



2007 LSU SOFTBALL  
**COACHES**

## Head Coach

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# HEAD COACH YVETTE GIROUARD



SEVENTH YEAR AT LSU • 27TH YEAR OVERALL

### National Honors

- ▶ 2005 National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee
- ▶ 2001 NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year
- ▶ 1990, 1993 NFCA National Coach of the Year
- ▶ Seven-Time NFCA South Region Coach of the Year
- ▶ Fifth-Winningest Active Division I Coach
- ▶ Third-Best Winning Percentage Among Active Division I Coaches
- ▶ Fifth-Winningest All-Time Division I Coach
- ▶ Fourth-Best All-Time Division I Winning Percentage

### Postseason accomplishments

- ▶ Five Women's College World Series Appearances
- ▶ One of Three Coaches to Lead Two Programs to the WCWS
- ▶ 15 NCAA Regional Appearances
- ▶ Nine National Top 10 Finishes

### Conference Honors

- ▶ 2001, 2002, 2006 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year
- ▶ 2000 Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year
- ▶ 1984, 1985, 1987 Southland Conference Coach of the Year

### State Honors

- ▶ 12-Time Louisiana Coach of the Year
- ▶ 2002 Louisiana Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee

### Other Accomplishments

- ▶ 25-Straight Winning Seasons
- ▶ 37 All-Americans
- ▶ 15 Academic All-Americans

## THE GIROUARD PHILOSOPHY

**I believe fully in trying to instill in our athletes a knowledge and a love for the qualities and virtues that comprise good character.**

Character is what we are inside. It is often revealed by how we act when no one is looking. Winning in our program should occur both on the field as well as in the classroom, in society and in personal lives after Tiger softball. When our players leave our program, hopefully we have developed successful people that will feel that their Tiger family will always have a unique and lasting place in their hearts.

**LSU is a very special place with everything provided for success; from athletic facilities to the very best academic center in the country and a first-class administration all at the disposal of our student athletes.**

In addition to having the friendliness of Louisiana people, LSU has one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. Our players will know from their first visit to the LSU campus that their number one goal is to leave this institution with their degree in hand.

**In setting our high standards for the athletes that represent this program, the number one characteristic I look for in student-athletes is discipline.**

We want disciplined people in our program. It all starts with someone who can control her choices in a respectable way, both on and off the field. The ability to choose right from a wrong should not be a battle. We expect to play for championships here at LSU and every student-athlete who competes for the Tiger softball team will have to have that same discipline and expectations. Our staff is dedicated to LSU, our program and our players.

**Concerning the softball side, we will incorporate the 'Tiger Attack' mind set for our games.**

I'd like to think that my teams are aggressive and hard-nosed, and that they will play the game hard until the final out. We must attack every inning as if the score were 0-0, always thinking 'it is never enough'. We will always be a fundamental team with high emphasis placed on this aspect of the game throughout the entire year. Playing the game with pride, emotion and respect for tradition and class should be a goal for every LSU team. This team will embody those qualities.

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In six seasons at LSU, head coach Yvette Girouard's effect on the Tiger softball program has been powerful. With each year, she continues to add to her legacy as one of the greatest coaches in the history of women's softball by helping LSU maintain its place among the nation's elite in the collegiate ranks.

Girouard, who was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame in December 2005 and the Louisiana Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in June 2002, enters the 2007 season among the career leaders in NCAA Division I wins (No. 5) and winning percentage (No. 4) and among the active NCAA Division I coaching leaders in wins (No. 5) and winning percentage (No. 3).

Against Arkansas on April 6, 2005, she became the sixth coach in NCAA history in any division to earn her 1,000th career victory and just the fifth in NCAA Division I history. Averaging more than 40 wins a season in her 26 years as a head coach, she is one of only a handful of coaches who can boast that feat over such an extended and noteworthy career.

With 25-straight winning seasons to her credit, she has guided her athletes to 37 All-America honors, including nine while at LSU, 15 Academic All-America honors, including 2005 and 2006 first-team Academic All-American Stephanie Hill, and taken teams to 15 NCAA Regionals.

