



NSU Criminal Justice News



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THE POLICE BEAT

Inappropriate Comments?

Joe Morris
Associate Professor

A house has been totally consumed by fire killing the one person who was inside the residence. The embers are still smoldering, the human remains are still lying on the bedsprings, which is all that is left of the bed. Family members were present, and several police officers standing around as well as members of the volunteer fire department, awaiting the coroner's arrival at the scene. Among this group were two veteran State Troopers, each with more than 16 years in law enforcement. One trooper turned from looking at the body and said to the other trooper, "I'm hungry, let's go get some barbecue."

As a rookie officer, in my first year on the job, I was astounded that some one would make jokes about something as serious as a person dying in a house fire. How could anyone be so callous, so uncaring, so unfeeling, or have such disregard for the sanctity of human life?

As I progressed in my law enforcement career, I noticed that I too began to make seemingly inappropriate comments about situations on the job, a form of gallows humor. Why was I becoming as cynical as those troopers?

Neiderhofer's classical study of police cynicism in 1967 found that although a typical recruit begins his or her career without a trace of cynicism, police cynicism spikes most dramatically immediately after recruits leave the basic academy. This is probably because they confront the reality of the streets – the pain and criminality of society – the worst aspects of the job.¹



A police officer's view of humanity may become distorted and cynical for many reasons. The pain and anguish they experience on a daily

basis from the abused child, the battered spouse, the seriously injured citizens they come in contact with, and the senseless drive-by shootings that cause the death of an innocent person who died just because they happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. How do the officers protect themselves from becoming secondary victims?

Cynicism! It allows the officer to become callous: it allows him or her to see things that would sicken or horrify the average citizen without becoming mentally debilitated.² Bottom line – it is a coping mechanism, a way to let off "steam", a way to keep from internalizing the pain and suffering that the officers' experience each and every day. These inappropriate comments are not meant for anyone except those other officers who are experiencing the same feelings, the same situations, and who share these emotions on a daily basis. This is what allows the officer to continue to function, to continue to do his job, even in the most severe circumstances, and continue to live a seemingly normal life.



http://www.cbc.ca/gfx/photos/fire_wreckage_lg041109.jpg

¹Peak, Kenneth J, *Policing America: Methods, Issues, Challenges*, 5th ed., Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2006. Page 87.

²Peak, Kenneth J, *Policing America: Methods, Issues, Challenges*, 5th ed., Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2006. Page 87.

Visit us on the web
[Http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice](http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice)

THE COURTHOUSE

The Supreme Court: Why All The Fuss? (Part II)

Shirley Snyder
Assistant Professor

Really, one asks, how powerful can these nine individuals be? What kind of foothold do these Justices get within the judicial system by confirmation to this high Court? Nine people, these nine people, have the final authority to make judgments, which interpret the Constitution; these nine and no others above them. If Congress doesn't like the decisions, it can create new law, modify current law, or delete law. However, the same Court can review that law and with the appropriate case alleging a constitutional violation, declare that law unconstitutional as well. The high Court is the final arbiter of the meaning of the Constitution. That includes authority to do so even if it steps on the toes of Congress or the President of the United States.

Congress has another tool by which it can speak and that is to request a vote of the people of this country for an amendment to the Constitution. But, this has been accomplished only about 17 times since the ratifications of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.⁴ As a result, amending the Constitution in an effort to control the high Court has not been used with success and as



such, is not a viable control on the Supreme Court. The decisions made by this high Court stands as the law of the land until this Court determines to change it.

