



KINGSTON

17

Meet the Staff



#17 MARK KINGSTON

HEAD COACH

**1ST SEASON AT SOUTH CAROLINA - 9TH SEASON AS HEAD COACH
NORTH CAROLINA (1995)**

Mark Kingston was named the head baseball coach at the University of South Carolina on June 30, 2017. He became the 30th head coach in the history of Gamecock Baseball.

Kingston came to Carolina following a three-year stint as the head coach at USF. He compiled a 100-78-1 record while in Tampa, helping the Bulls to a pair of NCAA Regional appearances. Kingston owns a career mark of 253-180-1 in eight seasons as a head coach, including five at Illinois State, with three NCAA appearances in that eight-year span.

Kingston has helped lead 11 teams to NCAA Tournament berths as an assistant and head coach -- with four of those teams appearing in the NCAA Super Regionals, two participating in the College World Series and one winning a national championship. As a player at the University of North Carolina, Kingston was part of the 1989 Tar Heels squad that won an Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title and advanced to the College World Series. He also helped UNC win the ACC Tournament and advance to the NCAA Regionals in 1990. As an assistant coach, Kingston helped the Miami Hurricanes capture the 2001 College World Series as the No. 1 overall seed. His 21-year collegiate coaching career also includes stops at Tulane, where he helped guide the Green Wave to the 2005 College World Series, and Purdue.

Kingston guided USF to a 42-19 mark in 2017, the first time since 1996 that the team had reached the 40-win mark. Under Kingston's leadership, the Bulls earned their second trip to the NCAA Tournament in three years. USF won 19-straight games from Feb. 19 - March 22, the second-longest streak in program history. During that streak, USF defeated then No. 3 Florida State in Tallahassee, its first victory against FSU since 1989. On May 9, the Bulls defeated then-No. 5 Florida in Gainesville. It marked the first time in program history that the Bulls beat both FSU and Florida on the road in the same season. The victories were just USF's second and third wins over top-five teams in program history. Kingston reached the 100-win mark at the helm of the program in the Gainesville Regional opener with a 9-1 win over Bethune-Cookman, making him the second-fastest coach in program history to reach 100 victories.

Kingston's Bulls dominated on the mound in 2017, posting a 3.24 team ERA and allowing 7.64 hits per nine innings, both in the top-10 nationally. The pitchers led the country with 10.1 strikeouts per nine innings and set a program record with 620 strikeouts. Offensively, shortstop Kevin Merrell set an American Athletic Conference record with a .384 average, the third-straight year he led the Bulls in hitting. Merrell was named an All-American by four separate publications and was named to the AAC First Team for a second-



straight year. He was one of five Bulls named to All-American Athletic Conference teams, the most since 2009. Merrell was drafted by the Oakland Athletics with the 33rd overall pick in the MLB Amateur Draft, becoming the third-highest drafted player in program history. Overall, four USF players were selected in the draft, as Phoenix Sanders went in the 10th round to the Tampa Bay Rays, Joe Cavallaro was taken in the 24th round by the New York Mets and Ryan Valdes was selected in the 33rd round by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

In 2016, the Bulls recorded 517 strikeouts, logging back-to-back seasons of over 500 strikeouts for the first time in school history. Merrell posted a team-high .320 batting average and a first-team all-conference selection in the AAC. Pitcher Brandon Lawson also notched over 100 strikeouts on his way to a second-team all-conference honor. The Bulls won two series against ranked teams (No. 25 Michigan State, at No. 22 East Carolina), and had three players drafted - pitcher Tommy Eveld (ninth round, Arizona), pitcher Brandon Lawson (13th round, Tampa Bay), and outfielder Luke Maglich (34th round, Philadelphia).

Kingston made an immediate impact at USF in 2015, leading the Bulls to an NCAA Regional for the first time since 2002. Kingston and his staff increased the Bulls' 2014 win total by seven and earned the team's first NCAA Tournament win in 13 years. Coach Kingston's guidance helped produce four players who were drafted by Major League Baseball clubs, including pitcher Jimmy Herget (sixth round, Cincinnati), pitcher Tommy Peterson (12th round, Washington), infielder Kyle Teaf (30th round, Tampa Bay), and pitcher Casey Mulholland (37th round, Dodgers). Merrell was recognized as a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American, and catcher Levi Borders was named to the Johnny Bench Watch list and was a unanimous selection on The American's First Team. Herget was also named to The American's First Team, and Peterson earned second-team honors. Merrell, first baseman Buddy Putnum, and Teaf were also named to the NCAA Gainesville Regional All-Tournament team.

Kingston came to USF with a long track record as a top-level recruiter and a producer of offensively explosive teams. He spent 2010-2014 as the head coach at Illinois State University, where he led the Redbirds to two MVC regular season championships and one conference tournament title while twice breaking the program's season wins record. He won more than 30 games in each of his five seasons at ISU, a program-record string that included a season-record 39 wins in 2013. He reached the MVC Tournament championship game three times and compiled an overall record of 173-102 (.629 winning percentage). Kingston was twice named a "Rising College Coach" by Kendall Rogers of Perfect Game USA during a five-year tenure at Illinois State (2010-2014) in which he earned MVC Coach of the Year honors in 2010 and 2013 and helped 18 Redbirds earn First-Team all-MVC honors. Two of his players were named MVC Player or Pitcher of the Year and eight were selected in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

Kingston led ISU to rapid success, as the Redbirds ranked second in conference wins (64) from 2010-14 while posting two first-place finishes and no worse than a fourth-place conclusion in the MVC. His overall winning percentage of .629 and average of 35 wins per season were a strong improvement over previous seasons. ISU's average RPI rating of 69.50 from 2010-13 ranked fifth among all northern Division I programs and Kingston's recruiting classes contained 15 players ranked in the Top-20 in the state of Illinois by Prep Baseball Report, more than any other university.

He took over the ISU program after serving one season as the team's associate head coach and promptly posted the most successful first-year head coaching stint in program history. Kingston led the 2010 Redbirds to their first-ever share of the MVC regular-season title, their first MVC Tournament title since 1994 and their first NCAA Tournament victory since 1976. ISU's 32-24 record was the most wins for the Redbirds since 1999.

In 2011, Kingston guided the team to a then-record season win total (36-18), including a marquee victory at Miami (Fla.), and placed seven players on the All-MVC



THE KINGSTON FILE

253-180-1 Overall Coaching Record

Birthdate: May 16, 1970
 Birthplace: Buffalo, N.Y.
 High School: Potomac (Dumfries, Va.)
 College: North Carolina (1995)

COACHING EXPERIENCE (21 YEARS)

Present University of South Carolina
 Head Coach
 2015-17 University of South Florida
 Head Coach
 2010-14 Illinois State University
 Head Coach
 2009 Illinois State University
 Assistant Coach
 2002-08 Tulane University
 Assistant Coach
 2000-01 University of Miami
 Assistant Coach
 1999 Illinois State University
 Assistant Coach
 1997-98 Purdue University
 Assistant Coach

COACHING ACHIEVEMENTS

- One National Championship (Miami, 2001)
- Two College World Series Appearances (2001, 2005)
- Four Super Regional Appearances (2000, '01, '04, '05)
- 11 NCAA Tournament Appearances
- 2010 MVC Tournament Champions
- 2013 MVC Regular Season Champions

ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE

- University of North Carolina (1989-92)
- Helped the Tar Heels to the 1989 College World Series and the 1990 ACC Tournament title
- Drafted by Milwaukee in the 1992 MLB Draft
- Spent five seasons in pro baseball with Milwaukee and the Chicago Cubs
- Drafted by the New York Yankees out of high school

team. The following year (2012) ISU went 33-19 and posted a 10-game win-streak, the program's longest since 1984. Closer Kenny Long was selected by the Houston Astros in the 22nd round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft, marking three-consecutive seasons in which a Redbird was selected in the MLB draft.