No stranger to Oklahoma City, Girouard became just the third coach in NCAA history to take two programs to the Women's College World Series after leading UL-Lafayette to three World Series appearances in the 1990s and LSU to the WCWS in 2001 and 2004.

In 2004, she led LSU to its second Women's College World Series appearance, where the Tigers advanced to within one game of the championship game. After defeating Michigan in extra innings in its first game, LSU fell to eventual national champion UCLA in game two.

Weather postponed play for a day and forced the Tigers into the unenviable situation of having to win three games in a single day to advance to the national championship game. LSU began the day with a win over Florida State before defeating California to force just the seventh "if necessary" game in WCWS history.

Unfortunately, the Tigers could not get past California a second time and came up one game shy of the national championship game. LSU's remarkable run marked the first time since 1984 a school from east of the Mississippi River had advanced to within a game of the national championship. Tiger pitcher Kristin Schmidt was named the WCWS Most Outstanding Player, becoming the first player to earn the honor who was not a member of the national championship team. Sophomore Camille Harris was also named to the WCWS All-Tournament team.

In addition, the Tigers were ranked as high as second nationally, matching the highest national ranking for any team coached by Girouard.

In 2001, Girouard led LSU to its first appearance in the WCWS, where the Tigers finished third. Under her guidance, UL-Lafayette (formerly Southwestern Louisiana) advanced to the WCWS three times, with a pair of fifth-place finishes and a third-place finish in 1993.

With .815 winning percentage in the 1990s, her teams posted the third-best winning percentage in the nation behind only Arizona and UCLA. In six seasons at LSU, she has posted the fourth most wins in the nation over that period with the fifth-best winning percentage.

While her influence has been a catalyst for the growth of the game in the state and nationally for many years, her impact in just six years in Baton Rouge has been no less significant. Becoming the first coach in Southeastern Conference history to lead a team to back-to-back tournament championships, Girouard made a clean sweep of the three major league titles

## GIROUARD YEAR-BY-YEAR

### At UL-Lafayette (Southwestern Louisiana until 2000)

Year	Won	Lost	Pct.	Notable
1981	7	15	.318	
1982	15	13	.536	LIAIW Champions
1983	22	13	.629	Third Place in Southland Conference
1984	28	9	.757	Southland Conference Champion
1985	39	13	.750	Southland Conference Champion
1986	32	19	.627	Southland Conference Champion
1987	31	16	.660	NIT; Southland Conference Champion
1988	29	16	.644	No. 22 National Ranking
1989	48	16	.750	No. 21 National Ranking
1990	44	8	.846	No. 7 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1991	33	10	.767	No. 14 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1992	41	12	.774	No. 12 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1993	57	7	.891	No. 8 National Ranking; Third place in WCWS
1994	57	5	.919	No. 2 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1995	49	9	.845	No. 5 National Ranking; Fifth place in WCWS
1996	46	10	.821	No. 5 National Ranking; Fifth place in WCWS
1997	46	18	.718	No. 13 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1998	36	15	.706	
1999	54	11	.831	No. 4 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
2000	45	15	.750	No. 16 National Ranking; Sun Belt Champion; NCAA Regional

### At LSU

2001	59	11	.843	No. 3 Final Ranking; SEC Champion; Third WCWS
2002	56	11	.836	No. 9 Final Ranking; SEC Champion; NCAA Regional
2003	50	18	.735	No. 15 Final Ranking; NCAA Regional
2004	57	12	.826	No. 3 Final Ranking; SEC Champion; Third-WCWS
2005	31	23	.574	
2006	55	14	.789	No. 11 Final Ranking; NCAA Regional
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>.759</b>	<b>Five WCWS Appearances; 15 NCAA Regionals</b>
<b>AT ULL</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>.752</b>	<b>Three WCWS Appearances; 10 NCAA Regionals</b>
<b>AT LSU</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>.776</b>	<b>Two WCWS Appearances; Five NCAA Regionals</b>

### Coaching Career

Head Coach, Lafayette High School (1977-80)

