Sarah Lanton was the manager of the Lady Falcons basketball team during the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 seasons. Lanton, a high school standout in volleyball and basketball, left her playing days behind her after two serious knee injuries in high school. However, her love of sport brought her to the Lady Falcon program where she volunteered her time and service to the program. Sarah became a role model to the players, bringing them wisdom and grace far beyond her young age. She accompanied the team to two straight national basketball tournaments.

Lanton graduated from Southeastern Illinois College, majoring in mechanical engineering. She transferred to Mississippi State University to pursue her bachelor's degree. On her return to Mississippi after a visit home for fall break, Sarah Lanton, 20, was tragically taken from us on October 7, 2008 in a weather-related car accident.

"Everyone always seemed to enjoy her presence and being around her because she was such an uplifting, hard-working, positive person. I know when she was with our program she worked really, really hard. Sarah was probably more poised and had more savvy about things way beyond her age just with life situations and maturity - talking to the girls and how to handle things. Her level of maturity just helped our team become better people. And my prayers are with her family and friends." - Greg Franklin, former Lady Falcons basketball coach and Athletic Director

The Southeastern Illinois College athletics community echoes the thoughts of Franklin. Sarah was a beautiful, bright, enthusiastic lady who will be missed by us all. Her wonderful smile and sense of humor will forever be remembered. The world was truly a better place with her in it.