



JANUARY 11-12, 2018

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PRESENTED BY *Learfield*

HOSTED BY 

# WELCOME



Thank you for attending the inaugural Surefire Baseball Forum. It is my hope that years from now, after many forums and success stories to cite, we are all proud that we were part of the start of something special for college baseball.

This program would not be possible without the support provided by Learfield, Texas A&M Athletics, D1Baseball.com and the College Baseball Foundation. Please pass along your gratitude to them. Enjoy your time in Aggieland.

Sincerely,



Jason Penry

# Learfield



# BACKGROUND



Modeled after the Villa 7 networking event for college basketball, which led to about 90 assistants securing head coaching positions from 2004-2012, the Surefire Baseball Forum matches D1 administrators with the top assistant baseball coaches from across the country. The purpose of Surefire is two-fold: help assistant coaches make connections to secure head coaching jobs and create more interest for college baseball among athletic administrators.

# AGENDA



## **Thursday, January 11**

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Welcome Reception

## **Friday, January 12**

7:00 a.m. – Breakfast

7:30 a.m. – Speed Networking (assistant coaches paired with administrators)

9:30 a.m. – Break

9:45 a.m. – Breakout Sessions

» Coaches: “Preparation for Job Interviews” by John Cohen, Director of Athletics, Mississippi State

» Administrators: “Trends in Multimedia & Marketing Rights” by Andy Rawlings, Chief Revenue Officer, Learfield

10:30 a.m. – Speed Networking (assistant coaches paired with administrators)

11:30 a.m. – Breakout Sessions

» Coaches: “You’re Hired: The First 90 Days” by Rob Childress, Head Coach, Texas A&M; Terry Mohajir, Director of Athletics, Arkansas State; and Will Davis, Head Coach, Lamar

» Administrators: “Successful Coach Searches” by SportSource Analytics, Parker Search, and Carr Sports Associates

12:15 p.m. – Adjourn

# ATTENDEE ROSTER



## COACHES

Sean Allen (Texas)  
Cory Barton (Louisiana Tech)  
Will Bolt (Texas A&M)  
Kyle Bunn (Indiana)  
Chad Caillet (Southern Miss)  
Nolan Cain (LSU)  
Chris Cates (South Florida)  
Nathan Choate (San Diego)  
Matt Collins (UL Monroe)  
Eddie Cornejo (UCSB)  
Trip Couch (South Carolina)  
Mike Current (South Carolina)  
Drew Dickinson (Illinois)  
Thomas Eager (Stanford)  
Scott Foxhall (NC State)

Jake Gautreau (Mississippi State)  
Ben Greenspan (Arizona State)  
Matt Hobbs (Wake Forest)  
Jason Kelly (Washington)  
Karl Kuhn (Virginia)  
Bill Mosiello (TCU)  
Chris Prothro (South Alabama)  
Kirk Saarloos (TCU)  
Justin Seely (Texas A&M)  
Derek Simmons (Kent State)  
Jon Strauss (Baylor)  
Jordan Twohig (CS Northridge)  
Jay Uhlman (Oregon)  
Nate Yeskie (Oregon State)

## ADMINISTRATORS

Michael Alford (Central Michigan)  
Whit Babcock (Virginia Tech)  
Greg Burke (Northwestern State)  
Pat Chun (Florida Atlantic)  
Rob Clark (Long Beach State)  
John Cohen (Mississippi State)  
Troy Dannen (Tulane)  
Lee DeLeon (Abilene Christian)  
Kevin Fite (Oklahoma State)  
Ken Halpin (Winthrop)  
Tony Hernandez (Texas Tech)  
Robert Hill (Stephen F. Austin State)  
Matt Hogue (Coastal Carolina)  
Kevin Hurley (Texas A&M)  
Chad Jackson (Baylor)

Brent Jones (Troy)  
Joe Karlgaard (Rice)  
Scott Lazenby (A&M-Corpus Christi)  
Tommy McClelland (Louisiana Tech)  
Bill McGillis (San Diego)  
Mario Moccia (New Mexico State)  
Terry Mohajir (Arkansas State)  
Connor Smith (Dallas Baptist)  
Jimmy Soto (Utah)  
Vince Volpe (UTRGV)  
Matt Wells (West Virginia)  
Brian Wickstrom (Incarnate Word)  
Scott Woodward (Texas A&M)  
Sheahon Zenger (Kansas)

# COACHES

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## Sean Allen // University of Texas



Sean Allen was associate head coach for the Tulane Green Wave before being named assistant coach at Texas on June 30, 2016. The Carlsbad, N.M., native has over 15 years of coaching experience at the collegiate level. Allen has strong ties to Texas thanks to his four-year playing career at the University of Houston, where he also coached from 2002-2007.

While at Tulane, he was the lead recruiter. Prior to Tulane, Allen served as an assistant coach at Sam Houston State for three seasons. At SHSU, he helped the Bearkats to three straight Southland Conference titles. From 2008 to 2011, Allen served as an assistant coach at Florida International University.

Allen earned his bachelor's degree in sports administration from Houston in 2001. He is married to the former Stephanie Beyelia, a former soccer standout at UH.

## Cory Barton // Louisiana Tech University



Cory Barton joined the Louisiana Tech baseball staff for the 2018 campaign.

Barton serves as the pitching coach for the Bulldogs after guiding the McNeese State baseball program to one of the best seasons in its history in 2017.

During his three years at McNeese, Barton served as the program's recruiting coordinator while also working with the pitching staff. Barton earned a reputation as one of the top recruiters in all of college baseball. Prior to his time at McNeese, Barton spent five seasons as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Louisiana Monroe. Barton joined the ULM staff in 2008 after two seasons as an assistant coach at Memphis and a two-year playing career with the Tigers.

Barton, a native of Trussville, Alabama, graduated from Memphis with a sport management degree in May 2007. He and his wife Robin have a 1-year-old son, Cooper.

## Will Bolt // Texas A&M University



Will Bolt begins the fourth season of his second stint on the Texas A&M coaching staff in 2018. Bolt previously served a two-year stint as a volunteer assistant coach at Texas A&M in 2006-07.

The Conroe, Texas native previously spent three seasons as an associate head coach for the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Prior to his tenure at Nebraska, Bolt served four years as head coach at Texarkana College from 2008-11.

Bolt was also a four-year starter and team captain at Nebraska from 1999-2002,

where he was a two-time Academic All-Big 12 honoree. He graduated in 2003 with a degree in communication studies before earning his master's degree in 2006. Bolt and his wife, Lauren, were married in July of 2005 and they have two sons, Jaxon and Austin.

## **Kyle Bunn // Indiana University**



Kyle Bunn enters his fourth season in 2018 as Indiana's pitching coach. In August 2016, he was elevated to the program's Associate Head Coach. He has 16 years of Division I coaching experience.