Head Coach, Comeaux High School (1980)

Head Coach, UL-Lafayette (1981-2000)

Head Coach, LSU (2001-present)

### Milestones

<b>First win:</b>	USL def. New Orleans, 8-3, 1981
<b>100th win:</b>	USL def. UL-Monroe, 5-1, April 13, 1985
<b>200th win:</b>	USL def. Centenary, 2-0, April 23, 1988
<b>300th win:</b>	USL def. Samford, 3-1, Feb. 24, 1991
<b>400th win:</b>	USL def. South Carolina, 6-1, April 11, 1993
<b>500th win:</b>	USL def. Louisiana Tech, 6-0, March 19, 1995
<b>600th win:</b>	USL def. Southwest Missouri State, 1-0, March 29, 1997
<b>700th win:</b>	USL def. Southeastern Louisiana, 9-1, April 15, 1999
<b>800th win:</b>	LSU def. Kentucky, 5-2, April 21, 2001
<b>900th win:</b>	LSU def. Alabama, 4-3, March 29, 2003
<b>1,000th win:</b>	LSU def. Arkansas, 8-3, April 6, 2005

# Head Coach

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(SEC Western Division, SEC Championship, SEC Tournament Championship) in three of her first six seasons as a Tiger.

Last season, she guided LSU back into the Top 10 nationally as the Tigers won their NCAA Regional in Baton Rouge and advanced to the NCAA Super Regionals for the first time. In the Super Regional in Tucson, Ariz., LSU earned its first win over a No. 1-ranked team as the Tigers took the second game from eventual national champion Arizona, 3-2. LSU was one of only two teams to hand the Wildcats a loss at home as the Tigers became the first program in history to knock off Arizona in a game at home that could send it to the Women's College World Series.

For her achievements, Girouard was honored with her third SEC Coach of the Year award and named the Louisiana Coach of the Year an unprecedented 12th time. Juniors Emily Turner and Leslie Klein earned NFCA All-America honors, the second honor of Klein's career, while Stephanie Hill earned her second-straight first-team Academic All-America honor.

In 2005, she became the fifth coach in NCAA Division I history and the sixth coach in NCAA history to earn 1,000 career victories. She guided Hill to first-team Academic All-America honors, the second Academic All-American in school history and the first to earn first-team honors.

After failing to earn the league titles in 2003, LSU came back to sweep all three major titles again in 2004. The Tigers earned the top seed in NCAA Region 3, marking the 14th consecutive trip to the postseason for Girouard and the seventh for LSU. The Tigers swept through NCAA Regional play, defeating Illinois in the championship game to earn their berth in the Women's College World Series.

For their efforts, Girouard, associate head coach James DeFeo and assistant coach Lori Osterberg were named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association South Region Coaching Staff of the Year, marking the seventh regional coach of the year honor in Girouard's career.

In 2003, Girouard earned her 900th career victory, becoming just the sixth coach in NCAA Division I history and the eighth coach in

NCAA history to reach the historic milestone.

After finishing second in the SEC Western Division, the Tigers advanced through the conference tournament to the championship game for the fifth-consecutive year.

The Tigers earned their sixth-consecutive trip to the NCAA Regionals and finishing the year ranked No. 15, the fourth consecutive top 15 ranking for LSU and fifth consecutive top 20 finish for Girouard.

In 2002, Girouard picked up her 100th win at LSU in just 119 games, the fastest Tiger coach to 100 victories in school history. In addition, Girouard led LSU to its then highest regular-season ranking, No. 3 nationally.

After sweeping all three of the SEC Championship titles and advancing to the NCAA Regional finals, she earned her second-straight SEC Coach of the Year honor. She has been named coach of the year by three separate conferences: the Southeastern Conference in 2001 and 2002, the Sun Belt in 2000 and the Southland in 1984, 1985 and 1987.

A fourth-consecutive Louisiana Sport Writer's Association Louisiana Coach of the Year honor followed for Girouard, the 11th state honor of her career.

