

# 2008-09 COACHES & STAFF PROFILES



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# HEAD COACH BETH BURNS

COACHES AND STAFF PROFILES



**L**eadership. Charisma. Passion. Energy. Expertise. These are just a few words to describe Beth Burns, who for the last 16 years has dedicated herself to the sport of basketball as a collegiate head coach.



# BETH BURNS



**HEAD COACH  
FOURTH SEASON OF SECOND STINT AT SDSU/17TH OVERALL  
OHIO WESLEYAN, 1979**

## THE BETH BURNS FILE

**Hometown:**  
Chatham, N.J.

**Education:**  
Bachelor's of Arts -  
Health and Physical Education  
Ohio Wesleyan University, 1979

Master's of Arts -  
Physical Education  
Ohio State University, 1981

**Playing Experience:**  
Ohio Wesleyan  
1975-79

**Head Coaching Experience:**  
San Diego State  
2005 - present

Ohio State  
1997-2002

San Diego State  
1989-97

**Assistant Coaching Experience:**  
North Carolina State  
1988-89

Colorado  
1983-88

East Carolina  
1981-83

Ohio State  
Graduate Assistant Coach  
1979-81

The winningest coach in SDSU women's basketball history, Beth Burns begins the fourth season of her second stint on Montezuma Mesa in 2008-09.

This past year, Burns led the Aztecs to their most successful season since 1996-97 and within an eyelash of the NCAA tournament. The sixth seed in the Mountain West Conference tournament, SDSU defeated third-seeded Wyoming (66-54) and second-seeded TCU (82-80) before falling, 62-59, in the championship game.

San Diego State went 18-13 overall and 7-9 in MWC play to finish in a tie for fifth with Brigham Young. The Aztecs' seven league wins and fifth-place showing is their best-ever in the history of the MWC. Burns helped SDSU lead the league in assists per game (15.71), steals per game (12.61) and turnover margin (+5.81), and rank second with 4.35 blocks per game.

Burns coached three players to all-conference selections, the program's most in MWC history, as sophomore Jené Morris earned second-team accolades, while freshmen Allison Duffy and Paris Johnson each received honorable mention honors. Morris and Duffy also became the first two Aztecs to ever be selected to the MWC all-tournament team.

Off the court, this past spring seven players were honored at the department's annual scholar-athlete awards banquet, which recognizes student-athletes with at least a 3.0 cumulative or 3.2 semester GPA.

The previous season, Burns led the Aztecs to their most wins since 2000-01, finishing as the 11th-most improved team in NCAA Division I and recording the biggest turnaround in back-to-back seasons in Mountain West Conference history. Burns helped point guard Quenese Davis lead the league and rank first nationally among freshmen in assists per game, while center Desiree Johnson was first in the MWC in blocked shots per game for the second year in a row.

Burns has also helped the program find success in

both the classroom and on the recruiting trail. In the spring of 2007, 10 players were recognized at the department's annual scholar-athlete awards banquet. Among the 10 were Shanna Demus, who received the school's Academic Initiative Medal for her persistent commitment toward meeting her academic goals, and Kate Eveland, who became a member of the elite Phi Beta Kappa honor society and would later graduate magna cum laude.

On the recruiting trail, Burns and her staff signed two *San Diego Union-Tribune* section players of the year, including two-time winner, sophomore Paris Johnson and redshirt sophomore Jerica Williams.

After just her second season back on campus, Burns was rewarded with a new five-year contract in September of 2007, which runs through the 2011-12 campaign.

In 2005-06, Burns' first year back was a tough one, as the Aztecs entered the campaign with just six of 15 players with previous Division I experience. Injuries, youth and a lack of depth were key issues, while SDSU played 15 of its 27 games against teams advancing to the post-season, including 12 in league play alone.

Senior forward Michelle Strawberry earned conference honorable mention honors and then junior Desiree Johnson led the league in blocked shots. Three Aztecs were named to the Mountain West Conference all-academic squad, with two also garnering MWC scholar-athlete accolades.