During his 15-year stint as an assistant at Ole Miss (2002-07), Clemson (2008-09), Alabama (2010), East Tennessee State (2012-14) and Indiana (2015-present), Bunn has tutored a National Freshman of the Year (two-way player), a Conference Player of the Year (two-way player), a Conference Pitcher of the Year and two Conference Freshman of the Year.

A 1999 graduate of The Citadel with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and minor in Law & Legal Processes, Bunn was a three-year letter winner for the Bulldogs, earning the team's Ace Pitching Award in 1999. He helped The Citadel to back-to-back Southern Conference Tournament titles in both 1998 and 1999, and a regular season championship in 2000.

## **Chad Caillet // University of Southern Mississippi**



Chad Caillet has served over ten seasons as an assistant coach in Hattiesburg. During the summer of 2016, he was promoted to Associate Head Coach. Caillet has spearheaded the efforts resulting in some of the program's most-highly regarded signing pools. In 2012, he helped land a recruiting class regarded No. 3 by Baseball America.

Caillet, who came to Southern Miss after a brief stint at McNeese State, was an assistant at Southeastern Louisiana University for the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Prior to SLU, Caillet spent four years at Meridian Community College, including one season as its head coach. Other coaching stops included a year at both Mississippi College and Millsaps College after he broke into the coaching ranks with a stint at Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

As a player, Caillet finished his career at Southern Miss, where he earned both his bachelor's degree (1998) and his master's degree (2000). Caillet is married to the former Jessica Comprett of Bay St. Louis, Miss., and they have a daughter, Carsyn, and a son, Coby.

## **Nolan Cain // Louisiana State University**



Nolan Cain was promoted to assistant coach/recruiting coordinator in November 2016 after working for one season as the Tigers' volunteer coach and for two seasons as coordinator of operations. His 2017 recruiting class was ranked No. 5 in the nation by Collegiate Baseball newspaper.

A native of Cantonment, Fla. and pitcher on LSU's 2009 national championship team, Cain has handled a number of responsibilities with the baseball program, including team travel, budgeting, community relations and the operation of the Paul Mainieri LSU Baseball Camp.

Cain and his wife, the former Kristen Hobbs, have one son, Cason. Kristen played softball at LSU from 2004-07 and now works as the Special Events and Community Relations Coordinator for the LSU athletic department.

## **Chris Cates // University of South Florida**



Chris Cates joined the USF baseball coaching staff in August 2014. He serves as the team's assistant coach, working with the infielders, guiding the hitters and coaching third base during games. Off the field, he assists with campus recruiting, administration and camps. Cates arrived at USF from the University of Tampa. Prior to his coaching stint at Tampa, Cates was an assistant at Florida State University for the 2013 season.

A Tampa native, Cates graduated from the University of Louisville in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in sports administration. A four-year starter at shortstop for the Cardinals (2004-07), he played an integral role in leading Louisville to its first ever College World Series appearance in 2007. He is married to the former Meagan Suárez, a UT graduate, as the couple was wed on November 3, 2012 in Tampa. They have one son, Cohen.

## **Nathan Choate // University of San Diego**



Nathan Choate wrapped up his first season as pitching coach for the Toreros in 2017. Last season the Toreros struck out 9.7 batters per nine innings, the sixth best rate in the nation and tops in the West Coast Conference.

Before coming to USD, Choate had been the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at Grand Canyon University for five years. Prior to his time at Grand Canyon, Choate spent four years at UC Riverside. Before UCR, Choate was the pitching coordinator for UC Irvine, which finished fourth at the 2007 College World Series.

Choate pitched collegiately at Cal Poly for two seasons. He also pitched two seasons at Santa Ana Junior College in 1998 and 1999, helping the Dons to a third-place national finish in 1999. He is married to Lori Choate and has three kids, Kamdyn, Chance and Kyla.

## **Matt Collins // University of Louisiana at Monroe**



Matt Collins, a 2010 ULM graduate, returns to his alma mater for the 2018 season after spending the past three years working at Stephen F. Austin State. He served a three-year stint at McNeese State prior to SFA. At McNeese State, he served as an assistant coach from 2012-14. Collins worked primarily with the hitters

while also serving as the team's recruiting coordinator.

Prior to playing at ULM, Collins played two seasons at LSU-Eunice where he helped the team to its first national junior college championship while serving as team captain. He is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## **Eddie Cornejo // University of California, Santa Barbara**



Eddie Cornejo is in his sixth season as assistant coach/recruiting coordinator for the UCSB baseball program. One of the top recruiters on the west coast, Cornejo was named the top recruiter in the Big West by D1Baseball.com. Thanks in part to Cornejo's work on the recruiting trail and on the practice field, UCSB has had two of its most historic seasons during his tenure. Most notably, Cornejo helped UCSB reach the College World Series for the first time ever in 2016.

As a player, Cornejo spent six professional seasons with the Oakland Athletics and Colorado Rockies organizations. A standout All-Region and All-Big 12 selection at the University of Oklahoma, Cornejo led his team in batting average (.393) and RBIs (49) in 2003. Prior to OU, he was an All-American shortstop at Riverside City College. Cornejo has a master's degree in education from Cal State San Bernardino and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife Melissa had their first child, Dante, in December 2015.

## **Trip Couch // University of South Carolina**



Trip Couch accepted a position at the University of South Carolina in July 2017 after spending seven seasons with the University of Houston, his second stint with the program, as recruiting coordinator and took over a more active role with the offense.

Following his first stint with the University of Houston (1995-2000), Couch served as an assistant at Texas in 2001 before joining the Arizona Diamondbacks as a scout in 2002. He scouted in the state of Texas and Louisiana and oversaw all try-out camps in the territory. While with Arizona, Couch signed four players that have reached the Major Leagues. He was also assistant coach at Louisiana-Lafayette from 1991-92.

Couch is married to the former Tiffany Williams. The couple has three daughters, Chandler Gray, Kendall Blair and Katelyn Richardson.

## **Mike Current // University of South Carolina**



Mike Current enters his first season as the assistant coach/recruiting coordinator for South Carolina baseball in 2018. Current spent the previous three seasons at the University of South Florida, serving as the team's assistant coach, recruiting coordinator, hitting coach and working with the outfielders.

He was also instrumental in helping the Bulls to a consensus

top-10 recruiting class in the fall of 2015, the program's first ever top-25 class. Current arrived at USF after playing a major role in the transformation of the Illinois State University program during a nine-year stint there.

Current, who earned his master's degree in sport management from Illinois State in May 2007, resides in Columbia with his wife, Heather, and daughter, Evelyn.

## **Drew Dickinson // University of Illinois**



Drew Dickinson completed his seventh year as Illinois' pitching coach in 2018, after serving two stints as a volunteer assistant coach in 2009 and 2011. Dickinson oversees the development of Illinois' record-setting pitching staff and is instrumental in recruiting for the Fighting Illini.