In her first season at LSU, Girouard was able to accomplish something no other coach had been able to do. She led the Tigers to their first appearance in the WCWS with a victory over her former school, UL-Lafayette, in the NCAA Regional Championship game.

In the WCWS, the Tigers fell to Stanford in the first round, but bounced back to knock off Iowa and defending national champion Oklahoma before losing out to UCLA and finishing in a tie for third place nationally, the highest final ranking for any LSU squad.

For their accomplishments, she, DeFeo and Osterberg were named the NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year. She was also named the Coach of the Year by the SEC and the LSWA. To her credit, she was named the National Coach of the Year in 1990 and 1993.

In her two decades as the Lady Cajuns' head coach, she built the team from the ground floor with no scholarships and a \$3,000 budget to one of the nation's perennial powers. She advanced her UL-Lafayette teams to the NCAA Regionals a total of 10 times, hosting on seven of those occasions.

Girouard was born in Broussard, La., and attended Comeaux High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from USL in 1976 in health and physical education. During her college days, she played on the Lady Cajun volleyball team and was named the school's Female Athlete of the Year in 1976.

Following college, Girouard served as head coach at Lafayette High School where she began the softball program in 1977. In 1980, she coached at her alma mater, Comeaux High School, before beginning the USL softball program in 1981.

Girouard served a three-year term as the South Region Representative on the NCAA All-America Committee and served two, two-year stints on the NCAA South Regional ranking committee. She is currently a member of a nine-person NCAA Softball Rules Committee until her term expires on Sept. 1, 2007.

With a list of accomplishments and awards that speak for themselves, Girouard has proven that she can take her teams to the next level and be successful. Her guidance and leadership have carried her through 25 outstanding seasons and hopefully she will continue to build upon her past successes and reach the ultimate goal of bringing LSU its first national championship in softball.

## WINNINGEST HEAD SOFTBALL COACHES

### Winningest Active Division I Head Coaches

#### By Percentage (minimum 5 years)

Rank	Coach, Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	Mike Candrea, Arizona	20	1,081-214-0	.835
2.	Stefni Lotief, UL-Lafayette	6	309-64-0	.828
3.	<b>Yvette Girouard, LSU</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,067-339-0</b>	<b>.759</b>
4.	Lu Harris-Champer, Georgia	10	522-168-1	.756
5.	JoAnne Graf, Florida, State	23	1,136-372-6	.752
6.	Patty Gasso, Oklahoma	12	584-200-2	.744
7.	Margie Wright, Fresno State	27	1,206-428-3	.738
8.	Patrick Murphy, Alabama	9	440-159-0	.735
9.	Carol Hutchins, Michigan	23	984-371-4	.726
10.	Karen Weekly, Tennessee	10	486-190-1	.719

#### By Victories

Rank	Coach, Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	Margie Wright, Fresno State	27	1,206-428-3	.738
2.	JoAnne Graf, Florida, State	23	1,136-372-6	.752
3.	Gayle Blevins, Iowa	27	1,099-508-5	.683
4.	Mike Candrea, Arizona	20	1,081-214-0	.835
5.	<b>Yvette Girouard, LSU</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,067-339-0</b>	<b>.759</b>
7.	Carol Hutchins, Michigan	23	984-371-4	.726
6.	Joyce Compton, South Carolina	24	975-447-3	.685
8.	Elaine Sortino, Massachusetts	27	936-404-4	.698
9.	Margo Jonker, Central Michigan	27	916-509-5	.642
10.	Eugene Lenti, DePaul	25	885-449-6	.663

### Winningest All-Time Division I Head Coaches

#### By Percentage (minimum 10 years)

Rank	Coach, Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	* Mike Candrea, Arizona	20	1,081-214-0	.835
2.	# Sue Enquist, UCLA	17	837-166-1	.834
3.	# Sharron Backus, UCLA	22	854-173-3	.831
4.	* <b>Yvette Girouard, LSU</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,067-339-0</b>	<b>.759</b>
5.	* Lu Harris-Champer, Georgia	10	522-168-1	.756
6.	* JoAnne Graf, Florida, State	23	1,136-372-6	.752
7.	* Patty Gasso, Oklahoma	12	584-200-2	.744
8.	* Margie Wright, Fresno State	27	1,206-428-3	.738
9.	* Carol Hutchins, Michigan	23	984-371-4	.726
10.	Mike McGovern, Illinois-Chicago	12	582-227-1	.719

