



THE ROADRUNNER

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Roadrunner Runaround returns

It's almost time to make a rare Saturday trip to campus.

Don't go to class, the library, or the student center, though. Head straight to the starting line, stretch your calves and quads, and get ready to run.

Dalton State's 5K, the Roadrunner Runaround, returns Saturday at 8:30 a.m. There's also a one-mile walk for those who find the 3.1-mile distance a little daunting.

Both events benefit a DSC cross country team scholarship, and both are the work of Leslie Taylor, assistant professor of English and a veteran of dozens of races of varying distances, all the way up to the marathon.

Taylor assumed the reins of the Runaround two years ago, after another attempt to create a Dalton State 5K stalled in the early planning stages.

So, beginning in fall 2013, she gathered other runners among faculty, staff, and administration and started planning.

"It was difficult at first," Taylor said, "because I'd never organized a race before, and there are all sorts of logistics to consider.

"Setting up online registration, organizing volunteers, designing the course . . . t-shirts, prizes, safety considerations, marketing, food, water . . .

"And it ended up requiring the cooperation of people all over campus and beyond."

Planning committee members included Dr. Paula Allotta, associate professor of chemistry; Scott Bailey, vice president for Fiscal Affairs; Garrett Burgner, director of Campus Recreation; Nick Carty, associate professor of speech; Dr. Keith Perry, associate professor of English; Dr. Jennifer Randall, assistant professor of English; and Dr. Marina Smitherman, director of the Center for Academic Excellence and associate professor of biology.

Taylor is also quick to share credit for the race with Athletic Director Derek Waugh and

The result—the inaugural Roadrunner Runaround—took place last March 29 and was what Taylor called "a big success."

The race course took runners from the student center south along George Rice Drive, then north along College Drive and through the Wood Valley apartments, around the parking lots outside the Brown Center, and then back through the middle of campus to the finish line on the athletic field.

More than 100 runners and walkers registered: students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the Dalton State community. The youngest was nine, the oldest 75.

The winner? Ringgold's Jacob Bradley (number 68 in the photo above) with a time of 16:22:70—more than three minutes faster than the second-place runner.

Taylor said she's hoping for another success this year.

"I was really happy with the turnout last year,

especially considering it was our first year, but this year, now that we're a little more established, I'm hoping to see more runners."

Registration is easy. Go to Active.com and search for "Roadrunner Runaround."

If you'd rather register in person, on-site registration begins at the Bell Tower Saturday at 7:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Taylor at ltaylor@daltonstate.edu.



DSC Athletics, who provided "a lot of moral and financial support"; AnnaKate Hutchinson and the DSC Bookstore, who donated prizes for winners; the Cleveland Highway Kroger, who donated fruit and water; Rhonda Carty's Project Success class at Southeast Whitfield High School, who directed runners around the course; and the DSC registered student organization Ham Bones, who monitored runners' progress via amateur radio.

Katherine Fromm: “Ready to fly”

by **Tanner Blackton**
editor

When anyone mentions Katherine Fromm, everyone within earshot thinks of the long, bouncing curls, the jaunty walk, and the smile that lights up every room she enters.

Usually adorned with a scarf, she greets almost everyone she passes with a melodic “Have a lovely day!”

The senior has been almost ubiquitous during her three and a half years on campus.

Fromm has been an orientation leader, senator for the School of Health Professions, an employee of Bandy Gymnasium, an intern for the Dalton State Foundation, and, now, is student body president.

She’s acted in campus and community plays and has often been the face of DSC, appearing frequently in promotional literature and on local billboards and the Dalton State homepage.

So, how did she come to be such a campus presence?

Katherine Fromm was born the third child of seven in Fort Worth, Texas. Though she grew up there, Colorado, New York, and Calhoun, Ga., she never had to change schools: her mother homeschooled her and her siblings, and it was a perfect fit for her.

“I’m very motivated and very driven,” Fromm says, “so I would get up in the morning, eat breakfast, and do all of my schoolwork and be done by lunchtime. . . . [Y]ou work at your own pace. It’s amazing. There’s no sitting around waiting for the whole class to finish.”

