

STUDENTS AND PARENTS ATTEND FINAL PREVIEW DAY OF THE SEMESTER



All photos provided by University Relations.

Amari Rudison
Media Editor

On April 15, 2023, Georgia Southwestern State University's final Preview Day for the upcoming 2023-24 academic year took place, marking an exciting day for all the prospective students who were eager to learn more about what it takes to become a part of the GSW community.

The weather was perfect, with the sun shining down on the campus, setting the stage for an enjoyable day for all who attended. Students and family members from all walks of life came to explore the university and its surroundings, eager to learn more about what GSW has to offer.

For the aspiring students who were keen to know more about the admissions process and financial aid, the day was a great opportunity to learn more about the various requirements and support available. They got to interact with the admissions team and financial aid officers, who were happy to provide them with all the necessary information.

Furthermore, the students also got to meet and talk with the President of the university, Dr. Weaver. The President was more than happy to have

conversations with them and provided insight into the university's plans for the future.

As part of the day's activities, GSW's Zephyr members led the prospective students on a small tour of the campus. They highlighted various points of interest, including several of GSW's departments, classrooms, recreational areas, and more.

Moreover, students also had the chance to see the many clubs and organizations on campus and speak to some of their members. It was an excellent opportunity for them to get a feel for campus life and envision how they could get involved in the vibrant student community.

Overall, the Preview Day was a resounding success, with many students expressing excitement about becoming part of the GSW community.



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IMAGE SERIES

GSW HOSTS AREA 11 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Jackson Carlstrom
Editor-In-Chief

GSW's College of Education hosted the Area 11 Special Olympics once again for the first time in three years this month. Over 60 athletes with special needs from Sumter County schools, Dooly County schools, Furlow Charter School, and The Opal Project participated in the many activities that took place, and were cheered on by GSW's student-athletes, coaches, and student organizations.



ACADEMIC NEWS

GSW ANNOUNCES DOLORES CAPITAN AWARD WINNERS

Amari Rudison
Media Editor



Ashanti Jackson was one of 6 students to receive a Dolores Capitan Writing Award. Photo by University Relations.

The Dolores Capitan Writing Awards were awarded to 6 student writers this year. These students received a plaque at a student awards ceremony, as well as a monetary award. The first place winner received \$300.00, the second place winner received \$200.00, and the third place winner received \$100.00. The Dolores Capitan Writing Awards are given by Dr. William H. Capitan, the University's eighth president, to honor his late wife's love of writing, and to foster writing across the curriculum.

The winners for the academic writing category are as follows: First place - Andrew Bellacomo, "The Things I Love in this World: The Wilderness at the Heart of Death of a Salesman" (English 1102). Second place - Johanna Nordwall, "Moral Ambiguity, She Wrote: Tyranny, Murder, and the Memorialization of a Deranged Lunatic" (History 2111). Third place - Ashanti Jackson, "Emily in Paris Reimagined in Japan" (Psychology 3390).

The winners for the creative writing category are as follows: First place - Andrew Bellacomo, "The End of Summer" (Independent writing). Second place - Nicholas Johnson, "Wal-Quest" (Advanced Composition). Third place - Alexander Morton, "Memories of the Divine" (Creative Writing).

CAMPUS NEWS

INTERIM PROVOST DR. JILL DRAKE INTRODUCES HERSELF

Colby Henedez
Staff Writer

While Dr. Weaver is busy searching for a new provost, University of West Georgia Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jill Drake has stepped in as Interim Provost for the time being. Here, she answered a few questions many GSW students want to know.

What roles will you be fulfilling in this position?

I will be serving as the Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The Provost and VPAA lead the entire division of Academic Affairs. All units in Academic Affairs report either directly or indirectly to the person serving in this role, including each of the Deans and Associate Deans, as well as Department Chairs and Professors.

Have you done this kind of work before?

I have previously served as an institutional leader in the role of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, accumulating five years of related work experience. However, I have not yet held the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in any institution.

What expectations do you have of students?

As the campus leader, I urge students to fully engage in all that GSW has to offer, both inside and outside the classroom. These experiences will not only broaden their horizons, but also contribute to their academic, personal, and professional growth. The college years are a brief yet crucial phase in our students' lives. Therefore, students should seize



Headshot of Dr. Jill Drake. Photo provided by University Relations.

every opportunity to learn and thrive. Of course, as Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, I also expect students to recognize the importance of prioritizing their academic commitments.

Is there anything in particular you'd like to let students know?

I would like the students here at GSW to know that their success as students and in life is of utmost importance to me. Therefore, I strive to consider their best interests in every decision I make as the Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. In addition, I would like to encourage students to greet me whenever they see me around campus and introduce themselves. It would be wonderful to get to know each one of them.

ASK THE CANES: SENIOR EDITION

In the final edition of the 2022-23 school year, we'd like to continue the tradition of shining a spotlight on the graduating seniors of GSW. Before they leave campus and enter the world to pursue their careers, let's check out what these graduates loved about their time and GSW and what they will take from their experiences in college.