#### By Victories

Rank	Coach, Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	Margie Wright, Fresno State	27	1,206-428-3	.738
2.	JoAnne Graf, Florida, State	23	1,136-372-6	.752
3.	Gayle Blevins, Iowa	27	1,099-508-5	.683
4.	Mike Candrea, Arizona	20	1,081-214-0	.835
5.	<b>Yvette Girouard, LSU</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,067-339-0</b>	<b>.759</b>
7.	Carol Hutchins, Michigan	23	984-371-4	.726
6.	Joyce Compton, South Carolina	24	975-447-3	.685
8.	Elaine Sortino, Massachusetts	27	936-404-4	.698
9.	Margo Jonker, Central Michigan	27	916-509-5	.642
10.	Linda Wells, Arizona State	31	914-679-1	.574

\* - Active coaches

# - Co-head coaches from 1989-96

## GIROUARD VS. ALL OPPONENTS

OPPONENT	W	L	OPPONENT	W	L	OPPONENT	W	L	OPPONENT	W	L
Adelphi	1	0	Florida A&M	1	0	Massachusetts	3	0	Southeastern Louisiana	50	1
Akron	0	2	Florida Atlantic	1	0	McNeese State	64	21	Southern	3	0
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	Florida International	3	0	Michigan	5	1	<b>Southern Miss</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>
Alabama A&M	1	0	Florida State	8	9	Michigan State	3	0	Southern Utah	1	0
<b>Alcorn State</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	Fresno State	2	2	Midwestern State	1	0	St. Edward's	4	0
Arizona	2	8	Furman	6	0	Minnesota	3	1	St. Louis	2	0
Arizona State	3	4	George Mason	2	0	Mississippi State	23	7	St. Mary's	4	1
<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	Mississippi Valley State	1	0	Stanford	0	4
<b>Arkansas-Pine Bluff</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	Georgia Southern	2	0	Missouri	0	1	Stephen F. Austin	3	5
Arkansas State	6	0	Georgia State	8	2	Missouri State	5	0	Stetson	1	0
<b>Auburn</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	Georgia Tech	3	0	Nebraska	6	3	<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
Ball State	5	0	Grambling State	12	0	New Mexico State	2	0	Texas	1	3
Baylor	7	4	Hawai'i	1	0	New Orleans	14	2	Texas A&M	10	9
Bowling Green	3	0	Hill College	1	0	Nicholls State	68	19	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	6	0
Butler	2	0	Hofstra	5	1	North Carolina	10	0	Texas Southern	2	0
Cal Poly	1	0	<b>Houston</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	North Texas	5	1	<b>Texas State</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
Cal State Fullerton	4	5	Houston Baptist	12	0	Northeastern State	1	0	Texas Tech	4	1
Cal State Northridge	3	4	Illinois	2	2	Northern Illinois	2	1	Texas-Arlington	13	4
California	3	8	Illinois State	6	1	Northwestern	1	1	<b>Texas-San Antonio</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
Campbell	2	0	Illinois-Chicago	2	0	Northwestern State	64	11	Toledo	0	2
Carthage	1	1	<b>Indiana</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	Notre Dame	1	2	<b>Troy</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Centenary</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1</b>	Indiana State	3	4	Ohio	3	0	Tulsa	6	1
Central Michigan	2	0	Iowa	2	0	Ohio State	1	0	UAB	1	0
Central Oklahoma	1	0	Iowa State	0	2	Oklahoma	16	3	UCLA	1	11
Charlotte	2	0	Jackson State	5	0	Oklahoma City	1	2	UC-Riverside	1	0
Chattanooga	1	1	Jacksonville State	2	0	Oklahoma State	2	5	UC-Santa Barbara	1	0
Coastal Carolina	2	0	Jerry's Caterers	1	1	<b>Ole Miss</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	UNLV	6	3
Colorado State	2	0	Kansas	3	1	Oregon	1	2	Utah	4	3
Columbia	3	0	Kent State	1	0	Oregon State	2	1	Utah State	1	0
Connecticut	3	0	<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	Penn State	2	0	Villanova	1	0
Cornell	1	0	Lamar	17	0	<b>Portland State</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	Virginia	4	0
DePaul	7	4	Long Beach State	1	0	Princeton	4	0	Virginia Tech	1	0
Drake	1	0	Long Island	1	0	Rhode Island	2	0	<b>Washington</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>
East Carolina	2	0	<b>Louisiana Tech</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	Sam Houston State	13	8	Western Illinois	1	0
East Tennessee State	2	0	UL-Lafayette	5	1	Samford	8	0	Western Kentucky	3	0
Eastern Illinois	3	0	<b>UL-Monroe</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>19</b>	San Diego State	1	0	Western Michigan	2	0
Eastern Kentucky	2	0	Louisville	1	0	Seton Hall	2	1	Wichita State	3	0
Eastern Michigan	1	1	LSU	2	8	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	Winthrop	1	0
Eastern Oklahoma	1	0	LSU-Alexandria	4	0	South Dakota State	1	0	Wisconsin	2	2
Evansville	3	0	Manhattan	1	0	South Florida	5	1			
<b>Florida</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	Maryland	1	0	Southeast Missouri State	2	0			