Finishing her schoolwork meant that Katherine could spend more time doing what she loved—anything outdoors or with animals.

“As a kid I played outside a lot,” she says. “We’ve always had dogs and cats, but I’ve always been really drawn to big animals. We’ve always lived near horses or cows or sheep, and I’ve just always been drawn to them.”

Her pull towards larger animals led her to a high school job working in a barn near her home. She started off as a volunteer and after two years became barn manager.

She assumed that she would work there forever, that she would “fall in love with a cowboy and have a barn of my own,” but one day a young horse she was trying to break spooked and threw her.

The ambulance trip that followed proved one of the most important rides of her life.

“I’m lying in the back of the ambulance, and instead of freaking out because I can’t move . . . I was laying there thinking, ‘I can’t breathe, but this is pretty cool!’” she says. “There were all these lights, and everybody’s in uniform, and there were shots and stuff lying around. I got to the emergency room and told my mom, ‘I want to go to nursing school.’”

She says that before that ride, she had “fought” the prospect of attending college. Because most of her family is in the medical field, she had decided “I’m not going to be another Dr. Fromm or Nurse Fromm. There are too many of us!”

“And then I took my ride in the ambulance and thought, ‘Okay, let’s do this.’”

So, in the fall of 2011, Katherine came to Dalton State.

She stood out immediately.



contributed photo by Jonathan Marks

Katherine Fromm poses with Rage in a promotional photo for the DSC Office of Marketing and Communications.

During freshman orientation, her orientation leader suggested that she apply to become an orientation leader herself. She was dubious, but she filled out the application—and soon got the job.

A year later, as a sophomore, she therefore had to juggle classes, a longtime job at Chick-Fil-A, and her new job as an orientation leader—and a new passion, acting.

She took part in her first play, *Fiddler on the Roof*, in the summer of 2012.

A few months later, during the Artistic Civic Theatre’s spring 2013 rehearsals for *Oklahoma!*—which she cites as one of her favorite musicals—DSC’s Jackie Daniels, assistant professor of communication and theater arts, e-mailed to ask a favor of her.

It was just two weeks before the opening of *Twelfth Night*, THEA 2100’s play that semester, and Daniels wanted Fromm to play Olivia.

The part has dozens of lines, but Katherine, always ready to lend a hand, memorized them in just three days.

The entirety of her involvement with the play, from the day she accepted the part to the day the set was struck, lasted 11 days.

“It was crazy,” she says, “but I enjoyed it.”

Her junior year, 2013-2014, was her first as a nursing student, and that meant late nights, difficult tests, and memorizing, memorizing, memorizing.

“You have to learn everything,” Katherine says. “You can’t skip class because what if that’s the day you learn how to stop bleeding, and then you show up to your clinical and you have to say, ‘I can’t help you. I wasn’t in class that day?’”

“You have no excuses. You’ve got to be there and pay attention. It’s vitally important.”

Fromm soon found herself as part of student government, senator for the School of Health Professions. The position was brand new, but she learned and grew with it, then won reelection a year later.

(see Fromm, page 3)

Book Fest to feature three events

by Minela Karagic
staff writer

The DSC Book Festival returns Wednesday with a trio of events featuring author Susan Gregg Gilmore, best known for her 2008 novel *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen*.

Gilmore's day on campus begins with a writing workshop at 10:50 a.m. in Roberts Library 235. She'll then attend the Literary Reading Society's 2 p.m. discussion of *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen* in Liberal Arts 206.

The main event will take place at 6:30 p.m., when Gilmore will read from and discuss her most recent novel, *The Funeral Dress*, in Brown 105. A reception and book signing will follow.

All three events are free and open to the public.

Like last year's featured author, Kimberly Brock, Gilmore is something of a local. Born in Nashville, Tenn., she grew up spending summers with her grandparents in Ringgold, where she later set *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen*. She now lives in Chattanooga.

