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Mansfield police chief earns Ph.D.

7:00 AM, Mar. 21, 2011 | 37Comments



Written by **MARK CAUDILL** News Journal

MANSFIELD -- City police Chief Dino Sgambellone has a new title -- doctor.

Sgambellone recently picked up his Ph.D. in public safety with a specialization in criminal justice from Capella University, an online school. He is believed to be the first person in department history to earn a doctorate.

The arduous process took more than five years. Sgambellone estimated he spent 20 hours a week on school work.

"Obtaining a Ph.D. fulfilled a personal goal of mine with the level of education I wanted to have," he said. "The process was difficult, not so much intellectually but in finding the appropriate balance between family, work and school.

"It placed a tremendous burden on my family in terms of the time I had to put in to obtain it. I want to thank them for their sacrifice."

Sgambellone's dissertation was called "Race and gender in illicit drug transactions." He used drug pricing for crack cocaine as the measure.

Sgambellone, 41, joined the police department in 1991 after a stint in the Air Force. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2000 from Mount Vernon Nazarene University and a master's degree in business administration from DeVry University in 2004.

"After I obtained my master's, I wanted to put myself in a better position to be effective at my job and to open doors after I retire from the police department," Sgambellone said. "There are plenty of criminologists and researchers in the field, but few of those actually have a background in law enforcement. The profession is underserved to a degree in that regard."

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Sgambellone isn't looking too far ahead. He's more worried about the task at hand, namely running a department that has lost four officers to layoffs and could lose about 15 more in April. That was never far from his mind during his family's vacation in the Big Easy.

"It was rewarding to attend the commencement in New Orleans, but the reality is the division is still faced with significant potential layoffs," he said. "That's what I have to focus on now."

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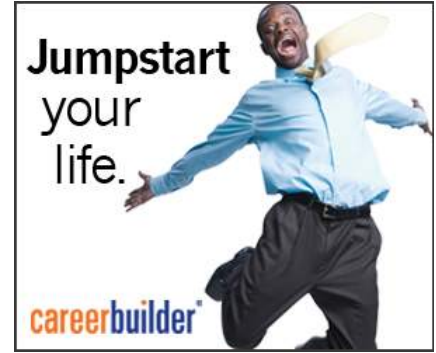
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