Under Dickinson, Illinois' pitching staff has been one of the best in the Big Ten. In 2015, Dickinson earned Skippers Dugout's Division I Assistant Coach of the Year award. He has been an integral part of Illinois' first Super Regional appearance in 2015 and three NCAA Regional berths (2011, 2013, 2015).

A 2009 graduate of Illinois, Dickinson holds a B.S. in communication. He is regarded as one of the best pitchers in Illinois history.

## **Thomas Eager // Stanford University**



Thomas Eager enters his first season at Stanford in 2018, and will serve as the Cardinal pitching coach. Eager also mentored the pitchers at Cal Berkeley for two seasons. He held the same role at Cal Poly for three seasons, where the Mustangs recorded a program-record 47 wins and No. 1 seed at the NCAA Regionals.

Before his promotion to pitching coach, Eager spent two seasons as the Director of Operations for his alma mater, Cal Poly, where he pitched in 2006 and 2007. The Visalia, California, native finished his sophomore season at Cal Poly in 2007 with an 11-3 ledger, on his way to first team All-Big West accolades. He spent four years in the St. Louis Cardinals organization and reached as high as Double-A.

Eager earned a bachelor of science degree in business management from the University of Phoenix in May of 2012 after studying business administration at Cal Poly. He and his wife, Jenna, have two sons, Trey and Blake.

## **Scott Foxhall // North Carolina State University**



Scott Foxhall was named the NC State pitching coach on June 30, 2014. Foxhall joined the NC State staff from Auburn, where he spent the 2014 season as pitching coach and served as the architect of notable Auburn recruiting classes. His last four classes at Auburn were ranked in the Top 25 nationally, peaking with a ninth-place ranking ahead of the 2013 season.

Before heading to Auburn, Foxhall had an outstanding run at the College of

Charleston. In 18 years as a collegiate coach, Foxhall helped develop seven major leaguers in his coaching careers at Auburn and College of Charleston.

Foxhall spent two years as a pitcher at Auburn before heading to College of Charleston. The Greer, S.C., native earned a degree in Education. He and his wife, the former Laura Ballenger, have twin children, Kade and Kennedy.

## **Jake Gautreau // Mississippi State University**



Jake Gautreau joined Mississippi State in June 2017 as an assistant coach. Most recently, Gautreau served as Certified Player Agent for the Boras Corporation.

In August 2013, Gautreau was named an 'Assistant Ready to Lead' by Perfect Game for his work with the Green Wave in his first four years on the staff. During his tenure at Tulane from 2010-14, Gautreau served as the program's recruiting coordinator, hitting instructor and infielders coach.

Gautreau was named Conference USA Player of the Decade in 2005 in recognition of his career accomplishments at Tulane. After being drafted by the San Diego Padres in the first round of the 2001 MLB Draft, Gautreau played professional baseball for eight years before accepting an assistant coach position at his alma mater in 2009.

He is married to Erin Dobyanski Gautreau, a former Tulane volleyball player, and the couple have two sons, William (4) and Weston (2). The McAllen, Texas, native earned his Bachelor of Arts in media arts from Tulane in 2011.

## **Ben Greenspan // Arizona State University**



Ben Greenspan enters his fourth season in 2018 at Arizona State. He was named the associate head coach in late 2017 and serves as recruiting coordinator. Excelling in his recruiting coordinator position, Greenspan assembled the No. 1 recruiting class in the nation in 2016 according to Collegiate Baseball Newspaper. The 2017 recruiting class was No. 4 by both Collegiate Baseball and Baseball America. Greenspan also spent six seasons as an assistant coach at Indiana. He mentored some of the most prolific hitters in IU program history, including two-time All-American Kyle Schwarber.

Greenspan played for two seasons at IU, and was a Hoosier team captain and Academic All-Big Ten performer in 2007. He spent two years at the University of Connecticut as a catcher and first baseman before joining the IU program. Greenspan earned a bachelor's degree in Sport Marketing and Management and a master's degree in Sport Administration from Indiana University.

He is originally from West Point, N.Y., and is married to his wife, Janine. The pair have two children, Grayson and Adalyn.

## **Matt Hobbs // Wake Forest University**



Matt Hobbs joined the Wake Forest coaching staff in 2014 and enters his fourth year as the pitching coach. Prior to Wake Forest, he spent 2011-2013 at the University of Missouri.

Hobbs spent the 2010 season as the pitching coach at the University of San Francisco. Before USF, Hobbs spent three years as the associate head coach, pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at UC-San Diego. Prior to his stint at UC-San Diego, Hobbs spent two seasons as the pitching coach at Santa Barbara City College. Hobbs also served one season as an assistant coach at Chapman University.

Hobbs pitched at Missouri from 1999-2002. Hobbs was drafted twice, first by the San Diego Padres in 2001 and then by the Kansas City Royals in 2002.

Hobbs and his wife, Marta, have two daughters, Addison and Taylor, and a son, Will.

## **Jason Kelly // University of Washington**



Jason Kelly joined the Washington staff as pitching coach in August of 2012, after having spent the previous six seasons developing a top-notch pitching staff at Cal Poly. He was promoted to Associate Head Coach in 2014. In five seasons since joining Washington, Kelly has been integral in making the Huskies' pitching staff year-in and year-out among the best in the Pac-12. He has also earned a reputation as one of the nation's top recruiters, assembling nationally renowned classes on a yearly basis.

Before Cal Poly, Kelly spent two seasons at Chico State. Prior to coaching at Chico State, Kelly spent one season (2004) working in baseball operations at Cal Poly and one season (2003) coaching at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo.

Kelly was a pitcher at Cal Poly in 1999. After redshirting in 2000, he went on to pitch at Cuesta in 2001 and at Missouri Valley College in 2002. A native of Santa Maria, Calif., Kelly and his wife, Tracy are the parents of two young children, daughter Peyton and son Cade.

## **Karl Kuhn // University of Virginia**



The Virginia pitching staff has met unparalleled success in the past 14 seasons under pitching coach Karl Kuhn. Since 2005 Virginia owns the second lowest earned run average in the nation. Five of Kuhn's UVA proteges have gone on to reach the major league level. He was named Collegiate Baseball's 2014 National Pitching Coach of the Year after UVA reached the College World Series Finals.

Virginia first advanced to the College World Series in 2009, setting off a remarkable stretch. UVA owns the second-most wins in the nation in this decade. The Cavaliers reached the pinnacle of college baseball in 2015 as UVA earned its first NCAA national championship.

The first assistant coach to be hired at Virginia under head coach Brian O'Connor, Kuhn arrived in Charlottesville after serving as the associate head coach and pitching coach at Arkansas-Little Rock for seven years from 1997-2003. Before coaching at UALR, Kuhn spent three years as the pitching coach at Charleston Southern. Kuhn is a 1992 graduate of Florida, where he was a student-athlete. He is married to the former Katrina Gosdin and resides in Charlottesville, Va. The couple has two sons, Kason and Kruse.

