FACULTY PROFILE

Department
CSU College: Safety and Emergency Services
CSU Discipline: Criminal Justice Administration

Basic Info
Name: Kim Clay
Title: Full-Time Faculty
Email: kim.clay@columbiasouthern.edu

Personal Preferred Availability: Weekdays

Education
Master of Public Administration
University of South Alabama
Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Business
University of South Alabama

Biography
Background
I have spent the majority of my professional career working and teaching within the criminal justice discipline. I began my law enforcement career in the United States Air Force as a security police specialist and spent part of my active duty career as an instructor teaching advanced ground combat skills with the Security Police Academy in San Antonio, Texas. During this period, I became aware of instructional design and really became interested in teaching.

After I completed my six years of active duty, I worked as a police officer and eventually promoted through the ranks to police chief. I spent 19 years as chief until I retired in 2004. I also served in the United States Air Force Reserve continuing my military and police service working as the security forces superintendent, retiring as an E-9, chief master sergeant.

I have worked on my education over the course of my professional life. I completed my bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of South Alabama, my master’s in public administration also from the University of South Alabama, and I am currently working on my PhD in criminal justice at Northcentral University where I plan to complete my program December 2016.

CSU Story
I came to Columbia Southern University (CSU), as an adjunct professor in 2000 teaching in the criminal justice program. I was asked if I could assist the program grow and improve and came onboard CSU as a full-time becoming the criminal justice chair and eventually the dean for the College of Safety and Emergency Services. I had an opportunity to return to North Carolina where my family lives, and I resumed my duties as a full-time professor in 2010 again teaching within the criminal justice program where I am today.

Hobbies/Interests
There is not much time for hobbies and interest when working on a PhD so when I finish I intend to resume doing the things I am interested like reading, working as a volunteer with public safety organizations, and enjoying my family.

Additional Information
Teaching Philosophy
I envision education as a collaborative process involving two willing participants. One is the learner, interested in specific subject matter, with the capacity to learn, while the other is the instructor, who has experience in or knowledge of the subject matter and possesses the ability to teach. I believe that a team approach to learning is appropriate and desirable. The instructor has the ability to serve as facilitator and mentor to students making them active participants in the learning process. Smaller class size also enables the instructor to coordinate more individualized attention to address the student’s needs. Today’s employers place great emphasis on the applicant’s ability to function well in a team setting, and I feel that it is incumbent upon the university to give students ample experience in a team approach. The team relationship between the instructor and student can help prepare students for those positions and jobs of the future.

Along with teamwork, employers desire workers who take responsibility for their performance by being self-initiators and self-motivators with sound problem-solving abilities. With the infinite amount of information now bombarding students at the push of a button, there is a greater chance that students can feel overwhelmed and unable to effectively collate or utilize critical data. I feel that the university and the instructor must equip students with strategies for filtering appropriate materials and resources in order to hone the specific skill sets they will need in the workplace. Depending on the student’s age and access to electronic data, the instructor must be willing to assist students, regardless of their computer skills, achieve goals and objectives of their course work and educational programs. Attaining goals and objectives is easily done in the online educational setting where class sizes are small and a student-centered focus is emphasized.

Advice for Current Students
Life can get really busy with family, work, and obtaining an education. It is up to you how well you plan your time. Be sure to devote yourself to your family, job, and educational endeavors so that you get the most from each. Understand you, your family, and work all benefit from you putting your best effort into obtaining your education.