# Assistant Coaches

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James DeFeo enters his third season as the associate head coach at LSU after four years as an assistant coach. It is also his eighth season under head coach Yvette Girouard after one year with her at UL-Lafayette.

Prior to joining Girouard's staff, DeFeo was a graduate assistant at Southern Miss in 1999 when the Golden Eagles became the first, first-year program to advance to the Women's College World Series.

In 2004, he, Girouard and Lori Osterberg were named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association South Region Coaching Staff of the Year after leading the Tigers to their second WCWS appearance. The trio was also named the NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year in 2001 after they led LSU to its first WCWS berth.

DeFeo's main duties include working with the hitters and the outfielders as well as recruiting, scouting and practice management. Last season, the Tiger hitters ranked in the top 25 nationally in batting average (16th), slugging percentage (19th), scoring (22nd) and doubles (10th).

The Tigers also set school records for on base percentage and sacrifice flies in 2006. In addition, LSU led the SEC and posted the second most doubles in a season. Individually, two-time All-American Leslie Klein ranked in the top 10 of virtually every hitting category and ranked in the top 50 in the NCAA in batting average.

In 2005, the Tiger hitters ranked in the top 30 in the NCAA in batting average and scoring, including a No. 5 ranking in doubles per game. Two years ago, the Tigers ranked in the top 10 in the NCAA in batting average, in the top 15 in slugging percentage and home runs per game and in the top 35 in triples per game.

In 2004, LSU broke the school record and led the Southeastern Conference in home runs, while LSU ranked second in the league in batting average, runs scored, hits, triples and RBIs. Individually, then-freshman All-American Leslie

Klein ranked in the top 10 in the SEC in every hitting category and ranked in the top 50 in the NCAA in slugging percentage, runs per game and RBIs per game. The Tigers had at least two players ranked in the top 10 individually in the SEC in every hitting category, including five of the top 10 individuals ranked in total bases.

In 2002, former Tiger All-American Trena Peel led the nation in triples, while breaking the LSU and SEC single-season records. With 14 triples, she was just two shy of the NCAA record.

In his first season at LSU the Tigers were second in the SEC and 12th nationally with a .293 team batting average. LSU also led the league in scoring and finished ranked 16th nationally with more than five runs per game.

At UL-Lafayette, DeFeo's team hit .310 and finished the season with a No. 22 national ranking and in the top 10 in hitting and scoring. The 1999 Southern Miss team finished the season ranked second nationally in batting and 10th in scoring. DeFeo was instrumental in helping to revive the Golden Eagle team after a six-year hiatus.

