



DECEMBER 15-16, 2022

PRESENTED BY



HOSTED BY





# WELCOME AND SPONSORS

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Welcome to the fourth Surefire Baseball Forum. Thank you for sharing your valuable time to promote college baseball.

This program would not be possible without the support provided by Peak Events, the University of Houston Athletics, D1Baseball.com, the University of Florida's Institute for Coaching Excellence, the DLR Group, Marucci, and the College Baseball Foundation. Please pass along your gratitude to these supporters.

After the event, we request your feedback to improve the forum. Enjoy your time in the Space City and please let me know if you need anything during your stay.

Sincerely,



Jason Penry



# BACKGROUND

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Since 2018, the Surefire Baseball Forum has matched NCAA Division I administrators with top assistant baseball coaches from across the country. Surefire is modeled after the Villa 7 networking event for college basketball.

The purpose of Surefire is two-fold: prepare assistant coaches for D1 head coaching roles and create more interest in college baseball among athletic administrators.

After attending the first three Surefire events, 18 alumni have secured their first NCAA Division I head coach positions:

Blake Beemer (Butler)  
Will Bolt (Nebraska)  
Nathan Choate (Loyola Marymount)  
Eddie Cornejo (Cal State Northridge)  
Dan Fitzgerald (Kansas)  
Randy Hood (UNC Wilmington)  
Jason Kelly (Washington)  
Karl Kuhn (Radford)  
Bradley LeCroy (VCU)  
Skylar Meade (Troy)  
Bill Mosiello (Ohio State)  
Chris Prothro (Eastern Kentucky)  
Kirk Saarloos (TCU)  
Eddie Smith (Utah Valley)  
Jay Uhlman (Tulane)  
Brock Ungricht (San Diego)  
Clay Van Hook (UT Arlington)  
Gregg Wallis (Grand Canyon)

The next Surefire will be held in Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University. Previous Surefire event locations:

2018 – Texas A&M University  
2019 – University of San Diego  
2020 – University of South Carolina





# AGENDA

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All events held at the Baseball Player Development Center, near left field line of Darryl & Lori Schroeder Park (proud home of the University of Houston Baseball team).

Parking for both days will be available approximately 250 feet away in Lot 15H. The address for the lot is 3700 Elgin Street, Houston, Texas.

## **Thursday, December 15**

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Opening Reception

## **Friday, December 16**

7:30 a.m. – Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – Speed Networking

9:20 a.m. – Break

9:35 a.m. – Breakout Sessions

Coaches: Panel Discussion

### ***“The Search”***

- Scott Carr, Director of Athletics, Florida International
- Chad Chatlos, Managing Director, Turnkey Search
- Stephanie Rempe, Director of Athletics, Nevada

Administrators: Panel Discussion

### ***“The Growth of College Baseball”***

- John Cohen, Director of Athletics, Auburn
- Kyle Peterson, Baseball Analyst, ESPN
- Mike Rooney, College Baseball Analyst, ESPN

10:30 a.m. – Speed Networking

11:30 a.m. – Administrators Adjourn

11:45 a.m. – Breakout Session

Coaches: Panel Discussion

### ***“You’re Hired: The First 90 Days”***

- Troy Dannen, Director of Athletics, Tulane
- Josh Looney, Director of Athletics, North Alabama
- Clay Van Hook, Head Coach, UT Arlington

12:30 p.m. – Coaches Adjourn



# ATTENDEE ROSTER

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## Administrators

Jared Benko (Georgia Southern)	Chad Jackson (Baylor)
Lisa Campos (Texas - San Antonio)	Markus Jennings (Akron)
Scott Carr (Florida International)	Joe Karlgaard (Rice)
John Cohen (Auburn)	Josh Looney (North Alabama)
Jim Cole (Mercer)	Bill McGillis (San Diego)
Troy Dannen (Tulane)	Rick Mello (Rice)
Blair DeBord (Memphis)	Justin Moore (Texas A&M)
Bryan Dean (Texas State)	Jeff O'Malley (Lamar)
Richard Duran (Incarnate Word)	Milton Overton (Kennesaw State)
Magdi El Shahawy (Georgia)	Jon Palumbo (Georgia Tech)
Joel Erdmann (South Alabama)	Chris Park (Texas A&M)
Jon Fagg (Texas - Arlington)	Chris Pezman (Houston)
Nate Frieling (Dallas Baptist)	Craig Pintens (Loyola Marymount)
Ken Halpin (Purdue)	Stephanie Rempe (Nevada)
David Hansen (Central Florida)	Graham Rossini (Arizona State)
Amy Heard (Texas Tech)	Darin Spease (Charlotte)
Matt Hogue (Coastal Carolina)	David Tagliarino (Houston)
Ryan Ivey (Stephen F. Austin)	Stan Williamson (Houston Christian)

## Coaches

Parker Bangs (Rice)	Walt Jones (Eastern Kentucky)
Chris Bertrand (Northwestern State)	Ross Kivett (Houston)
Toby Bicknell (Charlotte)	Joe Mercadante (Pittsburgh)
Josh Blakley (Texas State)	Mark Moriarty (Nevada)
Nolan Cain (Texas A&M)	Cliff Pennington (Dallas Baptist)
Chris Cleary (Mississippi)	Kyle Pettoruto (Rutgers)
Jon Coyne (Kansas)	Micah Posey (Dallas Baptist)
Justin Dedman (Missouri)	Nick Schnabel (Clemson)
John DiLaura (Texas Christian)	Justin Seely (Oklahoma State)
Zach Dillon (Baylor)	Brian Smiley (Indiana State)
Michael Earley (Texas A&M)	Fuller Smith (Sam Houston State)
Kurt Elbin (Virginia Tech)	Nate Thompson (Arkansas)
Cooper Fouts (Louisiana Tech)	Ted Tom (Central Florida)
Connor Gandossy (Creighton)	Austin Wates (Kansas State)
Lance Harvell (Nebraska)	Jake Wells (Louisiana Lafayette)
Anthony Izzio (Tulane)	Nick Zaleski (McNeese State)



# ADMINISTRATORS

## JARED BENKO GEORGIA SOUTHERN



Jared Benko was hired in 2020 as the leader of the Georgia Southern Athletics. At GSU, Benko has successfully hired eight head coaches to take over the helms of those programs. Last year, the Athletic Foundation set a record in new pledges and outright gifts. Further, ground was broken on the Anthony P. Tippins Indoor Practice Facility and the Hill Convocation Center, giving the department more than \$70 million in new projects.

Benko, who has more than a decade of progressive leadership experience in the Southeastern Conference (SEC), came to Statesboro from Mississippi State where he served as Deputy Director of Athletics/Chief Financial Officer for nearly four years (2016-2020). At MSU, Benko assisted the director of athletics with strategic planning, personnel decisions, and public relations initiatives while also serving as the CFO and administered day-to-day operations for 16 varsity Bulldog sports, over 365 student-athletes, 20 facilities, and nearly 250 employees.

A noted fundraiser with a strong background in revenue generation, Benko arrived in Starkville after serving as the assistant athletic director for finance at Auburn (2015-16). While at Auburn, Benko helped secure a \$121 million multi-media rights deal with FOX Sports. He was tabbed the 2015 College Athletic Business Management Association's Rookie of the Year for his efforts within the organization.

Benko spent four years in business operations at Arkansas. Before his time at Arkansas, Benko served as the assistant director of business operations at his alma mater of Georgia from 2008 to 2011. The Watkinsville, Georgia native, earned a Bachelor of Science in sports studies from Georgia in 2005 and then a master of public administration in Athens in 2007. Benko and his wife, Sarah, have two sons, Hudson and Cooper.

## LISA CAMPOS TEXAS - SAN ANTONIO



Dr. Lisa Campos has made an immediate and positive impact on the athletics department, university, and community since being hired in 2017. One of Campos' first tasks upon her hiring was to develop and implement a new strategic plan for the future of UTSA Athletics. Campos has overseen the highest fundraising year in UTSA Athletics history, while also achieving the highest back-to-back fundraising years in department history.





Under Campos' leadership, UTSA led Conference USA in average home attendance during her first full football season in the Alamo City and again in 2021. Campos currently sits on the NCAA Division I Council, a high-level group responsible for the day-to-day decisions that impact Division I athletics. She also serves as chair of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee and on the board of the LEAD1 Association, a membership organization that represents the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision athletics directors.

Campos also has served as chair of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee and NCAA Women's Soccer Committee, and has been a member of the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee, NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet and NCAA Rifle Committee.

Campos came to UTSA after five years as the Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics at Northern Arizona University (NAU). In Spring 2017, she was recognized by Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal's Forty Under 40. Prior to her time at NAU, Campos was an associate athletics director (2003-06) and senior associate athletics director (2006-12) at UTEP after serving as the university's assistant dean of students from 2001-03.

Campos earned both her bachelor's degree in business administration and her master's degree in student affairs in higher education from Colorado State. She holds a doctorate degree in educational leadership from UTEP. She and her husband, Darren D'Attilio, have a son, Christopher.

## **SCOTT CARR**

### **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL**



Scott Carr was named Florida International University's athletic director on Dec. 1, 2021. Carr boasts 25-years of experience in intercollegiate athletics and arrived at FIU following a stint at the University of Central Florida, where he served as deputy and interim athletic director. As deputy athletics director, he had oversight of ticket sales and operations, corporate sales and partnerships, the annual fund, brand advancement, strategic communications and gameday experience. Also, Carr assisted directly with a number of head coach hires, including the hiring of head football coach Josh Heupel in December 2017.

Prior to arriving at UCF, Carr served as senior associate athletic director for external affairs at Auburn University. At Auburn, Carr had direct oversight of the marketing and promotions department, including ticket sales, ticket office, event management and community relations.

Prior to Auburn, Carr served in various capacities at Southern Mississippi for eight years (2001-2009). The final position he held in Hattiesburg was deputy director of athletics, external affairs (2006-2009), where he served as the number two executive of the department. Previously, Carr worked in multiple, ascending roles with the FedEx Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida (1997-2001).



Carr is a native of Gainesville, Florida, and earned his undergraduate degree in business management from the University of Florida in 1995. He earned his master's degree in sports management from Florida in 1997. He is married to the former Pam Snowe. The couple has two daughters, Ashton and Katie, and one granddaughter, Kylie.

## JOHN COHEN

### AUBURN



John Cohen, who has more than two decades as a coach and administrator in the Southeastern Conference, was named the 16th Director of Athletics at Auburn University, in October 2022. Cohen has spent the previous 14 years at Mississippi State in various capacities, most recently as the athletic director the past six years.

Cohen's career in college athletics began as a baseball player at Mississippi State before entering the coaching ranks for 25 years that included being a two-time SEC Coach of the Year at MSU. Named director of athletics at MSU on November 4, 2016, Cohen led the Bulldog program to record-breaking success athletically, academically and in facilities enhancement during his tenure.

A nationally respected leader within intercollegiate athletics, Cohen serves on the prestigious 10-member NCAA Division I Baseball Committee as part of a four-year term that began on September 1, 2019. Cohen is one of 16 individuals who both played and coached in the College World Series, and one of just two among that elite group that later served as director of athletics for a participating school. He is one of three active SEC athletics director to hire an eventual national championship winning head coach in any sport.