In a recent e-mail interview about her latest novel, Gilmore said, "I loved every minute of writing *The Funeral Dress*. I loved all the research, the sewing lessons, the interviews, the hikes—I loved it all."

The novel tells the story of Emmalee Bullard, an unwed mother fighting to find her identity in 1960s and '70s Appalachia.



contributed photo

The 2015 DSC Book Festival will feature novelist Susan Gregg Gilmore.

It was a time when clothing manufacturers began dotting the rural landscape, when women rushed to work long, laborious hours for petty wages—and a time when an unwed mother could create a giant stir in a small town.

Emmalee applies for a job at the Tennesse Shirt Factory in Cullen, Tenn., in hopes of leaving her horrific past behind and building a better life for herself and her baby. There, she

meets a tough old dame named Leona Lane, and the two women create a strong bond.

Gilmore said in the interview that a fundamental aspect of making a story great is character development. "This is the foundation for great plot," she said.

Both Emmalee and Leona prove it.

Just when it seems as though Emmalee is about to escape her past, tragedy strikes, and her dear friend Leona dies. To honor her memory, Emmalee decides to create the funeral dress that gives the novel its title.

Her efforts are met with distressing opposition, but her dedication and heart give her the power to tear down the barriers built to contain her truth.

"Dying has a funny way of making you see people, the living and the dead, a little differently," Gilmore said.

When asked if she will be revisiting Emmalee anytime soon, Gilmore said, "I don't know at this point. I doubt it. But I've learned to never say never!"

Original, heart-wrenching, and wise, *The Funeral Dress* proves that everyday life is full of struggles like Emmalee's, but Gilmore reminds us that after such struggles eventually comes peace.

To check out Gilmore's novels or obtain more information about the Book Festival, visit Roberts Library or contact Library Director Lydia Knight at lknight@daltonstate.edu.

Fromm

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"Part of what's made my nursing school experience difficult," she says, "is the fact that I'm juggling other stuff with it. But I wouldn't trade it for the world.

"You do not bond with people so well under other circumstances. I would equate it with being in the military and going through boot camp. The things you see together and the things you talk about together, it's just on another level."

She says that clinicals have been her favorite part of nursing—but that some days are better than others. She couldn't have been more bored during her ear, nose, and throat rotation, but later she got to watch an open knee replacement.

"Everyone's in these full suits like they're in some space movie," she says, her eyes sparkling. "There's blood and tissue flying through the air. And I'm just sitting there thinking, 'Oh my gosh, this is so COOL!' The surgeon saw me and my reaction and said, 'Yeah, you're gonna be fine.'"

She graduated with her associate's in nursing last spring, inspiring someone dear to her.

During the pre-graduation rose ceremony, graduates give roses to those who have helped them most in their journey at Dalton State. Katherine gave hers to her mother Corinna.

"She was just sitting there bawling, and when I handed her the rose, she whispered to me, 'I'm going to do that.'"

So now, alongside two of her daughters—Katherine's younger sister Hannah is a communication major—Corinna Fromm is attending Dalton State. She too is a nursing student.

In the spring of 2014, now a veteran of student government, Katherine decided to run for student body president.

"I didn't know if it was going to happen, but I knew that I wanted to give back," she says. "I feel like Dalton State has given me so much since day one. I've had people to help and support me, people who love and care about me.

"So I saw this as a chance to have my time and my efforts focused on giving back to the school. And it's been a beautiful ride so far."

Part of her job as student body president is attending Board of Regents meetings, where she gets to go behind the scenes and see how the University System works.

"The best part is being able to communicate the needs and desires of the student body to the people who are actually in charge," Katherine says. "One of my goals was to increase the communication between the higher-ups and the 'average Joe.'"

One of her first acts as president was securing the right to email the student body, a task none of her predecessors had undertaken. She now makes it a point to inform students about meetings and important dates.

"It's not secret, but a lot of the time, the information's not available unless you go looking for it. My aim is to make it easier to find and let the student body know what's going on in SGA."

