

Athletic Highlights 2016-17

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- 129 Statesmen and Lady Statesmen made the 2016-17 GSC Academic Honor Roll (3.0+ GPA)
- **2016-17 Honors Numbers:** All-GSC/NSISC 48 | All-American 12 | All-Region 11 | Academic All-GSC/NSISC 31 | Academic All-Americans 19 | Academic All-Region/District 1
- Over \$5K raised for Make-A-Wish by the DSU Student Athlete Advisory Committee. The total ranks among the top 10 among NCAA Division II Schools.
- Statesmen Baseball hosted the 2017 Gulf South Conference and NCAA Division II South Region Baseball tournaments at Ferriss Field-Harvey Stadium
- Having played a major role in the growth and development of women's basketball in the United States, Delta State University's 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77 Lady Statesmen National Championship Basketball squads were named the recipient of the 2017 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame's Trailblazer Award on June 10, 2017.
- Former Lady Statesmen Amy Carroll-Denley inducted into the GSC Hall of Fame
- Senior Quarterback Tyler Sullivan earned GSC Top 10 honors for the second straight year
- Elite 90 Award Winner – Melanie Tombers (Women's Swim/Dive Championships)
- Tyler Sullivan was a finalist for the College Football Foundation Campbell Trophy and was awarded an \$18K post graduate scholarship by the CFF.
- Melanie Tombers and Tyler Sullivan were the recipients of the Charles S. Kerg Award, honoring the top Lady Statesmen and Statesmen Senior Student-Athletes
- Juwan Burney was selected to the NCAA Division II SAAC as the GSC representative
- **Athletic Director's Hall of Fame (Top GPA):** Paxton Stratton (Men's Soccer | 4.0 GPA) and Kara Lane Nowell (Softball | 3.97 GPA) were honored with Athletic Director's Hall of Fame. The Delta State's Men's Swimming and Diving (3.65) team and the Lady Statesmen Cross Country (3.72 GPA) team earned team honors
- Assistant Athletic Director for Health and Student Performance David Pryor was named Vice Chair for the Gulf South Conference Athletic Trainers

Baseball

- Finished Year 45-13 | 25-8 GSC
- Won 14th GSC Tournament Title and won the GSC Regular Season Championship
- Won 12th NCAA Division II Region Championship
- Statesmen advanced to 12th NCAA Division II College World Series
- Junior First Baseman Zack Shannon became the first Statesmen to win the Tino Martinez Award given to Division II baseball's Most Outstanding Player
- Zack Shannon was named ABCA, NCBWA and D2CCA First-Team All-American
- Zack Shannon was named NCBWA and D2CCA National Player of the Year and ABCA, NCBWA and D2CCA South Region Player of the Year

- Shannon was named the GSC Player of the Year and GSC Tournament's Most Outstanding Player
- Shannon, Clay Casey, Seth Birdsong, Zach Osbon and Brian Lane earned All-South Region honors
- Shannon, Corey Beard, Emil Ellis, Clay Casey, Seth Birdsong, Zach Osbon and Brian Lane were named All-Gulf South Conference
- Mike Kinnison was named the ABCA, NCBWA and D2CCA South Region Coach of the Year and the NCBWA National Coach of the Year
- The Statesmen notched their 13th 40-plus win season and 9th 45-plus win season under Coach Mike Kinnison, who is averaging 43 wins per season as DSU's skipper.
- Coach Mike Kinnison has amassed 897 wins and has a .765 career winning percentage
- 20 Statesmen were named to the GSC Academic Honor Roll (3.0 GPA or Higher)
- Statesmen Baseball hosted the 2017 Gulf South Conference and NCAA Division II South Region Baseball tournaments at Ferriss Field-Harvey Stadium
- Juwan Burney was selected to the NCAA Division II SAAC as the GSC representative

Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving

- 25 athletes invited to NCAA National Swimming and Diving Championships
- 19 Academic All-Americans (2017)
- Melanie Tombers was the recipient of the Kerg Award, honoring the top Lady Statesmen senior
- Both Teams had 3.33 GPA this past SPRING 2017 semester
- Elite 90 Award Winner – Melanie Tombers (Women's Swim/Dive Championships)
- Delta had the most individual NSISC event champions than any member school
- 26 Lady Statesmen and Statesmen (11 women/15 men) earned NSISC All-Conference Honors
- 26 NSISC Academic All-Conference (13 women/13 men)
- 19 NCAA All-Americans (7 women/11 men)
- WOMEN finished 12th (4 years in a row, 12th place or better)
- MEN finished 8th (2 years in a row, Top 8 or better, 5th in 2016)
- Top MEN individual finish at NCAA's
 - ➔ 2nd place – 50 Free ::: Mattia Schirru (ITALY) – had a 3.84 GPA last semester
 - ➔ 2nd place – 100 Free ::: Mattia Schirru (ITALY)
- Top WOMEN individual finish at NCAA's
 - ➔ 3rd place – 500 Free ::: Caroline Jouis (FRANCE)
 - ➔ 3rd place – 1000 Free ::: Caroline Jouis (FRANCE)
 - ➔ 3rd place – 1650 Free ::: Caroline Jouis (FRANCE)
 - ➔ 3rd place – 400 IM ::: Melanie Tombers (GERMANY)
- 23rd NCAA Championship Appearance For Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving
 - ➔ 2017 (Birmingham, AL) – Mattia Schirru, Matteo Frasci, Alex Peach, Adam Charlton, Fabrice Wendel, Cody Lavoie, Nathan Sawicki, William Ashwell, Kyle Weesner