As a baseball player at MSU, Cohen was a key player on the Bulldogs' 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. Cohen and his wife, Nelle, have two children, Jordan, and Avery.

## JIM COLE

### MERCER



Jim Cole assumed duties as Director of Athletics for Mercer University on July 1, 2010. Prior to being named Director of Athletics, Cole served as Mercer's Senior Associate Director of Athletics for External Affairs, heading up the Mercer Athletics Foundation while also serving as a State Representative in Georgia and working in private business.

Cole has helped vault Mercer into the upper echelon of Division I athletic programs. During his time as Director of Athletics, numerous facility upgrades have also taken place.





Also, the basketball programs have notched key seasons. In 2014, the men's basketball team made a splash on the national landscape with a stunning 78-71 defeat of No. 6 Duke in the NCAA Tournament second round, while the women won four consecutive Southern Conference regular season titles and clinched a NCAA Tournament berth in 2018 and 2019.

Multiple Mercer student-athletes have gained national, regional and conference recognition since Mercer transitioned into the Southern Conference, including Kyle Lewis, who was college baseball's national player of the year in 2016 as he won the 39th Golden Spikes Award, given annually to the top amateur baseball player in the nation.

Before embarking on an administrative and political career, he coached and played in both the collegiate and professional ranks. Cole came to Mercer as a student-athlete and lettered in baseball from 1990-93 and graduated with honors in 1993. Cole was drafted as a pitcher by the Milwaukee Brewers in 1993 and was named the franchise's Organizational Pitcher of the Year and a finalist for the TOPPS Minor League Player of the Year Award in 1994.

Cole, a native of Augusta, Georgia, is married to the former Gaylyn Lawson, a coach and teacher at Macon's Stratford Academy. The couple resides in Forsyth with their two children, Caroline and Lawson.

## **TROY DANNEN**

### **TULANE**



Troy Dannen was formally introduced as Tulane's 33rd Director of Athletics in December 2015, bringing with him a track record of proven success. Since being named Director of Athletics, Dannen has reinvigorated the Green Wave athletics program with the hiring of 11 of the current 13 head coaches at Tulane including both football and men's basketball, while also revamping the department's senior management team, increasing fundraising and enhancing the student-athlete experience.

Tulane Athletics has raised over \$108 million as part of the institution's Only the Audacious Campaign which publicly launched in December of 2017. Further, it has seen its licensing revenue triple through the re-introduction of the Angry Wave logo. Tulane's fundraising initiatives have experienced continued growth under Dannen's leadership, with a complete restructuring of the Green Wave Club and the introduction of the Olive & Blue Society.

Dannen's leadership has also been felt across the university community and throughout the Division I collegiate landscape. Throughout his administrative career, Dannen has been named to seven NCAA national committees, including the NCAA Transformation Committee.

Dannen came to Tulane after serving eight seasons in the same capacity at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) from 2008-15.

Dannen is married to Amy, and they have four children: Elle, Emily, Holly, and William.





# BLAIR DeBORD

## MEMPHIS



Blair DeBord joined the Memphis Athletic Department as Associate Athletics Director of Development in Dec. 2019. In his current role, he is a member of the Athletic Director's Senior Staff, overseeing all development and fundraising operations and is the sport administrator for the Tigers baseball program.

Prior to Memphis, DeBord worked as Assistant Athletic Director for Development & Strategic Initiatives at UNLV from April 2018-Dec. 2019. He previously served as Special Project Manager at Tennessee from 2017-18 and was the Assistant Director of Development at Kansas State from 2016-17.

DeBord graduated from Kansas State in 2014 with a degree in marketing, and he also earned his masters degree in business administration at Kansas State in 2016 while working as a graduate assistant in the development office. He was a first-team All-Big 12 catcher for the Wildcats and earned all-conference academic honors while also being the program's SAAC representative. DeBord also participated in the NCAA's Emerging Leaders seminar.

DeBord and his wife, Ellen, were married in 2015 and have two daughters, Evie and Ruthie. His perfect day involves a Gibson's apple fritter and a chocolate milk in the morning, followed by family time and a Tiger sporting event.

# BRYAN DEAN

## TEXAS STATE



Bryan Dean joined the Athletic Department in September 2018 as Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director for Business Operations. In his role, he is responsible for managing all financial aspects of the department as well as providing oversight for human resources, contract management, equipment operations, capital projects, and facilities. He also serves as the sport administrator for the baseball program.

Prior to his arrival at Texas State, Dean spent four years at the University of Cincinnati where he served as the Associate Athletic Director - Senior Business Officer. In this role, he provided oversight for the day-to-day business operations, equipment operations and contract management. He also served as sport administrator for the men's soccer program and co-sport administrator for the football program. Dean began his career in college athletics at Rice University in 2011.

Dean has been an active member of College Athletic Business Management Association (CABMA) and has previously served on the membership and programming committee. He currently is serving as a mentor in the mentorship program.



Dean, a native of Missouri City, Texas, graduated from Texas A&M University. He is married to Deborah, and they have three daughters – Avery, Isabella, and Madeline.

## **RICHARD DURAN**

### **INCARNATE WORD**



In 2020, Richard Duran became the youngest sitting Division I athletic director. Duran, who came to UIW as the deputy athletics director responsible for all external functions of the department in October 2017, took over the interim position on Aug. 12, 2019.

Under Duran's leadership, UIW Athletics had tremendous success in the classroom, in the community, competition, revenue generation, and fan engagement. He guided a team of 80 full-time employees, five part-time employees, 35 graduate assistants and 18 work study students in creating a holistic and positive experience for more than 500 student-athletes.

Under Duran, the Cardinals Club annual fund program saw record numbers in both memberships and revenue. Likewise, athletic sponsorships reached new heights in 2019-20. UIW Athletics had a record number of athletic sponsors and boasted record revenues.

Duran, a Montebello, California, native, has worked at four universities -- the University of California, Riverside, the University of Louisiana Monroe, California State University, Los Angeles, and the University of the Incarnate Word. At each stop, he has contributed in every facet. He has helped fundraise more than \$25 million in his career. In addition to fundraising, Duran works to increase the functionality and productivity of every department, whether that involves streamlining a new website, leading rebranding efforts, guiding facility renovations, or helping coordinate the creation of the department's first strategic plan.

Duran graduated from Whittier College in 2011 after playing football for the Poets for four years. He obtained a master's degree from the University of San Francisco in 2013 and is currently pursuing his doctorate and working on his dissertation at Louisiana Tech University.

## **MAGDI EL SHAHAWY**

### **GEORGIA**



Dr. Magdi El Shahawy became the Deputy Athletic Director for Academics and Student Development at the University of Georgia in September 2018. In his current role Dr. El Shahawy has administrative oversight for Student Athlete Academic Services, The Georgia Way (student-athlete leadership, personal development, career development, and community service programs), Behavioral Medicine, and Sports Nutrition. Additionally, Dr. El Shahawy is the Sport

Facilitator for the UGA baseball program.





Prior to his appointment at UGA, Dr. El Shahawy served as the Senior Associate Athletic Director at the University of Southern California. In the 18 years Dr. El Shahawy was at USC (2000-2018), he held administrative oversight of Student-Athlete Academic Services, Student-Athlete Personal Development Programs, and the Athlete Career Transition Program. He also served as sport administrator for baseball.

Prior to USC, El Shahawy held positions as Senior Associate Director of Student-Athlete Support Services at Michigan State (1999-2000), Academic Counselor and Eligibility Coordinator at Florida State (1994-99), and Graduate Assistant in Athletic Compliance at Florida State (1993-94).

A four-year varsity football letterman at Florida State University (1986-89), he received three degrees from FSU, including a Ph.D. in 1999. He is married to Kimberly El Shahawy and they have two sons, Madison and Micah.

## **JOEL ERDMANN**

### **SOUTH ALABAMA**



Since 2009, Dr. Joel Erdmann has presided over one of the most successful eras in the University of South Alabama's history. Over the past decade-plus, Erdmann's impact includes: milestone records both on the field and in the classroom by student-athletes, the beginning of an NCAA Division I FBS football program, new construction or renovation in every sport, unprecedented fundraising, and the hiring of championship-driven coaches as well as a stellar team

of administrative professionals and staff. Erdmann's championship mindset lead to the department's best-ever Academic Progress Rate scores and GPA in the history of Jaguar Athletics and the Sun Belt Conference All-Sports Championship Vic Bubas Cups, four years in a row.

Erdmann has been entrusted to serve on both football and baseball championship selection committees. In baseball, Erdmann served a four-year term on the prestigious NCAA Division I Baseball Championship Committee where he served as Chairman of the Championship Selection Committee for the 2016 College World Series.

The Bismarck, North Dakota native was a baseball coach for over a decade before starting his career in athletics administration in 1997. After a two-year stint as executive director of the Jaguar Athletic Club at South Alabama, Erdmann was named director of athletics at the University of North Alabama in 2002. From 2007-2009, he served as director of athletics at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Erdmann has three degrees: a bachelor's degree in education from South Dakota State University, a master's degree from the University South Alabama, and Ph.D. from Florida State University. He played four years for the South Dakota State baseball team. Erdmann and his wife, Tina, reside in Mobile.



## **JON FAGG**

### **TEXAS-ARLINGTON**



Jon Fagg is in his first year as the Director of Athletics at UTA. He officially began his tenure with the Mavericks on Aug. 1, 2022. For the prior 14 years, Fagg served in various positions at the University of Arkansas, culminating as its Deputy Athletics Director. With the Razorbacks, Fagg assisted the daily

administration of the department and provided direct oversight of its NCAA compliance program; academic support; student-athlete development; and name, image and likeness units. He also oversaw other administrative units, including mental health and performance, strength and conditioning, sports nutrition and major gift development. He most recently served as the sports administrator for the football and swimming and diving programs and had oversight of the women's soccer and men's basketball programs.

Prior to joining Arkansas in 2008, Fagg spent seven years at North Carolina State, first as an Assistant Athletics Director and then as Associate Athletics Director. He also spent three years as Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance at Fresno State and a year as Director of Compliance for the Big South Conference.

His first athletics administrative experience came at Mars Hill College where he handled compliance duties, in addition to serving as an assistant coach for the football team for three seasons. His coaching experience also includes a stint as an assistant coach at Davidson from February 1992 to June 1993 and as a graduate assistant coach at his alma mater, the University of Arizona, from January 1991 to February 1992. Fagg and his wife, Amanda, have three children: Jon Madison and twins, Reed and Ellie.

## **NATE FRIELING**

### **DALLAS BAPTIST**



Nate Frieling is in his 20th year at Dallas Baptist University and twelfth as an administrator overseeing Patriot Baseball. The Dallas native has been an integral part of the DBU Baseball program since it transitioned to NCAA Division I competition beginning with the 2004 season and has helped the Patriots to unprecedented success over the past two decades.

