

JUSTICE

From Page 1A

"We both view the law in the same way, so one can fill in without missing a step," Smith said.

Students learn about admissible physical and testimonial evidence, confessions and illegal searches, often through discussions of cases that are based loosely on appeals heard by state appellate judges.

Criminal justice major Jonathan Tiesy enjoyed taking Smith's class

last fall.

"She brought a lot of real-life experience to the classroom, and I feel like we were really lucky to have her," said Tiesy, who is looking to go into the police science field.

He said Smith's experience made her more credible.

"There is that perspective you can never gain from anyone that hasn't actually been there and done that," Tiesy said.

Smith said she doesn't like lecturing and prefers to have a lot of

interaction from the students in her classes. The justice said she is always impressed by their questions and comments.

The class ends with a mock trial in the Supreme Court building, offering a hands-on experience.

Many of Smith's former students have gone on to pursue careers in the criminal justice field.

"It's absolutely wonderful; they keep me informed of what they're doing now, going to a four-year school or law school," Smith said. "That makes it so worth it."