## **Bill Mosiello // Texas Christian University**



Bill Mosiello joined the TCU coaching staff in the summer of 2013. He serves as the associate head coach, overseeing the role of hitting/offensive coach. Since his arrival on campus, Mosiello has helped guide the team to four straight appearances in the College World Series. He came to TCU after spending two seasons at Tennessee.

He has over 20 years of collegiate coaching experience and seven more years of experience as a minor league manager. Mosiello served as the manager of the Angels Double-A affiliate, the Arkansas Travelers, where he tutored phenom Mike Trout for two seasons.

Mosiello made the move to the Division I level in 1991 at Cal State Fullerton, where he spent two seasons. In 1992, the Titans advanced to the College World Series championship game. After his two years at Tennessee (1993-94) and one season as the pitching coach at Ole Miss, Mosiello spent five seasons (1996-2000) at Oklahoma with part of his tenure as associate head coach.

## **Chris Prothro // University of South Alabama**



Chris Prothro enters his third season as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at South Alabama in 2018. In his first season with the Jaguars, USA captured a Sun Belt Conference championship. USA's 2017 recruiting class was recognized as one of the Top 25 by Collegiate Baseball.

Prior to joining the USA staff, Prothro spent eight seasons at Nicholls State, where he served as associate head coach and recruiting coordinator for his final four years. Prothro also served as assistant coach at North Iowa Area Community College.

Prothro lettered for two seasons at Arkansas State (2004-05) as a catcher, and earned his bachelor's degree in history from ASU in 2005. He also served as a graduate assistant at ASU prior to receiving his degree. He began his collegiate playing career at Northwestern State.

## Kirk Saarloos // Texas Christian University



Kirk Saarloos joined the coaching staff in the summer of 2012 after two seasons as the pitching coach at Cal State Fullerton. He assumed the duties of pitching coach. In the summer of 2013, Saarloos was promoted to recruiting coordinator.

In his short time at TCU, his presence has been felt both on the field and off the field. Saarloos, in addition to his duties as the recruiting coordinator, has mentored one of the nation's top pitching staffs over the last five seasons, which has been key factor in TCU's four straight trips to the College World Series. For his efforts, Saarloos was named the 2016 D1Baseball.com National Assistant Coach of the Year award.

Saarlos joined the Cal State Fullerton coaching staff in 2011 after wrapping up a seven-year major league playing career. As a player at Cal State Fullerton, he went on to earn first-team All-American honors. Saarloos and his wife, Kristen, have a son, Brady, and two daughters, Emery and Lane.

## Justin Seely // Texas A&M University



Justin Seely was named assistant coach in 2010 after spending the 2009 season as the Aggies' volunteer assistant coach. He serves as the recruiting coordinator and works with the outfielders and hitters. In all eight of his years with the program, Texas A&M has made trips to the NCAA Tournament.

He came to A&M after spending 2008 as an assistant coach at Texarkana College.

A starter on Nebraska's first two College World Series teams, Seely spent the 2006 and 2007 seasons as a volunteer assistant at his alma mater. Seely spent the two seasons prior to Nebraska as an assistant coach at Paris (Texas) Junior College.

A native of Nacogdoches, Texas, Seely began his collegiate career at Northeast Texas Community College. Seely, who received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska in 2003, is married to the former Tara Hill of Garland, Texas. The couple have a son, Slade Andrew, and a daughter, Sydney.

## Derek Simmons // Kent State University



Derek Simmons joined the Kent State baseball staff in July 2017. Simmons comes to Kent State from Alabama where he was an assistant coach for a season. Prior to Alabama, Simmons coached for four seasons at Kennesaw State. He has previous Mid-American Conference experience as he was the hitting coach and volunteer assistant coach at Central Michigan from August 2010 to July 2012, helping the Chippewas claim a 2011 MAC West title.

He started his playing career at the University of Montevallo, before becoming a two-year letterwinner and captain at Georgia State. After college, Simmons

played one season in independent professional baseball before entering the coaching profession. He and his wife Erin have two children, Bella and Braxton.

## **Jon Strauss // Baylor University**



Jon Strauss is in his second season at Baylor and brings more than 20 years of collegiate coaching experience after spending six seasons at Pepperdine (2010-2015) as the team's pitching coach and recruiting coordinator, and serves the same role at BU.

Prior to his time at Pepperdine, Strauss had three separate stays with Long Beach State as an assistant coach (1995-2000, 2006, 2008-09). Among his other coaching stops, Strauss spent the 2007 season as an assistant coach at San Jose State. From 2003-05 he was the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator for Loyola Marymount. From 2001-02 he was head coach at Glendale Community College.

As a player, Strauss spent two seasons at College of the Canyons before being a catcher at Long Beach State for College World Series runs in 1993 and 1994. He spent a year in the New York Yankees' minor league system before graduating from LBSU in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. He and his wife Nikki have two sons, Casey and Braden, and a yellow lab named Cutter.

## **Jordan Twohig // California State University, Northridge**



Jordon Twohig completed his third season as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at CSUN. Twohig spent the previous three seasons at the University of Washington. In 2011, he assisted in amassing a nationally recognized recruiting class for Washington according to Collegiate Baseball Newspaper.

Prior to the University of Washington, he led Ohlone College for three seasons. He came to Ohlone after serving as an assistant coach at St. Mary's College of California, for two seasons. He began his coaching career in 2003 as an assistant coach at Feather River Community College.

Twohig earned his bachelor's degree, with honors, in education with an emphasis in secondary education and physical education from York College in 2003. He completed his master's degree in sports administration from United State Sports Academy in 2004. He and his wife Nicole reside in Porter Ranch, California.

## **Jay Uhlman // University of Oregon**



Jay Uhlman is in his seventh season as an assistant coach and first as associate head coach for George Horton at Oregon. The 20-year coaching veteran serves as the Duck's hitting and infield coach, while also focusing on recruiting and assisting the offense. He has secured multiple nationally ranked recruiting classes.

After spending one season with the Ducks as a volunteer assistant coach in 2010, Uhlman spent one season as the recruiting coordinator at Kansas before

returning to Oregon in the fall of 2011. Prior to Oregon, Uhlman spent eight years (2002-09) as an assistant coach with the Nevada Wolf Pack. Uhlman worked with the hitters, infield defense and served as a recruiter for the program. Uhlman joined the Wolf Pack after spending two years as the head coach at Los Angeles Harbor College.

Uhlman earned a Bachelor of Science degree in human ecology at Nevada in 1998. He and his wife Emily have a daughter, Zoey, and two sons, Kai and Sawyer.

## **Nate Yeskie // Oregon State University**



Nate Yeskie, the 2017 Assistant Coach of the Year by D1Baseball.com, completed his ninth season with Oregon State in 2017. Yeskie has presided over and guided a pitching staff that has been one of the most dominant in the Pac-12 Conference and nationally since he joined the program in 2009.