Frieling graduated from Southwestern University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts after spending four years under the wing of legendary baseball coach, Jim Mallon. He earned his Master of Science in Education degree from Baylor University where he worked with the baseball program for three years. From Waco, Frieling returned to his home city in 2003 as an Assistant Baseball Coach at Dallas Baptist University. In his first season, the Patriots won 44 games and captured the National Christian College Athletic Association National Championship trophy. In 2007 at DBU, Frieling was named Recruiting Coordinator by first-year Head Coach Dan Heefner.





After the 2011 season, Frieling stepped away from coaching and into his role overseeing athletic operations, facilities management, and internal operations for DBU Baseball. He created the Patriot Broadcasting Network in 2012 and had a part in the design and fundraising efforts to build Joan and Andy Horner Ballpark in 2013.

Frieling and his wife, Joy, reside in North Richland Hills with their three children and are members of Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Colleyville.

## **KEN HALPIN**

### **PURDUE**



Dr. Ken Halpin joined Purdue in August 2021 as its deputy athletics director and chief operating officer. Halpin's role as chief operating officer calls on him to provide direction and oversight for revenue generation activities, strategic communications, brand enhancement, marketing and fan experience, sports medicine and performance, events, facilities and capital projects.

Previously, Halpin served as vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics for Winthrop University from May 2016 to July 2021. Highlights during Halpin's tenure include six championships by the men's basketball program and Winthrop's Eagle Club membership more than doubled.

Prior to his arrival at Winthrop, Halpin served as deputy athletic director for Eastern Washington. During his time at EWU, Halpin oversaw all external operations, which included such notable achievements as a 122-percent increase in external revenue and 60-percent increase in annual scholarship fund membership.

Halpin received a Ph.D. in education from Washington State University in 2015 and a Master's in sport administration from Gonzaga University in 2008, where he taught as an adjunct professor in the sport management program for seven years. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Willamette University in 2005, where he was an all-conference performer in both football and baseball.

Halpin is married to his wife, Amber, and the two have three children, Kenny, Jonathan, and Jill Marie.

## **DAVID HANSEN**

### **CENTRAL FLORIDA**



David Hansen joined UCF in 2006 and currently serves as the senior executive associate athletics director and chief operating officer, following his promotion to executive associate athletics director in January 2016. Hansen's primary duties include oversight of UCF athletics facility development, home event management and procurement, while providing oversight of two Knights athletics teams.



Hansen directs the athletics facility master planning process and serves on UCF's master planning committee. He also serves as a sport administrator for the Knights' baseball and rowing programs and assists with the football program.

Prior to joining the UCF staff, Hansen served as deputy director of athletics at the University of Southern Mississippi. Hansen was the Golden Eagles' chief operating and financial officer and directed all facility projects while overseeing multiple sport programs.

Before moving to Southern Mississippi, Hansen worked at the University of Louisiana at Monroe as the assistant athletics director for internal operations. He originally joined the Louisiana-Monroe staff in 1994.

A native of Gainesville and a 1992 graduate of the University of Florida, he worked at his alma mater as a football student assistant from 1989-92 and football staff assistant from 1992-94. In 1990, Hansen spent time as an operations/sales assistant for the Blockbuster Bowl in South Florida.

Hansen and his wife Trudy have four children--Kevin, Casey, Brian and Sean. The Hansens reside in Oviedo.

## **AMY HEARD**

### **TEXAS TECH**



Dr. Amy Heard is the senior associate athletics director at Texas Tech University. A fundraising and leadership development professional with nearly 20 years with TTU athletics, Heard has served her alma mater in many leadership roles. She has provided expertise and strategic vision for the Red Raider Club (RRC) and J.T. & Margaret Talkington Leadership Academy, which has been recognized as a national model in collegiate athletics for leadership development for

student-athletes, coaches, administration, and staff.

Heard also currently serves as the sport administrator for the Texas Tech baseball program and previously for the men's and women's golf teams.

The RRC achieved record-setting giving success and established a culture of donor stewardship and engagement under Heard's leadership and guidance from 2006-2017. Heard served as a member of the National Association of Athletics Development Directors (NAADD) executive committee, is a graduate of the Women Leaders in College Sports Executive Institute and served as a faculty member for the NCAA Women Leaders in College Sports.

Heard who is originally from Corpus Christi, Texas, has earned three degrees from Texas Tech. She and her husband, Kirk, reside in Lubbock.



# MATT HOGUE

## COASTAL CAROLINA



Matt Hogue was named vice president for intercollegiate athletics and university recreation at Coastal Carolina University in 2021, after serving as director of athletics since 2015. Hogue joined Coastal in 1997 and has served in several different roles in the athletics and in the Office of University Communications, where he led CCU's marketing and trademark-licensing efforts as associate vice president of marketing.

Hogue was well known for his 17-year stint as the "Voice of the Chanticleers" on the Chanticleer Sports Network. His colorful, exciting calls were synonymous with Chanticleer athletics. A 25-year broadcast veteran, Hogue built a diverse play-by-play resume. In 2013, Hogue was named a finalist for the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association (NSSA) Sportscaster of the Year for the state of South Carolina.

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.

# RYAN IVEY

## STEPHEN F. AUSTIN



Ryan Ivey was named Stephen F. Austin State University's Director of Athletics in July 2018. His goal for the department is to become the best mid-major NCAA Division I athletic program in the nation. He arrived to SFA after a three-year tenure as the director of athletics at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee.

Prior to his tenure with the Gobs, Ivey served as the Director of Athletics with Texas A&M-Commerce. He helped orchestrated one of the biggest turnarounds during his two-year stint with the Lions, hiring the head football coach who secured a national championship for the Lions in 2017. Previously, Ivey spent six years at McNeese State University in Louisiana, before his tenure at Texas A&M-Commerce. He has also served in various roles with the University of Memphis, University of South Dakota and Memphis Redbirds.

A student-athlete at Memphis, Ivey was the squad's punter and holder. Most notable, Ivey held for eventual two-time Super Bowl champion Stephen Gostkowski (New England Patriots). Ivey earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Memphis as well. Ivey is married to the former Kelley Holt. The couple has two sons - Jett and Ace.

# CHAD JACKSON

## BAYLOR



Chad Jackson has been a Senior Associate Athletics Director since 2011. In addition to leading the NCAA Compliance program, Jackson has oversight of Title IX, Student Conduct Administration, Policy & Procedure, Risk Management, Audit, and other regulatory aspects of the Athletics Department and serves on the Athletics Executive Team and as the Baseball Sport Program Administrator.

Prior to joining Baylor, Jackson served administratively at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for 12 years. Previously, he worked for two minor league baseball teams. He worked for the Cleveland Indians, Single A Affiliate the Columbus RedStixx of Columbus, Georgia. 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, Alabama, and graduate of Auburn University, he married the former Michele Kennedy of Opelika in January 2006.

# MARKUS JENNINGS

## AKRON



Markus Jennings was named Akron's Deputy Athletic Director and Chief Operating Officer on Aug. 3, 2021. In his role, Jennings provides strategic leadership and is responsible for broad supervision of the athletic department's external units, which include Z-Fund, communications, ticket sales, marketing, branding, multimedia rights, licensing, merchandising and sports oversight in football, baseball, cross country, and track and field.

Jennings returns to his hometown Akron after eight years in his role as associate athletic director for external affairs at Sacramento State University where he provided leadership, strategic planning, and oversight for the Hornets' 21-sport athletic program. Jennings oversaw Sacramento State's external operations which included fundraising, marketing, branding, promotion, media relations, ticket sales and the corporate sponsorship program.

A former baseball player at New Mexico State, Jennings worked in the private sector for 14 years before returning to athletics as a special assistant to the athletics director at NMSU in 2007. The following year, he became the development director for athletics at Valparaiso University. In 2011, Jennings moved to Kent State.

Jennings is currently the President on the Executive Committee for the National Association of Athletic Development Directors (NAADD). He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from New Mexico State in 1994 and added an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from Clark University in 2001. He and his wife, Brenda, have two children, Masud and Basiana.

## JOE KARLGAARD RICE



Dr. Joe Karlgaard was named Rice's Director of Athletics in 2013. Karlgaard has overseen a dramatic reshaping of Rice Athletics, providing unparalleled upgrades to all facets of the student-athlete experience, while remaining focused on dynamic initiatives in business operations, branding, marketing, and fundraising - setting the stage for the Owls to join The American Athletic Conference in 2023.

Under his leadership, Rice has seen nearly \$60 million in upgrades and new construction projects directly benefitting each of Owls' 16 intercollegiate programs over the past eight years, including the installation of a synthetic playing surface at Reckling Park in the summer of 2022.

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. Karlgaard his wife, Jill, and their three sons, Charlie (15), twins Lucas and Daniel (7), and dog Fleener make their home in Houston.

## JOSH LOONEY NORTH ALABAMA



Dr. Josh Looney was named the ninth director of athletics at the University of North Alabama on July 26, 2021. Prior to UNA, Looney spent seven years as an athletic director at Missouri Western University (2017-2021) and East Stroudsburg University (2015-2017). At East Stroudsburg, Looney was hired as one of the youngest athletic directors in the NCAA and led an athletic department of 20 sports. He also spent three years in a leadership role at NCAA national office

and worked for two professional sports franchises from 2005-12.

Looney earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. He holds a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in organizational leadership from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and earned a Doctor of Education in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Looney and his wife, Jenna, have two daughters, Parker and Perry.



# **BILL MCGILLIS**

## **SAN DIEGO**



Bill McGillis was introduced as the University of San Diego's new Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Athletics in 2016. Earlier this year, he was named to the esteemed NCAA Division I Baseball Committee.

Previously, McGillis served as Director of Athletics at the University of Southern Mississippi from 2013 to 2016. 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 enroute 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.

# **RICK MELLO**

## **RICE**



Rick Mello, who has 30 years of experience in collegiate athletics, including 11 years as a Director of Athletics, joined the Rice University Athletic Department staff as Senior Executive Athletic Director in June 2010. He served as the interim athletics director from July-September of 2013 and assumed the role of Deputy Athletics Director in July of 2014. In his new role, Mello oversees facilities, sports medicine, athletic training, and equipment and as the

administrative liaison to football, men's basketball, and baseball.

Mello joined the Rice staff after serving as Associate Commissioner/Sports Administration & Championships for the Sun Belt Conference from 2006 to 2010. Prior to joining the conference office, he was the Director of Athletics at two Sun Belt member institutions (Florida International 2000-06 and Arkansas-Little Rock 1995-2000).

Prior to his tenure at UALR, Mello served three years at the University of Miami (1992-95), where he was responsible for all outside revenue generation as the associate athletic director for external operations.

Before Miami, Mello spent eight years at the University of California. Additionally, Mello held roles at Pacific (1983-84), the Cal State Fullerton Titan Foundation (1982-83), and at UCLA (1981-82). Mello graduated cum laude in journalism from Utah State University in 1980.



# JUSTIN MOORE

## TEXAS A&M



Justin Moore serves as the Executive Deputy Athletics Director and Chief Operating Officer of Texas A&M Athletics. Moore works alongside the Director of Athletics in directing the overall planning, implementation, administration, and day-to-day operations of the athletics department. He plays an integral role in the Centennial Capital Campaign and serves as the sport administrator for football and men's basketball.

