

1. What was your official job title before starting your path as a professor? (When you interviewed/interrogated people, and when you were a sketch artist)

"I was the police artist for the San Jose police department. I joined the San Jose police department in 1985 and was selected to be the second police artist in the history of the department."

2. Where did you work before coming to UNE?

"I retired from the San Jose police department in 2011 and started lecturing at San Jose State University in 2017. Before lecturing at SJSU I was a police officer working on patrol and a training officer before applying for the police artist position."

3. Where did you grow up?

- If it's not California, what made you choose to move to California

"I grew up in San Jose, California. I was born in Eagle Pass, Texas, and then my family moved to California in 1963. Since 2015 I've been traveling to Bath, Maine because my wife is from Portland, Maine. My wife and I have a rental in Bath, Maine and we have been staying there for six months at a time, every year since 2022."

4. What was your experience like in your previous profession?

"There were two parts of my time in law enforcement that resonate with me. First, I had a fantastic time working as a patrol officer working in the streets. The experience was both exciting and rewarding all at the same time. Whether I was arresting people who were victimizing innocent people, or helping people enhance their neighborhoods; everyday was a new day and each one brought amazing experiences. Three years into my career as a police officer I was involved in an on-duty vehicle accident. That event changed my life and I turned to art. At the time there was a police artist at my police department and he was nearing retirement. I met him and he was kind enough to mentor me over the next 2.5 years. After three years I applied for the position of police artist and was selected for the position in 1995."

"As the police artist I was involved in every major criminal investigation where the suspect was unknown. I was not involved in every major who-donnuit for the city of San Jose and Northern California, which encompassed more than 15 law enforcement agencies. As the police artist I was exposed to media appearances that featured my work in the local media and eventually on the Oprah Winfrey Show. After retiring in 2011 I was asked to be the forensic artist on the Dove Real Beauty in 2013. That experience

turned into a world wide media event that brought me to Hollywood opportunities and over 180 million YouTube viewers.”

5. What was it like training thousands of officers to correctly interview people?

- What made you realize it was being done incorrectly?

“It has been a revelatory experience when I reflect on my interview methodology. Since 2000 I had been training police officers in the art of interviewing, specifically in the cognitive interview technique created by Fisher & Geiselman. That experience gave me confidence in understanding how I had taken the foundations of the cognitive interview and considered its limitations when it came to gathering reliable statements from eyewitnesses. I knew, based on my training as a police officer, that there was very little exposure to the concepts of eyewitness memory, advanced interview strategies, and the systematic variables that could influence eyewitness recollections. For ten years I had the great opportunity to impart my experience and knowledge about interviewing eyewitnesses in a more mindful way to an audience that wasn’t always the most receptive. Nevertheless, I was able to deliver my ideas in real-time, under mock interview conditions where they could try out my techniques and consider them when they went back to their agencies.”

6. What made you choose the path that you did?

“Before police work I was an electrical designer and enjoyed a side gig as a graphic designer. I decided to apply for the police department when I felt a desire for civic duty. The accident early in my career as a patrol officer brought me back to my passion for drawing. During my recovery from the accident I decided to train to become a police artist to combine my love for civic duty and art.”

7. What encouraged you to become a professor after all these years working as an investigator?

“I have always enjoyed speaking to students and sharing my passion for art and interviewing. As a police officer I was asked to speak at career day events and then as the police artist I was often asked to speak at high schools and universities in the area. I received my graduate degree in education and accepted the invitation from San Jose State to join their justice studies program in 2017. The experience has been rewarding and challenging. While the topics I’ve taught have been varied, being around the academic setting brought me opportunities to review book concepts in criminology. Those review opportunities brought me in front of the publisher, Taylor & Francis, who eventually asked if I had an idea for a book. After submitting my proposal they offered me a contract to write the book and the rest is history. That process of writing my book has made me appreciate the 100W writing courses I have taught since 2019. I believe it has helped me impart some ideas for my students to help them become better writers.

Finally, being called a professor is an honor and one that is filled with opportunities to help others, as they find their way to their chosen path.”

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