In 2013, Kingston guided ISU to a program-best 39 wins (39-19), posted a school-record 12-game winning streak, won the MVC outright for the first time in school history and set a Valley-record with eight first-team All-MVC selections. Offensively, ISU paced the MVC in batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage and home runs and the pitching staff fired a program-record 13 complete games, including 10 shut-outs.

Prior to his stint at ISU, Kingston was part of 500 wins (500-279-2) in 13 seasons as an assistant coach and was widely respected as one of the top assistants in the nation. He spent the previous seven years at Tulane University, serving as recruiting coordinator throughout his tenure and as associate head coach the final five seasons with the responsibility of overseeing recruiting, coaching hitters and developing catchers and infielders.

At Tulane, Kingston's recruiting and coaching efforts helped the Green Wave to six postseason appearances, two NCAA Super Regionals and a berth in the 2005 College World Series. The 2005 Green Wave team was seeded as the top team overall while also receiving the top academic honor in Omaha. Tulane averaged nearly 42 wins per season with Kingston on staff.

Kingston recruited or coached seven players who became All-Americans at Tulane, including James Jurries (2002) and Michael Aubrey (2003). The Green Wave sluggers became the first hitters in 18 years to hit .400 for the season and both earned Conference USA Player of the Year recognition. Aubrey was selected by the Cleveland Indians 11th overall in 2003, the highest Tulane player ever taken in the draft.

Prior to Tulane, Kingston spent two years at Miami (Fla.), where he helped the Hurricanes capture the 2001 College World Series as the No. 1 overall seed. While at Miami, the Hurricanes finished with top-five school single-season marks in batting average, runs scored and slugging percentage, and led the nation with 228 stolen bases in 2001. In the run to the 2001 national title, the 'Canes had an NCAA-best 17-0 run to end the season and set a College World Series record with 12.3 runs per game while hitting .373 as a team in Omaha.

Kingston spent one year as an assistant at Illinois State, helping the 1999 Redbirds set then-school records for wins in a season (35), runs scored, RBI, doubles, hits and walks, while finishing second in school history in home runs, total bases and batting average.

Kingston began his coaching career with two seasons at Purdue, helping the Boilermakers post three of the top-seven batting averages in school history and place five position players on the All-Big Ten team after not posting any the year before his arrival.

A 1995 graduate of North Carolina with a degree in communications, Kingston was part of the 1989 Tar Heels squad that won an Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title and advanced to the College World Series. He also helped the team win the ACC Tournament and advance to NCAA Regionals in 1990 as a sophomore. Kingston received the Trippe Bourne "Most Dedicated Player" Award for his outstanding work ethic and leadership during his junior campaign, and was named a team captain his senior season.

Drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers out of North Carolina in 1992, the Northern Virginia native played professionally for five seasons with Milwaukee and the Chicago Cubs organizations.

Kingston attended Potomac High School (Virginia), where he developed into a Collegiate Baseball Top-50 Prospect and was drafted by the New York Yankees after leading his team to the 1988 state championship. In 2006, Kingston was inducted into the Potomac Hall of Fame.

Kingston and his wife, the former Letitia Kelly, have three children, Kailyn Grace, Cameron James and Kathryn Patricia. He also wrote and produced two instructional videos for Championship Productions, "Keys to Consistent Hitting" and "Catching Drills and Fundamentals." He also was the only assistant coach chosen to write a chapter in "The Baseball Drill Book" produced by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

MARK KINGSTON CAREER VS. ALL OPPONENTS

Alabama State.....	1-0	1.000
Arkansas State	3-1 .....	.750
Army.....	2-0	1.000
Austin Peay.....	4-9 .....	.308
Belmont.....	3-4 .....	.429
Bethune-Cookman.....	4-2 .....	.667
Bowling Green	5-1 .....	.833
Bradley.....	14-3 .....	.824
Bucknell.....	0-1 .....	.000
Butler.....	1-1 .....	.500
Cal State Fullerton	1-0	1.000
Central Arkansas	0-1 .....	.000
UCF.....	10-9 .....	.526
Central Michigan	2-1 .....	.667
Chicago State	4-0	1.000
Cincinnati.....	5-4 .....	.556
Connecticut	3-7 .....	.300
Creighton.....	7-6 .....	.538
Dallas Baptist.....	1-3 .....	.250
Dartmouth.....	2-1 .....	.667
Duquesne.....	1-0	1.000
East Carolina.....	8-3 .....	.727
Eastern Illinois	4-4 .....	.500
Eastern Michigan	2-1 .....	.667
Evansville.....	12-7 .....	.632
Fairfield.....	1-0	1.000
Florida.....	1-8 .....	.111
Florida Atlantic	1-1 .....	.500
Florida A&M.....	5-1 .....	.833
Florida Gulf Coast.....	1-4 .....	.200
FIU.....	1-2 .....	.333
Florida State.....	1-3 .....	.250
Harvard.....	4-0	1.000
High Point	2-1 .....	.667
Holy Cross.....	3-0	1.000
Houston.....	4-6 .....	.400
Illinois.....	5-6 .....	.455
Illinois Wesleyan	3-0	1.000
Indiana.....	0-1 .....	.000
Indiana State	12-7 .....	.632
Iowa.....	3-2 .....	.600
Jacksonville.....	1-2 .....	.333
James Madison	2-0	1.000
Kent State	0-1 .....	.000
Liberty.....	2-1 .....	.667
LIU Brooklyn.....	3-0	1.000
Lipscomb.....	0-3 .....	.000
Louisville.....	0-1 .....	.000
Macmurray.....	4-0	1.000
Maine.....	1-0	1.000
Memphis.....	7-8 .....	.467
Miami (Fla.).....	2-3 .....	.400
Miami (Ohio).....	4-2 .....	.667
Michigan State.....	2-1 .....	.667
Milwaukee.....	2-0	1.000
Minnesota State-Man. ..	1-0	1.000
Missouri State	9-6 .....	.600
Morehead State	4-0	1.000
Navy.....	1-0	1.000
North Dakota.....	2-0	1.000
North Dakota State.....	1-0	1.000
North Florida.....	2-3 .....	.400
Northern Illinois	3-3 .....	.500
Northwestern	0-1 .....	.000
Oakland.....	1-0	1.000
Ohio State.....	1-0	1.000
Purdue.....	2-3 .....	.400
Robert Morris (Ill.).....	1-0	1.000
St. Bonaventure.....	1-0	1.000
Saint Joseph's.....	2-1 .....	.667
Saint Louis.....	1-0	1.000
Seton Hall.....	3-0	1.000
SIU Edwardsville.....	4-1 .....	.800
Southeast Missouri.....	3-0	1.000
Southern Illinois.....	15-1 .....	.938
Stetson.....	6-3 .....	.667
Tennessee Tech.....	3-0	1.000
Toledo.....	3-0	1.000
Tulane.....	3-7 .....	.300
USF.....	0-1 .....	.000
Valparaiso.....	3-0	1.000
Vanderbilt.....	0-3 .....	.000
Villanova.....	1-0	1.000
Wagner.....	2-0-1 .....	.833
Webster.....	3-0	1.000
Western Illinois.....	7-2 .....	.778
Western Michigan	2-0	1.000
Wichita State.....	7-12 .....	.368
Xavier.....	1-0	1.000

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT MARK KINGSTON

"I am very excited for Coach Kingston and the University of South Carolina. King will bring class and a work ethic to get back to Omaha. King has great knowledge of the game and is a winner on and off the field. This is a great fit for the Gamecocks."

- Jim Morris, Head Coach, University of Miami

"Mark is one of the premier young head coaches in college baseball. He truly understands how to build and maintain a fully comprehensive program. Gamecock nation should be very excited...you got a great one!"

