors are the first steps toward networking and getting yourself out there. Don't be afraid to ask questions, whether in person or online, and don't feel embarrassed if you are struggling with specific subjects. Professors want to see that you're making an effort. Even if you are confused, asking shows your dedication and perseverance. Both will benefit you in your future career.

I hope this advice helps you with whatever you decide to do!

Have a great semester and go Noles!



Cassie Mack

Intern at



**All CSI Majors
are required to
complete a semester-
long Capstone
internship!**

**Capstones are available
in Fall, Spring, and
Summer semesters.
Prerequisites and
application deadlines
for CJE 4710
are listed on the PSS
Canvas course or at**

**[https://appliedstudies.fsu.edu/c
urrent-students/undergraduate-
programs/pss-capstone](https://appliedstudies.fsu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-programs/pss-capstone)**



Students and alumni are invited to participate in the **FSU Panama City Career & Internship Fair** on Wednesday, Oct 1st from 3pm – 6pm in the Holley Academic Center. At this time, the following public safety & security agencies have signed up to attend this event and seek out FSU Panama City students and alumni for their job and internship needs:

Bay County Sheriff's Office

Florida Department of Corrections

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

Panama City Beach Police Department

Tallahassee Police Department

Walton County Sheriff's Office

Contact Jim Allen at jwallen@fsu.edu if you have any questions!

FSU PANAMA CITY CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR

Wednesday, October 1st | 3:00pm to 6:00pm (CST)
Holley Academic Center | 4750 Collegiate Drive

FSU

CAREER
CENTER

GULF COAST
STATE COLLEGE

850-770-2161 | jwallen@fsu.edu | #HireANole

Korri's Korner



FSU CSI Summer 2025 Labs: Building the Future of Forensic Science

This summer, the CSI program at FSU once again delivered four intensive weeks of lab-based learning designed to prepare our students for the demands of the forensic field. I had the privilege of teaching *Impression and Pattern Evidence*, while Professor Charla Perdue and Dr. Banyon Pelham guided students through *Trace and Digital Evidence Labs*.

The preparation and effort that go into the summer labs are tremendous—every assignment, technique, and demonstration is carefully designed to provide meaningful, hands-on experiences. These labs are not just about practicing procedures; they are about instilling the professionalism, precision, and critical thinking that the field of crime scene investigation requires.

For many students, these labs mark a turning point. Handling evidence, applying chemicals and powders, working with technology, and making decisions in real-time give them a glimpse of the careers they are preparing to

enter. The lessons learned here will stay with them long after graduation, shaping how they approach investigations, how they manage evidence, and ultimately, how they contribute to justice.

The expectation is clear: bring curiosity, commitment, and professionalism to every task. In return, the labs will give you the confidence and skillset to thrive in your future career.

The work may be challenging, but it is also transformative. These experiences are more than just coursework—they are the foundation of your identity as a forensic professional.

Join a Professional Forensic Organization



International Association
for Identification



CSI Student of the Semester



Shelina Baxter

☀️ Join us in celebrating **Shelina Baxter**, our CSI Student of the Semester!

Shelina has exemplified excellence in representing the **FSU PC CSI Program**, demonstrating remarkable dedication, skill, and professionalism both inside and outside the classroom. During the weeklong Summer Labs, she stood out as a consistent leader, offering guidance, teamwork, and a commitment to the highest standards in our field.

👏 Congratulations, Shelina, on your outstanding achievements and for setting such an inspiring example for your peers!

Congratulations Shelina!



Delta Delta Epsilon is an International honor society that is dedicated to stimulating academic achievement, promoting community understanding, and advancing the fields of forensic science wherever possible. Membership is limited at this time to students within the disciplines of forensic science which meet high academic criteria and are dedicated to the mission of Delta Delta Epsilon.

*Min. 3.3 GPA &
23 Hours completed in the
Major*

**DDE email
invitations will be
sent out to those
who qualify for
membership in
October.**

**Need FSU CSI Swag or
Intern Shirts?**

**We have T-shirts, Polos,
Car Tags, Hoodies, and
Hats.**

**Order from Almega
Sports.**

https://www.almegasports.com/store/c10/FSU_CSI.html#/

**Help promote the CSI
program on the go!**



Summer 2025 FSU CSI Seniors



LAST LAB PHOTOS

For all lab photos, visit our
Facebook Page
CSI at FSU Panama City

Summer 2025
**Graduation
Photos**



BEHIND YOU
all your memories.
BEFORE YOU
all your dreams.
AROUND YOU
all who love you.
WITHIN YOU
all you need.
CONGRATULATIONS!



"You didn't just earn a degree—
you earned confidence,
caffeine tolerance, and the right
to finally sleep without guilt."
— Unknown

**"SUCCESS HAPPENS
AS A RESULT OF
PREPARATION,
DISCIPLINE,
PERSISTENCE, AND
THE APPLICATION
OF LESSONS
LEARNED."**