Even though she's been busy this year, Katherine has not given up her love of the stage. She played matriarch Merilee Kendricks in last semester's *Long-Lost Relatives*, bringing to the THEA 2100 stage a southern twang not heard since fall 2012's *Muscadine Wine*.

She was also recently cast as Lady Capulet in this semester's production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Katherine estimates that, after the 2014-2015 school year, she'll have one more year at Dalton

State. And with her bachelor's in nursing, she knows that her options as to what will follow are nearly limitless.

She's thought about working as a scrub technician for surgery, but she's also interested in wound care nursing or working in trauma care or a burn unit.

"I like the stuff that most people think is really gross," she says, laughing. "I could never work in a doctor's office and hand out prescriptions. That's just too boring for me. I want to be the one to fix people who really, really need help," she adds.

It's her dream to go on medical missions, and she would love to partner with Doctors without Borders.

"When Haiti was in so much trouble, I would have loved nothing more than to have had my degree and helped."

Whatever she does, she's definitely looking to get more fully involved with the larger community.

"I will always be a Roadrunner," she says, "and I plan to be an involved alum.

"I feel like Dalton State has truly prepared me for the real world," she continues. "I'm ready to go live life. I won't just have my degree; I'll be ready for whatever comes.

"It's a big, new world. I feel like Dalton State is our own little paradise, a haven in the middle of everything else that is life.

"But it's not just a place that says, 'Come here, be safe, and be protected and don't learn anything.' It's a place that nurtures you, shapes you, and prepares you for the real world. And they do it so gently.

"Dalton State is like a bird's nest," Katherine says. "And after my time here, I feel like I'm ready to fly."



by **Kayla Henderson**
staff writer

On April 7, 2014, the world became a lot less beautiful.

Joshua Vance Bates, 27, a DSC English major and *Roadrunner* staff writer, left us forever that day.

A little more than a month ago, on Feb. 13, several of his friends, family, and professors gathered around a dogwood recently planted in his memory—between the Liberal Arts Building and the faculty parking lot—to share thoughts about our loss.

I first met Josh in the fall of 2013.

On the first day of Advanced Composition, I sat beside him, and he introduced himself to me.

I immediately thought, “Where have you been my whole life?”

I couldn’t help but notice his smile. It was beautiful, like he was, and infectious, like his whole personality was.

My fondest memory of him comes from when I later had to deliver a presentation in that same class.

I was so nervous that I thought I was going to be sick, so I asked him to ask me questions throughout to take some of the pressure off.

He did, and it worked.

In fact, I think he was the only person who had read the article I discussed.

As I sat down afterwards, I said, “Well, that really sucked.”

He said, “Are you kidding? You did awesome.”

That’s who Josh was. He was your biggest fan when you most needed one.

He made me feel better, more confident, and he was always doing that. He was always striving to make others feel better.

As a result, he made me want to be a better person, to encourage him the way he so often encouraged me.

I messaged him on Facebook a few times, reminding him of how amazing he was.

He always responded, “I’m not convinced.”

So I kept telling him. I wanted him to believe it. He was nothing short of phenomenal, and he deserved to know it and feel it, to be convinced.

Finally, after several failed attempts, he said, “Okay, you have me convinced.”

For a large portion of that semester, Josh, fall 2014 graduate Kellie McClure, and I were in a peer review group in Advanced Composition.

“Every time he reviewed my papers,” Kellie remembers, “he didn’t just give me general

feedback. He was actually intrigued by what I had to say. He wanted to know more.

“When he reviewed my papers, he wouldn’t say things like, ‘I really like this’ or ‘Good job.’

“He would ask me questions like, ‘Why do you feel this way?’ and ‘This is interesting. Tell me more about this.’

“Josh didn’t just want to learn,” Kellie continues. “He wanted to know. He wanted to know all about you. He was selfless, caring, and passionate about getting to know people through their writing.”

When it comes to my writing, I’m my own worst critic. Josh constantly reminded me of how much he enjoyed my writing.

He would say, “You’re a good writer. Now, the next step is for you to believe that.”