For 10 years, he has served as sole proprietor and instructor of the All-American Softball Clinics in New Jersey, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania and Mississippi. DeFeo has coaching experience at nearly every level of fastpitch softball, including Under-12, Under-16, 18 and Under and Women's Major. DeFeo also is a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

A native of New Jersey, DeFeo graduated from Rutgers University in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in sport management. He received his master's in sports administration from Southern Miss in 1999. His sister, Stephanie DeFeo, was a three-time All-American under Girouard at UL-Lafayette.

In 2000, DeFeo was married to the former Samantha Rock of Orlando, Fla. They have two daughters, Victoria, 4, and Zoe, 2, and an infant son, Zachary.

## James DeFeo

Associate Head Coach  
Seventh Year



Megan Smith enters her first year with the LSU softball program after serving as the head coach at Western Carolina, where she served for the inaugural 2006 season.

As the head coach for the Catamounts last season, she guided the first-year program to their first Southern Conference title, compiling a 41-20 record, including a 16-4 mark in league play. For her success, she was named the 2006 SoCon Coach of the Year.

Her team posted 81 home runs, which ranked third nationally, while WCU ranked 12th in the NCAA in slugging percentage, 19th in scoring, 38th in win-loss percentage and 50th in batting average. Additionally, three players ranked nationally statistically and two were named to the NFCA All-Southeastern Region team.

Hired in July 2004, Smith built the Western Carolina program from the ground up, spending a year and a half to build the program, including the hiring of staff and the recruitment of players, while supervising the construction of a state-of-the-art softball facility.

She was hired to head the Catamount program from the University of North Carolina, where she had also been a player. As an assistant coach for Donna Papa, she helped the Tar Heels with recruiting, fundraising, and oversaw the academic progress of student-athletes, while participating in practice planning and game management.

In 2004, she helped guide the North Carolina program to a 46-24 record, including a second place finish in the Atlantic Coast Conference, while earning an NCAA Regional bid. In addition, she directed the Carolina Softball Camps, overseeing all aspects of the camps.

Prior to her stay at her alma mater, Smith was an assistant coach at Charlotte for the 2002 season. She worked with the infielders, pitchers and served as the hitting coach. The assistant also organized all recruiting efforts for head coach Aimee DeVoss.

For two seasons, Smith served as the head coach at Young Harris College in Georgia from 2000-2001. While there, she guided her program to a 79-41 record. Without an assistant coach, she oversaw all aspects of the team, from practice to strength training to academics to fundraising.

While at Young Harris, she finished second in the regional championships twice and was one game away from the national tournament in 2001. Her team broke nearly every school record, including wins in as season with 45. In addition, in 2002, her squad ranked nationally in batting average and eight players were named to the all-regional team.

During her collegiate career at North Carolina, Smith earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in exercise and sport science and recreation administration. Playing third base primarily, she served as captain during her senior season and broke the school record for RBIs in a game and was named the Defensive Player of the Year in 1999.

Also an exceptional student, the Walkertown, N.C., native was named to the All-Atlantic Coast Conference honor roll for three years and made the Dean's List twice. In 2000, she earned her Master's of Science degree in human performance and sports studies with a concentration in sports management from the University of Tennessee.

On June 19, 2004, she married Paul Buske, and the pair raise two cats, Sammy and Callie, and a dog, Buddy.

## Megan Smith

Assistant Coach  
First Year





**Melissa Foley**  
Associate SID/Softball Contact

Melissa Foley enters her sixth year on the LSU sports information staff as Associate SID in charge of the nationally recognized softball program. She is also in her fifth season as the primary contact for the nationally ranked women's volleyball program.

Last season, her softball media guide was judged second best in the district and ranked fifth nationally. In 2004, her softball guide ranked best in the district and third in the nation, while her volleyball guide was ranked second in the district and seventh nationally. Her 2005 softball guide earned first place honors in the district and was judged second in the nation.