Football

- Tyler Sullivan earned GSC Top 10 honors for the second straight year and was honored with Charles S. Kerg Award as the Top Statesmen Senior Student-Athlete
- Tyler Sullivan was a finalist for the College Football Foundation Campbell Trophy and was awarded an \$18K post graduate scholarship by the CFF
- Tyler Sullivan was named to the undergraduate portion of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship program, carrying a 3.97 GPA
- Running back Chris Robinson was named First-Team AFCA All-American
- Chris Robinson, Landry Tullo, and George Roberts earned D2CCA All-South Region laurels
- Chris Robinson, George Roberts and Landry Tullo named All-GSC
- Chris Robinson was selected as a finalist for the C-Spire Charles Conerly Trophy
- Tyler Daniels, Cody Mills, Tyler Sullivan, and Landry Tullo were named to the GSC All-Academic Team (3.3+ GPA)
- 37 Statesmen made the GSC Academic Honor Roll (3.0+ GPA)

Men's Basketball

- Finished Year 23-9 overall | 16-6 GSC
- Made the GSC Final Four in Birmingham, Ala., for the second straight season
- The Statesmen posted their first 20-win season since the 2013-14 season
- The Statesmen made the GSC Tournament for the fifth straight season under Coach Jim Boone.
- For the second time in four years, the Statesmen appeared in the NCAA South Region Tournament, making it to the semifinals. Overall, it was Delta State's 16th appearance in the tournament
- Senior guard Devin Schmidt became the GSC's all-time leading scorer with 2,594 points. Schmidt also added 713 rebounds and 512 assists
- Schmidt closed his senior season with six 30-point games and scored 20 or more points on 20 occasions
- Schmidt had the privilege of participating in the 2017 NABC/Reese's Division II All-Star Game, an honor shared with Willie Readus, who played in the 2014 game
- Schmidt also received a mountain of accolades including being named Preseason All-GSC, C-Spire Howell Trophy Finalist, First-Team All-GSC and First-Team All-South Region, Basketball Times Second-Team All-American, D2CCA Third-Team All-American and NABC All-American.
- John Cornish, Cedric Harper and James Kilpatrick made the GSC Winter Academic Honor Roll

Women's Basketball

- Finished season 14-14 overall | 11-11 GSC under second-year head coach Craig Roden
- Made the GSC Tournament for the 12th consecutive year
- Alexis, Ross, Kaelin Kneeland, Carly Keller made the GSC Academic Honor Roll (3.0+GPA)

- Former Lady Statesmen Amy Carroll-Denley inducted into the GSC Hall of Fame
- Delta State University's 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77 Lady Statesmen National Championship squads were named the recipient of the 2017 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame's Trailblazer Award on Sunday, Feb. 12

Softball

- Finished 21-25 overall | 14-19 GSC
- The Lady Statesmen recorded the program's first series sweep of GSC rival Valdosta State
- Freshman Mari Alex Sandridge was named to the NFCA All-South Region Second Team.
- Abi Gibson and Mari Alex Sandridge were named to the All-GSC Second-Team
- Senior catcher Madison Zoeller was named to the 2017 GSC Spring All-Academic Team. Zoeller is majoring in environmental science and boasts a 3.75 GPA
- Kara Lane Nowell (3.97 GPA) was honored with Athletic Director's Hall of Fame for top female student-athlete GPA.
- 13 Lady Statesmen made the GSC Spring Academic Honor Roll

Men's and Women's Tennis

- First year head coach Jeffrey Farris compiled a 5-12 overall record on the men's side and a 5-16 overall record for the women
- Farris led the Statesmen to the Gulf South Conference Tournament, their 10th appearance in program history while the Lady Statesmen made their 12th appearance in the tournament
- Five Statesmen and five Lady Statesmen were named to the GSC Spring Academic Honor Roll

Women's Cross Country

- Six Lady Statesmen made the GSC Academic Honor Roll (3.0+ GPA)
- Madison Nash was voted 2016 Homecoming Queen
- Lady Statesmen finished a season-best fourth overall at the Ozarks Invitational that included and 17th (82 runners) place finish by Tori McDonald
- All six student-Athletes set personal best times throughout the season
- Posted a 3.72 team GPA, the highest GPA among DSU women's teams

Women's Soccer

- Under first-year Head Coach Luke Sheekey, the Delta State women's soccer team posted a 6-11 record and a 2-10 record GSC mark—their best finish since 2008
- Delta State scored a season-high 11 goals against Alcorn State, tying the school record for most goals scored in a game.
- The Lady Statesmen doubled the amount of total wins and conference wins in 2015.
- DSU's 32 goals on the season are the third most in program history

- Senior midfielder Catherine Thomson was named to the COSIDA Academic All-District Team
- Thomson tied the DSU record for most goals scored in a game with three
- Twenty Lady Statesmen were named to the GSC Fall Academic Honor Roll

Men's Soccer

- Collected one player of the week, one freshman of the week and a pair of defender of the week honors during the fall season in the Gulf South Conference
- Senior defender Andrew Aur earned Second-Team All-GSC honors
- 13 Statesmen soccer players were named to the 2016 GSC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Paxton Stratton (4.0 GPA) was honored with Athletic Director's Hall of Fame for top male student-athlete GPA