His previous administrative roles at Texas A&M include serving as Deputy Athletics Director for Administration from 2019-2021, Senior Associate Athletics Director from 2016-2019 and Associate Athletics Director for Football from 2012-15. A Texas A&M graduate, Moore returned to Aggieland after spending four years at the University of Houston as the Assistant Athletics Director for Football.

Moore graduated from Texas A&M in 2004 with a degree in finance and later earned a master's degree in sport management. After graduation, he worked in the private sector as a consultant for Deloitte & Touche LLP, consulting with top-level executives of Fortune 500 companies.

A two-time captain for the Aggie baseball team, Moore was named a Freshman All-American pitcher in 2001, twice named to the All-Big 12 Team. Moore and his wife, Dory, have three children, Kate, Tysen, and Tatum.

# JEFF O'MALLEY

## LAMAR



Jeff O'Malley was named as Lamar University Director of Athletics in June 2022. O'Malley spent the previous 20 years at Marshall University. During his time with the Thundering Herd, O'Malley served as the Associate Director of Athletics/Chief of Staff and was the liaison to the University's General Counsel. He oversaw many facets of Marshall's athletics program, including men's basketball, men's soccer, men's golf and baseball, as well as the department's academics and compliance

offices.

O'Malley came to Marshall after serving as Associate Athletic Director for six years at the University of Massachusetts. In addition to his time at Massachusetts, O'Malley also served at Dayton from 1994-96.

Outside of his interests within the athletic department, O'Malley worked as a college basketball official for 24 years and was a member of the National Association of Sports Officials.

A 1990 graduate of Miami (Ohio) with a degree in Accounting, O'Malley received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Dayton in 1994 and he is a member of the Ohio Bar. The Union, New Jersey native and his wife Julie have a son, Austin, and a daughter, Mary Margaret.





# MILTON OVERTON

## KENNESAW STATE



Milton Overton was named director of athletics at Kennesaw State in 2017. The 2021-22 year saw KSU reach championship-level success on and off the field. The Owls claimed conference titles in football, baseball, women's track and field, and men's tennis. KSU also claimed a national title with its co-ed competition cheerleading squad. Previously, Overton spent two years as director of athletics at Florida A&M University.

Overton oversaw seven units at the University of Alabama from 2009 to 2015, including the nation's top trademark licensing program – Crimson Tide Productions – marketing and branding, outbound ticket sales, photography, coaches film video group, athletics information and event technology, track and field, and cross country. Prior to Tuscaloosa, he also provided oversight of seven Texas A&M University sport programs. He also served in various roles with TCU and the University of Oklahoma.

A four-year starter as an offensive lineman at the University of Oklahoma, Overton earned a bachelor's degree in sociology. Overton was the founder and CEO of Enki System Inc., from 2000- 2011, which provided software solutions for athletic and academic support programs across the country. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Overton has two sons, Micaiah and Lebbeus.

# JON PALUMBO

## GEORGIA TECH



Jon Palumbo joined Georgia Tech in November 2022 as executive deputy athletics director and chief operating officer. In his role, Palumbo serves as Georgia Tech's primary football administrator and oversees other internal operations.

Palumbo comes to The Flats after leading Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to unprecedented achievements during his four years as A.D. (2018-22), including perhaps the most successful year in school history in 2021-22. Prior to his arrival at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Palumbo served as deputy A.D. at VCU from 2012-18. At VCU, he supervised the day-to-day operations of the athletics department and was the administrator for the Rams' flagship men's basketball program, which made five-straight NCAA Tournament appearances from 2013-17 and sold out every game during Palumbo's six-year stint in Richmond. Palumbo also served as associate athletic director at Maryland from 2008-12. Palumbo's professional experience also includes stints at American, William & Mary, and LaSalle.

As a student-athlete, Palumbo played baseball at LaSalle, where he was a team captain and graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in communication in 2001. He went on to earn an MBA from LaSalle in 2003. Palumbo and his wife, Rachel, have two Australian shepherds, Camden, and Dan.





# CHRIS PARK

## TEXAS A&M



Chris Park was named Deputy Athletics Director for External Relations and Business Development at Texas A&M University in July 2022 following a four-year tenure in a similar capacity at Washington State.

Park was hired as Washington State's Senior Associate Athletics Director for External Relations in 2018 and promoted to Deputy AD for External Relations in July 2020. His duties included oversight of athletics communications, marketing, ticketing, creative services and video operations, while also serving as the sport administrator for baseball and Learfield Sports Properties liaison. In his role as sport administrator, Park was chair of the committee that hired a new baseball coach in 2019, and he worked closely with internal and external groups on the \$10 million, privately-funded Project: BTO (Back to Omaha), which led to the construction of the state-of-the-art Cougar Baseball Complex. Prior to coming to WSU, Park spent six years (2012-18) as the Senior Associate AD for External Operations and Development at UTEP. He also served in leadership roles at Texas State and Sam Houston State.

Park graduated Magna Cum Laude from Texas A&M's Mays Business School with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2002, and he earned a master's degree in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Sports Management from Texas A&M's College of Education in Human Development in 2004.

He is married to Anna and the couple has a son, Matthew.

# CHRIS PEZMAN

## HOUSTON



Chris Pezman, a Houston football letterman and former team captain, returned to his alma mater in 2017 as the program's 11th athletics director. His tenure as Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics has seen continued success in the classroom, in competition and in the community. The Cougars have won 16 conference championships over the last three years, leading the American Athletic during that time span.

Pezman arrived back at Houston after spending four years as senior associate athletics director and chief operating officer at the University of California – Berkeley. At Cal, he reorganized his departments to gain operational and financial efficiencies and oversaw facilities for athletics, valued at \$1 billion. Additionally, he also served as the primary football administrator. Well known throughout the city of Houston, Pezman remained involved with his alma mater following his graduation and earned his master's degree from UH in 1995. He served in various positions with UH athletics before taking on a role with NRG Park and SMG Management. Pezman quickly rose the ranks during his time with SMG-NRG Park, before returning as assistant athletics director for football operations at Houston for the 2012 and 2013 seasons.

Pezman earned his undergraduate degree in economics. He is married to the former Marisol Guillaumondegui and the couple has three children: Seth, Sydney, and Sarah.

## **CRAIG PINTENS**

### **LOYOLA MARYMOUNT**



In the fall of 2022, Craig Pintens began his fifth full academic year as Loyola Marymount University's Athletic Director. Since being named Athletic Director, Pintens has revitalized LMU Athletics by hiring more than half of the current head coaches while restructuring the senior management team, renovating facilities, and establishing record-breaking fundraising numbers.

Pintens came to LMU from the University of Oregon, where he served as senior associate athletic director for seven years. Prior to his tenure at Oregon, Pintens worked in the athletic departments at Louisiana State University, Marquette University and the University of Texas-Pan American.

He is an accomplished public speaker, appearing at conferences throughout the country. The National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators has honored him with over 40 awards in season ticket campaigns, advertising, ticket sales, new media, video, and corporate sponsorship.

Pintens is also a member of the Wisconsin Bar; he earned his Juris Doctor from Marquette University School of Law and his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing cum laude from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. He is married to Jill, and they have four children: Kaitlin (LMU '26), Jackson, Tate, and Avery.

## **MONTY PORTER**

### **HOUSTON**



Monty Porter currently serves the University of Houston Department of Athletics as its Deputy Athletic Director, Chief Operating Officer.

Porter provides counsel to the Vice President for Athletics and the UH senior leadership team, ensuring UH Athletics maximizes its student-athletes and teams to their fullest potential for success. As COO, Porter is responsible for successful day to day operations of the department, providing guidance and oversight to

capital projects, facilities management, maintenance and operations, events management, information technology and equipment services. In this role, Porter also works alongside the Vice President to perform sport administrator duties for football and men's basketball, while also assisting with functional support to the academics & compliance units. As the department CFO, Porter provides guidance and support to all units within the division with direct oversight for the department budget, business office operations, human resource activities, and all contracts executed by the department.





Porter was named Senior Associate Athletics Director for Finance and Administration in May 2018 and joined Houston after 23 years at Western Michigan University, including more than 20 years on the athletics executive management team. At WMU, Porter started as an Assistant Athletics Director for Business Operations in 1995 before being promoted to Associate Athletics Director in 1999 and later Senior Associate Athletics Director in 2014. A member of Western Michigan's four-person executive management team, Porter oversaw financial activities, external operations, facilities, human resource functions, and served as liaison to the university general counsel. As a sport administrator, Porter worked with the Broncos' Football, Ice Hockey, and Women's Gymnastics programs. In addition to his duties within the athletics department, for eight years, Porter taught a graduate level course in Financial Management in Sport.

Prior to his time at Western Michigan, Porter spent four years at Lamar University, rising from assistant athletic business/ticket manager to assistant athletics director for business and operations where he also oversaw facility maintenance and improvements.

Porter received his start in college athletics at The University of Iowa, serving as a graduate assistant in the athletics ticket office and business office following an athletics administration internship and serving as a student manager for the Hawkeye Football program.

Porter earned a Bachelor of Science from Iowa in 1989 and Master of Arts from Iowa in 1990.

## **STEPHANIE REMPE**

### **NEVADA**



Stephanie Rempe was named Athletic Director at the University of Nevada on June 21, 2022.

Previously, Rempe oversaw all aspects of one of the country's largest and most successful intercollegiate athletics departments at LSU, serving as the school's Executive Deputy Director of Athletics/Chief Operating Officer since 2019. She has established herself as one of the country's most respected athletics administrators during a distinguished career spanning more than 25 years.

Rempe has worked at a senior leadership role at five Division I athletics programs, supervising sports, coaches, and department staff. At LSU (2019-2022) and Texas A&M (2016-2019), she has served as the Chief Operating Officer where all coaches and staff reported directly to her.

In addition to her positions at LSU and Texas A&M, Rempe previously served as the Senior Associate Athletics Director at the University of Washington from 2008-16, where she directly supervised several athletics teams, and managed capital projects that included a \$285-million renovation of Washington's football stadium, Husky Stadium. Prior to her time at Washington, Rempe was Senior Associate Athletics Director at the University of Oklahoma from 2003-2008, and Associate Athletics Director at UTEP from 1998-2003. She began her professional career at her alma mater, the University of Arizona, as a Senior Program Coordinator from 1995-98.



Rempe was a four-year letterwinner for the Wildcats in volleyball. She earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1993 as well as a master's degree in Sports Administration in 1995 from Arizona. She is married to Greg Remien. They are parents of a daughter, Riley, and a son, Ryan.

## **DARIN SPEASE**

### **CHARLOTTE**



Darin Spease was named Deputy Athletic Director in August 2016, after serving in the role of Senior Associate Athletic Director for Business Affairs since 2004. Previously he held the positions of Assistant and Associate Athletic Director from 1998-2004. In his role, Spease is responsible for the overall administration of financial affairs within the 49ers 18-sport athletic program and oversees a \$32 million dollar annual budget. In addition, he oversees the department's business and insurance office functions, facility and equipment operations, as well as serving as the principal sport administrator for baseball, volleyball, and men's and women's golf.