Kayla Atcheson



What I've done at GSW:

I have been part of multiple groups at GSW, including Ed Rising, Alpha Lambda Delta, Kappa Delta Phi, Gamma Beta Phi, and Phi Sigma Pi. I am a part of the music department, studying Music with a teaching certificate.

What I liked most:

At GSW, I have enjoyed the professors and the connections that you can make with the professors, especially when you need help on assignments.

What I'm taking into the future:

From GSW, I will take the skill of professionalism with me. I have been shown what it is like to be professional, but also to always have that playful side to truly be yourself.

My extra thoughts:

GSW is the campus for someone who does not like a big campus feel. The students will guide you along, but it really gives you the small-town feel while also being able to obtain your degree that you strive for.

Joseph Park

What I've done at GSW:

I first came to GSW for ELI, which is English Language Institute for international students. At GSW, I learned English, southern culture, and so many other new things. I have learned a lot from others and have grown significantly as a result.

What I liked most:

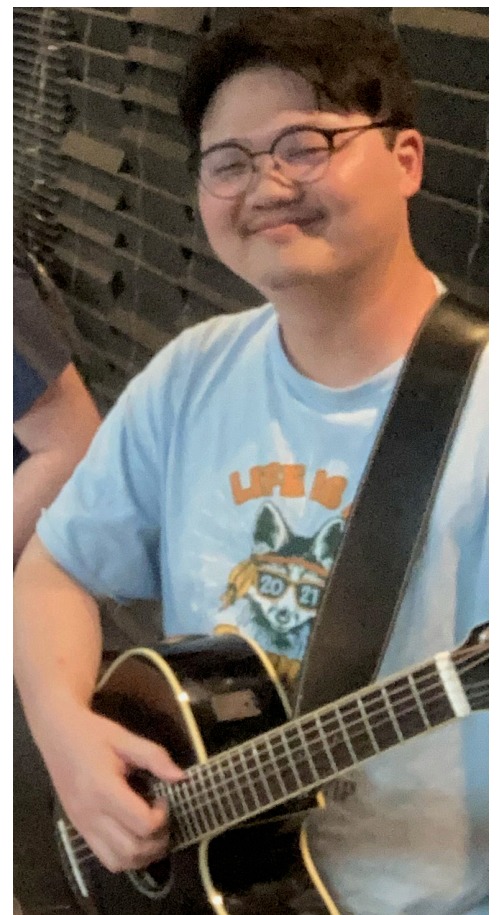
I was planning to go off to some other school after one semester at ELI, but the people from this school and the town made me stay. I like the people from this school. I also want to say that I don't really like food here, but since I've gained over 50 pounds, I guess I can say I do actually like the food I guess.

What I'm taking into the future:

It's hard to say just one or two things that I've learned while being here, as there have been many things I've learned. However, I think one thing I'll definitely take with me is a belief in God and a desire to serve others with love, which I'm still working on.

My extra thoughts:

My first impression of this school honestly wasn't very good. It was dark at night, and the campus seemed small. However, the professors, students, and everyone inside the school have made it more than just a school for me. I am grateful to everyone for the past few years.



SPRING 2023 GRADUATION CEREMONY

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH @ STORM DOME

10:00 AM - COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND COLLEGE OF NURSING
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

2:00 PM - COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS AND COMPUTING



Jordan Whitening

What I've done at GSW:

I am a Communication and Emerging Media major with 2 certificates. One certificate is the President Jimmy Carter Leadership Program (PJCLP), and the other certificate is Sports Journalism. I am involved on the Men's Basketball Team, Men's Cross Country Team, PJCLP, the Marshals, African American Men's Institute (AAMI), and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Some awards/achievements that I have received are 3 Scholar Athlete Awards for Men's Basketball, 1 Scholar Athlete Award for Men's Cross Country, the Peach Belt Conference Presidential Honor Roll, the Excellence in Communication and Emerging Media Award, and I have continuously been on the Dean's List.

What I liked most:

The thing I like the most about GSW is the people that I have been able to connect with during my 4 years attending this great university.

What I'm taking into the future:

Some things that I am taking into the future from GSW are the pride of the university, my past experiences, and my maturity that has advanced during my time at GSW.

My extra thoughts:

One piece of advice that I would like to leave to younger students at GSW is being a college student is temporary, and the 4 years come and go fast. It is important that you take advantage of the years and make the most out of your opportunity.



Emma Porter

What I've done at GSW:

I have done a couple of things during my time at GSW. I have been a part of BCM since my freshman year, while also being in Ed Rising. I did the newspaper for a semester. Lastly, my time has been spent with SGA as Chief Justice. All these experiences have had such a profound impact on my life here at GSW.

What I liked most:

The ability to try new things, especially majors. GSW has some really great professors who care about what interests you and help you achieve your goals. Shout out to my two professors who I'm extremely grateful for: Professor Jones & Professor Carter from Communications and Emerging Media.

What I'm taking into the future:

I am taking the memories I made here with my friends, and the experiences that helped me improve myself.

My extra thoughts:

Take your time to figure out what you want to do in life. It took me 7 years to finally be able to find my passion. If you already have that passion, remind yourself why you are here. Don't lose your spark!



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