



## Speaker:

Dr. Robert Kimsey



**Date:** Monday, February 12, 2024  
**Time:** 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm  
**Format:** In-Person Seminar & Virtual Access  
**Location:** Genomics Auditorium 1102A  
**Zoom:** 938 1040 4405  
**Passcode:** 833289

### Title:

"Forensic Entomology and Fire"

### Abstract:

Homicide investigators frequently seek to determine the time of death, a key factor in ruling out suspects. Paradoxically, identifying this parameter often depends on evidence that develops after the crime, frequently depending on such biological phenomena as the process of decomposition or the development of arthropod scavenger populations. But when fire occurs, that additional moment in time must be identified; because evidence perishes, survives, or evolves at that point. The greater the period between these two points in time the more complicated the investigation and evidence becomes. How fire modifies the decomposition process remains the province of the forensic pathologist. Effects on insect populations would seem to be simple- they would not develop. But they do, and they offer the forensic entomologist fascinating and potentially very useful evidence that reflects the history of the fire related homicide.

\*\*Please note, this seminar will contain photographs of explicit examples of decomposing and burned decedents. They are presented for their heuristic value only, but may be disturbing to some.