

Gavin Couvelha



**Student of the Year Nominee
2004-2005**

Course Schedule 2005

Course	Title	Section	Ref. No	Days	Hours	Instructor
SOTY 100	Student of the Year	A	041105	SMTWUFS	24/7	Gavin Couvelha

Instructor Information

"I try and live my life by doing something good for someone everyday". Gavin Couvelha lives each day by following this very thought and it shows by the work he has done not only in Van Zile Hall this year, but also on the Kansas State Campus. Gavin is a sophomore in Secondary Education, with an

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emphasis in Theater, Speech and communication. In preparation of his future occupation, Gavin is a member of the McCain Stage Crew, which builds and modifies more than a half-dozen stages sets each year. Gavin is a high-spirited person whose enthusiasm and spirit are contagious. During the

week Gavin can often be found down at the big screen participating in CSI night or Sci-Fi night. On the weekends down in the basement of Van Zile watching movies or hanging out playing games with other residents or friends from other halls. His favorite movie is Apollo 13.

Gavin states, "Being able to overcome incredible odds and come together as a team is what makes this my favorite movie." Besides his love of movies and TV, Gavin is our resident Pirate in Van Zile. He can be seen around the dorms saying "R" or actually "Arrr"! By fostering a fun and animated environment, it has allowed our residents to be a community rather than just people living in the same space.



During his time here at K-State, Gavin has found that he enjoys being involved all of the time! Within the resident halls, Gavin has been the Vice-president of the Van Zile for the past year.

As a member of the executive board, Gavin has spearheaded and participated in numerous events and activities. National Pizza-With-Everything-On-It day during the first semester was an excellent event. Gavin assisted in the purchasing of pizza for the hall and flyer distribution, and went on a personal campaign to get residents involved with this event.



During finals week, Gavin help to keep morale up during what is considered a very trying time for all. Gavin was an active participant in



office supply bingo and facilitated "Slacker Night" which allowed residents to let off steam by watching movies, snacking on goodies and having good conversation with others in the hall. Another way of loosening up the tension in the halls was by crating door sized "spirit banners" for more than 10 residents, including a 15-ft long poster complete with an ode to

Camilla Jones, Strong Complex RLC. Currently, Gavin is working with other members of the HGB to plan the Van Zile Annual Date Auction. Gavin and other members of the HGB have put many hours and months of planning into this event.

Throughout the hall, Gavin continuously paves the way in helping our residents open up. He has literally opened the door to new residents and brings a new level of interaction that has not been seen by Van Zile

residents in a very long time. He has single handedly changed the way the hall operates by being proactive in ideas suggested by residents. During this spring semester, Gavin brought about a change in the complex's policy on door access to residents, which the other halls in the complex have now since adopted. Gavin is continuously coming up with new ideas to get residents involved in the hall and mitigate problems that residents may have.

Gavin is the reason I feel comfortable in this dorm. He's helped me to get out of my room and get more involved, and for that he's the most awesome person I know.
Kimberly Beem
Van Zile Resident

Class Meetings

As a future educator, Gavin has found being involved within the College of Education (COEd) a pleasant reminder of what he hopes to do in the future. Gavin has put his mark on the COEd in more ways than one. For the 2004-2005 school year, Gavin was Co-Treasurer of the Education Council and the editor of *The Chalkboard*, a publication of the Education Council. As

Gavin is dedicated to all of the activities and events he helps plan

- Sarah Czerniewski
Van Zile Resident

an active member within the college, Gavin felt as though the leadership of the COEd groups was not as focused and united as it could be. By voicing his concerns, he

created the Council of Presidents, an assembly of the presidents from each organization within the COEd, which has proven to be very successful since its implementation.

For the coming school year, Gavin will lead the Education Council as President and he will continue to hold a seat as an Undergraduate Student Representative to the Executive Affairs Committee, which consists of the COEd deans and department chairs. With his membership in these groups, Gavin hopes to once again

Gavin is outgoing and always willing to help when things need to get done. He is friendly no matter what is happening. As hardworking, driven, and busy he is, I know he's going to make a great teacher one day!

Lorna Blasche
Van Zile Hall President

co-chair the COEd Career Fair as he did during this current school year. Gavin's role consisted of contacting more than 100 school districts throughout the region and gathering volunteers to help setup, run and cleanup the career fair. This was by far one of the most successful career fair's the COEd has had in many years.

Within the Student Government Association, Gavin holds a seat as a student senator from the college of education, representing all of the COEd students on this campus. Gavin was re-elected to a second term during the spring elections and was also elected to be Union Governing Board member, which holds a term of 2-years.