Our friendship, in the end, was brief, but it will have an everlasting effect on me.

“If you needed ten minutes of his time,” Kellie says, “and he only had five minutes to spare, he would make it work.”

You don’t forget someone like that. It’s impossible, unimaginable.

Every time I’m feeling down, I remember him and his smile.

It doesn’t seem fair that someone so beautiful, so genuine, someone who had so much more to offer had to go so early.

The world isn’t as bright anymore.

Every April, though, it should get at least a little brighter: that’s when Josh’s dogwood should bloom.

A plaque beside it bears a quote from David Levithan’s novel *Wide Awake*: “Do not just seek happiness for yourself. Seek happiness for all. Through kindness. Through mercy.”

Kellie and I chose the quote because it sums up Josh in the best way possible.

Wide Awake centers on accepting others as they are, and Josh epitomized that practice.

He never judged, never talked badly about others, and he always gave everyone a chance.

I don’t think I ever heard him talk negatively about anyone. He gave his positive energy to every conversation, every person he met, every aspect of his life.

Everyone who attended the memorial shared precious memories that they had with Josh, and we all laughed, cried, and remembered.

We have been assured that the dogwood will be beautiful.

Just like he was.

The following are tributes written by Josh’s friends and professors.

Whenever Josh would speak in class, his words revealed a compassionate heart. A true gentleman, Josh was the kind of person whose presence made the world a better place.

His absence is painfully felt, but his memory will be cherished, reminding us to treasure life and those we love in our short time here on earth.

—Lalitha Coetsee (class of 2014, English)

Dear Josh,

I didn’t know you very well, nor very long, but you still managed to affect my life.

You were the most caring person. You didn’t know what I was going through, and you always smiled at me.

You were a singular, special individual, and the world is a sadder place without you. I wish we could have known one another better and become best friends. Thank you for making class more enjoyable and for your encouragement. I’m going to miss you terribly.

All of my love,

Jessica Laymon (senior, English)

Josh—I can’t believe it’s been nearly a year already since I had to say goodbye to you, and in a way I feel like I still have to say goodbye to you every single day.

Some days, it feels like a lifetime ago that we hid under the stairwell, debating literature or breakfast cereals with equal passion like the true scholars we were. Some days I feel like it was only yesterday.

Some days I think of you and laugh hysterically at memories of you just being the amazing person you were. Some days I think of you and I can hardly catch my breath at the thought of not being able to talk to you about the most insignificant thing.

I could always count on you to be there to lend an ear or shoulder. One of your most amazing qualities was your ability to be completely in the moment with someone. If someone needed your time, you gave it so freely and completely.

Not one person who knew you had an unkind word to say about you. Everyone who met you immediately fell in love with your kind, generous, and humble spirit.

You are incredibly and immensely loved. You will be dearly missed.

Until I see you again, goodbye, sweet friend.

Kellie McClure (class of 2014, interdisciplinary studies)

(see *Josh Bates*, page 6)

DSC Homecoming 2015



Top left: Fans react to first-half action between Dalton State and Bethel University Saturday, Jan. 31. **Top right:** Sophomore Madison Ellis cheers on the Roadrunners. **Middle:** Dalton State's LaDaris Green gets the opening tip to start the game. **Bottom left:** Junior Kailey Vaughn, senior Montana Gray—soon to be named homecoming prince—and freshman Bailea Bickley are introduced during halftime. **Bottom right:** Senior Jill Campbell enjoys her first moments as homecoming queen while her father Joe looks on. (staff photos by Tanner Blackton)

Josh Bates

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I was fortunate enough to have Josh in two of my classes at Dalton State. During the Fall of 2009, Josh was in my Intro to Mass Communication class, and even as a freshman he stood out to me.

I remember that he sat in the back right corner of the room, and whenever he raised his hand it was always with a question or comment that was insightful and showed that he was really interested in learning.

I remember that semester a number of students in the class asking if there was any way I would cancel class the week of Thanksgiving in order for them to begin the break a little early, so I proposed a challenge to them: if anyone could write me a 500-word paper on why we shouldn't have to attend class, I'd consider it.