Yeskie served as the pitching coach at his alma mater, UNLV, from 2005 to 2007. Prior to returning to UNLV as a coach, Yeskie spent five seasons in the Minnesota Twins Minor League system, reaching as high as Double-A. Minnesota selected the right-hander after he finished his UNLV career with a 22-12 mark, including 16 complete games.

He married the former Brittney Belshe, a former Oregon State volleyball player, in January 2012. The couple resides in Corvallis, and have a daughter, AJ.

# **ADMINISTRATORS**

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## **Michael Alford // Central Michigan University**



Michael Alford started as Central Michigan's director of athletics in July 2017. He has more than two decades of leadership in collegiate and professional sports. He was previously the senior associate athletics director for administration and development at the University of Oklahoma for five years. Alford was recognized by College AD's panel of athletic directors as one of the 2016's "Next Up," a listing of senior-level administrators whom respected ADs identify as ready to take the next step and become an athletic director.

Before arriving at OU, Alford was the senior director for corporate partnerships and sales for the Dallas Cowboys from 2008 to 2012, and he was the general manager of Crimson Tide Sports Marketing at the University of Alabama from 2004-2008. He also has worked for ESPN, the University of Southern California, the Cincinnati Bengals and the University of Cincinnati.

Alford played baseball at Mississippi State University and at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, from which he earned a bachelor's degree in communications arts in

1993. He completed his master's degree in athletics administration at the University of Arkansas in 1995. Alford's wife, Laura, played volleyball at Hawaii and coached at Cincinnati. Their daughter, Audrey, is a junior volleyball player at Oklahoma. Daughters Ashley, 16, and Anna Leigh, 13, also play volleyball.

## **Whit Babcock // Virginia Tech University**



Whit Babcock is in his fourth year as Virginia Tech's director of athletics after being formally announced as Tech's AD on Jan. 24, 2014. The Harrisonburg, Virginia native received national acclaim for his work as an AD during the 2016-17 academic year, as he was one of five finalists for the AD of the Year honor handed out by SportsBusiness Journal and SportsBusiness Daily.

Babcock arrived in Blacksburg following two and a half years as the director of athletics at the University of Cincinnati. Prior to his time at Cincinnati, Babcock's 22-year career path included stops at Missouri, West Virginia, Auburn and James Madison.

A student-athlete himself, Babcock lettered four seasons in baseball at James Madison University and served as team captain his senior year. He earned his bachelor's degree from JMU in 1992. In 1996, he received his master's in sports management from West Virginia University. He and his wife, Kelly, have three sons: Andrew, Brett and Eli.

## **Greg Burke // Northwestern State University**



Greg Burke, a native Ohioan and avid fan of all Cleveland pro sports teams, has been the Demons' athletics director since 1996. He is the longest serving AD at any Louisiana or Southland Conference institution. Highlights in Burke's two decades as athletic director include 41 Southland Conference regular-season or tournament championships.

Numerous Burke hires had great success at Northwestern State that propelled them to national prominence in subsequent positions. Former baseball coach John Cohen is the AD at Mississippi State. Over 100 more former NSU student-athletes, coaches and support staff members, most of them with Burke as AD or assistant AD (1986-92), are working in college athletics at some level. Former Demons are head coaches in the SEC, Big XII, Mountain West Conference, Conference USA, Ohio Valley, SWAC, and Southland Conference.

His wife, Susu, is a Natchitoches native, NSU graduate and an elementary teacher. Their 23-year-old daughter, Catherine, graduated from St. Mary's Catholic School in May of 2012 and is in graduate school at UL-Lafayette after earning her undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech.

## **Pat Chun // Florida Atlantic University**



Patrick "Pat" G. Chun was named director of athletics in 2012 and has overseen a transformation of the Florida Atlantic Department of Athletics that has yielded unprecedented successes for 19 varsity sports with over 450 student-athletes as well as 150 staff members. Revenue generation has been at the forefront of initiatives for Chun. In August of 2013, FAU agreed to a 10-year agreement with Learfield Sports as its exclusive corporate sponsorship sales unit. The partnership is expected to generate \$25 million in revenues over the life of the agreement.

Prior to Florida Atlantic, Chun spent 15 years at The Ohio State University working at his alma mater. During his tenure, he was promoted six times in the Department of Athletics, ultimately elevating to Executive Associate Athletics Director for External Relations.

A native of Strongsville, Ohio, Chun is a graduate of Holy Name High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a master's degree from Duquesne University. He and his wife, Natalie, also an OSU alumna, have three daughters: Vanna, Kennedy and Gretta.

## **Rob Clark // Long Beach State University**



Dr. Rob Clark joined Long Beach State's senior staff in 2015, coming to the Beach as the Sr. Associate Athletic Director for External Relations. Clark was most recently the Sr. Associate Athletic Director of Development at Georgia State in Atlanta. At Georgia State, Clark led the first-ever Athletics Capital Campaign and guided the Panthers' Division I football transition from FCS to FBS.

Previous to Georgia State, Clark served at the University of New Mexico, where he led the major gifts and annual giving efforts. Prior to UNM, Clark was Associate A.D. for Development at Angelo State, leading the school's athletic component of the Texas Tech System's \$1 billion capital campaign. He helped secure gifts for the building of a new baseball facility. Clark also served as the special assistant to the Senior Associate Athletics Director and Compliance Coordinator at Texas A&M.

Clark is no stranger to Southern California. As a 2005 graduate of Occidental College with a bachelor's degree in diplomacy and world affairs, Clark went on to earn his master's degree (2006) and completed his doctorate in Kinesiology at Texas A&M (2010). Clark was a football student-athlete at Utah State and finished as team captain at Occidental.

## **John Cohen // Mississippi State University**



John Cohen was named Mississippi State University's director of athletics on November 4, 2016. In less than a year, he has overseen the hiring of three coaches.

A Tuscaloosa, Ala. native, Cohen was a head coach in the SEC

for 12 years. His influence can be seen throughout the SEC as four of his former assistants are now or have been head coaches — Brad Bohannon (Alabama), Gary Henderson (Kentucky), Nick Mingione (Kentucky) and Butch Thompson (Auburn).

As a baseball player at MSU, Cohen was a key player on the Bulldogs' 1989 SEC championship team and 1990 College World Series team. He graduated from MSU with a degree in English in 1990 and received a master's degree in sports management from the University of Missouri in 1994. After a six-year stint with Missouri as a graduate assistant and assistant coach, Cohen was the head coach at Northwestern State University from 1998-2001. Cohen spent two seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Florida before becoming the head coach at Kentucky in 2004, a position he held for five seasons. He was named MSU's head coach in July of 2008.

Cohen and his wife, Nelle, are active members of the Starkville community. The couple has two daughters, Jordan Baker and Avery Lawson.

