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Teamwork

University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth

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Topic: Teamwork

Oral History Interviewees: Dr. Rhonda Roby, Dr. Arthur Eisenberg

Oral History Interviewers: Jessie Milligan

Transcript status: Completed, corrected, master

Dr. Arthur Eisenberg:

it's not just UNT center for human identification is not just the health science center we have an incredible team of forensic anthropologists, osteologists(?) up in Denton on the Denton campus Dr. Harold Gill King and myself are the directors of the UNT center of human identification. I direct the sort of the molecular DNA here and he is one of the leading forensic anthropologists and he directs the lab for forensic anthropology up in Denton. The combination of makes us, I think, something very special. There are very few entities that bring together such expertise that works in synergy is the team to help answer these questions in terms of who an individual was and they certainly make us better. Remains go there and they'll try to determine cause, manner of death and make the identification and the skeletal structure and so forth. If they're not able to make a run of the mill identification, they'll sample the remains. We don't want 206 bones or so, they're just selected for us. They know what it's most appropriate and it has the best chance of getting DNA from the remains. So we work hand-in-hand and that's something that Department of Justice and National Institutes of Justice realized and that's why I think we've been so successful in obtaining funding, because of this unique partnership. So that's something that that clearly makes this a unique and strong him programs individually how much stronger we are work together as a team, which we've been doing since early 2000.

Dr. Rhonda Roby

I want to make it really clear that if your audience is looking to study forensic sciences or something, it's a team effort. Yeah, you work by yourself a lot, and you're reviewing something, or studying something. But to me the big picture, and the fun part, is getting together with the teams. And that's I think how... I find that part the most rewarding.

Dr. Arthur Eisenberg:

Our Department has more frequent flyer miles than probably most whole departments or schools. It's not that we just want to accumulate miles, we're collaborating, and we're developing relationships. It's all part of an educational research that, you know, not only we do we do in house, but we also do throughout the world.

Dr. Rhonda Roby:

It was very interesting. It is very interesting when you work on these cases. The teams that you work with, you work with a lot of different people. We have the opportunity to work with forensic anthropologists, forensic pathologists. In that particular case, the forensic scientist from Russia was in our laboratory, Dr. Pavel Ivanov. And it was very fascinating because he came and worked with us in the laboratory. We had a team of people that really were processing those remains, and so forth. And so, it

was a fascinating case. Research division got involved, and our casework analysts were able to process those remains. We reached out across different international lines on the results that were obtained, because some work was being conducted in the United Kingdom, and had been done. So yeah, that was an exciting case. It was exciting to work alongside a Russian forensic scientist. It was a great collaboration.