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Tamara Browning: Scholarships honor state police Trooper Brian McMillen

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THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Apr 16, 2010 @ 11:30 PM

The CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENT ORGANIZATION at the University of Illinois Springfield will sponsor a free throw-a-thon to benefit a scholarship named for an Illinois State Trooper who died in October 2007.

The first annual BRIAN McMILLEN FREE THROW-A-THON to benefit a scholarship honoring McMillen will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the Student Life Gym on the UIS campus.

A 2005 graduate of UIS with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, McMillen was an Illinois State Trooper who died when his patrol car was involved in an accident with two other vehicles outside Illiopolis while he was en route to a bar disturbance

He had served with the Illinois State Police for eight months.

BARBARA HAYLER, professor emerita in criminal justice at UIS, started the scholarship. JAY GILLIAM, professor in the criminal justice department at UIS, established the Criminal Justice Student Organization, which will host fundraisers to fund the scholarship.

"I moved here from Pennsylvania in the fall of 2007. ... I was coming into the department new. There was just kind of this big giant tragedy, crush of emotions, in our department because everybody there had had him," said Gilliam, who added that he didn't know McMillen personally.

"The money goes directly back to students in our program who are one, good students and who can use the scholarship money and also students who want to follow kind of in Brian's footsteps and get into law enforcement."

Donors may give a flat dollar amount or donate money per every free throw made.

"There are plans to do a number of different types of fundraisers, and we didn't want to be repetitive in what we do over the next couple of years. We tried to tie this into his time at UIS as a basketball player," Gilliam said.

To participate in the event or donate to the scholarship, call or e-mail Gilliam at 206-7910 or jgill7@uis.edu.

Donations may also be mailed to: University of Illinois Springfield, Criminal Justice Department,

C/O Dr. Jay Gilliam, One University Plaza, PAC 372, Springfield, IL 62703-5407.

Another McMillen scholarship event

The third annual BRIAN McMILLEN 5K RUN/WALK will be held at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 24, at Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road.

The run/walk will benefit the Brian McMillen Scholarship at LLCC.

The first 300 people to pre-register are guaranteed a moisture-wicking T-shirt with the event logo.

Online registration at GetMeRegistered.com ends at midnight July 22. A downloadable PDF registration form is available at the LLCC Veteran's Club Web site at www.llccveteransclub.org/. Paper registrations will be accepted until 7:45 a.m. July 24.

Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and youths 17 and under.

The LLCC Veteran's Club established this scholarship in memory of McMillen. He graduated from LLCC in May 2004.

While attending LLCC and the University of Illinois Springfield, McMillen was a student worker in the LLCC Veterans Affairs Office. He served in the Air National Guard and achieved the rank of technical sergeant.

Learning Differences College Fair

A college fair for students who have learning differences will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 22, at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, 1200 W. Washington St.

The LEARNING DIFFERENCES COLLEGE FAIR 2010 is open to the public.

Colleges to be represented include Benedictine University, Bradley University, Culver-Stockton College, Fontbonne University, Illinois College, Illinois State University, Lincoln College, Lincoln Land Community College, MacMurray College, St. Louis University, the University of Illinois Springfield, the University of Iowa, the University of Missouri and others.

Breakout session presentations will be held on "College Planning Process," "The Emotional Transition," "Executive Functioning Disorder," "The Financial Aid Process" and "Transitioning Documentation."

Tamara Browning is a columnist and feature writer for The State Journal-Register. She can be reached at 788-1534 or at tamara.browning@sj-r.com.

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