## **Troy Dannen // Tulane University**



Troy Dannen was formally introduced as Tulane's 33rd Director of Athletics on December 4, 2015. He has 27 years of athletic administration experience. In his short time, Dannen has reinvigorated the Green Wave program with the hiring of five head coaches (football, men's basketball, baseball, volleyball and women's tennis).

Dannen came to Tulane after serving eight seasons in the same capacity at his alma mater, the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) from 2008-15. Dannen was honored by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) as Under Armour AD-of-the-Year (ADOY) in 2014. At UNI, he negotiated multi-year marketing deals with Learfield Sports (multi-media rights), Learfield-IMG Ticket Solutions (tickets) and Nike (apparel and equipment).

Born and raised on a farm near Marshalltown, Iowa, Dannen received his bachelor's degree in communications from UNI in 1989. He is married to his wife, Amy, who works for Astra-Zenica Pharmaceuticals, and has three daughters: Elle, Emily and Holly and a son: William.

## **Lee De León // Abilene Christian University**



Lee De León is in his fourth year as director of athletics at ACU. Last season, the Wildcats finished sixth in the Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup.

Before joining ACU, De León was the associate director of athletics for development and executive director of the Lobo Club at the University of New Mexico. While there he was in charge of UNM's Lobo Club, which raises funds for all Lobo teams, programs and student-athletes. Prior to joining the staff at New Mexico, De León served three years at the

University of Arizona, first as the director of annual giving and then as assistant athletics director for major gifts and annual giving. Before his stop in Tucson, Ariz., De León spent three years at the University of Houston as the assistant director of marketing and later, director of marketing. De León also worked at LSU in 2005 as a marketing assistant for women's soccer.

After graduating from Notre Dame in 2004, De León earned his master's degree in sports management from Texas A&M University in 2005. He met his wife, Lacey, at Texas A&M and they have been married nine years and have two sons, Landon and Luke.

## **Kevin Fite // Oklahoma State University**



Kevin Fite serves as the Senior Associate Athletics Director at Oklahoma State University. In this role, Fite serves as the sports administrator for the Cowboy baseball program and as a member of the Big 12 Conference Baseball Sport Advisory Committee.

Prior to his return to Stillwater, Kevin was the Associate Athletics Director at the University of Houston from 2001 to 2010. From 1995 to 2001, Fite worked at the NCAA national office-first in Overland Park, Kansas, and then in Indianapolis, Ind. Fite's first stop in Stillwater was from 1991 to 1994, in which he served in academics.

A 1986 graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a bachelor's degree in history education, Fite later earned his master's degree in higher education from Iowa State University in 1991. While pursuing his master's degree at Iowa State, Fite served as a graduate assistant in Athletic Academic Services for the Cyclones. A native of Ottumwa, Iowa, Fite and his wife, Robbie, have two children: son, Will, an OSU student, and daughter, Sarah.

## **Ken Halpin // Winthrop University**



Dr. Ken Halpin was named Winthrop University's Director of Athletics in the summer of 2016. He is responsible for the administration of all aspects of Winthrop's NCAA Division I athletics program. Halpin previously served as deputy athletic director at Eastern Washington University. In his five years at EWU, Halpin served in multiple roles.

Halpin received a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Washington State in 2015 and an M.A. from Gonzaga University in 2008. He earned a B.A. from Willamette University in 2005, where he was an All-Conference performer in both football and baseball. He lives in Rock Hill with his wife, Amber, their two sons—Kenny and Jonathan, and daughter Jill Marie.

## **Tony Hernandez // Texas Tech University**



Tony Hernandez serves as the second in command for Texas Tech Athletics as the Deputy Director of Athletics and Chief Operating Officer. He oversees all of the day-to-day functions within the athletics department. Hernandez arrived in Lubbock in 2011 after serving as a Senior Associate Athletics Director and Deputy Athletics Director at the University of Miami from 2008-11.

He joined Miami in 1998, working his way up the athletics department until eventually being appointed Deputy Athletics Director. In that role, Hernandez oversaw the following operations and sports: Financial and Business Operations, Human Resources, Equipment Room, Video Services, Adidas Relations, Legal/Contractual Matters, Men's Basketball, Baseball and Track and Field.

Hernandez earned both a law degree and a bachelor's of business administration in finance from the University of Miami. He is married to the former Melissa Schumacher. The couple has two sons: Anthony Jr. and Austin.

## **Robert Hill // Stephen F. Austin State University**



Robert Hill is in his 13th year as Director of Athletics at SFA. His teams have won 48 Southland Conference titles and one NCAA national championship during his tenure. Under his leadership SFA athletic teams have experienced their best years ever highlighted by winning a third consecutive Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup in 2017. Hill began his SFA career in 1987 as sports information director.

Active on the national scene, Hill served a four-year term on the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee where he was named chair during his final year. In 2011 the National Association of Collegiate Director's of Athletics named him Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year for the NCAA FCS West Region.

Both he and his wife, Brenda, whom he met while attending SFA, are graduates of the University. Their family includes daughter Alix and husband Matt, granddaughter Claire and grandson Carter of Dallas; son Stuart, wife Kathy and grandsons, Blake and Aaron all of Woodbine, Maryland.

## **Matt Hogue // Coastal Carolina University**



Matt Hogue has served as the Director of Athletics at Coastal Carolina University since March 2014. He joined CCU in 1997 and has served in several roles. In 2016, the Chanticleers defeated Arizona in the College World Series to claim their first NCAA baseball title.

A 25-year broadcast veteran, Hogue built a diverse play-by-play resume that includes stints with USC's Gamecock Radio Network, Minor League Baseball and appearances on regional TV including Fox Sports Net, SportSouth and ESPN properties. He also served as the broadcast voice of the Big South Conference's basketball TV package.

Hogue earned his baccalaureate degree from the University of South Carolina and completed his MBA from Winthrop University. He and his wife, Laura, live in Conway with their daughters Rachel and Caroline.

## **Kevin Hurley // Texas A&M University**



Kevin Hurley, a longtime Texas A&M University athletics administrator, was named senior associate athletics director in June 2014. Hurley serves as the sport administrator for the Aggie baseball, women's soccer and equestrian programs. Hurley, who spent more than twenty years at Texas A&M, coordinated the redevelopment of Kyle Field, a \$450 million project that is recognized as the largest in the history of college football.

Before coming to Texas A&M, Hurley was the home and visiting clubhouse manager for the Triple-A Omaha Royals at Rosenblatt Stadium. Hurley had been involved in the College World Series for 13 years. Hurley also served as the assistant director of championships at the Missouri Valley Conference for two years.

Hurley, a native of Billings, Montana, graduated from Creighton University in 1990 with a degree in accounting. He received a master's of science degree in accounting from Texas A&M in 2000. Hurley is married to the former Julie Musial and the couple has a daughter, Darby, and a son, Jarrett.