- Jim Schlossnagel, Head Coach, Texas Christian University

"Mark Kingston has won everywhere he's gone. He established himself as an elite recruiter at Tulane, helping lead the Green Wave to Omaha. Then he built Illinois State and USF into winners in a hurry. He's got a gregarious, even-keeled personality and he has long been regarded by his peers as a "can't-miss" future star head coach as a power-conference program. South Carolina is a big job and Mark Kingston is ready to run with it."

- Aaron Fitt, DIBaseball.com

"Mark Kingston has an outstanding pedigree and has learned his craft from some outstanding head coaches. Mark is a strong recruiter with an engaging personality that should fit in well at South Carolina. Mark's background is that of a winner and I expect him to continue that trend with the Gamecocks."

- Kendall Rogers, DIBaseball.com

KINGSTON'S COACHING HISTORY

YEAR	SCHOOL	RECORD	POSTSEASON
2010	Illinois State	32-24	MVC Tournament Champions/NCAA Regionals
2011	Illinois State	36-18	MVC Tournament
2012	Illinois State	33-19	MVC Tournament
2013	Illinois State	39-19	MVC Regular-Season Title/MVC Tournament Runner Up
2014	Illinois State	33-22	MVC Tournament Runner-Up
2015	USF	34-26-1	NCAA Regionals
2016	USF	24-33	--
2017	USF	42-19	NCAA Regionals
Overall Record as a Head Coach 253-180-1			
1997	Purdue	30-25	--
1998	Purdue	23-29	--
1999	Illinois State	35-24	--
2000	Miami	41-19-1	NCAA Super Regionals
2001	Miami	53-12	NCAA COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS
2002	Tulane	36-27	NCAA Regionals
2003	Tulane	44-19	NCAA Regionals
2004	Tulane	41-21	NCAA Super Regionals
2005	Tulane	56-12	NCAA College World Series
2006	Tulane	43-21	NCAA Regionals
2007	Tulane	34-26	--
2008	Tulane	39-22-1	NCAA Regionals
2009	Illinois State	25-23	--



THE KINGSTON FAMILY
Letitia, Cameron, Kathryn, Mark and Kailyn



A Closer Look At South Carolina Baseball

SOUTH CAROLINA IS ONE OF ONLY NINE SCHOOLS TO APPEAR IN THE NCAA REGIONAL 16 OF THE LAST 18 YEARS

NCAA Regional Appearances Since 2000

1.	Cal State Fullerton	18	2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17
	Florida State	18	2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17
	Rice	18	2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17
4.	Miami (Fla.)	17	2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16
	Clemson	17	2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17
6.	South Carolina	16	2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-16
	Arizona State	16	2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-13-14-15-16
	Florida	16	2000-01-02-03-04-05-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17
	Oral Roberts	16	2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-15-16-17

SOUTH CAROLINA IS ONE OF ONLY FIVE SCHOOLS TO APPEAR IN THE NCAA SUPER REGIONAL AT LEAST 12 TIMES SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1999

NCAA Super Regional Appearances

1.	Florida State	16	1999-2000-01-02-03-04-05-08-09-10-11-12-13-15-16-17
2.	Cal State Fullerton	13	1999-2001-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-13-15
	LSU	13	1999-2000-01-02-03-04-08-09-12-13-15-16-17
4.	South Carolina	12	2000-01-02-03-04-06-07-10-11-12-13-16
	Miami (Fla.)	12	1999-2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-08-10-15-16
6.	Rice	10	1999-2001-02-03-05-06-07-08-09-13
	Stanford	10	1999-2000-01-02-03-06-08-11-12-14
8.	Clemson	9	1999-2000-01-02-05-06-07-09-10
	Texas	9	2000-02-03-04-05-06-10-11-14
	Florida	9	2004-05-09-10-11-12-15-16-17

SOUTH CAROLINA IS ONE OF ONLY SEVEN SCHOOLS TO APPEAR IN THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES AT LEAST SIX TIMES IN THE LAST 15 YEARS

NCAA College World Series Appearances the Last 15 Years (2002-17)

1.	Texas	7	2002-03-04-05-09-11-14
	Cal State Fullerton	7	2003-04-06-07-09-15-17
3.	South Carolina	6	2002-03-04-10-11-12
	LSU	6	2003-04-08-09-13-15-17
	Florida	6	2005-10-11-12-15-16-17
	Miami (Fla.)	6	2003-04-06-08-15-16
	North Carolina	6	2006-07-08-09-11-13
8.	Rice	5	2002-03-06-07-08
	Arkansas	5	2004-09-12-15-17
	Oregon State	5	2005-06-07-13-17
	TCU	5	2010-14-15-16-17

SOUTH CAROLINA OWNS THE SECOND-HIGHEST TOTAL OF WINS SINCE 2000

Most Wins In This Century (2000-2017)

	Wins	CWS Appearances (2000-17)	National Titles (2010-17)
1.	Florida State	869	(4) 2008-10-12-17
2.	South Carolina	826	(6) 2002-03-04-10-11-12
3.	LSU	818	(8) 2000-03-04-08-09-13-15-17
4.	Rice	811	(5) 2002-03-06-07-08
5.	North Carolina	805	(6) 2006-07-08-09-11-13
6.	Texas	775	(8) 2000-02-03-04-05-09-11-14
7.	Cal State Fullerton	764	(7) 2001-03-04-06-07-09-17
8.	Miami (Fla.)	763	(7) 2001-03-04-06-08-15-16
	Coastal Carolina	763	(1) 2016
10.	Clemson	753	(4) 2000-02-06-10

SOUTH CAROLINA OWNS THE EIGHTH-HIGHEST TOTAL OF WINS SINCE 2010

Most Wins In This Decade (2010-2017)

	Wins	CWS Appearances (2010-17)	National Titles (2010-16)
1.	LSU	378	(3) 2013-15-17
2.	Virginia	374	(3) 2011-14-15
	Louisville	374	(3) 2013-14-17
4.	Florida	372	(6) 2010-11-12-15-16-17
5.	Vanderbilt	370	(3) 2011-14-15
6.	Florida State	365	(3) 2010-12-17
7.	TCU	364	(5) 2010-14-15-16-17
8.	South Carolina	358	(3) 2010-11-12
9.	Texas A&M	343	(2) 2011-17
10.	Miami (Fla.)	329	(2) 2015-16

ATTENDANCE AT SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina fan base has increased to all-time highs and school records since the opening of Carolina Stadium. South Carolina set a total attendance record at 305,564 in 2014, the first time South Carolina eclipsed the 300,000-plus mark. South Carolina surpassed record season tickets sold in 2013 (5,835), 2014 (5,957) and 2015 (6,049).

