



## TIM GRAY

Head Coach • Fourth Season

### GRAY PROFILE

Full Name ..... Timothy Keith Gray  
 Birthday ..... Jan. 19  
 Birthplace ..... San Diego, Calif.  
 Hometown ..... Greenville, S.C.  
 Alma Mater ..... Washington College, 1986; United States Sports Academy, 2005  
 Spouse ..... Christine Franek Gray  
 Children ..... Brandon (18), Taylor (17)

## DOWN THE LINE

- Says that people would be surprised to know that he is a cancer survivor
- Juggling is his off the court talent
- Three words to describe himself as a coach would be tough, but fair
- Is unsure if he has acquired any nick names from the players
- With a laugh, says his favorite thing to do at practice is yell at the players
- Says that the school spirit is the best thing about being a coach at Auburn
- Enjoys the small, hometown feel of the city of Auburn



Entering his fourth season at the helm of the Auburn women's tennis team, head coach Tim Gray has quickly turned the Tiger program into one to take notice of throughout the Southeast Conference and nationally. Gray's teams and players have generated results that would have been unthinkable three short years ago.

Gray arrived on the Plains in 2005 and took hold of a team that was 6-15 the season prior. In three years, Gray and his Tigers have claimed a share of the SEC West title, advanced to the second round in the SEC and NCAA Championships and broken into the national rankings.

As a team in 2008, Gray lead Auburn to a 17-10 overall record and 5-6 in SEC action. His squad upended No. 26 Arkansas 4-3 on the road to open the SEC schedule and knocked off No. 15 TCU 4-3 at home. The Tigers were listed among the top 50 teams throughout the entire season in the ITA team rankings, peaking at No. 27.

Not only have Gray's efforts been visible in team competition, but also in the play of individuals. For the first time in Auburn history, the Tigers had an All-American in 2007. A year later, three players returned from the NCAA Championships with the decorated honor.

During her redshirt freshman season in 2006-07, Fani Chifchieva put together a 17-7, 8-3 SEC rookie campaign and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Championships. Wrapping up the season as the No. 16 individual player nationally, Chifchieva garnered All-American accolades, the first in Auburn women's tennis history. She was also named ITA South Region Freshman of the Year and was a First-Team All-SEC pick.

Gray's accomplishments were not limited to Chifchieva in 2006-07; the 13th ranked doubles team of Alex Haney and Melissa Koning also qualified for a spot in the NCAA Championships. In singles action, Haney posted a 20-5, 10-1 record and earned Second-Team All-SEC honors. It had been five years since an Auburn player had been recognized by the conference.

A year later in 2007-08, the same trio of Tigers returned to the NCAA Championships and all three came home to Auburn as All-Americans. Gray guided No. 11 Chifchieva to the individual semifinals and the 10th-ranked duo of Haney and Koning into the round of 16. Chifchieva was unanimously voted First-Team All-SEC and named SEC Player of the Year. Haney received her second All-SEC nod by landing on the first team.

After almost 20 years of head coaching experience at the collegiate level, Gray came to Auburn after a successful three-year stint as the head coach of Eastern Michigan in Ypsilanti, Mich. There, he directed Eastern Michigan to a 41-20 mark in three years and twice led the team to the finals of the Mid-American Conference Championships. In three years, Gray compiled a 21-6 record in conference play.



While at Eastern Michigan, Gray showed a knack for developing players. In all three seasons at the helm, Gray had at least one all-conference player every year. His most decorated player, Victoria Domina, was a two-time first-team all-conference selection during the 2004 and 2005 seasons. Domina was the first alternate at the 2005 NCAA Championships. In 2003-04 she was named the MAC Player of the Year.

Gray was the head men's tennis coach at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., for seven seasons before heading to Eastern Michigan. During his tenure, Gray resurrected a program that had been reinstated in 1995, after being dropped in 1985. Gray compiled a 103-54 record and led the Mocs to seven consecutive NCAA Division II postseason appearances.

Gray was named Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year in 2000 and 2002, after directing the Mocs to a pair of conference titles, including the program's first-ever league title in 2000.