How can we get rid of these Supreme Court Justices? The Justices can be removed from their positions only by impeachment, a cumbersome process, which ultimately requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate for removal.⁵ This has never been accomplished.⁵

Then just how long is "service for life" by the Supreme Court Justices?⁵ How long do these good and true members of our Court really serve? The current Chief Justice John Roberts, Jr., in September 2005, took the position of William Rehnquist, who served almost 34 years. The other Justices have served for varying periods of time: Stephen G. Breyer: 11 years and 5 months; Ruth Bader Ginsburg: 12 years and 5 months; Anthony Kennedy: 17 years 10 months; Sandra O'Connor: 24 years; Antonin Scalia: 19 years; David H. Souter: 15 years; John Paul Stevens: 30 years; and Clarence Thomas: 14 years.⁶

Being a justice on the Supreme Court is definitely a position that provides job security. The minimum length of time served by the current justices (other than by Chief Roberts, confirmed in 2005) is 11 years and still serving; the maximum is 30 years and still serving. Unless a particular Justice commits a crime or is found to be in serious violation of ethics, his or her job is secure.

It seems a foregone conclusion. Once confirmed, these Justices are here to stay and they stay a long time. They are powerful and their decisions last longer than they do and these Justices last a long time. So, it is imperative that the choices for Justice of the Supreme Court are made carefully and with wisdom and discernment. After all, they determine our rights and liberties and the expansion or the restriction of the same liberties and rights.

SOURCES:

⁴NARA. The National Archives Experience. The Charters of Freedom. Constitution of the United States. Amendments 11-27.

http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution_amendments_11-27.html

(Visited January 17, 2006).

⁵MSN Encarta Encyclopedia. Supreme Court of the United States. Page 4 of 5.

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761574302_2/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States.html#s18

(Visited January 17, 2006).

⁶U.S. Supreme Court Justices. A Listing of all Supreme Court Justices. Page 1-3 of 8.

<http://www.oyez.org/oyez/portlet/justices/> (Visited January 11, 2006).

READER FEEDBACK

The NSU Criminal Justice News wants to provide a medium for news of interest to our readers. If you have ideas about issues you would like to see addressed in this newsletter, find one of our articles particularly motivating, or liked or didn't like an article, please contact us with your feedback. We would love to hear from you.

Please contact the Criminal Justice Program at: NSU Criminal Justice News, Criminal Justice Program, 343C, Keyser Hall, N.S.U., Natchitoches, La 71497; or Email us at: crim_justice@nsula.edu, or snyders@nsula.edu.

COUNTER-POINT

Criminal Justice In the Information Age (Part I)

Bill Shaw
Assistant Professor

Very little in our world has been left untouched by the revolution brought about by the advent of the information super highway—the Internet. We all have access to sources of information undreamed of only a decade ago. My own first experiences with computers go back to the early 1980s and my Radio Shack color computer with its 32 k ram and cassette data storage with a dot-matrix printer. I used that computer to write a master's thesis. It was like a magical, electronic toy that wasn't taken seriously anywhere in the real world. Today, the real world is computers and the power that they put in the hands of the people all over the world.

It is estimated that by 2010 or sooner, all the information known to man will be available on the Internet to anyone with a computer, a modem and \$9.95 per month in disposable income. To put some perspective on how attainable that is by the average person, when I purchased my weak, limited color computer, the retail price was close to \$3,000 for all the hardware and software required to spit out one thesis. I was living well on about \$13,000 per year at that time. Today, a computer with hundreds of times the power can be purchased with all the software and hardware necessary for Internet

connection (plus hundreds of other tasks) for less than a thousand dollars. There are \$50 wristwatches with more computing power than my first computer. The geometric expansion of access to and manipulation of information are affecting every aspect of life.

The criminal justice system is no different. Computers and the Internet are becoming powerful tools for police training and the fight against crime as well as new avenues for criminal activity. Recently, a TV news "magazine" program focused on crimes against children. It demonstrated how pedophiles target and stalk their victims in chatrooms, arranging meetings across country with unsuspecting children. Volunteers performed live demonstrations in which they played the part of a juvenile female or male in a chatroom and, in a matter of moments, had pedophiles trying to arrange meetings. One of these would-be perpetrators was an officer with Homeland Security. How did they know? The chatters were invited over to a set-up where they were met by TV cameras and Riverside County Sheriff's deputies.