Year	Total Attendance (Average)	NCAA Rank
2009	231,360 (6,804)	4th
2010	241,582 (6,710)	4th
2011	297,279 (7,431)	2nd
2012	295,389 (7,574)	2nd
2013	260,605 (7,445)	3rd
2014	305,564 (7,452)	2nd
2015	250,057 (7,354)	3rd
2016	293,677 (7,162)	3rd
2017	258,407 (7,178)	5th

SOUTH CAROLINA IS ONE OF ONLY SEVEN SCHOOLS TO HOST A NCAA REGIONAL SIX OR MORE TIMES THIS DECADE

NCAA Regional Hosts (2010-17)

1.	Florida	7	2010-11-12-14-15-16-17
	Florida State	7	2011-12-13-14-15-16-17
3.	South Carolina	6	2010-11-12-13-14-16
	Virginia	6	2010-11-12-13-14-16
	Louisville	6	2010-13-14-15-16-17
	LSU	6	2012-13-14-15-16-17
	TCU	6	2010-11-14-15-16-17

A Closer Look At South Carolina Baseball

SOUTH CAROLINA OWNS MORE WINS THAN ANY SEC TEAM SINCE 2000

	Wins	CWS Appearances (2000-17)	National Titles (2010-17)
1. South Carolina	826	(6) 2002-03-04-10-11-12	(2) 2010-11
2. LSU	818	(8) 2000-03-04-08-09-13-15-17	(2) 2000-09
3. Florida	758	(7) 2005-10-12-12-15-16-17	(1) 2017
4. Vanderbilt	715	(3) 2011-14-15	(1) 2015
5. Texas A&M	707	(2) 2011-17	N/A
6. Ole Miss	692	(1) 2014	N/A
7. Arkansas	681	(5) 2004-09-12-15-17	N/A
8. Mississippi State	655	(2) 2007-13	N/A
9. Alabama	631	(0)	N/A
10. Auburn	592	(0)	N/A
11. Kentucky	577	N/A	N/A
12. Georgia	573	(4) 2001-04-06-08	N/A
13. Missouri	572	N/A	N/A
14. Tennessee	560	(2) 2001-05	N/A

SOUTH CAROLINA ONE OF TWO SEC SCHOOLS TO REACH NCAA REGIONALS 16 OF THE LAST 18 YEARS

	NCAA Regional Appearances Since 2000
1. South Carolina	16 2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-16
Florida	16 2000-01-02-03-04-05-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17
3. Arkansas	15 2002-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-17
LSU	15 2000-01-02-03-04-05-08-09-10-12-13-14-15-16-17
Ole Miss	14 2001-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-12-13-14-15-16
6. Mississippi State	13 2000-01-03-04-05-06-07-11-12-13-14-16-17
Vanderbilt	13 2004-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17
Texas A&M	12 2003-04-07-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17
9. Alabama	11 2000-02-03-05-06-08-09-10-11-13-14
10. Missouri	8 2003-04-05-06-07-08-09-12
Auburn	8 2000-01-02-03-05-10-15-17
Georgia	7 2001-02-04-06-08-09-11
13. Kentucky	5 2006-08-12-14-17
14. Tennessee	3 2001-04-05

SOUTH CAROLINA HAS THE SECOND MOST NCAA SUPER REGIONAL APPEARANCES OF THE 14 SEC SCHOOLS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1999

	NCAA Super Regional Appearances
1. LSU	13 1999-00-01-02-03-04-08-09-12-13-15-16-17
2. South Carolina	12 2000-01-02-03-04-06-07-10-11-12-13-16
3. Florida	9 2004-05-09-10-11-12-15-16-17
4. Texas A&M	8 1999-04-07-08-11-15-16-17
5. Arkansas	7 2002-04-09-10-12-15-17
Mississippi State	7 2000-01-07-11-13-16-17
Vanderbilt	7 2004-10-11-13-14-15-17
8. Ole Miss	5 2005-06-07-09-14
9. Georgia	4 2001-04-06-08
10. Alabama	3 1999-06-10
11. Tennessee	2 2001-05
12. Auburn	1 1999
Missouri	1 2006
14. Kentucky	1 2017

SOUTH CAROLINA HAS THE SECOND-MOST SEC WINS THAN ANY CONFERENCE TEAM SINCE 2000

SEC Win Totals Since 2000 (2000-2016)

1. LSU	322-210-4
2. South Carolina	321-215
Florida	321-216-2
4. Ole Miss	288-250
5. Vanderbilt	279-251
6. Alabama	260-276
7. Arkansas	267-263
8. Mississippi State	252-278
9. Georgia	239-290-2
10. Auburn	238-302
11. Kentucky	221-313-2
12. Tennessee	206-323
13. Texas A&M	81-66
14. Missouri	54-96

note - only conference games, does not include SEC Tournament or NCAA postseason games. Texas A&M and Missouri joined the SEC after the 2012 season.

SOUTH CAROLINA IS THE ONLY SEC SCHOOL TO RECORD 40 OR MORE WINS IN 16 OF THE LAST 18 YEARS

40-Plus Win Seasons Since 2000

1. South Carolina	16 2000-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-16
2. LSU	15 2000-01-02-03-04-05-08-09-10-12-13-14-15-16-17
3. Florida	12 2000-02-04-05-09-10-11-12-14-15-16-17
4. Texas A&M	10 2003-04-07-08-10-11-12-15-16-17
Vanderbilt	9 2004-07-08-10-11-13-14-15-16
Arkansas	9 2004-07-09-10-11-12-14-15-17
7. Ole Miss	6 2005-06-07-09-14-16
Mississippi State	6 2000-03-05-13-16-17
9. Alabama	5 2000-02-05-06-10
10. Kentucky	4 2006-08-12-17
11. Auburn	3 2000-03-10
Georgia	3 2004-06-08
Tennessee	3 2000-01-05
14. Missouri	2 2005-07



#39 MIKE CURRENT

ASSISTANT COACH/RECRUITING COORDINATOR

1ST SEASON AT SOUTH CAROLINA

ILLINOIS STATE (2007)

Mike Current enters his first season as the assistant coach/recruiting coordinator for South Carolina baseball.

Current spent the past three seasons at USF with head coach Mark Kingston, serving as the team's assistant coach, recruiting coordinator, hitting coach and working with the outfielders. From 2015-17, Current helped the Bulls make a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances.

In 2017, USF hit .287 as a team, with three players averaging over .330. Shortstop Kevin Merrell led the Bulls and The American Athletic Conference with a .383 average and, along with DH Luke Borders and outfielder Duke Stunkel Jr., earned all-conference honors. Merrell was selected 33rd overall in the MLB Amateur Draft by the Oakland Athletics, the third-highest drafted player in program history, and was named an All-American by four different publications.

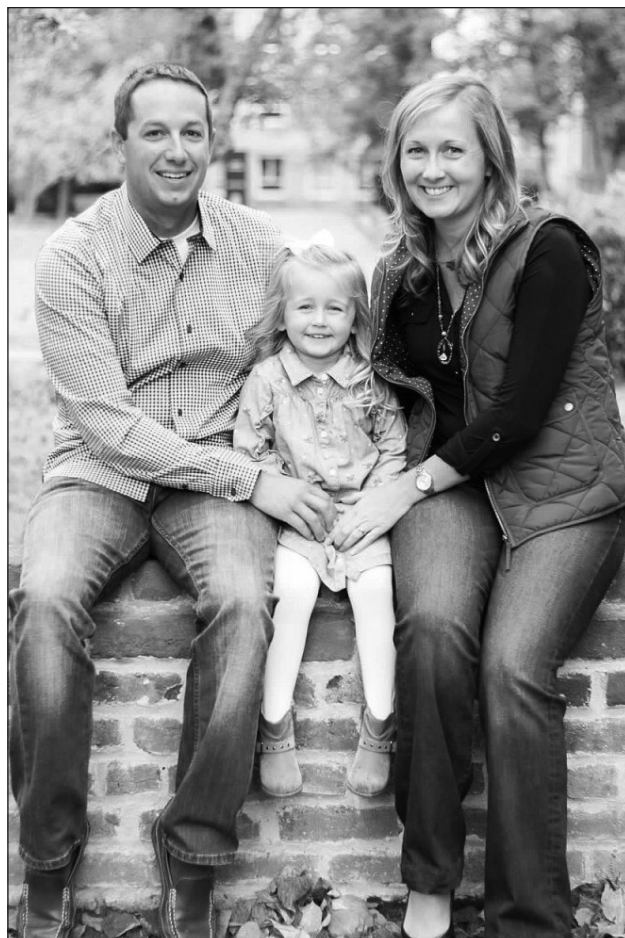
During the 2016 season, the Bulls belted 36 home runs, the most for the team since 2010. USF also posted 66 stolen bases, giving the Bulls a two-year total of 140, the highest two-year stolen base total since 2002-03.