## **Chad Jackson // Baylor University**



Chad Jackson was named Baylor's Senior Associate Athletics Director in June of 2011 having served administratively the previous 12 years at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Jackson serves on the senior management staff within the Baylor Athletics Department both in his role as the senior compliance administrator and as sport administrator of the baseball program.

Prior to joining UAB, Jackson worked for two minor league baseball teams. He worked for the Cleveland Indians, Single A Affiliate the Columbus RedStixx of Columbus, GA. Working in several areas in the front office; he managed game day operations and helped coordinate the marketing plan for the organization. He has also served as an official scorer for the Birmingham Barons, Double A Affiliate of the Chicago White Sox. A native of Opelika, AL and graduate of Auburn University, he married the former Michele Kennedy of Opelika in January 2006.

## **Brent Jones // Troy University**



Brent Jones joined Troy University as the Deputy Director of Athletics for External Operations in March 2017. He has oversight of the areas of marketing, media relations, Troy Sports Properties, licensing and branding. He is also the sport administrator for the baseball program. Jones joins the Troy staff

from Southern Miss where he most recently served as the Senior Associate AD for External Affairs.

During his tenure at Southern Miss, the Golden Eagles set numerous attendance records including having the highest attended football and women's basketball game in each program's history. Additionally, under Jones' guidance Southern Miss led Conference USA in football attendance in 2015 with a 25 percent increase from the previous season.

Jones received his masters from the University of Mississippi where he spent two years working in the athletic department. He was a standout college baseball player at Oglethorpe University graduating in 2004. He is married to the former Tracey Styers and they have one son Jaxson and a daughter Payton

## **Joe Karlgaard // Rice University**



Dr. Joe Karlgaard was named Rice's Director of Athletics in the fall of 2013. Karlgaard's efforts at Rice have earned him national recognition. In March of 2014 he was recognized by Sports Business Journal as one of their "40 under 40" which annually honors the best and brightest young executives who are shaping the future of the industry. He has also been asked to speak at the IMG Intercollegiate Athletics Forum and the Division-1 Athletics Director's Association.

Karlgaard came to Rice from Stanford University where he served as senior associate athletics director for development. Prior to Stanford, Karlgaard was athletics director at Oberlin College from 2005 to 2011.

A 1996 graduate of Stanford University with a bachelor's degree, he was a four-year letter winner in track and field. He received his Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Minnesota.

## **Scott Lazenby // Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi**



Scott Lazenby joined the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Department of Athletics in 2008 and became the director of athletics in 2011. The Islanders have also seen tremendous success on the playing field in Lazenby's tenure as director of athletics. Under his leadership, the Islanders have won 14 Southland Conference Championships.

The Tomball, Texas, native previously served as the assistant athletic director for compliance for seven years at Texas State - San Marcos (2001-2008), where he oversaw all NCAA and Southland Conference compliance issues. Prior to traveling to San Marcos, he spent two years at Texas A&M in College Station.

Lazenby earned both his bachelor's of science and master's degrees in Sport Management from Texas A&M. Scott and his wife, Holly, have two children, Hunter and Lillie.

## **Tommy McClelland // Louisiana Tech University**



Tommy McClelland has been the Louisiana Tech Director of Athletics since July of 2013. Since his arrival in Ruston, Louisiana Tech has seen its most impressive four-year run since the 1970s. Over the past four years, the University has seen postseason appearances by football, men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball, softball, golf and track and field.

Prior to coming to Ruston, McClelland made a national name for himself after quickly elevating to the athletics director position at age 26 at McNeese State University.

McCLELLAND earned his bachelor's degree from Northwestern State in 2004 and completed his master's degree in sports administration in 2005. The native of Basile, Louisiana served as a graduate assistant at Northwestern State in athletics and also worked at the Southland Conference office as an administrative intern, assisting with championship events. McClelland is married to the former Jessica Stokes of Garrison, Texas. They have two sons, Lawson and Grayson.

## **Bill McGillis // University of San Diego**



Bill McGillis was introduced as the University of San Diego's new Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Athletics on December 20, 2016. McGillis comes to the University of San Diego from the University of Southern Mississippi, where he has been Director of Athletics since July of 2013. Prior to his arrival at Southern Miss, McGillis served as the Executive Associate Athletic Director at the University of South Florida for six years.

Before USF, McGillis served as the Director of Athletics at the University of Evansville from April 2002 to May 2007. The Evansville baseball program won a program-record 43 games in 2006 en route to a Missouri Valley Conference Championship, an NCAA Regional and within three wins of the College World Series.

McGillis also spent four years at the University of New Mexico and 13 years at the University of Houston. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in sports administration from St. Thomas University (Fla.) in 1984. He and his wife Margie, both natives of Seattle, have five children--sons Jordan, Taylor and Will, and daughters Marissa and Gabrielle.

## **Mario Moccia // New Mexico State University**



Mario Moccia returned to his alma mater in 2015, as Director of Athletics at New Mexico State University. The 1989 graduate of NM State has already created an immediate impact in under three years as Director of Athletics. Moccia led NM State into a multi-million dollar multimedia rights agreement with Learfield in 2015, a first in the history of the University.

Previous to NM State, he served for nine years as the Director of Athletics at Southern Illinois University. In 2013 Moccia was named an Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). Moccia was previously at the University of Missouri from 1998-2006. He also worked as the Associate Athletics Director for External Operations at Texas State University from 1997-1998 and Director of Sales/Lobo Club assistant director at the University of New Mexico from 1993-1997.

A member of the US Bank New Mexico State Hall of Fame inducted in 1998, Moccia was the captain of the NM State baseball team. In addition to his bachelor's degree in psychology from NM State, Moccia earned a master's degree in sports administration from the University of New Mexico in 1993. Moccia and his wife, Heidi – a former All-American women's soccer player at UMass – are the parents of two children, Addie and Gemma.

## **Terry Mohajir // Arkansas State University**



Terry Mohajir (pronounced MO-HODGE-ER) was named director of athletics in 2012. With his leadership, the Red Wolves have enjoyed unprecedented overall success academically, competitively and financially. The department's budget has increased from \$15.9 to \$43.1 million in less than five years. Further, facilities have received a number of facelifts since his arrival, with over \$60 million in construction and facility renovations. The growth of A-State's brand under Mohajir led to signing a new 10-year agreement in 2016 with Learfield Sports.

During Mohajir's tenure, A-State has won four football conference championships with three different head coaches. His hires have been heralded by the national media as some of the best in the country. National recognition has also occurred from the Red Wolves Leadership Academy program (RWLA), designed with the sole purpose to obtain 100 percent job placement for all student-athletes upon graduation, a key target that has been achieved each year.

Mohajir's career path went through three other Division I institutions: Missouri-Kansas City, Florida Atlantic and Kansas, before leading him back to his alma mater. The Overland Park, Kansas native graduated from Arkansas State in 1993. He was a starting safety on the football team. He is married to the former Julie Hammond and they have two daughters, Maria and Molly, and son, Marco.