The program also dealt with the problem of "kiddie porn." This can be transmitted from computer to computer through encrypted photographs. A photograph of a police badge may be an encrypted photograph of a nude, 11-year-old boy. Learning how to decode these images, get past the security, and decode passwords used by perpetrators is a new field in law enforcement for which there are too few qualified personnel. Recently, the



http://www.jltmobilecomputers.com/_img/public_safety/1205_mounted.jpg

FBI estimated that there were at least nine months to a year behind in downloading evidence from seized computers needed in prosecutions. Child pornography is only one area in which this skill is required in the war on crime.

Besides the use of the Internet and computers by the bad guys to commit crime, police use the "net" as a PR tool, maintaining web sites to inform the world about their departments, personnel, and programs and to advertise for employees. Want to know about the London Metropolitan Police and Scotland Yard? Their web site is <http://www.met.police.uk/>. How about the FBI? It's <http://www.fbi.gov/>. What about Los Angeles PD (<http://www.instanet.com/lapd/>) or the Louisiana State Police (<http://www.lsp.org/index.html>)? Want to know what are the qualifications to apply for a job as a federal game warden? Check out: <http://www.fwoa.org/>.

For more on "Criminal Justice in the Information Age", see next month's issue of the **NSU Criminal Justice News**.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the **NSU Criminal Justice News** please send an email with your name, address, and phone number to: crim_just@nsula.edu or visit the Criminal Justice website at <http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice>.

THE GRAB BAG

CJAP: A New Certification for Criminal Justice Personnel (Part II)

Thomas J. Tiefenwerth
Assistant Professor

Part I of this article, covered in last month's newsletter, explained that the clearly demonstrated link between drug abuse and criminal behavior has resulted in the development of the Criminal Justice Addictions Professional (C.J.A.P.) credentialing process. Individuals seeking this certification must be knowledgeable of both the criminal justice system and addictions/substance abuse treatment modalities and programs, as substance abusing and dependent offenders are a unique subset population within the broader addiction field. The State of Louisiana endorses the concept that the treatment of addiction in a criminal justice setting is a specialty field that requires performance by competent and professional individuals. The standards for certification of these individuals are weighted on the side of proven experience and education.

The certification process is a tiered process based on relevant, documented experience of at least 6000 hours (three years of direct services in criminal justice/addiction services, obtained over the last ten years). The number of required hours of documented experience may be reduced



with the appropriate amount of formal academic education (college degrees). The higher the academic degree (A.A., B.S., M.A., Ph.D.) that is documented, the lower the requirement of documented hours of experience. The minimum education requirement is 270 classroom contact hours, not college hours/credits. Typically, 45 hours of credit is awarded for appropriate courses within the social and behavioral sciences, relevant to the credential.

The certification process is designed to accommodate and evaluate those who are both experientially trained, as well as those who are academically trained, by setting uniform minimum standards for certification. The certification process defines core knowledge and skill bases needed by all criminal justice addiction professionals regardless of their professional training, orientation or occupation. This process sets a baseline standard for treatment professionals working in criminal justice settings (law enforcement, judicial, corrections, probation & parole, etc.) and providing a wide array administrative and treatment services to drug involved offenders. Such professionals are given special recognition for meeting specific predetermined criteria. The purpose is to assure that quality addiction services are available to adult and juvenile drug involved offenders, regardless of whether they are substance abusing or substance dependent. This certifi-

cation provides a voluntary professional credential that can guide public and private employers in selecting competent staff and sets the direction for further professional growth.

The significance of this exceedingly marketable credential is that it is being endorsed on the national and state levels, and will likely be a required credential for individuals working with offenders associated with the State Drug Courts. Students, particularly those pursuing degrees within the social and behavioral sciences in general and criminal justice, psychology, sociology, and social work in particular, should consider student memberships in the Louisiana Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers and/or the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals, as these professional organizations will not only keep you abreast of important developments within the fields of addiction/substance abuse and criminal justice, but could also potentially assist you in finding a job through networking with other organization members, after graduation.