From 2004-2009, Spease served on the Executive Board of the College Athletic Business Management Association (CABMA), a 500+ member organization devoted to the business operations of intercollegiate athletic programs and was the association's President in 2007-2008. He was named CABMA's Manager of the Year in 2009. Spease also served on the NCAA Division I Men's Golf Committee from 2007-2011, including a three-year stint as the chair from 2008-2011.

Prior to coming to Charlotte, Spease served as an Assistant Athletic Director at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) from 1993-98. While in Birmingham, he was heavily involved in the Blazers move to Division I-A football in 1996.

A 1989 graduate of UNC Charlotte, Spease holds a B.S. in Business Administration, as well as a MA in Education (1993), with a concentration in Athletic Administration, from UAB. A native of Pfafftown, N.C., Spease and his wife, Kathy, have three children, Mason, Morgan, and Kasey.

## **DAVID TAGLIARINO**

### **HOUSTON**



David Tagliarino was named deputy athletics director at his alma mater in 2018. Tagliarino, UH class of 1993, spent six years as Chief Operating Officer/Senior Vice President for Forever Orange, LLC, where he was responsible for the leadership, oversight, and management of day-to-day operational aspects for the organization's five companies: the Houston Dynamo, the Houston Dash, BBVA Compass Stadium, Houston Sports Park and Dynamo Charities.



Tagliarino joined the Houston Dynamo organization as Senior Vice President in February 2012, overseeing the team's communications, marketing and sponsorship services departments. He was promoted in 2014 with responsibilities including overseeing all finance and accounting operation, information technology, human resources, legal, box office operations and facility operations among other key duties.

He began his professional career in 1992 working as the Houston Rockets' Marketing, Promotions & Special Events Manager, where he assisted and managed various areas from game operations and special events to marketing and promotions initiatives for the organization.

From 2001-12, Tagliarino served as the Director of Sports Marketing & Sponsorship sales at SMG-NRG Park where he was responsible for overseeing all new corporate sponsorship business activities as well as securing, negotiating and managing the company's sports marketing related events and initiatives.

Tagliarino is married to Lisa and the couple has three children: Jordan, Taylor and Colby.

## **STAN WILLIAMSON**

### **HOUSTON CHRISTIAN**



Stan Williamson became HCU's Deputy Athletics Director in August 2018. Williamson oversees the department's business and operations, as well as media relations, athletic training, marketing and corporate sales arms and serving as the sport administrator for selected programs.

A native of Ruston, Louisiana, Williamson spent seven years as the Director of Athletics at the University of West Alabama. Williamson was also the Director of Athletics at Campbell University from 2000-2011 and at Nicholls State from 1998 to 2000.

Williamson is making his second stop in the city, serving as Assistant Athletic Director at the University of Houston from 1994 to 1998. Williamson's intercollegiate athletics career began at Georgia Southern from 1988-94 during which time the Eagles captured two NCAA FCS Football Championships in 1989 and 1990.

He received both of his degrees from Louisiana Tech, earning a bachelor of science in accounting in 1985 and a Master of Business Administration in 1986.

Williamson's spouse, Debbie, is the Coordinator of Women's Basketball Officials for nine leagues including the Atlantic Coast Conference, American, Atlantic 10, Big East, Big South, Colonial, Ivy, Metro Atlantic Athletic and Southern Conferences. The Williamsons have three children: Courtney, Mark and Nathan.

# COACHES

## PARKER BANGS

### RICE



Parker Bangs was named the Owls' pitching coach on June 30, 2022. He joined the Owls after four seasons at Davidson, where his staff led the conference and finished eighth nationally with a 3.86 ERA. The Wildcats staff was led by senior Blake Hely, who earned Atlantic 10 Conference pitcher of the year honors.

Bangs joined the staff at Davidson after three seasons at Presbyterian College. He led the Blue Hose to many program-bests since moving to Division I, including strikeouts, saves, and ERA in 2017. The squad also allowed its fewest runs and earned runs since 2013 as the team recorded a D1-era best 32 wins. In 2016, Bangs' staff helped spark Presbyterian's first-ever appearance in the Big South title game.

Bangs played collegiately at South Carolina from 2008-10 and was a member of the Gamecock's 2010 College World Series championship team. He was drafted by Kansas City in the 31st round of the 2010 MLB Draft, where he made 17 appearances over three minor league seasons before retiring after the 2012 season.

Bangs was the head coach of the Wilmington Sharks in the Coastal Plain League for two summers and spent three seasons as head coach of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia, S.C. He also served as the pitching/hitting coach for the Columbia Blowfish of the CPL, and as the hitting coach at Dutch Fork High School in Irmo, S.C.

## CHRIS BERTRAND

### NORTHWESTERN STATE



Chris Bertrand enters his fourth season with Northwestern State. Prior to joining the Demons staff, Bertrand spent four seasons as the head coach at UT Tyler. In those four seasons, Bertrand guided the Patriots to a 119-69 record, three American Southwest Conference championships and three NCAA Division III Tournament appearances. He also coached and recruited several players on the Patriots' squad that captured the 2018 NCAA Division III College World

Series championship.

Prior to his tenure at UT Tyler, Bertrand spent seven seasons as the pitching coach and associate head coach at LSU Shreveport, helping the Pilots reach the NAIA World Series in back-to-back seasons (2011, 2012).





Bertrand played two seasons of baseball at Bossier Parish Community College before finishing his career at Louisiana College where he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration. He earned his MBA from LSU Shreveport in 2007. An Abbeville, Louisiana native, Bertrand is married to the former Lori Quigley and the couple has a daughter, Rayleigh, and a son, Callen.

## **TOBY BICKNELL**

### **CHARLOTTE**



Toby Bicknell enters his fourth season with the 49ers in 2023. Known for his tireless work ethic and passion for the game, Bicknell brings a wealth of experience with over 20 years of coaching that began in the Charlotte region.

Beginning in August 2016, Bicknell was the Texas Scouting Director for Prep Baseball Report, spearheading grass-roots state-wide scouting efforts.

In a very short time, PBR Texas became the most trusted resource for amateur baseball scouting in the state. Before moving to Texas, Bicknell spent the 2016 season at the University of Kentucky as the recruiting coordinator.

Before Kentucky, Bicknell spent five seasons at The United States Air Force Academy. Prior to the Air Force Academy, Bicknell spent two seasons at Davidson where the 2009 team improved in eight offensive categories. He was also a volunteer assistant coach at Clemson, after spending two years as an assistant coach at UNC Pembroke.

In 2002, Bicknell started at third base for Wingate University. He earned a BA from Wingate in 2002, and an MA from UNC Pembroke in 2006. Bicknell, a Charlotte native, graduated from Charlotte Christian School in 1997 where he lettered in both Football and Baseball.

## **JUSTIN BLAKLEY**

### **TEXAS STATE**



Josh Blakley begins his fourth year overall with Texas State. He was hired in July 2019 as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Previously, he served as a volunteer assistant for the Bobcats.

Blakley spent the 2019 campaign as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for UT Rio Grande Valley. In his lone season he helped UTRGV win the WAC regular season championship for the program's first conference title since 1955.

Prior to his arrival in San Marcos, Blakley was the head coach at Ranger College from 2013-17. He amassed 81 victories during his time leading the Rangers. During his tenure, he sent 23 student-athletes to play Division I baseball. Blakley spent the 2010-12 seasons at McMurry University as the War Hawks pitching coach with the team reaching regionals. He began his coaching career as a volunteer assistant in at Texas A&M Corpus Christi.



Blakley played two years at Blinn College to begin his collegiate career. The 2006-07 seasons saw him play at UTSA in which he made 52 appearances on the mound.

He received his Master of Art degree in sports administration from Concordia University Irvine in January 2015. In 2008, the Waco, Texas native earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business management from UTSA. Blakley married the former Ashlee Reed in June 2017. The couple has one daughter, Hattie.

## **NOLAN CAIN**

### **TEXAS A&M**



Nolan Cain joined Texas A&M in June of 2021. Cain arrives in the Brazos Valley after eight seasons on the LSU staff, including five seasons as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. He also worked one season as the Tigers' volunteer coach and two seasons as coordinator of operations.

Cain is nationally recognized as one of the top recruiters in the nation. Three of his last four recruiting classes at LSU were ranked in the top 5, including a No. 2 rating by Baseball America for his 2020 class. His 2018 recruiting class earned the top spot from Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball. The 2017 class was ranked No. 5 by Collegiate Baseball.

He was a four-year letterwinner at LSU, playing a big role on LSU's 2009 national title run. Cain pitched 3.1 scoreless innings with four strikeouts in Game 2 of the College World Series Finals against Texas. He signed a free agent contract with the Detroit Tigers in June 2009.

The Cantonment, Florida, native earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from LSU in May 2009. Cain is married to the former Kristen Hobbs, an LSU softball player from 2004-07. They have a son, Cason, and a daughter, Ryann.

## **CHRIS CLEARY**

### **MISSISSIPPI**



Chris Cleary was promoted to Volunteer Assistant Coach of the Ole Miss baseball program in July 2020. A former assistant coach at Creighton and Butler, Cleary joined the Rebel baseball staff in August 2018 as the Coordinator of Operations.

A native of Fresno, California, Cleary joined the Menlo baseball program as a coach for the 2013 season, where he helped lead the program to a record 34 wins and an appearance in the Cascade Conference Championship game. Cleary transitioned to Butler University in 2014, where he served as an assistant coach, working with infielders and assisting with hitters. In Cleary's second year in the program, the Bulldogs set a program record in fielding percentage with a .970 mark.



In the fall of 2016, Cleary joined the staff at Creighton, where he served as the volunteer assistant coach and as a staff administrator. With Cleary in the fold, the Bluejays improved their record from 24-25 in 2017 to 34-16 in 2018.

Cleary graduated from Menlo College in Atherton, California, with a degree in sport management in 2012. He played four seasons for the Oaks as a pitcher and middle infielder.

## **JON COYNE**

### **KANSAS**



Jon Coyne joined the Kansas baseball staff in June 2022. Coyne arrived at Kansas following four seasons at University of New Mexico as the Infield Coach/Recruiting Coordinator. He was also responsible for working directly with the hitters where his team's batting average was at least .285 each year.

Coyne's recruiting efforts resulted in the highest ranked high school class in program history in 2020 as the group was ranked 33rd by Perfect Game on signing day. His JUCO signing classes also received high marks by Perfect Game as the 2022 class was ranked No. 20 and the 2020 class came in at No. 22.

Prior to New Mexico, Coyne was Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator at Howard College for two seasons (2017-18) and Cisco College for two seasons (2015-16). He also spent time as a volunteer assistant at Wichita State (2013-14) and University of Texas Pan American (fall 2012).

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Coyne played collegiately at El Paso Community College (2008-09) and at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (2010). He graduated in 2012 from University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies.