Three years into his tenure, Gray led Florida Southern to a third-place finish at the NCAA Division II Championships and the school's first-ever regional title in 1998. Gray's teams repeated as regional champions in 1999 and 2000, and his 2001 squad advanced to the second round of the NCAA Championships.

Gray began his coaching career in 1992, serving as the head men's and women's tennis coach at his alma mater, Washington College in Chestertown, Md. In his four years at Washington College, Gray led the men's program to a Division III national championship in 1994, a runner-up finish in 1995 and postseason bids all four seasons.

A 1986 graduate with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Washington College, Gray was a two-year member of the men's tennis team after transferring from the University of Maryland. As a senior at Washington College, Gray participated in the NCAA Division III Championships in team singles and doubles. During the summer of 2005, Gray received his master's degree in sports science from the United States Sports Academy. Prior to attending Maryland, Gray received his associate's degree from Anderson College in Anderson, S.C.

Gray, a native of Greenville, S.C., wed the former Christine Franek in the summer of 2008. He has two sons, Brandon (18) and Taylor (17).



*Head coach Tim Gray with wife and assistant coach Christine Franek Gray.*



## CHRISTINE FRANEK GRAY

Assistant Coach • First Season

### FRANEK GRAY PROFILE

Full Name ..... Christine Maria-Margarete Franek Gray  
 Birthday ..... Aug. 15  
 Birthplace ..... Warwick, RI  
 Hometown ..... Warwick, RI  
 Alma Mater ..... Brown University, 1992; Harvard, 1997  
 Spouse ..... Tim Gray

## DOWN THE LINE

- Says people would be surprised to know that she loves to ski
- One-handed clapping is her off the court talent
- Has been named Coach Tina by the players
- Likes to smile and laugh during practice
- Says the best thing about coaching at Auburn is that she is a part of the excitement and anticipation of bringing the program up
- Enjoys the city's spirit behind the University



Christine Franek Gray enters her first season as the Auburn women's tennis coach. She joins the Tigers from Wellesley where she served as head coach of the women's tennis team in the previous seven years.

Franek Gray coached Wellesley to four straight New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Championships (2004-07) and earned two-straight NEWMAC Sportsmanship Awards.

In 2008, the team qualified for the NCAA Division III Championship for a fifth-straight year, advancing to the third round. Franek Gray also coached two individuals to the NCAA Championships for the fourth consecutive year.

In her career at Wellesley, Franek Gray has earned Coach of the Year honors several times over. Most recently in 2008 she was named ITA Northeast Region Coach of the Year for the second time in her career (first in 2006). She was named NEWMAC Coach of the Year four years in-a-row, 2004-07. In 2006 she was also named U.S. Tennis Association New England College Coach of the Year, and in 2005 she was named U.S. Professional Tennis Association New England College Coach of the Year.

At Wellesley, where she coached the team to a 119-38 record, Franek Gray also served as the assistant professor of physical education, while teaching courses in tennis, strength training and fitness.

Before joining Wellesley, she served as assistant coach at Brown in 1996.

A native of East Greenwich, R.I., Franek Gray graduated from Brown University in 1992 with a bachelor of arts in international relations (international diplomacy and foreign policy and German) and earned her master's of education from Harvard in 1997.

Franek Gray was a member of the Brown University varsity women's tennis team from 1988-1992, serving as captain from 1991-1992 and being a part of the 1991 Ivy League Championship team. She was named Outstanding Senior Athlete at Brown in 1992.

Franek Gray was inducted into the Rhode Island Scholar Athlete Hall of Fame in May 2004.

Christine wed Auburn head women's tennis coach Tim Gray in the summer of 2008.



## SUPPORT STAFF



**Dr. James Andrews**  
Orthopaedic Surgeon



**Amanda Dahl**  
Media Relations



**Dr. Michael Goodlett**  
Team Physician



**Alyss Hart**  
Athletic Trainer



**Pawel Dilaj**  
Graduate Assistant



**Courtney Brenkus**  
Academic Counsler



**David Mines**  
Assistant Athletics Director



**Damon Davis**  
Strength Coach