Please feel free to contact me, through the Northwestern State University Criminal Justice Program, (Telephone: 318-357-6850; Email: tiefenwertht@nsula.edu) if I can be of any assistance in facilitating your knowledge of this credential, or your membership in the organizations listed above.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR March 14, 2006

The Criminal Justice Program at Northwestern State University of Louisiana is hosting a career fair for Criminal Justice majors and other majors interested in this field, on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Student Union Building on the Natchitoches campus. **There is no fee for this Fair.**

Law enforcement and correction organizations, state and local governments, law schools and university graduate programs, and other prospective employers participate in this career fair. You are invited to represent your organization and to present your organization's career options to interested individuals and have them begin the application process for available positions in law enforcement, law, and associated fields. Please contact our Criminal Justice office at 318-357-6967 and request a reservation form.

ALUMNI NEWS



People on the Move

The NSU Criminal Justice News wants to provide a forum for news about alumni of the Criminal Justice Program at Northwestern State University. If you are an alumnus of our program and want to provide information of your jobs and locations so that we might celebrate your success with you and share those successes with other individuals interested

in keeping up with the people, programs, and places of our NSU alumni, please contact the Criminal Justice Program.

Criminal Justice Program,
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Natchitoches, LA 71497
crim_justice@nsula.edu or
snyders@nsula.edu;
318-357-5505 or 318-357-6967

Criminal Justice Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Criminal Justice Program at Northwestern State University is establishing a Distinguished Alumni Award that will acknowledge the accomplishments in the field of Criminal Justice of two of its' Alumni per year. These Alumni will be honored at the Liberal Arts Spring Awards Banquet each year. We are looking for Alumni who have distinguished themselves. The Criminal Justice Program Coordinator Joe Morris will accept nominations for this award through March 1, 2006. To nominate yourself or an individual for this award please submit the following to Joe Morris, Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program, Northwestern State University, Rm. 343C, Kyser Hall, Natchitoches, LA 71497. Email: morrisj@nsula.edu.

MANDATORY

Alumnus name
Year of graduation
Current address/contact information
Paragraph describing why you think the individual should be recognized as a distinguished alumnus

IF AVAILABLE

Current Employer
Address/contact information
Immediate supervisor
Updated copy of Resume'
Academic Education
Continued Education
Employer history if more than one employer
Awards/commendations received
Professional and civic associations

Frank C. Kyle Memorial Scholarship—Applications Now Being Accepted



The Criminal Justice Program is proud to present the Frank C. Kyle Memorial Scholarships. This scholarship process includes a requirement that each student submit an application which requires an essay addressing their plans to impact and contribute to their career field-criminal justice, and how the criminal justice degree will help them accomplish their goals. Additional requirements for consideration for these scholarships include a major in Criminal Justice, junior or senior status, an overall minimum GPA of 2.5, and a minimum major GPA of 3.0. These scholarships are awarded in the spring of each year to one (1) student majoring in criminal justice, with the award given the following fall and spring [\$250 at the start of the fall semester and \$250 at the start of the spring semester].) A student may be awarded this scholarship one time only.

The Criminal Justice Program is **now accepting applications** for the Frank C. Kyle Memorial Scholarships. The **deadline** for handing in applications for consideration is April 1, 2006, at 3 p.m. to 343C or 343H Keyser Hall. Students interested in applying for this scholarship may

download the [application](http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/Scholarship.html) from the Criminal Justice Program website, <http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/Scholarship.html>, or <http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/docs/Kylescholarshipapp.pdf>, and return it with all supporting materials to: Attn: Coordinator, Frank C. Kyle Scholarship Application Process, Northwestern State University Criminal Justice Program, 343B. Keyser Hall, Natchitoches, LA 71497, Phone: (318) 357-6967 or Fax (318) 357-6966.