## **Connor Smith // Dallas Baptist University**



Connor Smith is entering his eighth year with Patriot Athletics and fourth year as Director of Athletics for the Patriot Athletic Department. Smith has previously served as the Acting Director of Athletics as well as the Assistant Director of Athletics for Internal Operations for the Patriots.

During Smith's time as Director of Athletics, the Patriots have registered four Missouri Valley Conference Baseball Championships and four NCAA Division I

Baseball Regional appearances. DBU Athletic Department played host to their first-ever NCAA Division I Baseball Regional Tournament in 2015, when Patriot Baseball finished the regular season with the No. 1 RPI in the country.

Smith received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Management in December of 2009, a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Project Management in December of 2011, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Higher Educational Leadership from Texas Christian University (TCU). Smith and his wife, Cami, live in Midlothian, Texas, and have one daughter: Coraleigh. The Smith's attend Stonegate Church in Midlothian, Texas.

## **Jimmy Soto // University of Utah**



Jimmy Soto, a former Ute basketball player who has worked with the Crimson Club since 2008, was promoted to assistant AD for major gifts in 2016. Soto continues as the director of major gifts and the sport supervisor for baseball and men's golf, and manages the ticket sales staff as well.

Soto was appointed as director of major gifts in 2008 after one year in the same role at the university's central development office. He played point guard for the Runnin' Ute basketball team from 1989-93 and ranks seventh all-time at the school in career assists (392) and 10th in career steals (122). Soto was a sophomore for the 1991 team that finished 30-4 and made the NCAA Sweet 16. He started his final two seasons, leading Utah to the 1992 NIT Final Four and the second round of the 1993 NCAA Tournament. He earned a bachelor's degree from Utah in finance in 1995.

## **Vince Volpe // University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**



Vince Volpe, who has an extensive background in fundraising, most recently as the Associate Athletic Director at the University of Connecticut (UConn), was hired as the Deputy Director of Athletics and Chief Operating Officer of Texas – Rio Grande Valley on June 26, 2015. In his current role, he serves as the sport administrator for the baseball, golf and tennis programs.

Volpe came to UConn from Oral Roberts University (ORU), where he spent three and a half years as the Associate Athletic Director. Prior to ORU, Volpe spent five and a half years with the University of Missouri Department of Athletics in various capacities, concluding as the Executive Director of Development & Tiger Scholarship Fund (TSF). Before joining Missouri, Volpe worked at Kentucky.

Prior to his tenure at UK, Volpe spent five years at Indiana University as a baseball student-athlete, graduate student, and intern in athletics administration, working directly with the executive management team. Volpe graduated from Indiana in 2002 with his bachelor's degree in sports management. He continued his education at Indiana and graduated with his master's degree one year later. He and his wife Laura, a former gymnastics student-athlete at Mizzou, have one child.

## **Matt Wells // West Virginia University**



Matt Wells joined the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics in December 2002 and is currently serving as Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs. In his current role, he serves as the sport administrator for baseball. Prior to becoming a Senior Associate Athletic Director, Wells spent two years as the Associate AD for External Affairs, two years as the Assistant AD for Marketing and Sales, six years as WVU's sports marketing director and four years as WVU's assistant sports marketing director.

A Lake City, Tenn., native, Wells also worked in Tennessee's athletic marketing office from 1997-2000. Wells holds two degrees from the University of Tennessee, a bachelor's degree in education (1999) and a master's degree in sport management (2000). Wells and his wife, Lainie, reside in Morgantown with their son, Alex, and daughter Corbin.

## **Brian Wickstrom // University of the Incarnate Word**



Dr. Brian Wickstrom was named UIW director of athletics on Aug. 16, 2017. Wickstrom joined the Cardinals after spending four years as director of athletics at the University of Louisiana Monroe. He was named one of the Top 10 Fundraising ADs in College Athletics by CollegeAD. During his career, he has been personally responsible for securing more than \$91 million in commitments.

Before his time in Monroe, Wickstrom served as the director of intercollegiate athletics at UC Riverside. Prior to UC Riverside, Wickstrom spent five years at the University of Texas at El Paso. He arrived at UTEP after spending two years as assistant athletics director at the University of Michigan. Wickstrom served as the associate athletics director for Santa Clara University from 2001-03. He started his career in collegiate athletics at the University of Missouri.

A native of Overland Park, Kansas, Wickstrom was a track and field athlete at Kansas State, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1991. He added a Master's from K-State in 1992 and his Doctorate from Eastern Michigan University in 2006. He and his wife, Celina, have four sons, Vince, John Christian, David Grant and James, as well as one daughter, Bricelle Leigh.

## **Scott Woodward // Texas A&M University**



Scott Woodward was named Texas A&M's Director of Athletics in January 2016. He has overseen an incredible run by the Aggies, both on the field and off. Aggie teams have won six SEC titles during Woodward's tenure, including women's swimming & diving twice, men's basketball, baseball's tournament championship, men's tennis and men's outdoor track and field.

Prior to arriving in College Station, Woodward served as Director of Athletics at the University of Washington (2008-2015). Woodward garnered wide acclaim in

2013 for hiring current head football coach Chris Peterson. In recognition of his accomplishments at Washington, Woodward was nominated by the Sports Business Journal for the prestigious Athletic Director of the Year Award in March of 2014.

Woodward served as Vice Chancellor of External Affairs at Washington from 2004-2008, prior to his appointment as Director of Athletics, a similar role to one he held at LSU from 2000-2004. He advised then-Chancellor Mark Emmert on policy and government appropriations. Woodward earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from LSU in 1985. He is married to Nanette Dicharry and has two adult sons, Michael and Josh Evans.

## **Sheahon Zenger // University of Kansas**



Dr. Sheahon [SHAY-un] Zenger's genuine care for coaches and student-athletes has hallmarked his career in intercollegiate athletics. That care, which he has exhibited since his arrival as Athletics Director in January 2011, has helped KU's coaches and student-athletes achieve outstanding performances on both the conference and national stages. During 2015-16, 12 KU teams were represented in NCAA postseason competition, the most-ever KU appearances in one year.

He came to KU after serving for five years as athletics director at Illinois State University, helping steer ISU Athletics to a place of prominence in the Missouri Valley Conference. Zenger's career took several turns before landing in athletics administration. He coached football at Drake University right after graduation; he then joined Bill Snyder's staff at Kansas State, serving in key roles. He also coached at South Florida and Wyoming.

Zenger earned two degrees from Kansas State before coming to KU to earn his Ph.D. in educational policy and leadership, strengthening his understanding of university leadership at the highest levels. He served as KSU's associate athletics director for development before becoming Athletics Director at Illinois State in 2005. He is married to the former Pam McAnarney; they have three children: Luke, Abby and Jake.