In Current's first season at USF, the Bulls reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2002 after hitting an AAC best .277 in conference play (a 40-point improvement over 2014). Shortstop Kyle Teaf earned NCAA Gainesville Regional All-Tournament honors and was selected by the Tampa Bay Rays in the 30th round of the MLB Amateur Draft. Catcher Levi Borders earned first team All-AAC honors and second baseman Kevin Merrell was named a second-team Freshman All-American by the NCBWA. Current was also instrumental in helping the Bulls to a consensus top-10 recruiting class in the fall of 2015 (No. 5 by Perfect Game, No. 7 according to D1Baseball.com, No. 8 ranking by Baseball America and No. 9 from Collegiate Baseball), the program's first ever top-25 recruiting class.

Current arrived at USF after playing a major role in the transformation of the Illinois State University program during a nine-year stint in Normal. Over his final five seasons, ISU racked up 173 wins and picked up a pair of Missouri Valley Conference regular season championships, an MVC tournament title and twice set the program's record for wins. Illinois State hitters led the MVC in runs scored and OPS three times in his final four seasons, while 19 Redbird position players earned All-MVC honors and 10 were named first team all-conference, both were more than any other MVC team over that time period.

A total of 53 student-athletes earned All-MVC honors under Current, including Kevin Tokarski who became the first Redbird ever to win MVC Player of the Year honors in 2010. In all, Current has coached 57 players who have been drafted and nine of whom have reached the Major League level.

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



THE CURRENT FAMILY
Mike, Evelyn and Heather



#25 SKYLAR MEADE

ASSISTANT COACH/PITCHING

1ST SEASON AT SOUTH CAROLINA

LOUISVILLE (2007)

Pitching coach Skylar Meade begins his first season on the Gamecock baseball coaching staff.

Meade joins Carolina after spending three seasons as the pitching coach at Michigan State University. Under Meade's watch, an MSU pitcher led the Big Ten in earned-run average in each of the past two seasons (Walter Borkovich in 2017; Dakota Mekkes in 2016). Additionally, the Spartans posted their top three strikeout totals in school history in the last three seasons with 409 strikeouts in 2015, 466 in 2016 and 420 last year.

Michigan State had the Big Ten's best ERA (2.75), opponent's batting average (.234) and runs allowed (199) in 2016. That ERA also was third in the nation and fifth-lowest in school history. Meade helped Mekkes earn NCBWA All-America honors after finishing the season leading the nation in strikeouts per nine innings (15.16) and hits per nine innings (4.11). In 2015, Meade helped Joe Mockbee to a 1.78 ERA, the lowest by a Spartan since 1974.

Meade spent two seasons as the pitching coach at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The Blue Raider pitching staff lowered its team ERA in each of his two seasons at the school. In 2014, MTSU posted its lowest team ERA since 2001 (4.10) as it finished fourth in its inaugural season in Conference USA. Meade also mentored Zac Curtis, who was selected in the sixth round of the MLB Draft by the Arizona Diamondbacks and is currently with the Philadelphia Phillies, and Daniel Palo, a Colorado Rockies draftee. In fact, Meade has had 12 pitchers picked in the MLB First-Year Player Draft in the past four years, including four in the top-10 rounds.

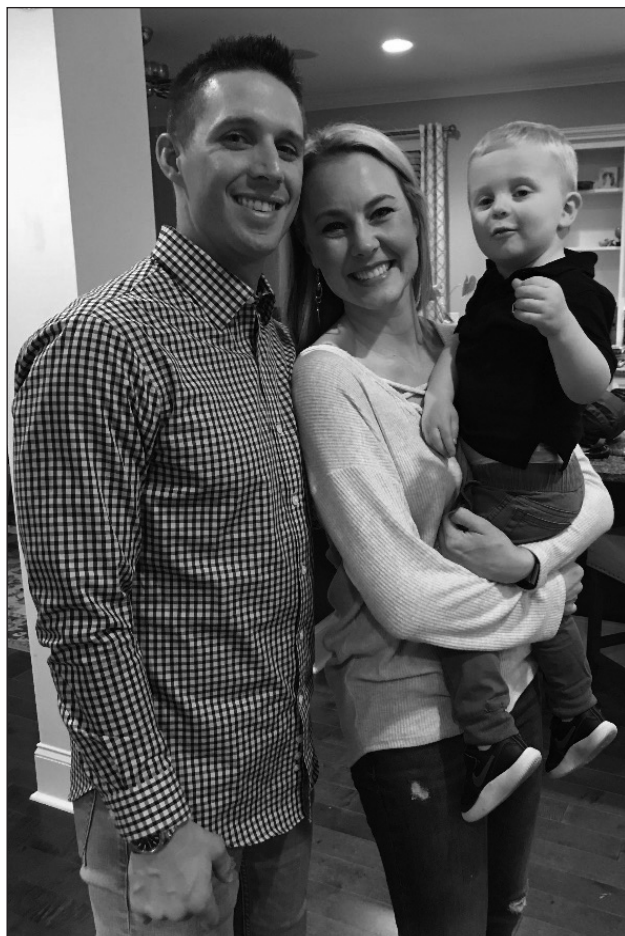
Prior to joining the staff at MTSU, Meade worked for five seasons at Eastern Illinois, first as a graduate assistant and then as an assistant coach in 2009. EIU posted one of the Ohio Valley Conference's best rotations during his time at the school. The Panthers sported the best team ERA in the OVC in four of his five years - 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012 - while finishing second in 2009.

Meade assisted in coaching the Panthers to the 2009 OVC regular-season title and a 36-14 record. The year prior, EIU captured the 2008 OVC Tournament title and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second time in school history.

During his tenure at EIU, Meade saw a number of his pitchers rack up All-OVC accolades in addition to being selected in the MLB Draft. In 2010, Josh Mueller was drafted in the 13th round of the MLB Draft by the Colorado Rockies, while teammate Mike Recchia signed as a free agent with the New York Yankees. Tyler Kehrer, who led the OVC in strikeouts and opponent batting average in 2009, became the highest drafted EIU player since 1988, as he was taken 48th overall by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in Compensation Round A.

Meade joined the coaching staff at EIU after his playing career at the University of Louisville. With the Cardinals, Meade anchored a pitching staff that helped lead Louisville to the 2007 College World Series. The left-handed pitcher recorded nine wins in 2007 and limited opposing batters to a .247 average. He concluded his career with a 16-7 record, including a 5-1 mark in conference action.

The native of Louisville, Kentucky, earned a bachelor's degree in sports administration from Louisville in 2007 and completed a master's degree in kinesiology and sports studies (sports management) in the summer of 2009 from EIU.



THE MEADE FAMILY
Skylar, Kasen and Jesse



#19 STUART LAKE

ASSISTANT COACH

2ND/6TH SEASON AT SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN (1994)

Stuart Lake enters his second season as an assistant coach and sixth season overall with the South Carolina baseball program.

Lake joined the Gamecocks' staff in 2017 as the Coordinator of Baseball Administration and Director of Player Development, after serving as the head coach at Charleston Southern from 2009-16. He moved into his current coaching role midway through the 2017 season.

In 2008, Lake became the third CSU/Baptist College graduate to coach the Buccaneers. The 2012 Big South Coach of the Year guided the Bucs' first winning season in 18 years in 2014, with the 30 wins setting a school record. Lake, who has the most Big South wins in school history, also coached current Boston Red Sox Tyler Thornburg and mentored 12 Buccaneers who went on to be drafted or sign a free agent deal to play professional baseball. In the classroom, CSU had a team GPA of 3.0 and over in six seasons, as six Bucs made the All-Big South Academic teams.

Prior to his arrival at CSU, Lake spent two years across town as an assistant for The Citadel baseball program, where he was responsible for coaching the hitters and outfielders, and was very involved in recruiting prospective student-athletes.