The Frank C. Kyle Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the legacy of Frank C. Kyle, a deceased member of the Criminal Justice Program in the Department of Social Sciences at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Prior to being a faculty member, Frank retired from active Probation/Parole service to the state of Louisiana.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Glen Devanie Memorial Scholarship, please download the **contribution form** at: <http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/docs/Kylecontribution.pdf>.

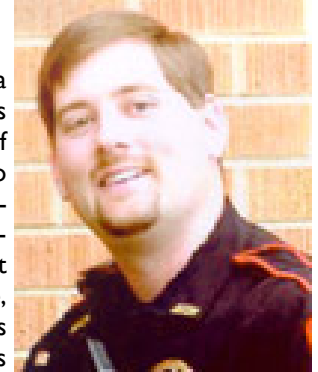
GLEN DENNING DEVANIE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJORS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

The Criminal Justice Program is proud to present for the 3rd year, the Glen Denning Devanie Memorial Scholarships. Each spring in February, the application process for the scholarships begins, with applications accepted until April of that year. This scholarship process includes a requirement that each student submit an application which requires an essay addressing their plans to impact and contribute to their career field-criminal justice, and how the criminal justice degree will help them accomplish their goals. Additional requirements for consideration for these scholarships include a major in Criminal Justice, junior or senior status, an overall minimum GPA of 2.5, and a minimum major GPA of 3.0. These scholarships are awarded in the spring of each year to two (2) students majoring in criminal justice, with the award given the following fall and spring [\$250 at the start of the fall semester and \$250 at the start of the spring semester].) A student may be awarded this scholarship one time only.

The Criminal Justice Program is **now accepting applications** for the Glen Devanie Memorial Scholarships. The **deadline** for handing in applications for consideration is April 1, 2006, at 3 p.m. to 343C or 343H Keyser Hall. Students interested in applying for this scholarship may download the **application** from the Criminal Justice Program site, <http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/Scholarship.html>, or <http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/docs/ScholarshipApplication.pdf>, and return it with all supporting materials to: Attn: Coordinator, Glen Devanie Scholarship Application Process, Northwestern State University Criminal Justice Program, 343B. Keyser Hall, Natchitoches, LA 71497, Phone: (318) 357-6967 or Fax (318) 357-6966



The Glen Denning Devanie Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the legacy of Glen Denning Devanie, a criminal justice major and an Alexandria deputy marshal at the time of his death in the spring of 2003. The scholarship honors Glen through financial assistance by encouraging students who are working toward their Criminal Justice Degree to take their learning experience along with Glen's legacy into the future.



Glen Denning Devanie was a strong individual who always placed others before himself and a humble man with no enemies who was always looking for the positive way of carrying out a task. His pleasant demeanor, ever-present smile, and willingness to assist others were some of the many ways he endeared himself to those who knew him.

Law enforcement had always been Glen's goal in life beginning with his involvement in the Law Enforcement Explorer Program at a very young age. Alexandria City Marshal, James Byrd, recognized the talent and love for the profession that Glen possessed right after Glen graduated from high school. Marshall Byrd quickly hired Glen as a Deputy City Marshal at the age of eighteen.

Glen had many passions in life ranging from Boy Scouts to running a variety of small businesses. He was known in the community as an established, well-respected businessman, and as a loving husband and father. He managed to have it all: a good marriage, two beautiful children, while pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice at Northwestern State University.

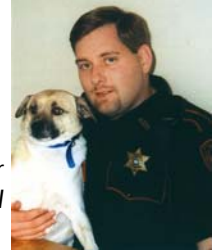
While acting in the line of duty rushing to the aid of a fellow police officer, Glen lost his life. He swerved to avoid a collision with another vehicle and lost control of his own vehicle. Glen's life on earth was short. However, because of the actions that he performed daily, he will always be remembered. Northwestern State University sought to honor Glen Denning Devanie as well by awarding his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice in May 2003, with his wife receiving the diploma on Glen's behalf.