# JUSTIN DEDMAN

## MISSOURI



Dedman enters his 18th season in coaching and second at Missouri, serving as the Director of Player Development. During the 2021 season at Mizzou, the Tigers saw a 13-win increase and set SEC program records for scoring and batting average. Prior to Mizzou, Dedman was the hitting coach and recruiting coordinator at Miami (Ohio), where the RedHawks accumulated a 105-77 record. With Dedman's help, Miami found itself among the nation's leaders in several offensive categories.

He came to Miami after serving as an assistant coach at Lee University for the previous seven seasons. During that time, Lee held a 291-116 (.715) winning record there and went to five World Series. Prior to his stint at Lee, Dedman served as the Director of Baseball Operations at Ole Miss and was a volunteer assistant at Austin Peay in 2009.

Dedman spent the previous four years at his alma mater, Denison University, as an assistant coach for the first two seasons before being promoted to head coach, leading the Big Red to a North Coast Athletic Conference Western Division title in his first campaign at the helm.

Dedman was a baseball letter winner at Denison and graduated in 2005 with a degree in English Writing.

# JOHN DILAURA

## TEXAS CHRISTIAN



John DiLaura joined the coaching staff in the fall of 2018, serving as the volunteer assistant coach. He was promoted to assistant coach/recruiting coordinator in the summer of 2021. Along with leading the recruiting efforts, his responsibilities include assisting with practice, coaching the catchers and outfielders and serving as the first base coach in games. He came to TCU after he served as an assistant coach at Xavier.

DiLaura, a 2013 alum of the University of Michigan, spent the past season as the volunteer assistant at his alma mater. While at Michigan, he worked with the Wolverine's catchers and assisted with the hitters. Previously, he spent two years with the Chipola College baseball program. In his final season with Chipola (2017), the Indians captured the NJCAA World Series title and compiled an overall record of 51-9.

He spent the 2014 and 2015 seasons at Wayne State University, where he was responsible for working with the infielders and outfielders as well as assisting with the recruiting efforts for the Warriors and helping with the day-to-day operations of the program.



A three-year baseball letterwinner at the University of Michigan, DiLaura graduated in the spring of 2013 with a General Studies degree with an emphasis in business and history. He completed his master's degree in Sports Administration from Wayne State University in the summer of 2016.

## **ZACH DILLON**

### **BAYLOR**



Zach Dillon was announced as Baylor's hitting coach and recruiting coordinator on June 25, 2022. Dillon returns to Waco after spending the last six years as the director of operations for Twelve Baseball.

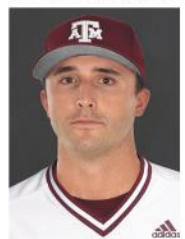
Previously, Dillon worked at McLennan Community College during the 2016 season as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. In 2015, Dillon served as the volunteer assistant coach and coordinator of camps at Mississippi State. Prior to joining the MSU staff, Dillon served as an assistant coach at the University of Iowa. While there, he served as the Hawkeyes third base coach, hitting coach and recruiting coordinator responsible in all areas of program development. He returned to Iowa City after helping Baylor in 2012 as a volunteer assistant. The Bears captured the regular-season Big 12 title that season, reached No. 1 in the nation for the first time in school history and entered the postseason as the No. 4 overall seed.

As a player, Dillon played collegiately at Baylor from 2003-06 where he was an integral part of three NCAA Tournament squads and a College World Series berth in 2005. He was a two-time All-Big 12 selection. Dillon was selected by the Baltimore Orioles in the 20th round of the 2006 MLB Draft.

Dillon graduated Magna Cum Laude from Baylor with a bachelor's degree in education in 2005. He later earned his master's degree in education and sports management in 2009. Dillon has a son, Hayden.

## **MICHAEL EARLEY**

### **TEXAS A&M**



Michael Earley enters his second season on the coaching staff as Texas A&M baseball embarks on the 2023 campaign. The Aggies were a resounding success in Earley's first season. The squad finished as one of the final four teams in Omaha for the first time in school history and won the SEC Western Division title. Texas A&M's offense experienced impressive improvement in 2022. The Aggies ranked second in the SEC in batting average and

third in on-base percentage. In the 30-game league schedule, the Aggies topped the SEC in batting average, runs, RBI and on-base percentage.





Earley arrived at Texas A&M after five seasons at Arizona State, including four seasons as the hitting coach on Tracy Smith's staff. He has built a reputation for developing hitters with his most notable work being the rise of Spencer Torkelson to the No. 1 overall draft pick in the 2020 MLB Draft. Undrafted out of high school, Torkelson was selected by the Detroit Tigers. Arizona State led the nation in home runs during the 2019 regular season, clubbing 92 dingers.

Earley was an All-Big Ten performer at Indiana University. He played six seasons in the White Sox organization, reaching the Triple-A level with the Charlotte Knights. He is married to his wife, Lisa, and together they have a son, Marshall, and two daughters, Mia and Madison.

## **KURT ELBIN**

### **VIRGINIA TECH**



Kurt Elbin joined the Hokies' staff in June 2017 as an assistant coach/recruiting coordinator. Elbin had worked the prior five seasons at VCU (2013-17) and helped the Rams to four straight 35-plus win seasons, one conference regular season title, one conference tournament title and an NCAA Regional title in 2015 as the team advanced to the Super Regionals for the first time in school history.

Under Elbin's tutelage, the 2017 Rams' offense led the Atlantic 10 Conference in both batting average (.290, 60th in the nation) and on-base percentage (.384, 43rd) and was 14th in the country, first in the league, with 85 hit batsmen. It was the third time in the past four seasons the team had finished in the top 100 in batting average, including 36th in 2014.

Prior to his time in Richmond, Virginia, Elbin spent two seasons (2011-12) at Division II power Shippensburg University (Pa.). During his tenure at Shippensburg, Elbin helped lead the Raiders to 55 wins and back-to-back PSAC Tournament appearances. Before joining the Raiders' staff, Elbin spent three seasons at Thiel College (2008-10). Under his guidance the Tomcats were a Division III powerhouse in the President's Athletic Conference, being ranked as high as 13th nationally during his stint.

A native of Bedford, Pennsylvania, Elbin is a 2006 graduate of Lock Haven University, where he was a three-year starter. He earned a master's degree from California (Pa.) in 2008. Elbin is married to his wife, Jaclyn, and they have two children, Alexander and Juliet.

## **COOPER FOUTS**

### **LOUISIANA TECH**



Cooper Fouts was named Louisiana Tech's recruiting coordinator and pitching/catching coordinator in July 2021. He has 16 seasons of collegiate coaching experience, highlighted by five seasons over two stints at Pepperdine (2011-12, 2016-18). Fouts helped Pepperdine win West Coast Conference titles in 2012 and 2018.





He also had a three-season stint at Purdue, where he led the recruiting efforts. Fouts also coached and developed Boilermaker catchers and assisted with the Purdue offense.

He has also served as an assistant coach at Utah Valley (2013-15), College of Southern Nevada (2007-10) and Lubbock Christian University (2006). His final season at CSN featured Bryce Harper winning the Golden Spikes Award and being selected No. 1 overall in the 2010 MLB Draft. The Coyotes won 52 games and finished third at the JUCO World Series that season.

Fouts graduated from Las Vegas baseball powerhouse Bishop Gorman High School in 2001. He was selected in the 26th round of the MLB Draft by the Oakland Athletics, but he opted to enroll at the College of Southern Nevada. After one season, he made the move to the Division I level where he played in over 150 games as a three-year starting catcher for Texas Tech from 2003-05.

In 2006, he earned his bachelor's degree in exercise sports science from Texas Tech. He and his wife, Bri, were married in 2010 and have three children – Harper, Emmitt and Nash.

## CONNOR GANDOSSY CREIGHTON



Connor Gandossy came to Creighton in the fall of 2017 from Saint Louis University, where he served as an assistant coach for four seasons. Prior to coaching at Saint Louis, Gandossy was an assistant coach at Jefferson College.

Gandossy is responsible for recruiting, developing catchers and working with the offense for the Bluejays. Gandossy has been an instrumental part of the Bluejays' successes leading to a trip to the NCAA Regional finals in 2019. The 2019 team was ranked among the top 25 teams in the nation and claimed the BIG EAST regular season and tournament championships.

Gandossy's impact is expected to continue to grow as the Bluejays 2020 recruiting class was rated as one of the Top 50 in the nation by College Baseball Newspaper (CBN) and Baseball America. The 2021 recruiting class was a Perfect Game Top 100 class as well as a Top 75 Class by CBN. It was the third time Gandossy landed Perfect Game Top 100 class, doing so in 2015 and 2016 at SLU.

Gandossy received a bachelor's degree from Saint Louis University in 2012 and earned a master's degree in leadership from Creighton. A standout catcher and leader for the Billikens, Gandossy appeared in 157 games behind the plate. He and his wife, Rachael, welcomed their first child (Marcus) in 2022.

# LANCE HARVELL

## NEBRASKA



Lance Harvell joined Nebraska in June 2019 as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. He has spearheaded the Huskers' recruiting efforts with success. Their 15-member 2021 recruiting class, which included a trio of top-200 prospects, was ranked 20th by Perfect Game and 21st by Baseball America.

Prior to coming to Lincoln, Harvell spent five seasons at Sam Houston State as the team's assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. During that span, the Bearkats captured four Southland Conference regular-season titles. In 2016, Harvell established himself as the top recruiting coordinator in the Southland Conference by D1Baseball.com. In 2017, Sam Houston State advanced to its first-ever NCAA Super Regional and finished nationally ranked in all six polls.

Harvell spent two years as the volunteer assistant at Louisiana in 2013 and 2014. Harvell helped guide the Ragin' Cajuns to national prominence and the best offense in the country two straight years. The 2014 team finished the season with a 58-10 record, the third-best record in NCAA history. At the end of the regular season the Cajuns were the consensus No.1 team by every poll.

Harvell spent three years at Texarkana College from 2010 to 2012. He also spent the 2008 and 2009 seasons as a graduate assistant coach at Texas A&M.

During his playing days, Harvell was an all-conference catcher at Richland Community College in Dallas. In 2003 and 2004, he led his team to back-to-back NJCAA national titles. Harvell walked on at Texas A&M and graduated in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in sport management and earned his master's degree in the same field in 2009. He and his wife Courtney have two sons, Bodie and Dexter, and a daughter, Ellie.

# ANTHONY IZZIO

## TULANE



Anthony Izzio returned to Tulane in the summer of 2022 after two seasons away. He manages the pitching staff and recruiting obligations. In between his two Tulane stints, Izzio spent two seasons as the pitching coach at Charleston Southern University. He was responsible for recruiting and shaping the second Freshman All-American in program history.

Prior to his time at Tulane, Izzio served three seasons as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at Pearl River Community College in Mississippi.

During his time with the Wildcats, Izzio helped PRCC earn three consecutive National Junior College Athletic Association D-II regional appearances, with an appearance in the NJCAA D-II World Series in 2019. Before moving to PRCC, Izzio spent two seasons as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at East Mississippi Community College. In five years at the junior college level, Izzio assisted in turning 37 players over to D1 universities.

