

# **Heather Walsh-Haney, Ph.D.**

**Expert in forensic studies and human rights at Florida Gulf Coast University**

Fort Myers, FL, US

Heather Walsh-Haney teaches forensic science and regularly assists law enforcement finding and studying remains in Florida

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## **Biography**

Heather Walsh-Haney is an associate professor and chair in the Department of Justice Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. As a member of the Department of Health and Human Services Disaster Mortuary Response Team (DMORT), she helped locate and/or identify human remains from Hurricanes Wilma and Katrina and assisted in the recovery of human remains at the World Trade Center following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Walsh-Haney is also an expert in forensics and crime scene recovery. Her research has taken her to Fiji on several occasions where she has been part of a larger study concerning ritual cannibalism and foodways in modern and ancient Oceania. She also works with an interdisciplinary team of practitioners on cases of femicide in Guatemala and to combat human rights abuses in Colombia and Guatemala. As faculty at the National Forensic Academy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, she teaches forensic techniques in anthropology, archaeology and osteology to law enforcement officers from both national and international agencies. She also regularly assists local law enforcement with finding and studying human remains, working on nearly 100 human remains cases every year.

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Trauma Analysis, Witness Testimony, Child Abuse, Forensics, Human Rights, Crime Scene Recovery, Forensic Anthropology and Human Evolution, Anthropology and Bioarchaeology, Ground-penetrating Radar, Domestic Violence, Decomposition Ecology and Forensics, Mass Fatalities, Crime Scene Analysis, Human Remains

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## **Affiliations**

American Board of Forensic Anthropology : Diplomate, American Academy of Forensic Sciences : Fellow, U.S. Department of Homeland Security : Founding Member, American Anthropological Association : Member, American Association of Physical Anthropologists : Member, Florida Emergency Mortuary Response Team : Member, National Disaster & Mortuary Response Team : 1998-2018, Latin American Studies Association : Member

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## **Selected Event Appearances**

**The Science and Art of Reading Bones**

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

**The Anthropological Profile: Helping Law Enforcement to Recognize Lines of Anthropologic Evidence**  
Broward College

## **Education**

### **Ph.D.**

University of Florida, Gainesville FL.

### **M.A.**

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

### **B.A.**

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

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## **Accomplishments**

### **FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award**

2001 Presented by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences to the author of the best paper on any topic focusing on the reliability and validity of techniques, processes or methods in a forensic area of the author's choice.

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