Objectives and Goals

As a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Gavin prides himself on being able to make a difference in the lives of younger males. Since the age of 16, Gavin has been a proud member of the educational staff at the Boy Scout camp here in the Topeka, KS area. During the summers, Gavin has taught basic camping principles and practices and has also been given the responsibility of being a camp area director. By being able to reinforce these skills, Gavin has continued to foster his own love of camping and teaching.



General Remarks

Gavin has consistently set an example of what a good leader is, no matter if has tried or not. In January of 2005, Gavin was given the honor of being the Executive Board Member of the month for K-State. Nominated by Camilla Jones, RLC of the Strong Complex, Gavin was praised for being "R": Ready, Responsible, and Recreational. Camilla States, "Gavin has added

new life to the hall." As a strong leader, Gavin makes sure he is a recognizable presence in the hall. He is a frequent participant in Diversity team events. Throughout this year, he has attended activities such as the Art Madness Poetry Slam and Art Gala, Battle of the Sexes: Boys Rule, Girls

Gavin has single handedly restored my faith in pirates! Before him I only thought they raped and pillaged and said Arrr He has shown me how steadfast creative and selfless they can be As the Van Zile Pirate and Vice President he has not only been the backbone of the VZ HGB but he has also been my personal support team Without him I could not have been successful this year But he still says Arrr too much for my liking

Jeremy Thornbrugh
Van Zile ARH Rep

Drool program and the Native American Heritage Celebration.

As a caring leader, Gavin began participating with Judicial Board, or J-Board, this year. As an associate justice on the J-Board, Gavin meets with residents that are also on the board to hear cases that are brought before them. As he deliberates on the cases, his mind is constantly

thinking of ways to help solve problems like those brought before him that may arise within Van Zile in the future. This proactive thinking is exactly what Van Zile and other organizations need in a leader.

As Gavin continues on his college career, I am sure he will continue to grow not only as a leader but also as a friend. He is caring and compassionate about the way he leads and those that he will lead. I know that if everyone could know the joy and excitement that he brings to our hall and campus, the world would be better because of it.

Gavin always has something nice to say whenever you see him and always knows how to make someone feel better
Meaghan Thompson
Van Zile HGB

Dear OTY Judging Committee,

It is with great pride that I write a letter of support for Gavin Couvelha. This year Gavin has served as the vice president of the Van Zile HGB, an organization which I advise. Through the past 10 months in working with Gavin, I have seen his leadership grow beyond anything I could have imagined. From what I thought was a shy gentleman not sure if he really wanted to be at HGB or knew exactly what it was, he is not an outgoing person in the hall, wants to make changes in the hall, and is actually running for president of the hall and of the complex next year.

I was able to write an OTM for Gavin in January 2005 and although many of those comments were month specific, many of the basic ideas shared in that OTM are who Gavin is as a person and makes him a valid candidate for an OTY. Below I will share some of those thoughts as they relate to Gavin's strengths through the year.

Ready: Gavin is always ready to take on a new challenge or adventure. On more occasions that I can count, Gavin has been the first volunteer to do something at HGB. From working on the revision of the constitution (which in and of itself, is not the most glamorous of jobs) to taking a lead in the planning of the Van Zile date auction, Gavin never complains and always is ready for a new adventure in the hall.

Responsible: Gavin is involved in many more things than just the hall. Even on Open House day, Gavin was running back and forth manning the tables he was involved in, but he made sure to take some time to be with the hall and other hall leaders. Gavin is forced to remain organized to complete all of his tasks. As long as he knows what is expected of him, he will succeed to the fullest.

Community Builder: Gavin has been a key factor in the community building in Van Zile Hall this year. The fall semester started slow and rocky with residents not wanting to meet others or be friends with each other. Gavin was a key component in beginning to get to know others and build the community. From hours of movies on the weekends in basement, knocking on various doors to talk to people, to helping to create motivational signs for all the members of the HGB, it is certain that the community that we have in Van Zile would be nothing as is it now if Gavin were not a part of the hall. We are grateful for his enthusiasm and his commitment to the friendships and community formed.

As I hope you can begin to see, Gavin began as a quiet leader, and he is still one who might not be known around all halls, but he is clearly a leader within Van Zile and is known among the floors of this small building. I thoroughly support the nomination of Gavin for this OTY. This is our chance to give back to him for the hard work he has given to us this year.

Sincerely,

Camilla Jones
Residence Life Coordinator, Strong Complex