Izzio pitched for South Alabama from 2012-13 posting an 8-1 record. Prior to his time at South Alabama, he opened his collegiate career at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. He earned his bachelor's degree from South Alabama in the winter of 2013. Izzio and his wife, Erika, have two sons, Ace and Knox.

## **WALT JONES**

### **EASTERN KENTUCKY**



Walt Jones joined the ECU staff as assistant coach/recruiting coordinator in November of 2020. He serves as the hitting instructor, and coaches base running and outfielders. In 2022, he helped secure Eastern Kentucky's first conference title since 2012. The Colonels were picked to finish eighth in the ASUN preseason poll but instead finished tied for the best overall conference record in the league.

Previously, Jones was a scouting director for the Prep Baseball Report-Louisiana and national JUCO scouting director for Prep Baseball Report-National from July 2019 to the fall of 2020. Before his time with Prep Baseball Report, Jones had two stints at Nicholls State University including from 2014-19 as the recruiting coordinator and associate head coach and from 2009-12 as volunteer baseball coach and the director of baseball operations. While at Nicholls, Jones oversaw recruiting, coached the outfielders and hitters, and organized fundraising events.

Jones was an assistant coach at Chipola College from 2012 through 2013 where he coordinated camps and coached all position players and hitters.

Jones earned his associate's of science degree from Wallace Community College in 2006, before transferring to Nicholls State, where he completed his bachelor's of science degree in 2008.

## **ROSS KIVETT**

### **HOUSTON**



Ross Kivett joined the University of Houston Baseball program as assistant coach on June 28, 2021. His primary responsibilities include serving as hitting coach as well as coaching third base and infielders.

He arrived in Houston following four seasons as an assistant coach at Tennessee.





The Ohio native recently helped vault the Volunteers to a record-setting campaign in 2021, capped by the program's fifth trip to the College World Series and first since 2005. Kivett's main responsibilities at Tennessee included coaching the team's infielders while assisting with baserunning and hitting on top of serving as Tennessee's camp coordinator. One of the biggest areas of improvement for the Vols from year one to year two under Tony Vitello's staff was the fielding and defense, due in large part to Kivett, who worked closely with Tennessee's infielders. UT set a program record and finished 14th nationally with a .979 fielding percentage in 2019 after finishing 140th in the country with a .970 fielding percentage in 2018.

Kivett was an All-American and Big 12 Player of the Year for Kansas State in 2013 before being drafted by the Detroit Tigers. A 2014 graduate of Kansas State with a degree in communication studies, Kivett is the son of Mike and Mary Kivett and has two siblings, Juliana and Jake.

## **JOE MERCADANTE**

### **PITTSBURG**



Joe Mercadante joined Pitt as an assistant coach for the 2022 season. He primarily works with the outfielders and assists in recruiting and offensive efforts. Mercadante previously spent four years at Stetson as an assistant coach, serving as the primary hitting coach and recruiting coordinator. In his first season at Stetson, Mercadante helped the Hatters to their most successful season in program history. Stetson hosted and won an NCAA Regional.

Rising from a volunteer coach to an assistant, Mercadante spent seven years (2005-11) at the University of Miami. During that time, he helped the squad make seven-consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances and hone the skills and development of catcher Yasmani Grandal, who was named the ACC Player of the Year. After Miami, he spent one year as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at UCF in 2012. During his one season with the Knights, Mercadante helped lead UCF to an NCAA regional championship appearance and a No. 10 national ranking during the regular season.

Out of high school, Mercadante attended Jefferson Davis Community College in Alabama and helped lead the team to a berth in the Junior College World Series. He is a 2003 graduate of the University of Florida, where he earned a bachelor's degree. He earned his master's degree from Florida in 2006.

He and his wife, Katie, have two sons, Roman and CT.

# MARK MORIARTY

## NEVADA



Mark Moriarty joined the Wolf Pack staff this summer after spending the past three seasons (2020-22) as a pitching coach in the Minnesota Twins organization. He spent the 2019 season as the head coach at the University of Mary, a Division II school in North Dakota, leading the Marauders to a 12-win improvement from the season prior.

Moriarty spent two stints at Augustana University, first from 2008-12 then as associate head coach and pitching coach from 2017-18. In that second stint, he helped guide the Vikings to the 2018 NCAA Division II national title and mentoring the national pitcher of the year. From 2014-16, Moriarty was the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at Concordia University (Wisconsin).

Moriarty played college ball at the College of St. Scholastica where he finished his career with the third most wins in school history. He played professionally in 2009. In 2011, Moriarty was inducted into the CSS Baseball Hall of Fame. He earned a degree in business management from CSS and a master's degree in sports management from Augustana.

# CLIFF PENNINGTON

## DALLAS BAPTIST



Cliff Pennington enters his second season at DBU as the team's recruiting coordinator and assistant coach. Pennington, who played 11 seasons in the major leagues from 2008-2018, comes to DBU from Texas A&M where he was on the coaching staff for two seasons.

Pennington was a standout at Texas A&M from 2003-05 where he was a three-time All-Big 12 selection and earned All-American honors in 2005.

In one of the most decorated careers in Aggie baseball history, Pennington ranks in the top 10 on the Aggies' career list for hits and finished his collegiate career with a .346 batting average in 182 games.

Following his junior season at Texas A&M, Pennington was selected by the Oakland Athletics as the 21st overall pick in the first round of the 2005 Major League Baseball Draft. Three years later, Pennington made his big league debut with the Oakland A's on August 12, 2008. Pennington spent five seasons in Oakland and completed his 11-year career in the Majors with four other teams including the Arizona Diamondbacks, Toronto Blue Jays, Los Angeles Angels and Cincinnati Reds.

The Corpus Christi, Texas, native finished his MLB career with 971 games.



# KYLE PETTORUTO

## RUTGERS



Kyle Pettoruto is in his fourth year at Rutgers where he coaches outfielders, baserunning and hitting. Under his guidance in 2022, Rutgers had one of the most prolific lineups in all of college baseball. The Scarlet Knights led the country with 9.6 runs/game, 565 total runs and 147 doubles. These marks all proved crucial as Rutgers set a program record with 44 wins.

He spent the previous six seasons at Bryant and was part of six-straight Northeast Conference regular season championships and two NCAA Tournament appearances. Under Pettoruto, Bryant became one of the most dynamic offenses in the country. He helped the Bulldogs finish in the top 20 in the country in scoring and slugging percentage in four of his six seasons, and the Black and Gold have finished in the top 25 in a host of other categories over the past six years.

Pettoruto was a four-year letterman at the University of New Haven and helped the Chargers earn a spot in the 2010 NCAA tournament. He earned a degree in communication from New Haven in the fall of 2012.

A native of Massachusetts, he resides in Washington Township with his wife Heather.

# MICAH POSEY

## DALLAS BAPTIST



Micah Posey enters his third season as the pitching coach at DBU. In his first year with the Patriots, DBU reached the Columbia Super Regional after winning the Fort Worth Regional. The Patriots also clinched both the Missouri Valley Conference regular-season and tournament titles in Posey's first year as the team's pitching coach. DBU compiled the top ERA in the Missouri Valley under Posey's direction in 2021.

He joined the Patriots after spending three seasons at East Tennessee State University. During the shortened 2020 season, Posey's pitching staff at East Tennessee State compiled the sixth-best strikeout-to-walk ratio (4.15) at the NCAA Division I level. In just his second season in 2019, Posey's staff was regarded as one of the best in college baseball, ranking in the top 20 nationally in four categories.

Before his three-year stint at ETSU, Posey spent four years working with the pitching staff at Elon University. In his first season at Elon in 2013, the Phoenix won the Southern Conference Baseball Tournament and reached the finals of the Charlottesville Regional. Posey's coaching career began under the tutelage of his father, Mike Posey, who has won over 700 games and four state championships at North Florida Christian School.





Prior to his coaching career, Posey was a 15th round selection of the Anaheim Angels in 2001 out of North Florida Christian School. A left-handed pitcher, Posey spent four seasons in the Angels' minor league system. Following his professional baseball career, Posey graduated from Florida State University with a degree in marketing in 2011. He is married to Julie Posey and became a father in April 2018.

## NICK SCHNABEL

### CLEMSON



Nick Schnabel joined the Clemson staff as assistant head coach and recruiting coordinator on June 27, 2022. Schnabel previously served at Michigan from 2013-22 and was named national assistant coach-of-the-year by the American Baseball Coaches Association in 2019. Michigan finished as the national runner-up in 2019.

Prior to Ann Arbor, Schnabel was East Carolina's hitting instructor, infield coach and recruiting coordinator for three seasons. Before ECU, Schnabel served for two seasons as the hitting instructor, recruiting coordinator and third base coach at Liberty University. Schnabel spent two seasons at the U.S. Military Academy, serving as Army's hitting instructor. Schnabel was at Chipola College in Florida in 2005. He started his college coaching career as a volunteer coach at East Carolina in 2004. That season, ECU won a school-record 51 games and competed in the NCAA Super Regionals. The Pirates finished the season eighth in the country.

Schnabel played at East Carolina, where he was a first team All-Colonial Athletic Association selection. He helped the Pirates to consecutive league championships and top NCAA Regional seeds. Following graduation, Schnabel spent four years in the Montreal Expos organization in five levels of the farm system. He is a 2003 graduate of East Carolina and is married to the former Emily Gail Cox. The couple has two children, Cal and Caroline.

## JUSTIN SEELY

### OKLAHOMA STATE



Justin Seely joined Oklahoma State as an assistant in June 2021. Seely joined the Cowboys after spending the previous 12 seasons on the coaching staff at Texas A&M.

Seely's impact was felt in the program during his first season in Stillwater. After helping OSU sign a recruiting class ranked fifth nationally by Collegiate Baseball, he helped lead the Cowboys to 42 wins, their most since 2016. The Pokes earned a No. 7

national seed in the NCAA Tournament, the fourth time Seely has been part of a nationally seeded team, and the Regional berth was Seely's 14th in 15 seasons as an assistant coach.

Before OSU, Seely came to Texas A&M in 2009 after spending 2008 as an assistant coach at Texarkana College. Seely was 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. He 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 received his degree from the University of Nebraska in 2003. He and his wife, Tara, have a son, Slade, and two daughters, Sydney and Shelby.

## **BRIAN SMILEY**

### **INDIANA STATE**



Brian Smiley starts his 14th season in the dugout at Indiana State in 2023. He spent his first eight seasons as an assistant coach before being promoted to associate head coach in July of 2017.

Smiley serves numerous roles within the baseball program, including working with the team's infielders and hitters, coaching third base as well as serving as recruiting coordinator. In 2019, he helped ISU to a 43-18 overall record, while claiming

its seventh Missouri Valley Conference Tournament Championship.

Smiley has been a part of two NCAA Tournament berths in his time in Terre Haute, including the first NCAA appearance by the Sycamores since 1995. The Sycamores been ranked in the top-50 in the nation in fielding over the last three seasons and have been consistently ranked at the top of the Missouri Valley.