Lake also spent three seasons as an assistant for at Ole Miss, where he was responsible for the hitters and the outfielders. The Rebels enjoyed three of the school's most successful seasons in program history with 39 wins in 2004, 47 in 2005, and 44 in 2006. The Rebels hosted an NCAA Regional in all three of Lake's seasons and advanced to and hosted two NCAA Super Regionals. In 2005, Ole Miss won the Southeastern Conference Western Division and in 2006 team won the SEC Tournament.

Prior to his stint at Ole Miss, Lake spent one season at the College of Charleston. In his only year with the Cougars, Lake served as third base coach, hitting instructor and outfield coach.

Lake began his collegiate coaching career at South Carolina in 1999, where he coached the outfielders, served as first base coach, and assisted with the hitters. During his time at USC, the Gamecocks won three SEC East Division titles, two SEC Championships, played in three NCAA Super Regionals and reached the College World Series Championship Game in 2002. Lake helped two SEC Player of the Year winners during his stint as a Gamecock. One of those players, Kip Bouknight, was also the 2002 Golden Spikes Award Winner.

Prior to his collegiate coaching career, Lake coached at Mid-Carolina High School (his alma mater) and at Brookland Cayce High School in Columbia. Brookland Cayce won the AAA State Championship in Lake's second year in 1998. Lake also served as the head coach of the Edenton Steamers of the Coastal Plain Collegiate Wood Bat League in 2000.

Lake has coached three players to be named SEC Player of the Year and one named Southern Conference Player of the Year. Two of his players have been named to the Golden Spikes Award Watch List with one winning that coveted award. He also has had 24 former student-athletes reach the Major Leagues and Lake is one of the few who can ever claim to coach players that eventually appeared in the Major League All-Star Game, World Series, and the Super Bowl.

Lake earned a Bachelor of Science from Charleston Southern in 1994 and a Masters of Arts from the University of South Carolina in 1998. He is married to the former Tracie Smith of Clover, S.C. and they have one son, Hayden. Tracie also is a graduate of the University of South Carolina.



THE LAKE FAMILY
Stuart, Hayden and Tracie



TRIP COUCH

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

1ST SEASON AT SOUTH CAROLINA

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE (1991)

Trip Couch begins his first season as the director of player development with South Carolina baseball. In his role on the Gamecock staff, Couch assists with on-campus recruiting and mental skills preparation, is the liaison with the professional scouts and academic services and helps analyze scouting videos. Couch comes to Columbia after spending seven seasons in his second stint as an assistant coach at the University of Houston. Couch served as Houston Baseball's recruiting coordinator and was responsible

for coaching the outfielders and catchers and implementing the short game offensively. In addition, he coordinated the offense with Houston head coach Todd Whitting.

In 2017, Couch helped the Cougars to an American Athletic Conference regular-season title with a 15-9 league record and a conference tournament title after going 4-0 in Clearwater, Fla., becoming the first Houston team since 2000 to win both championships in the same year. The Cougars notch their 14th 40+ win season in program history and third in the last four years with a 42-21 overall record. Houston was rewarded for its strong play throughout the 2017 season by being named one of 16 schools to host an NCAA Regional at Schroeder Park. The hosting opportunity was the fourth time in program history and second in last three years for the Cougars.

Overall, Couch helped Houston capture four regular-season conference titles (1999, 2000, 2015, 2017) and four conference tournament championships (1997, 2000, 2014, 2017). In 2014, the Cougars won 48 games, tying the program record in wins and helped UH to its first NCAA postseason appearance since 2008. The Cougars won the Baton Rouge Regional, defeating LSU twice in Alex Box Stadium before falling to Texas twice in the Austin Super Regional.

Couch was a part of the Houston staff from 1995-2000. While on staff at Houston, Couch served as the team's hitting and offensive coach, recruiting coordinator and he also performed administrative duties, including travel and scheduling. He also served as both a first base and third base coach during his time at UH. Couch's teams still rank among the single-season leaders at the plate and the 2000 squad set a school record with 48 wins. Under Couch's guidance, the 1997 Cougar baseball team set school records in batting average (.327), runs scored (508) and hits (769), while the 2000 squad still holds the record with 157 doubles. The 2000 team saw 12 players drafted in the Major League Baseball draft, the most that season by any school in the nation.

As a member of the staff, Couch's teams qualified for three NCAA Regionals, an NCAA Super Regional and won two Conference USA regular-season titles and two C-USA Tournament championships.

Following his time at Houston, Couch served as an assistant at Texas in 2001, coordinating team travel, NCAA practice logs, and team scheduling, while performing duties as the first-base coach before joining the Arizona Diamondbacks as a scout in 2002. The Texas Longhorns also participated in 2001 NCAA Stanford Regional. He scouted in the state of Texas and Louisiana and oversaw all try-out camps in the territory. While with Arizona, Couch signed four players that have reached the Major Leagues.

Before joining the UH staff in 1995, Couch served as the marketing and promotions coordinator for the Cougar baseball and football programs in 1994. He was also assistant coach at Louisiana-Lafayette from 1991-92 and served as a student assistant and bullpen catcher for the Cougars from 1987-1990. While at Louisiana-Lafayette, the Ragin' Cajun participated in two NCAA Regionals.

Couch was a member of the Team USA coaching staff in 1999. He also served as coach at the Area Code Games as well as serving on the staff of the Pony Team at the Tournament of Stars where the 18U USA National Team is selected.

Couch is married to the former Tiffany Williams. The couple has two daughters, Chandler Gray, who currently is attending Ole Miss, and Kendall Blair. The family lives in Columbia.



THE COUCH FAMILY
Trip, Tiffany, Chandler Gray and Kendall Blair



BILLY ANDERSON

DIRECTOR OF SPORT PERFORMANCE

Billy Anderson is the director of sport performance for Olympic sports at the University of South Carolina. This is Anderson's 16th season with the baseball program and his 25th year at Carolina.

Anderson also works with women's golf. Anderson began working in 1992 at South Carolina as a graduate assistant and has been a full-time member for the strength staff since 1994.

Anderson is certified by the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association (CSCCA) and most recently in May of 2010 was awarded the prestigious title of Master Strength and Conditioning Coach. This honor is given to strength coaches who have been in the field for a minimum of 12 years and represents professionalism, experience, expertise as well as longevity in the field.

A native of Stratford, Conn., Anderson received his bachelor of science degree in health fitness from Springfield (Mass.) College.

While at Springfield, Anderson ran track all four years and is still the record holder in the 800 meter run. He was the junior and senior Athlete of the Year at Springfield as his team was the ECAC champions both years. In 1991, Anderson finished eighth in the 800 meter run at the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships.

A 1987 graduate of Bunnell High School in Stratford, Conn., Anderson was an All-State performer in football and track.

Anderson and his wife, the former Tish Fellers, were married July 22, 2000. They have a son, Kaden Ellis, born on Sept. 11, 2005 and a daughter, Ashlyn Paige, born on May 5, 2008.



THE ANDERSON FAMILY
Ashlyn, Billy, Kaden & Tish



TYSON LUSK

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Tyson Lusk is in his fifth season as director of operations for the baseball team. Lusk coordinates team travel and serves as liaison to visiting teams and umpires. Lusk also works with the coaching staff with on-campus recruiting and oversees the baseball program budget.

In addition, Lusk is the primary team contact working closely with all university support staff including academic services, the business office, facility services, marketing, the ticket office and video services.

Lusk came to Columbia after four years as clubhouse/equipment manager with the University of North Carolina as well as eight seasons with the baseball program. Before entering his role as equipment manager, Lusk was the head student manager for UNC from August 2005-June 2009. While with the Tar Heels program, Lusk worked with six College World Series teams and eight NCAA Tournament squads.

Lusk graduated from North Carolina in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in political science and completed coursework for a Master's degree in sports industry management from Georgetown University in May of 2017.



