

Bugs, Bones and Botany  
North Carolina State University  
Produced September 10, 2009

Dr. David Hinks  
Associate Professor of Textile Engineering, Chemistry and Science

Every afternoon after we have classes in the morning, we bring the agents out in the field and we have a series of staged crime scenes. There are three main stages. One is the collection of scattered remains. That would include bones for anthropology, hair and fiber, then retrieve the evidence. That's the key part of any crime scene investigation. If you don't pull the evidence properly or you don't label it, you don't know where it was from, you don't know its history, then you really have hindered your investigation. And so we spend a lot of time on that.

The next area is in archeology where the agents learn how to properly uncover buried remains. This is really a death investigation so everything is related to homicides of some kind.

And then the third area is entomology. We have a number of pigs that are sacrificed and they are sacrificed over a period of days, from a couple of days to two or three weeks and they are in various stages of decay. And a key part of that is to be able to identify what bugs are on the body at that time. We use pigs because they are an approximation of a human corpse. We're able to estimate the time of death relatively accurately from the entomological evidence.

So they really get a broad spectrum of experience on how to process crimes that involve homicide.

This video was produced by News Services at North Carolina State University, Campus Box 7504, Raleigh, NC 27695. E-mail: [newstips@ncsu.edu](mailto:newstips@ncsu.edu). Phone: 919-515-3470.

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