The stipulation: they were not allowed to use the letter "e" in the paper. As much as the students wanted to be released early, none seemed willing to put in the work to earn it.

The next week, as class began, Josh walked up to me at the beginning of class and presented me with an E-less 500 words. Not only was he the only one in the class to take up my challenge, but he actually wrote a good paper.

I was so impressed that for the next four years I kept tabs on him and would often ask him to sign up for my Mass Media & Society class. When I saw his name on the roster for fall 2013, I knew his work in the class would once again stand out.

Students in the class are required to produce a 20-25-page paper on some aspect of society that is affected by or through communication, and Josh chose to write about the one thing he was most passionate about: music. His paper, "Singing the Same Song: The Unsettling Celebration of Homogeneous Artistry Encouraged by *American Idol*," is a fascinating

exploration of how the talent-based reality television series served as the starting point for a drop in quality music being produced today.

His fervor for the argument came through in what he'd written, and I remember that for each draft I read I found myself becoming so caught up in his fantastic prose and masterfully crafted argument that I often forgot that I was supposed to be grading it.

In fact, I clearly remember at the end of one draft writing the word "beautiful" to describe it. Before he passed, Josh and I discussed what we would do with his paper because what he'd written was so masterful that it would border on criminal not to share it with the world in some way.

What Josh did in my classes was simply amazing, and I have to think it was the same in every other class he took at Dalton State. Without question, he is one of the best students I—or Dalton State—will ever have.

Dr. Kristin Barton (chair, Department of Communication)

Josh was the kind of student that every teacher loves to have . . . always prompt, always prepared, and always polite.

As a staff writer for *The Roadrunner*, he was more than an interviewer. He had a genuine interest in his subject and wanted to know what the other person thought, and he never tried to superimpose his own opinion on a topic.

His passing is a great loss.

Dr. Nancy Mason (assistant professor of Spanish)

I first met Josh in July 2009. He was enrolled in our associate's program in English and was in need of an academic advisor. I don't take on too many advisees because of my administrative load; however, after meeting Josh, I was so impressed with him that I selfishly kept him for myself.

He was simply one of the most sincere, thoughtful, and polite young men I had ever met.

He also came to every advising session prepared—and with a back-up plan.

We worked together throughout his associate's program and then as he continued working towards the bachelor's degree in English with a minor in communication studies.

I wish he had known how special he was and how many lives he had touched.

Dr. Mary T. Nielsen (dean, School of Liberal Arts)

Of all the friends my children have brought to my house, Josh Bates was among my favorites.

I am so appreciative to have known a person who was always happy to see me, always thanked me for feeding him, never complained that things were not going his way, and sang songs of praise and joy while strumming his guitar!

Josh and I shared many happy moments at my home, at the track field, and even at the beach. He always offered to help me bring the groceries in the house, cook meals, and load and unload the car while he joined our family on vacations. One year his mom and two sisters also came with us to the beach.

Josh and my son Dan were academically competitive and equally smart, but Josh was always happy. His glass was always half full, while my son always perceived his glass as half empty.

I still cannot accept the fact that I will not see Josh on this earth again. All who knew him wish that we had done something to prevent the tragic loss of this magnificent young man that left us way too soon.

My grief is shared by all who knew him, and I am comforted by my belief that God can bring good out of the worst catastrophes.

Gail Ward (associate professor of nursing)



Tanner Blackton — editor
Sarah Blevins — staff writer
Kayla Henderson — staff writer
Minela Karagic — staff writer

Jonathan Schwan — staff writer
Meagan Standridge — staff writer
Dr. Keith Perry — faculty advisor

Interested in writing a guest column? Have an opinion you'd like to express in a letter to the editor or an entry in ROADKILL? E-mail us at roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu.

Interested in becoming a staff writer or photographer? E-mail Dr. Keith Perry at kperry@daltonstate.edu or sign up next semester for ENGL 1111, Student Newspaper Practicum.