RYAN FISCHER

DIRECTOR OF EQUIPMENT

Ryan Fischer returns to the South Carolina baseball program as director of equipment operations and assistant to apparel operations. Fischer oversees team equipment/apparel ordering and supervises the student managers.

Fischer is in his second year in the new role after three years as assistant director of equipment operations with the South Carolina football program. Prior to his assistant director position, Fischer served two seasons beginning in the summer of 2011 as graduate assistant for football equipment operations.

Fischer moved over to football following five seasons as a student manager for the baseball team working with the 2010 and 2011 national championship teams.

He graduated from South Carolina in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in sport and entertainment management and earned a Master's degree in sport management in 2013.

South Carolina Baseball Support Staff



Kevin O'Connell
Chief Operating Officer
Baseball Administrator



Jeff Davis
Associate Athletics Director
Secondary Baseball Administrator



Kent Reichert
Communications & PR
Associate Director



Lauren West
Baseball Office
Administrative Assistant



Brainard Cooper
Sports Medicine
Associate Athletic Trainer



Jake Ivory
Academic Services
Academic Advisor



Dr. Ronald Kasper
Sports Medicine
Team Psychologist



Paul McGee
Video
Assistant Video Coordinator



Amber Wise
Marketing
Assistant Director



Clay Wilson
Ticket Office
Assistant Director



Kyle Barnes
Manager
Student Assistant



Chipper Brown
Manager
Student Assistant



Blaire Epting
Manager
Student Assistant



Gordon Lisle
Manager
Student Assistant



Ben Vermeil
Manager
Student Assistant



Alex Wright
Manager
Student Assistant



John Panchella
Bullpen Catcher
Student Assistant



Luke Miller
Athletic Training
Graduate Assistant



Morgan LaPrade
Athletic Training
Student Assistant



Jessica Neitzel
Athletic Training
Student Assistant

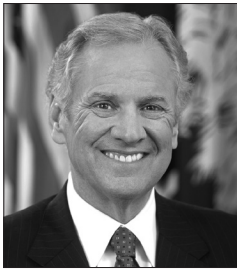


Alex Northrup
Athletic Training
Student Assistant

Grounds Crew



GROUND'S CREW: Josh Lindler, Daniel Derrick, Jonathan Dunning, Donnie Linder, Donald Robbins, Travis Reed.



HENRY MCMASTER
Governor of South Carolina
Ex Officio Chairman



JOHN C. VONLELE JR.
Chairman
9th Judicial Circuit



HUBERT E. "HUGH" MOBLEY
Vice-Chairman
6th Judicial Circuit



EUGENE P. WARR JR.
Chairman Emeritus
4th Judicial Circuit



CHUCK ALLEN
10th Judicial Circuit



J. EGERTON BURROUGHS
15th Judicial Circuit



MARK W. BUYCK JR.
Governor's Designee



THOMAS C. COFIELD
Governor's Appointee



A.C. "BUBBA" FENNELL III
8th Judicial Circuit



C. EDWARD FLOYD
12th Judicial Circuit



WILLIAM C. HUBBARD
5th Judicial Circuit



TONEY J. LISTER
7th Judicial Circuit



MILES LOADHOLT
2nd Judicial Circuit



LEAH B. MOODY
16th Judicial Circuit



TOMMY D. PRESTON JR.
President, Alumni Association



C. DORN SMITH III
3rd Judicial Circuit



MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
Superintendent of Education



THAD H. WESTBROOK
11th Judicial Circuit



MACK I. WHITTLE JR.
13th Judicial Circuit



CHARLES H. WILLIAMS
1st Judicial Circuit



J. CANTEY HEATH JR.
Secretary

President - Dr. Harris Pastides



On Aug. 1, 2008, as Harris Pastides began his presidency at the University of South Carolina, he promised to accelerate USC's momentum as a world-class university. He has kept that promise. Indeed, under Pastides' watch, the USC system is now uniquely positioned to meet the state's education, cultural, health and research needs.

Today, USC Columbia, a Carnegie top-tier research university, is also ranked as South Carolina's top global university. Its freshman classes have grown continuously while posting the highest SAT scores in university history. The USC Honors College has been named the No. 1 public honors college in the nation and Carolina is home to top programs in areas such as undergraduate and graduate international business; public health; engineering; nursing; and hospitality, retail and sport management.

An unwavering advocate for a superior student experience, Pastides encourages engagement beyond the classroom through leadership, service learning, international experiences, internships and undergraduate research. Innovative programs like Palmetto College, On Your Time Graduation, Gamecock Gateway and Gamecock Guarantee are providing greater access, flexibility and affordability to South Carolinians seeking a higher education degree. To date, 78,651 degrees have been awarded systemwide during Pastides' presidency.

Committed to civil and substantive campus conversations, Pastides exemplifies the ideals found in the Carolinian Creed. His unqualified support of diversity and inclusiveness is reflected in bold new initiatives such as The Center for Civil Rights History and Research and the Welcome Table SC, both critical steps in creating an era of greater unity of purpose.

Pastides serves on many local, state, national and international boards including the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and the Fulbright Faculty Programs. He is the immediate past chair of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors.

Prior to joining the university's faculty as dean of the Arnold School of Public Health, Pastides was a professor of epidemiology and chairman of the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He received his master's in public health and his Ph.D. in epidemiology from Yale University. President Pastides and the first lady, Patricia Moore-Pastides, live on USC's historic Horseshoe.

Athletics Director - Ray Tanner



University of South Carolina Athletics Director Ray Tanner is in his sixth year guiding the fortunes of the Gamecocks' athletics programs. After a long and highly successful career as Carolina's baseball coach, Tanner officially began his new duties on Aug. 2, 2012.

Under Tanner's watch, Gamecock student-athletes have achieved tremendous success in intercollegiate athletic competition, in the classroom and the community.

In May 2017, Tanner was awarded a contract extension by the USC Board of Trustees, keeping him in the athletics director chair until 2022.

In addition to his athletics director duties, Tanner accepted the role of student mentor on the South Carolina campus that was offered to him by President Harris Pastides. "When he does talk to the broader student body, he has huge respect. I am looking for someone who is impactful," said Pastides.

Gamecock student-athletes have led all schools in the SEC Academic Honor Roll, earning 911 recognitions in the last 10 reports (2014-17 / Fall, Winter, Spring, First-Year). Carolina student-athletes have earned a cumulative 3.0 grade point average or better in 21 consecutive semesters.

In the last five academic years, the Gamecocks have won two national championships (2017 women's basketball, 2014 equestrian), eight SEC regular season and tournament championships and its 832.5 points in the 2016-17 Learfield Sports Directors' Cup All-Sports Standings is the most in school history. The Gamecocks placed 21st in the Learfield Cup in 2016-17, its best finish since 2002-03 (18th) and third best finish in school history.

For the second straight year, in 2016-17, Carolina also claimed the Certified SC Grown Palmetto Series, sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. The series consists of athletic, community service and academic points in head-to-head matchups against Clemson.

The Gamecocks have had 21 teams finish in the Top 10 and 40 finish in the Top 25 during the last five years.

Carolina student-athletes accomplished these academic and athletic feats while performing more than 9,000 hours of community service, breaking an athletics department record for four-straight years.

In September 2014, Tanner spearheaded the development of "The Gamecock Student-Athlete Promise," a document that showcases the depth and breadth of the commitment the South Carolina Athletics Department has made to its student-athletes. As part of the document, USC became the first school in the SEC to guarantee four-year scholarships for all qualifying sports. It also offers former student-athletes the opportunity to return to campus to complete their undergraduate degree as part of the "Gamecock Degree Completion Program."

As part of giving Gamecock student-athletes a "championship experience" at USC, the commitment to develop the finest facilities in the nation continues.

