

The Forensics Flock Newsletter Spring 2025

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY



From the Forensics Coordinators' Offices-

What an incredible spring semester it's been for our forensic science students! Beyond a rigorous academic schedule, students had the opportunity to attend a Spring Seminar Speaker Series that provided invaluable real-world perspectives and expanded our students' understanding of the diverse applications of forensic science.

In addition to classes and engaging seminars, our students enjoyed a variety of activities designed to foster community and camaraderie.

This spring, we also had the pleasure of welcoming many prospective students to campus during our three Admitted Students Day events. We're thrilled to announce that this fall, we anticipate welcoming our largest cohort of forensic science majors yet!

We wish everyone a restful and rejuvenating summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus in September for another exciting academic year!

Dr. Shifler and Mrs. Bunting, Forensic Program Coordinators

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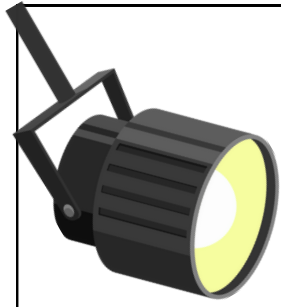
Ellen and Emily Stockman's Maryland State Police Winter Internship

Emily and I were blessed to be able to complete an internship with the Maryland State Police Forensic Science Division in the Controlled Dangerous Substance Chemistry lab in Hagerstown, MD. Over a 6-week span we were able to gain hands-on chemistry experience, observe the scientists' casework, record and analyze data, work with and on their chemical instruments, and as always with science, problem solve and troubleshoot.

As soon as we got there, we were introduced to the projects we were going to be working on. The lab had received a new gas chromatograph with a flame ionization detector (FID) and a mass spectrometer (MS). Our main project was working on validating the instrument; this means we were assessing the performance of it, and if adequate, the instrument could be used for the scientists' casework. Emily worked on validating the GC-FID and I worked on validating the GC-MS. To do this, we prepared drug standards of different concentrations to test the instrument's limits such as its chromatography, sensitivity, carry-over, repeatability, and how it compared to similar instruments in different units. Our secondary project was to go through their 500 drug standards (they run these with samples in their casework to identify a drug) and inject them to make sure they were still viable. By the end we eliminated over 100 standards to bring their number of lists from 10 to 6 and a half.

Our time at SU so far has been integral in allowing us to be successful and well-equipped for our internship experience. Through our chemistry classes, analyzing gas chromatographs and mass spectra, to performing serial dilutions, and being able to work with a GC in the instrument room for research.

Our internship has been beneficial to us in providing us an insight into what a forensic science job, specifically in a chemistry lab, entails. As well as introducing us to some amazing chemists and being able to learn from them and build relationships with them.



Alumni Spotlight: DSP Trooper Mason

“How did the forensic science program help you prepare for a career with the Delaware State Police?”

“When I was a Chemistry major I always felt like I struggled more than the other students in class. It seemed as if everyone around me would naturally understand what they were learning. I just thought maybe school wasn't for me.

However, once I discovered the forensic science program, I had a newfound confidence and a newfound love for learning again. I cared about what I was learning because this is my passion. I felt like I had found my calling and my path. I felt completely different my senior year at SU because of the forensic science program. I also formed connections with my teachers that I never had before in college. I felt a part of something bigger than just a student.

Without the forensic science program, I would not be where I am today. The program challenged me to get out of my comfort zone and try things I would never think I would be good at. I was so scared to do research with a professor and to step out of my comfort zone and complete an internship. For me I would say the best part of my college career was doing research alongside Dr. Juncosa and my internship with the Maryland State Police. I gained so much confidence in myself during research with Dr. Juncosa. My internship helped me find my passion and sort through the many different possible career paths I could have gone down.

The program is designed to have you learn and supply you with the confidence and tools you need for the forensics field. Even though I did not choose a traditional career field in forensic science, I believe my knowledge and education in forensic science will give me a unique skill set as a Delaware State Police Trooper.”



Join The Forensics Club!

Are you interested in forensic science and looking for an engaging, fun community? Look no further than SU's Forensic Science Club!

During the Spring 2025 semester, we had a blast with activities like a spring semester Sherlock Holmes themed "Par-tea," a whodunnit Mardi Gras Murder Mystery, a professional wear tour at the SU Career Closet, and an end-of-the semester ice cream social.

Ready to join the fun? All SU students, including non-majors are welcome! Send an email to jcbunting@salisbury.edu.





Bunting attends Forensic Entomology workshop at Forensic Anthropology Research Facility

Jocelyn Bunting recently attended a two-day American Board of Forensic Entomology workshop at Texas State University's Forensic Anthropology Research Facility (FARF). The training offered hands-on experience in collecting and analyzing insect evidence from decomposing bodies, alongside instruction on collection, preservation, and shipping forensic entomology evidence.

Bunting stated, "The training was phenomenal; I especially valued the hands-on larval collection and microscopic analysis." She has already incorporated this knowledge into her death investigations lecture and plans a fall seminar on the experience.

Reading Recommendation



Summer is the perfect time to dive into your reading list. Mary Roach's *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* is a book recommended by Ranger Leiby during her Spring Seminar Series presentation.

Roach's humor is evident from Chapter 1, "Maul Cops: Crime Scene Forensics When the Killer Isn't Human." She details her experience at a Wildlife Human Attack Response Training, where she learned to process crime scenes involving animal suspects like bears & cougars. Subsequent chapters examine other wildlife "suspects," such as elephants & leopards.

Throughout the book, Roach explores how humans have a role, responsibility, and potential solutions to many of these wildlife-human conflicts. It's a page-turner that examines the "wilder" side of forensics.

Forensics Spring 2025 Speaker Series Recap



The Spring 2025 Seminar Speaker Series featured three engaging presentations:

- National Parks Ranger Nicole Leiby shared her experiences working with the National Park Service and provided a helpful tutorial on navigating the USAJOBS application process.
- Salisbury University alum, Abigail Wilson, a Criminalist at the NYPD Police Laboratory, discussed her career path from Salisbury University to John Jay College, culminating in her current role in the NYPD Police Lab's latent print development unit.
- In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Vance Row, a Mental Health and Awareness Advocate for First Responders, presented in May. Vance shared his personal journey from law enforcement to practicing yoga and led the group in de-stressing yoga exercises before final exams.