


Eric Green, slain UL professor, remembered | Crime/Police

 www.theadvocate.com/acadiana/news/crime_police/eric-green-slain-ul-professor-remembered/article_60cde4fe-fdc8-11ee-9418-b35832d5f2f4.html

BY KATIE GAGLIANO | Staff writer, Katie Gagliano

April 18, 2024

Colleagues and friends described a University of Louisiana at Lafayette professor slain in a Lafayette triple homicide as a bright, caring and talented person and professional who was a "dollop of sunshine" everywhere he went.

Eric Green, Ph.D., 49, was one of three victims shot and killed at a South College Road apartment complex last week, the Lafayette Police Department said. Green was found dead early Friday evening during a welfare check, [alongside 45-year-old Brandon Touchet and 46-year-old Elizabeth Reames in Reames' apartment](#).

The welfare check was prompted by Touchet's family, who put out public pleas searching for him after he was last seen around midnight April 11.

A friend of the victims, Chad Credeur, 42, is facing counts of first-degree murder in the trio's deaths. First-degree murder was the arresting charge because the case involved multiple victims, Lafayette Police Sgt. Robin Green said.

Credeur was already in custody in the Jefferson Davis Parish Jail on unrelated charges when Green, Touchet and Reames' bodies were discovered, she said.

Friend, advocate and confidant

Green was a licensed professional counselor and play therapist who taught in UL's psychology department. He previously taught at Purdue University, Johns Hopkins University and the University of North Texas at Dallas, where he met Kimberly Pearson, Ph.D.

Pearson, now a counselor in Dallas, found a friend, advocate and confidant when she met Green as a master's student, she said.

Pearson said navigating academia as a working single mother and first-generation student from the inner-city was difficult and confusing. Green acted as a guide and showed her what was possible in her career, helping her push beyond her doubts to pursue her Ph.D. so she could transition into a full-time counseling career while supporting herself and her son, she said.

“I would not be here if it wasn’t for him,” Pearson said.

Green was reliable. He didn’t just encourage people, but followed through when he offered support, she said. For Pearson, that included supervising the first practice she established in her father’s Dallas church, and digging deeper when Pearson had a conflict with another professor over a grade.

“He was able to see underneath the surface. He was able to see the need to show up beyond the circumstances. He was always encouraging in a way that did not give you an out,” Pearson said.

Their relationship remained strong as he pursued career opportunities in other cities, with Pearson recently turning to Green for advice about her treatment in the workplace. He had the skill to listen without minimizing her experiences while also giving it to her straight, she said.

'He just glowed'

Green was most recently on the faculty at UL, where he worked alongside Valanne MacGyvers, Ph.D., who also taught Green at the university years earlier.

Both as an undergraduate and a colleague, Green was “a dollop of sunshine” who brought positivity, warmth and consideration to every room and interaction. He was the kind of person who would always greet you in the hallway and made everyone he interacted with feel special, MacGyvers said.

His treatment of others went beyond surface level niceness; a couple years ago, MacGyvers confided in Green about the death of her former foster child. Months later, he sent her flowers on Mother’s Day, she said.

“He just glowed,” MacGyvers said.

Green kept a positive attitude even as he focused his career on helping clients, especially children, navigate trauma through play therapy, with a focus in sand play.

His work often involved having patients build sand mandalas, symbolic geometric diagrams used in spiritual practices, as a tool to facilitate processing their experiences and finding their way to a more secure and happy place, she said.

Green was greatly talented, and that talent was clear from his undergraduate days, MacGyvers said. It was gratifying to see him build a strong career, including publishing numerous works, serving with professional groups and speaking around the United States

and internationally, and have their relationship evolve from that of a teacher and student to peers standing shoulder-to-shoulder, she said.

For all his success, Green was never elitist or inaccessible, Pearson said.

He was honest and vulnerable with his students, which taught them how to bring similar openness to their relationships with clients. The 49-year-old was an engaging and expressive teacher who connected strongly with his students, MacGyvers said.

“I think all of the students are really going to miss him. They felt like he was their friend, their ally. He felt like he was an ‘us,’ not a ‘them,’ which is hard because so many of our students look at the faculty as the ‘thems.’ He really made them believe that he was an ‘us,” the UL professor said.

Turning grief into action

Green brought that same captivating quality to his professional presentations at conferences, said Mary Affee, Ed.D. a clinical social worker from North Carolina who first met Green at a conference in 2019.

She and Green quickly connected emotionally and bonded over a shared love of the expressive arts; a dream collaborator, he recently contributed to a treatment planning guide Affee co-authored, she said.

Affee said she feels passionately about turning grief into action and hopes to partner with university counseling departments in North Carolina to host an event honoring the beautiful contributions Green made to the psychology field, among other efforts to uplift his work.

“It’s being able to acknowledge that life ebbs and flows and reframing this to celebrate the beauty that he gave all of us,” Affee said.

Green’s death and sudden absence remains a shock, the women said.

“When I heard of his passing, with kind of denial, I texted him that day. I hate to see the text message move lower and lower on my phone. I hoped it was just a mistake somehow. Seeing that he didn’t answer my text message or my message on Facebook – that’s when it became reality,” Affee said.

MacGyvers last saw Green about a day before he went missing and was likely killed.

For the last year, she had helped him as he applied for academic positions around the country. On April 9, he confided that the contract for his dream job, as department chair for a university counseling department, was expected in the mail the next morning. He was so

happy and excited, and was getting everything he'd wanted and worked toward, the professor said.

"I keep saying to myself, at least he [knew he] had the job. He didn't get to do it, but he had it. It was his and that's a recognition that's really affirming for a person to have, just the top-of-the-line kind of job in your own field where you're recognized like that," MacGyvers said.

Adapting to life without Green will be hard, Pearson said.

"I'm feeling really lost because he has been my compass in the field of academia. He's been my compass," the counselor said.

"This is a real loss to the world," she said.