Since taking on the athletics director role at USC, Tanner has overseen construction and facility renovation projects such as Springs-Brooks Plaza and the Bignon Game Day Center, Gamecock Football Indoor Practice Facility, USC Soccer Complex, Wheeler Beach Volleyball facility and locker rooms in Carolina Natatorium. Carolina hosted the 2017 SEC Outdoor Track & Field Championships at the newly-renovated Cregger Track. Construction is also underway for a new football operations building and upgrades to Founders Park.

Tanner has negotiated contracts for Gamecock Athletics that have created additional exposure and revenue for the department. As part of a 10-year agreement with IMG, a new center-hung scoreboard and 360 degree LED ribbon board was added to Colonial Life Arena this summer. South Carolina's IMG marketing arrangement, finalized in 2016, was ranked as the 7th-largest in college athletics by the Portland Business Journal.

The Gamecocks have a 10-year contract with Under Armour as its official outfitter, which was signed in 2016. The contract is one of the 10 largest in college athletics, ranked by Forbes magazine.

A dedicated community leader whose charitable organization, The Ray Tanner Foundation, has made a difference in many South Carolina families, a three-time National Coach of the Year and Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year, Tanner completed 16 years as head coach at the University of South Carolina, establishing one of the premier programs in college baseball prior to being named AD. He led the Garnet & Black to two NCAA Division I Baseball Championships, a pair of national runner-up finishes, six College World Series appearances, three SEC championships, six SEC Eastern division titles, a SEC tournament crown and 13-consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.

Under the direction of Tanner, South Carolina's postseason success from 2010-2012 is arguably the greatest run in collegiate baseball history. In the three-year span, the Gamecocks established NCAA records with 22 consecutive postseason wins and 12 consecutive wins in the College World Series. The Gamecocks won the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship in 2010 and 2011 with a national runner-up finish in 2012. South Carolina's 30-4 (.882) record over that three-year period in the NCAA Tournament is the fifth best three-year postseason record in NCAA history.

In addition, the 2012 CWS trip marked the sixth time in 11 years that South Carolina had reached Omaha. No Division I baseball team made more appearances than the Gamecocks over the 11-year span.

For all of his accolades, Tanner's uniform No. 1 was retired and the street outside Founders Park was renamed in his honor. He was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame in May 2013 and into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in January 2016.

The 2012 season marked Tanner's 25th year as a collegiate head coach. He posted a 738-316 record at South Carolina with a .700 winning percentage, second highest all-time among SEC coaches. His career record was 1,133-489-3 for a winning percentage of .699. His final 12 teams featured 23 All-Americans.

Tanner gained valuable experience at an international level in his association with USA Baseball. He served five stints with Red, White and Blue, including in 2003 as head coach for the USA National Baseball Team. At the helm of some of the top freshmen and sophomores in the country, Tanner's club finished with a 27-2 record, the best record for a U.S. National Team (.931 winning percentage) and won a silver medal at the 2003 Pan American Games. He was named the U.S. National Coach of the Year for his work that season. Prior to his head coaching stint, Tanner served as an auxiliary coach under Tommy Lasorda for the 2000 Olympic Team that won a gold medal at the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney, Australia. He was also an assistant under former LSU coach Skip Bertman with the 1995 and 1996 USA teams that culminated in a bronze medal win at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Ga. Tanner also served alongside former Mississippi State coach Ron Polk on Bertman's staff. Tanner's first stint with USA Baseball came as an assistant coach to the national team in the summer of 1993.

Tanner was named the South Carolina head coach June 14, 1996, after nine successful seasons at North Carolina State. At NC State, Tanner led his alma mater to seven appearances in the NCAA postseason tournament and ranked second for most wins in school history. He was the 1990 Atlantic Coast Conference Coach of the Year and in 1993, was named Atlantic Region Coach of the Year when his team won 49 games.

Following his playing career with the Wolfpack, Tanner served as an assistant at NC State for Coach Sam Esposito. As an assistant coach, he also held additional duties as assistant to athletics director Jim Valvano and an assistant athletics director in charge of game operations. Following Esposito's retirement, Valvano elevated the 28-year-old Tanner to head baseball coach.

Tanner has a bachelor's degree in recreational administration from NC State (1980) and a master's of public affairs, public administration (1983).

Born Donald Ray Tanner, Jr., March 25, 1958, in Smithfield, NC, Tanner grew up in Benson, NC. He is married to the former Karen Donald, a native of Charleston, SC. The Tanners have two daughters, Bridgette Grace ("Gracie") and Margaret Pearl ("Maggie") and one son, Joseph Luke ("Luke").



DR. HARRIS PASTIDES
University President



DR. VALINDA LITTLEFIELD
Faculty Athletics
Representative



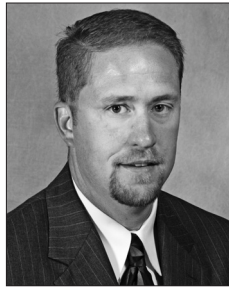
RAY TANNER
Athletics Director



CHARLES WADDELL
Deputy Athletics Director



KEVIN O'CONNELL
Chief Operating Officer



JEFF TALLANT
Chief Financial Officer



CHARLES BLOOM
Exec. Assoc. AD/
Chief of Staff/CCO



JEFF CRANE
Executive Associate AD



JUDY VAN HORN
Exec. Assoc. AD/Sport &
Risk Management/SWA



STEVE EIGENBROT
Senior Assoc. AD/
Development & Gamecock Club



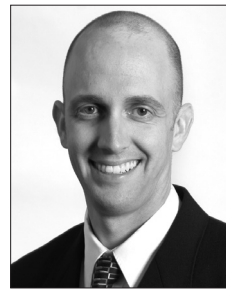
MARIA HICKMAN
Senior Associate AD/
Academics & Student Development



CHANCE MILLER
Senior Associate AD/
Compliance Services



ERIC NICHOLS
Senior Associate AD/
Marketing & Branding/CMO



CHRIS ROGERS
Senior Associate AD/
Administration



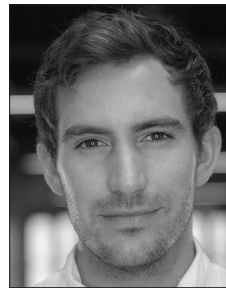
JEFF DAVIS
Associate A.D./
Operations & Facilities



LANCE GRANTHAM
Associate AD/Ticket
Operations & Customer Relations



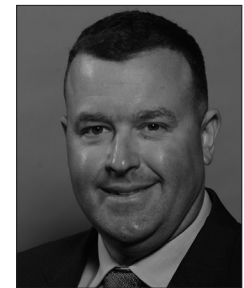
JOHN KASIK
Associate AD/
Sports Medicine



JUSTIN KING
Associate AD/
New & Creative Media



SHAWN BURKE
Assistant AD/Operations
& Event Management



CLARK COX
Assistant AD/Sports
Turf & Landscaping Services



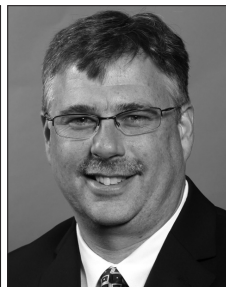
BLAKE EDMUNDS
Assistant AD/
Marketing & Fan Experience



STEVE FINK
Assistant AD/
Communications & PR



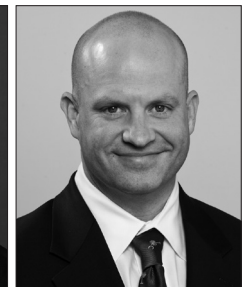
DUANE GROOMS
Assistant AD/
Facilities Services



JOE LISLE
Assistant AD/
Video Operations



JEFF WHITEHEAD
Assistant AD/
Compliance Services



PATRICK MCFARLAND
Executive Director
Gamecock Club