



Northwood Police Department

Person of Interest (Form S-853)

Case No.
9649-2a

Date filed:
March 19, 2024

DETAILS

Full Name:	<i>Daniel Keene</i>	Age:	<i>61</i>	Dominant Hand:	<i>Left</i>
Height:	<i>6' 0"</i>	Weight:	<i>163 lbs</i>		
Shoe Size:	<i>11.5</i>	Eye:	<i>Gray</i>	Hair Color:	<i>Brown</i>
Military Experience:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Own Fire arms:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Prior Arrests:	<i>-</i>	Outstanding Warrants:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Employer	<i>Riverside University</i>	Occupation	<i>Department Head</i>		

VEHICLES (use additional sheet of necessary)

Year	<i>2022</i>	Model	<i>S90</i>	Make	<i>Volvo</i>	Color	<i>Gray</i>	License Plate	<i>RN-6021</i>
Year		Model		Make		Color		License Plate	

STATEMENT

In space below, describe your whereabouts on the date and time of incident

On the night Dr. Eleanor Vance died, I was not in Northwood. I had traveled to Sciencefest, which is about three hours away, to give a presentation titled "The Life of a Scientist." My talk was scheduled that evening and was attended by hundreds of people - it was recorded and part of the official program. Afterward, I spoke briefly with attendees, then left for the drive back home. I was on the road at the time Eleanor's death occurred.

Received by: *Det. Pat Jensen*

Date: *March 18, 2024*



Northwood Police Department

Interview Transcript (Form S-942)

Case No.
9649-2a

Date filed:
March 19, 2024

Details

Interview: Dr. Daniel Keene

Date: 03 / 18 / 2024

Time: 8:15 am

Location: Riverside University -
Keen's office

Detective Jensen: Please state your name and occupation for the record.

Daniel Keen: Professor Daniel Keene. I'm the Head of Biochemistry at Riverside University.

Detective Jensen: And how did you know Dr. Eleanor Vance?

Daniel Keen: Everyone in our field knows Eleanor. Brilliant, methodical, frustratingly cautious. We met years ago at conferences, seminars, research symposiums. We've debated each other more times than I can count – some of them quite publicly. Heated, even.

Detective Jensen: You sound... conflicted.

Daniel Keen: Conflicted is a fair word. Look – I respect her. I do. Eleanor had this incredible mind. But she always managed to be the one people remembered. Every grant, every award, every article – her name was front and center. Meanwhile, my projects stalled.

Detective Jensen: We recovered an email you sent to Dr. Vance two weeks ago that reads, in part, "end her career one way or another." Can you explain that?

Dr. Daniel Keene: *[visibly uncomfortable]* Yes. I wrote that. I'm not proud of the wording. It was an angry, late-night message after yet another grant review where her name – and her work – were singled out. I was venting. It was rhetorical, not a plan. I used hyperbole I shouldn't have.

Detective Jensen: So you admit you sent it?

Dr. Daniel Keene: I do. I sent an email that expressed frustration. I have every right to be frustrated – my funding has dried up, my lab's reputation has suffered, and it often felt like Eleanor's success came at my expense. But writing a poorly chosen phrase in a moment of anger is not the same as plotting harm.

Detective Jensen: Did you ever say anything like that to colleagues in person? Any threats beyond the email?

Dr. Daniel Keene: No. My debates with Eleanor were blistering at times, but they were academic fights – pointed, public, often overheard at conferences. I've never threatened physical harm. Never. My anger is professional. I wanted recognition and funding back for my work, not to hurt anyone.

Detective Jensen: Where were you on the night of Eleanor's death?

Daniel Keen: Three hours away, on my way home from giving a presentation at Sciencefest. The Life of a Scientist. They wanted something inspiring, public-friendly. Don't get me wrong – I enjoy presenting. But that should have been my chance to present real science. My research. Instead, Eleanor was the one who got the prime slot – she was scheduled to give a major talk the very next afternoon about her enzyme work. Work that would've made headlines.

Detective Jensen: Did you ever see Eleanor in the lab before her death?

Daniel Keen: Briefly that morning. Renee Carter – her assistant – escorted me into the lab for a short visit. I asked if I could co-present with her. Thought it was a reasonable request – we'd debated enough, maybe it was time to stand together. She flat-out refused. Said it was her work and needed to stay that way. I was there maybe fifteen minutes, max. Then she showed me out. That was it.

Detective Jensen: And after that?

Daniel Keen: I left for Sciencefest. I gave my presentation and was on my way home at the time you say Eleanor died. Hundreds of people saw me. Check the program, the recordings.

Detective Jensen: One last question: despite your alibi, would you say you had motive?

Daniel Keen: [tightens jaw] Motive? Sure. I'll admit that. But opportunity? No. I was nowhere near her when it happened.

Conducted By: Det. Pat Jensen

Transcribed By: Shawn Nguyen

From: d.keene@riverside.edu
To: e.vance@northwoodinstitute.org
Date: Mon, 4 Mar 2024 23:18:42 -0500
Subject: Enough

Eleanor —

I've tried to be collegial. I've tried to let the science speak for itself. But watching yet another review panel glom onto your name while my lab goes wanting is a constant, maddening reminder that the system rewards spectacle over sustained work.

You parade caution as if it were a virtue while the rest of us are expected to fight for every grant and every student. I'm tired, Eleanor. Tired of watching you collect accolades and funding while the rest of us rearrange scraps.

If you won't step aside or open the floor to a proper joint presentation — if you insist on hoarding the spotlight — then I'll make sure you stop getting it. I don't have time for niceties anymore. Either your reputation changes, or the field's attention will be redirected. I will do what I must to end your career one way or another.

This isn't personal — it's professional. You chose how you wanted to play this. Don't be surprised by the consequences.

—

Daniel V. Keene, Ph.D.
Head, Department of Biochemistry
Riverside University



Dr. Daniel Keene