Foley, 30, is a Marksville, La., native and a 1997 graduate of LSU in mass communications. Prior to coming to LSU, Foley was the assistant SID at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. At NSU, she was the primary media contact for the women's basketball, soccer and softball teams and assisted with the other 11 sports including the NCAA Tournament men's basketball team and Division I-AA football team.

From 1999-2000, Foley worked as an intern at Ole Miss. In Oxford, she worked primarily with the volleyball and men's and women's track and field programs while assisting with football and both basketball teams.

Foley began her career at Northwestern State where she was a graduate assistant for two years while earning a master's degree in sports administration in the spring of 1999.

In December 2006, the former Melissa Reynaud married Damian Foley, a native of Christchurch, New Zealand, in a pair of ceremonies in Baton Rouge and Nelson, New Zealand.



**Ana Gross**  
Associate Athletics Trainer

Ana Gross begins her first season as the associate athletics trainer for the LSU softball program. She joined the Tigers' staff after spending two years at Southern Miss. In addition to her duties as the athletics trainer for softball, she works to coordinate the drug prevention program for LSU's student-athletes.

While at Southern Miss, Gross spent two years working for the baseball team. She also worked with the cross country, soccer and football teams. In January 2006, she was promoted to Assistant Athletic Trainer.

A New Orleans native, Gross graduated from LSU with a bachelor's degree in athletic training. As an undergraduate for the Tigers, she worked with LSU's 2003 National Champion football team, nationally ranked women's basketball team and worked with the men's tennis team.

Gross earned her master's degree from Southern Miss in sports administration in May 2006. The oldest of Greg and Maria Gross' five children, she is certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association.



**Melissa Moore**  
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coordinator

Melissa Moore enters her first year at LSU as the assistant strength & conditioning coordinator and her first season working with the Lady Tigers' basketball team.

Moore, a native of Enon, La., will also coordinate the strength and conditioning of LSU softball team and assist with the strength and conditioning of LSU football.

Moore came to LSU after stints at Georgia Tech and Elon as an assistant strength & conditioning coach. She spent two years at Georgia Tech working with Yellowjackets' softball and women's tennis programs after brief stints working with Elon's baseball, men's and women's soccer, women's basketball and track teams.

A graduate of Southern Miss, Moore spent two years working with the football, baseball, men's and women's basketball, soccer, tennis, softball and volleyball programs at USM while working toward her master's degree.

Moore's expertise in strength and conditioning has led her to be published in two publications, including *The Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research* and *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*. She also authored an online presentation for the Atlantic Coast Conference's website about Georgia Tech's off-season softball training.

## SUPPORT STAFF



**John Allen**  
Academic Center



**Jenni Peters**  
Marketing



**George Branigan**  
Equipment Manager



**Ashley Stringfellow**  
Administrative Assistant



**Kara Knutson**  
Student Trainer



**Shana Laurent**  
Student Manager



**Jeannine Malbrough**  
Student Manager



**Robert Parker**  
Student Manager

# 2007 Diamond Backers

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## THE DIAMOND BACKERS

**The LSU Softball Diamond Backers is a booster club of softball families and fans that support the Tigers not only with financial contributions, but also with their loyal attendance and support at each game. The Diamond Backers' donations help to ensure that LSU remains among the elite college softball programs. The contributions are used to help upgrade softball facilities, purchase equipment and enhance student-athlete and coaching needs.**

*For more information concerning the Diamond Backer organization, please call (225) 578-3947*

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John Burke  
Leslie Godchaux  
Lori Hoskins  
Laura & Buddy Leach  
Gregory & Suzanne Price

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Rose Mary Girouard  
Steve & Sue Hobbs  
Bryan & Celeste Hollis

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Kim Boudreaux  
Christy Connor  
Dream Silk Screens  
Casey & Amy Duhon

Edward Girouard  
Cindy McVeagh  
Joanne & Richard Roessner  
Todd & Mary Sluss  
Tingle Bengals  
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Richard & Mona Hudson  
Thomas Loupe

J.P. & Barbara Martin  
Bernard & Nancy Pavlas  
Linake & Leora Romero  
June & Clay Simmons  
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Kentry & Kimberly Henderson  
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