Over his four years as a student-athlete in collegiate baseball, Smiley, a Mount Vernon, Indiana native, played one season each at Triton and Lincoln Trail Community College before transferring to play two seasons at Arkansas Little Rock. Brian, his wife, Katie, have three children: Isaac, Christian and Vivienne.

## **FULLER SMITH**

### **SAM HOUSTON**



Fuller Smith enters his fourth season on the Bearkat coaching staff. In 2021, the Bearkats finished as the runner-up in the Southland Conference Tournament. That season Smith assisted in the development of outfielders Colton Cowser and Jack Rogers, one of the top outfield duos in the nation. Cowser was the Southland Conference Player of the Year and a first-team all-American before being drafted by the Baltimore Orioles as the No. 5 overall pick in the MLB Draft,

the highest draft pick in Sam Houston and the Southland Conference's history.



Before arriving to Sam Houston, Smith served as the recruiting coordinator and hitting/outfield coach at UT Arlington from 2014-2019. Previously, he served at Ole Miss for the 2011 through 2013. During his first stint at UT Arlington in 2010, Smith served primarily as the team's first-base coach, assisted with hitters, as well as the outfield coach.

Smith originally joined the UT Arlington baseball coaching staff in 2010 after completing his collegiate playing career at Ole Miss. He resides in Huntsville, with his wife, Whitney, and their three children, Harper, Cal, and Haven.

## **NATE THOMPSON**

### **ARKANSAS**



Nate Thompson wrapped up his fifth season as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for Arkansas in 2022. The Razorbacks have been to the College World Series in Omaha three times during his tenure.

He came to Arkansas from Missouri State where he spent three seasons. Thompson helped the Bears reach the NCAA Super Regionals and win a Missouri Valley Conference championship.

Thompson joined the Bears staff in July 2014 as MSU's lead hitting instructor and recruiting coordinator. His first full year with MSU produced one of the top recruiting classes in program history. Anchored by a home-grown crop of standouts, the Bears' 2015 recruiting class was ranked 35th in the nation by Collegiate Baseball. Thompson was named the best recruiter in the Missouri Valley Conference by D1Baseball.com.

Prior to Missouri State, he was assistant coach at Hutchinson Community College for four years (2011-2014). Before Hutchinson, Thompson spent three seasons at Nebraska as the Cornhuskers' volunteer assistant. Following the completion of his own collegiate playing career at Dallas Baptist, he began his coaching career as a student assistant with the Patriots. From DBU, Thompson moved into a graduate assistant role at Fort Hays State, where he served as the Tigers' primary hitting and outfield coach.

A native of Kansas, Thompson graduated from Dallas Baptist in 2006 and earned a master's degree at Fort Hays State in 2008. He married the former Anna Schardt, and the couple has three daughters, Nevaeh, Natalie and Nora.



## TED TOM

### CENTRAL FLORIDA



Ted Tom was promoted to hitting coach and recruiting coordinator in August 2019 after first being hired at UCF as an assistant coach in July 2017. Prior to arriving in Orlando, Tom spent three seasons at fellow American Athletic Conference member Cincinnati.

Tom joined UCF after seven seasons as the head coach at his alma mater Shawnee State University, where he compiled a record of 203-193. Tom was named 2010 conference coach of the year. Prior to Shawnee State, he spent 2007 as the outfield instructor at the IMG Baseball Academies. Tom spent the 2005 and 2006 seasons as the volunteer assistant coach at Indiana University. While there, his responsibilities included outfield play, coaching first base, and assisting with the hitters while also working on Sembower Field. During this time, he earned his master's degree in athletic administration.

He graduated from Shawnee State with a degree in sport management with minors in business and sport coaching in 2004 and having been a red-shirt member of the 2000 team that competed in the NAIA World Series. Tom is married to the former Lisa Dingus of South Webster, Ohio. The couple has two children, Henry and Adaline Lee.

## AUSTIN WATES

### KANSAS STATE



Austin Wates was hired by Kansas State as assistant baseball coach on June 22, 2018. In his role, his primary focus is on the Wildcat hitters, outfielders, and baserunners in addition to recruiting responsibilities.

Wates previously spent two seasons working for the Seattle Mariners as an area scout in South Texas. Wates has built strong relationships in the region that will have an instant impact on recruiting. With the Mariners, Wates was responsible for identifying and evaluating prospective players at both the collegiate and high school levels in the South Texas region.

As a student-athlete for three seasons for Virginia Tech, Wates had a career average of .367 while leading the team in steals all three seasons, totaling 49 career steals. He was a preseason all-America selection in 2010 by both Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball, helping the Hokies to an NCAA Regional berth in 2010 – their first since 2000. Wates was the No. 90 overall selection by the Houston Astros in the 2010 MLB draft following his junior year at Virginia Tech.

A native of Richmond, Wates completed his Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Virginia Tech in December of 2017. He and his wife, Christine, have one daughter, Grace, and two sons, Carter and Walker.

## **JAKE WELLS**

### **LOUISIANA**



Jake Wells enters his fifth season with the Ragin' Cajuns as an assistant coach, working primarily as the hitting coach and assisting with the team's recruiting efforts. Wells brings in a wealth of experience with stops at Campbell University, the University of Alabama, Louisiana Tech and Mississippi State. Throughout his coaching career, Wells has coached 28 draft picks, eight of which have appeared in the big leagues since 2010, guided five All-Americans and assisted on four

NCAA Tournament teams, one of which was the national runner-up.

Prior to his stops at Louisiana and Campbell, he served as the recruiting coordinator at the University of Alabama. Preceding his time with the Tide, he spent the 2015-16 seasons at Louisiana Tech as the hitting coach and recruiting coordinator. Before arriving in Ruston, the Devine, Texas, native had a two-year stint at Mississippi State (2013-14) as the volunteer assistant coach, where he saw two catchers under his guidance go on to sign professional contracts. As a member of the Bulldogs' staff, he helped the team to back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances, including a finalist finish in the 2013 College World Series.

After his prep days, he continued his career at Blinn (Texas) College, Lurleen B. Wallace (Ala.) Community College and eventually at the University of Montevallo, where he earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology and health promotions. Wells is married to the former Melissa Sherrod of Longview, Texas. The couple has a one-year-old son, Beckett James Wells.

## **NICK ZALESKI**

### **MCNEESE STATE**



Nick Zaleski enters his seventh season with the McNeese baseball program and his third as associate head coach where he will serve as the hitting coordinator. Zaleski came to Lake Charles after spending three seasons as a volunteer assistant for the UTSA Roadrunners. His knowledge of the game helped the UTSA baseball club produce some of the top offensive numbers in both the Western Athletic Conference and Conference-USA.

Zaleski joined the coaching ranks after a successful playing career at Sam Houston State (2006-09). He guided Sam Houston State to three Southland Conference Tournament Championships and an appearance in the 2007 NCAA Division I Oxford Regional Championship Game.



The Sugar Land native still holds the Sam Houston State single-season batting average record after hitting at a .419 clip in 2009. He also was named the Bearkats' Most Valuable Player and an honorable mention All-American following his senior campaign.

He earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from Sam Houston State and his master's degree in human performance with emphasis in sport management from Alabama. Zaleski is married to the former Amy Brown.



# PEAK

## EVENTS

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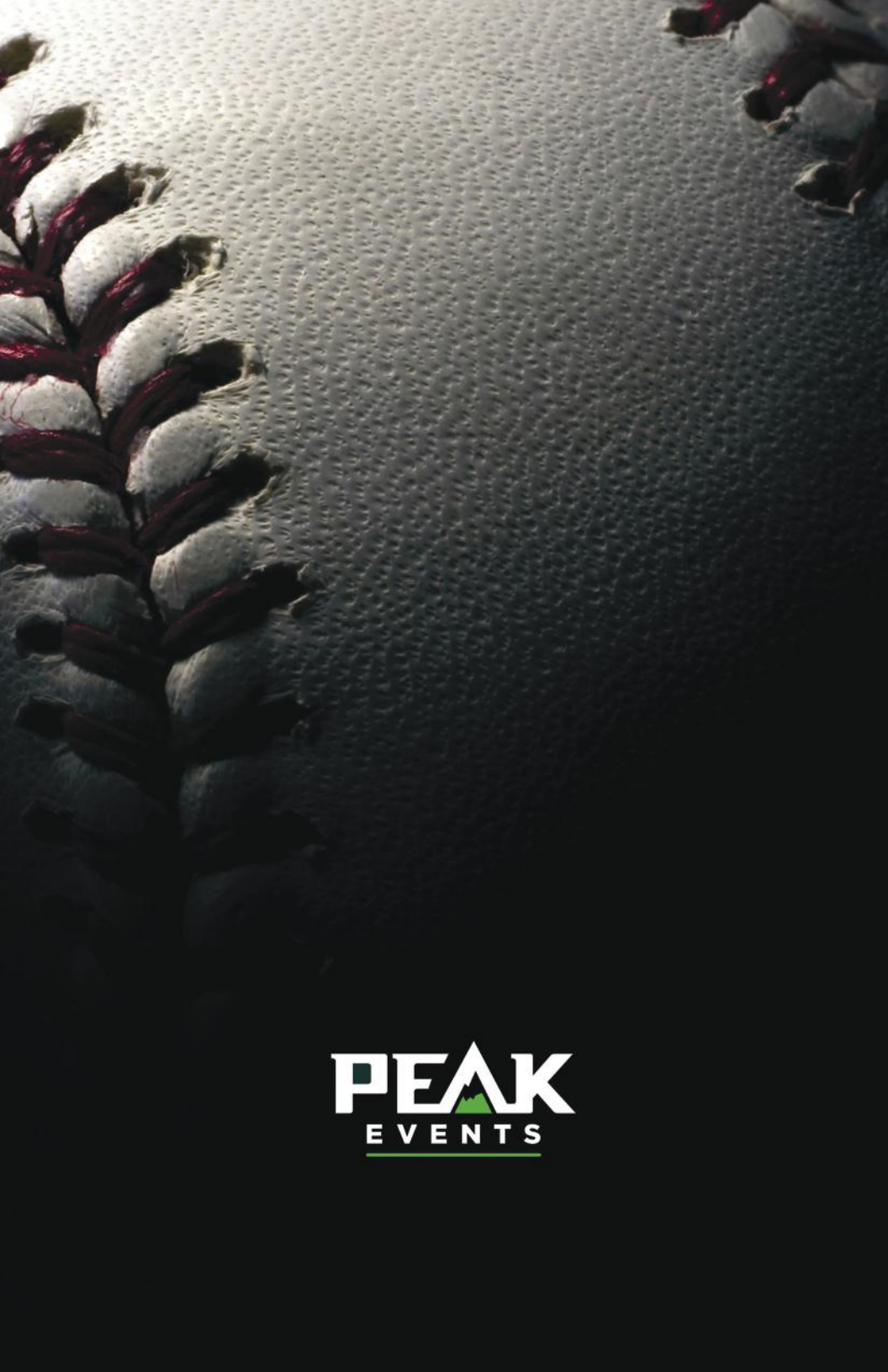
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