



A KILLER DEGREE PROGRAM

# CSI Major Newsletter

Summer 2018

## Hello Sunshine, Hello Labs

By: *Charla S. Perdue*

Summer labs are a wonderful time for CSI majors to come together on campus. Our distance learners and P.C. students get to put faces and names together for the start of friendships that last a lifetime. I love seeing how students keep up with each other afterward on social media. The way students encourage and support each other is great and something special about the CSI program.

Over the summer CSI majors and alumni worked together to put on the Fun with Forensics summer STEM

camp for middle school students. I am grateful for those who freely gave of their time to help educate a future generation of forensic science lovers.

The weather will eventually start to cool and the leaves will start to turn. You will spend time taking courses that provide the academic underpinnings for summer labs in 2019. Everyone will wait with childlike anticipation for the time when hands on learning means digging up dirt and busting skulls (for science of course).

*Charla S. Perdue*

cperdue@pc.fsu.edu 850-770-2207



**Buried Bodies Dig**



**Blood Spatter Lab**

# A Message from a CSI Alum

I joined FSU's CSI program in August of 2016, and two years later, I got my first job in the field. I now work as an Autopsy Assistant at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences in Houston, TX. When I started the program, I was determined to have a job waiting for me upon graduation. A combination of hard work, persistence, and determination paid off.

My advice to future CSI students is to build your academic resume by maintaining a high GPA, getting on the President's List, doing volunteer work in your field, and most importantly, finding the right internship and getting along well with your co-workers. In my case, the fact that I interned at District 14 Medical Examiner's Office in Bay County was a huge part of why HCIFS hired me. When you do your internship, don't just work the minimum 8-hour per week requirement. Put in three days or more, because your supervisors will notice your dedication, and they will give you a good recommendation when you are job-hunting.

When looking for a job, you will have a huge advantage if

you are willing to relocate. I applied for every autopsy tech job I came across, and there weren't that many available. This next point I cannot stress enough: apply for every job listing you come across, even if you aren't qualified, because you never know. The agency may be so short-staffed that they will hire you even though you don't have any experience. The worst that will happen is you will get rejection emails or just won't hear back from them at all, both of which happened to me.

Once you do get a call for an interview, you need to prepare for it. Look up the most common questions employers ask potential employees and study them. Know what you are going to say and say it enthusiastically and articulately. Also, don't think of the interview as an interrogation, but more like a friendly conversation. Your supervisors just want to get to know you and make sure you are the type of person they want to work with. You should also do some research about the history of the agency you are applying with. That's the first question they asked me, and luckily, I had a response ready to go.

One final piece of advice about job interviews is to dress appropriately. I am going to go against most peoples' advice and say that a suit and tie is not necessarily appropriate for every type of job interview. My interview was via Skype, and I just wore hospital scrubs. Why?

Because I was working at District 14 and had been in the morgue all morning, and more importantly, what am I trying to communicate to my future employers? Am I the suit-and-tie office guy or am I a worker who is willing to get his hands dirty? This decision paid off, because all four people who interviewed me were wearing hospital scrubs, so I immediately fit in with my supervisors. Of course, for most job interviews you should dress in business attire, but I'm just saying that this is not always the case.

In the meantime, just enjoy your time at FSU. The connections you will make with your classmates and teachers will last throughout your career. Who knows, you may even end up working with them one day.



Paul Olsen, CSI Graduate



## All CSI Majors are required to complete a semester long Capstone internship

For Capstone Info Visit

[www.pc.fsu.edu/pss](http://www.pc.fsu.edu/pss)

while it has its ups and downs, it is quite an exciting field to be in.

Within the first few weeks my supervisor was able to provide me with the occasion to experience what an investigator does at a crime scene. We investigated a home that was reported burglarized. The home in question was very disorganized, but while speaking with the owner's daughter we were able to better speculate what may be potentially missing. Once the initial walkthrough of the scene was completed, I was able to use the training and skills I have acquired from my courses in the FSU Crime Scene Investigation program to properly search and collect pieces of evidence. Once we were finished with the scene, we returned back to the crime lab to process the evidence for fingerprints. The method we used was cyanoacrylate fuming (Superglue fuming) and any fingerprints that were found were properly photographed and documented.

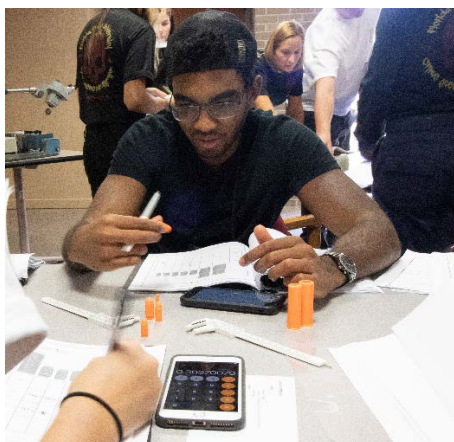
The reason I chose the Bay County Sheriff's Office for my internship was because the agency has a crime scene investigation and evidence collection/records unit. This agency has allowed me to work with people that can help me put my skills to a real-world test and will help me better understand the various law enforcement processes and investigation techniques. In the end, what I learn can be used in my future career.

Like us on Facebook to keep up with what is going on in the program and see photos of CSI students in action.



