

COMMUNIQUE

LINDENWOOD
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UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

Smythe Selected as April's Top Employee

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Mike Smythe, Public Safety and Security Officer, has been selected as the Employee of the Month for April. He has worked at Lindenwood University for six years, prior to which he was employed at a local printing company.



Did You Know?

Did you know that *Life* magazine once featured a Lindenwood alum on its cover? In May of 1948, the magazine did a feature length story on Gwyned Filling and her adjustment from small town living (St. Charles, Mo.) to New York City.

Smythe currently works from 3 to 11 p.m. during the week, patrolling campus and overseeing any issues that require his assistance. He's also responsible for security during athletic and special events hosted on campus.

"I answer calls, everything from students being locked out to auto accidents and pest control problems," he said. "I also enforce the rules and regulations of the University, and I try to be proactive about it."

Smythe's nominator, Terry Russell, Dean of Students, described him as the consummate professional. He noted in his nomination letter that Smythe brings to the job qualities that make him deserving of the Employee of the Month award.

"Mike always goes above and beyond to make sure each and every task is accomplished, and he continues to set the standard that we want all our staff to emulate," Russell wrote. "I have never seen a situation he couldn't handle, and his level-headed approach to his job is unparalleled."

Russell also recalled in his letter an incident that took place last summer in which Smythe was able to diffuse a potentially volatile situation. A student possessed a weapon in his car, and Smythe was able to control the situation by notifying the police and handling the matter as a routine investigation.

"If you go into a situation and you are really excited and worked up, then that makes the situation worse," Smythe said. "The best thing is to do is just stay calm."

When he learned he had received the Employee of the Month award, Smythe expressed surprise at being honored for his daily work.

“I was shocked and I do appreciate it, but I’m just doing my job,” he said. “I really like what I do and I couldn’t ask for better bosses. Kurt Smith and Terry Russell are great guys and I couldn’t ask for better people to work with.”

Former Olympian Snatched as New Weightlifting Coach

Former Olympic competitor Jianping Ma has been named the new head coach of the Olympic weightlifting program at Lindenwood. Ma was a member of the Chinese National Team from 1978 to 1988 and represented his country at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. He also won a silver medal and two bronze medals while competing in four World Championships and World Cups.



Since competing, Ma has been a coach at a variety of levels for over 23 years, beginning as a provincial and national level coach certified in China. More recently, he was the head coach of the Seychelles (Africa) National Team and the USA World University National Team from 2003 to 2007. Ma received an undergraduate degree from Anhui University in China in 1989 and received his master’s degree in exercise science from Xi’an Sports University in China in 2007.

Director of Student Life Sports Tim Canavan said he was excited about the addition of Ma.

“His qualifications are unmatched in the sport,” Canavan said. “It was apparent that he was the perfect person to lead our Olympic weightlifting program forward into the future.”

Ma comes to the University after directing the weightlifting program at the University of Northern Iowa and the Malcolm Price Laboratory School for over five years. He also taught classes in weightlifting and strength and conditioning and was one of the highest rated instructors by his students.

Ma is looking forward to the new challenge.

“Lindenwood is a great school with a fantastic Olympic weightlifting program,” he said. “I want to build an army so that the earth shakes when our weights hit the floor!”

Ma officially takes over the program on June 1 but has already begun the search for future athletes. For information about the Lindenwood Olympic weightlifting program or to learn more about scholarship opportunities, contact Lauren Nystrom at (636) 949-4942.

Jose Jones Begins Pro Boxing Career

Business Office account representative Jose Jones looks imposing in his coat and tie. He's even more imposing in the boxing ring.



“The Panamanian Red Devil” was successful earlier this month in his first professional boxing endeavor, defeating cruiserweight Mitchell Harris in a unanimous four-round decision. The event was held at the Banquet Center in St. Louis.

Jones had more than 25 amateur fights under his belt, including two Golden Gloves Championships earned here in St. Louis. For Jones, fighting comes naturally as both his father was a professional boxer and Cousin Guillermo Jones fights in the cruiserweight division.

Mitchell Harris has a background in MMA fighting, where he has a current record of 5-8-0. Harris was born in Kansas City and now resides in Lee's Summit, Mo. and drew the Panamanian Red Devil as his first foray into professional boxing. Physically the matchup between Jones and Harris appeared nearly identical with both men weighing in at 185, yet Jones had a considerable height advantage at 6' 1" over Harris' 5' 7" frame.

Jones felt mentally and physically prepared for the challenge. He said, “With faith in God anything is possible. Hard work, determination and dedication were all I needed and I knew I was ready for the challenge!”

Jones admitted he was anxious in the beginning, and it took him some time to settle into a rhythm, take advantage of his size and throw multiple punches in an effort to wear Harris down. After several punishing jabs and solid hits to the mid section, Jones dominated the second and third round. Harris grew tired, and did what he could in the fourth round to tie Jones up. In the end, the judges scored a unanimous decision 40-36, 40-35, 39-37.

Jones looks for victory outside the ring as well. He is currently working on his doctoral degree at Lindenwood University and has co-founded The Boxing Therapy, a cure for depression and anger management, where in-home private boxing and martial arts classes are given for troubled teens. For more information on The Boxing Therapy, email boxingtherapy@hotmail.com or call for a free trial at 636-328-6930.

Some information for this story was supplied by Missouri Sports Magazine