The Criminal Justice Program is proud to present these scholarships in memory of Glen Denning Devanie. If you would like to make a contribution to the Glen Devanie Memorial Scholarship, please download the **contribution form** at: <http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/docs/GlenDeVaniecontributionform.pdf>.



1ST ANNUAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIPS GOLF TOURNAMENT

March 11, 2006



The Criminal Justice Program at Northwestern State University of Louisiana is hosting our 1st Annual Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, to raise scholarship funds for the Frank C. Kyle & Glen Denning Devanie Memorial Scholarships. The Frank C. Kyle Memorial Scholarship was established to recognize the professionalism in Criminal Justice that embodied the character of Assistant Professor Frank Kyle, a deceased member of the Northwestern State University criminal justice program faculty. The Glen Denning Devanie Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the legacy of Glen Devanie, a criminal justice major and an Alexandria deputy marshal, by assisting students who are working toward their Criminal Justice Degree, to take their learning experience along with Glen's legacy into the future. You are invited to represent your university or professional organization, friends, co-workers, golf enthusiasts, and all others interested in the challenges of the game and enjoying the day while giving to an N.S.U. charitable cause.

place, door prizes, ditty bag items, and/or food and drink, please contact the Criminal Justice Program for our excited response!

GOLF TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

Date and Time:

Saturday, March 11, 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Entry Fee:

\$50.00 per person w/teams of two (2). (Lunch and awards program are provided as part of the entry fee.)

Location:

Northwestern Hills Golf Course, Hwy 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, Louisiana. Golf Course #: 318-357-3207.

For further information, please contact the Criminal Justice Program at 318-357-5505, 318-357-6967 or by email at: crim_justice@nsula.edu or snyders@nsula.edu. See you on Saturday, March 11, at 9 am!! Be ready to swing that club!

It is best to send in your entry forms early to reserve your team's position in the golf tournament. In addition to or in lieu of playing in the tournament, individuals and organizations may want to provide donations toward these worthy scholarship charities. These generous donations are greatly appreciated for the continued funding of these memorial scholarships. Organizations, businesses, and individuals desiring to donate a prize for longest drive, closest to the hole, 1st or 2nd

E n t r y F o r m :
<http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/docs/golfscrambleentryform.pdf>

D o n a t i o n F o r m :
<http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/docs/holesponsorshipdonationform.pdf>



G.S.R.C.P.I.

Hurricane Planning and Recovery Conference

The Gulf States Regional Community Policing Institute is sponsoring a Hurricane Planning and Recovery Conference to discuss Lessons Learned from the 2005 Hurricane Season. The Conference will be hosted in Baton Rouge, LA at the Holiday Inn South April 3-5, 2006. Some of the topics in this conference will include NIMS Certification, Communications and Interoperability, and Care of Emergency Personnel.

GSRCPPI is pleased to also be offering a session on data preservation entitled Saving Your Date From Disasters, presented by Mike Myrick of the Birmingham, AL Police Department. Detective Myrick teaches a class on Digital Case Files for a paperless investigation which will soon be delivered throughout the nation in conjunction with the RCPI Training Network. Funding for the national delivery of the Digital Case Files Training is provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, COPS Office, Grants Administration Division. For the Hurricane Conference, Detective Myrick will cover highlights from his Digital Case Files class, as well as how to properly protect data in a disaster. He will also present innovative ideas on data recovery and storage solutions.

The Hurricane Planning and Recovery Conference is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, COPS Office, Training and Technical Assistance Division. For more information, as well as how to register and to see a detailed agenda, please visit the GSRCPPI website at www.GSRCPPI.org or call toll free 1.888.283.0966 to the GSRCPPI main office.

Past issues of the *NSU Criminal Justice News* can be found at our website:
<http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice/docs/NSUCJnews.html>



Northwestern State University

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