CSI at FSU Panama City

## Capstone Highlight



Jason Jose

### Interning at BCSO

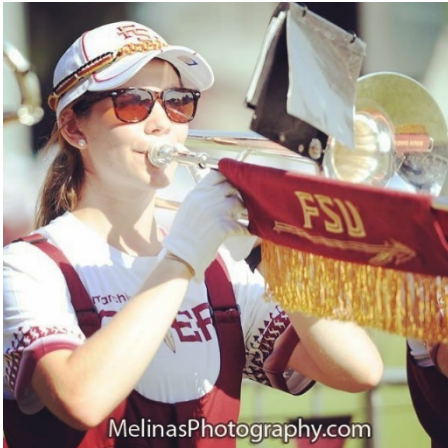
I have been given an opportunity to intern at the Bay County Sheriff's Office. The department I am currently assigned to is the Crime Scene Unit. I work with four highly-trained investigators who have years of combined experience in this field. While working I have experienced the daily life of an investigator and

Congratulations  
Summer 2018  
Graduates!



Michael Andrews  
Savannah Bartleson  
Christen Chipman  
Bret Croft  
Jessica Fabian  
Courtney Lewis  
Andrea Marias  
Paul Olsen  
Breana Rodriguez  
Kelly Wahl

# Caylynn Pigott



## FSU Marching Chief

&

## CSI Major

I am originally from Bradenton, Florida but now I live in Tallahassee. Before I was a CSI major, I started school at the main campus as a nursing student. After changing my major multiple times, I finally found CSI. I have always loved everything to do with crime and my dad and I used to bond over forensic TV shows growing up. The thing I love about the CSI program is getting to do hands on activities which gives you a better prospective of what your life as a Crime Scene

Investigator is going to look like.

Being able to study as a distant learning student has been a blessing. Here in Tally I am apart of Marching Chiefs, so having the opportunity to be a distant learning student for Panama City and keep doing band is amazing. Being in Marching Chiefs is something that takes my mind off of schooling and takes me to my happy place. There's something about being surrounded by people who have a common goal, to cheer on the Noles, that is so encouraging. Each year we arrive at school a week before everyone else to start our audition process. Every student has to go through the same thing year after year. We are outside from 7 am to 9 pm learning new techniques, music, and shows. It is a long and tedious process but it is so worth it when you see your name on the list of people who made it and our first football game rolls around. The moment we are playing the War Chant, renegade comes running out, and the stadium shakes with excitement is a moment you will never forget. You get the

feeling that you apart of something that is bigger than yourself. We have tons of traditions that go back almost 50 years. For example, the headdresses that we wear. They are just simple head bands that go around our hats but each row leader makes your headband special for you. They put feathers, beads, and other different small trinkets on the ropes. So next time you see the Marching Chiefs try to see how many different headdresses you can spot.

It can be hard at times to manage school and Chiefs. We rehearse every day from 4pm-6pm and have pep bands on Friday, football games all day Saturday, and an occasional gig thrown in here and there. However, being able to do distant learning helps a lot. I can work on my own schedule and don't have to worry about missing out on something because I have class at that scheduled time. This has shown me that with hard work you can accomplish anything you put your mind to.



# Join LAE



**Pi Chi**  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
PANAMA CITY

Contact Brittany Thompson,  
LAE Secretary for details

[bdt17@my.fsu.edu](mailto:bdt17@my.fsu.edu)

CSI Majors-  
Making An Impression!



## Upcoming Spring CSI Courses



## Summer 2018

### Dean's List

Savannah Bartleson  
Elizabeth Blume  
Jason Jose  
Trista Waits

### President's List

Courtney Lewis  
Samantha Masterson  
Rebecca Morris

**Congratulations &  
keep up the good  
work!**



CJE 3762 (3)

Forensic Science in  
Investigation  
(DL only)

CJE 3762L (1)

Forensic Science in  
Investigation Lab  
(DL only)

CJE 4135 (2)

Impression and Pattern  
Evidence  
(F2F & DL)

CJE 4241 (1)

Trace and Biometric  
Evidence  
(DL only)

## CSI STUDENT OF THE SEMESTER



### Courtney Lewis

Courtney Lewis is the CSI Student of the Semester. Courtney's nomination stated, "she is always willing to help others and is dedicated to always doing and giving her best."

*Congratulations  
Courtney!*

**Need CSI gear?** Check out our designs on shirts, hoodies, polos and car tags at

[Almega Sports](https://store.almegasports.com/searchquick-submit.sc?keywords=csi)

<https://store.almegasports.com/searchquick-submit.sc?keywords=csi>



The FDIAI 59th Annual Educational Training Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida

## DETAILS

- WHEN**

Sunday, October 28, 2018 - Thursday, November 1, 2018  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Eastern Time

- WHERE**

Rosen Plaza Hotel 19700 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819  
800-627-8258

- WEBSITES**

[FDIAI Website](http://www.fdiai.org)

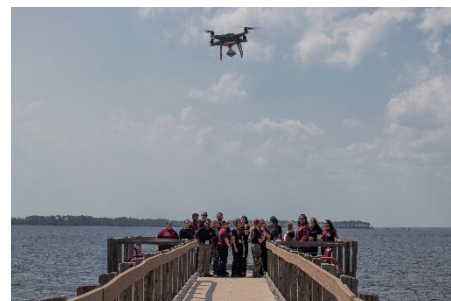
[www.fdiai.org](http://www.fdiai.org)

Student pricing for the conference is available.

**We love our Summer  
CSI Mentors  
Koren Colbert  
&  
Dave Thomasee**



Facial Reconstruction Lab



Drone Demo



Bloodspatter Analysis Lab



STEM Camp Leaders