Since returning to SDSU, Burns has resumed an active role in the campus and local community. This past summer she was honored with the YWCA's Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) award for her outstanding achievements, leadership and contributions to her profession. Burns also was tabbed a Girls Scout "Cool Person of the Year" for 2007-08 and has previously served as SDSU's honorary Homecoming chair.

From 1989-97, Burns took the Aztecs full circle, going from 7-23 her first year to 23-7 in her final campaign.

## BETH BURNS' HEAD COACHING CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Five 20+ win seasons, including four at SDSU
- ◆ 1999, 1997, 1995, 1993 NCAA First Round
- ◆ 1994 NCAA Second Round
- ◆ 2001 WNIT Team Champion
- ◆ 1994, 1997 WAC Tournament Champions
- ◆ 2008 MWC Tournament Runner-Up
- ◆ 1995 WAC Tournament Runner-Up
- ◆ 1994, 1995, 1997 WAC Regular Season Champions
- ◆ 1994, 1995, 1997 WAC Coach of the Year
- ◆ 1995 CoSIDA District 7 Coach of the Year
- ◆ 2 - All-America Selections (Falisha Wright, SDSU, 1993, 1994, honorable mention)
- ◆ 2 - WAC Players of the Year (Kieishsha Games (1991) and Christina Murguia (1995))
- ◆ 2 - WAC Tournament MVPs (Christina Murguia (1994) and Jodi Nowlin-Tres (1997))
- ◆ 1 - Big Ten Freshman of the Year (LaToya Turner, OSU, 2000)
- ◆ 15 - First Team All-Conference Selections (12 WAC, 2 Big Ten, 1 Big West)
- ◆ 7 - WAC All-Academic Selections
- ◆ 9 - MWC All-Academic Picks
- ◆ 14 - Big Ten All-Academic Honorees







# BETH BURNS

Along the way, she compiled a 151-83 record and a 64.5 winning percentage, the best in school history.

Burns' impact was almost instantaneous. The Aztecs doubled their win total from her first to her second season and ushered in the school's move to the Western Athletic Conference with a 14-14 overall record.

A year later in 1991-92, SDSU won five of its first six outings and went on to post an 18-11 overall record, tallying its first victory at a conference tournament in four seasons.

The team used that momentum heading into a 1992-93 campaign which ended in the Aztecs' first trip to the NCAA tournament in eight years.

SDSU advanced to the 1993 NAAs with the help of

early season victories over the likes of UCLA, USC, St. John's, Oregon State, Georgia and Villanova. The Aztecs also tied for second in the final WAC regular-season standings, which at the time, was the program's best-ever conference finish.

Burns' teams would go on to dominate the Western Athletic Conference from 1994-97, capturing a pair of tournament championships and three regular-season titles. The 1993-94 team set a school record for victories with 26, while the 1994-95 squad was a perfect 14-0 in league play.

The Aztecs continued their success the following two years by going 20-8 in 1995-96, including a perfect 13-0 at home, and 23-7 in 1996-97, leading the nation in scoring defense (52.0 ppg.).

In all, Burns led SDSU to four, 20-plus win seasons and four NCAA tournament appearances (1993, 1994, 1995, 1997).

Burns coached 13 first team all-conference picks in her time at SDSU, including a pair of WAC players of the year in Kieishsha Garnes (1991) and Christina Murguia (1995). Guard Falisha Wright became just the second Aztec women's basketball player to be named an All-American, earning honorable mention accolades in 1993 and 1994. She finished her four-year career as the school's all-time assists leader and, along with Games, has been inducted into the Aztec Hall of Fame.

The postseason honors were not just limited to her players, as Burns was a three-time WAC coach of the year (1994, 1995, 1997) and was the district coach of the year in 1995. SDSU also had seven conference all-academic selections, headlined by three-time winner Olivia DiCamilli.

Burns departed San Diego State in 1997 to take the head women's basketball position at Ohio State, where she first started her collegiate coaching career.

In five seasons with the Buckeyes, Burns notched an 82-65 overall record, highlighted by a WNIT title in 2001 and a trip to the NCAA tournament in 1999.

Two OSU players earned first team all-Big Ten honors and LaToya Turner was named conference freshman of the year in 2000. The Buckeyes also excelled in the classroom as 14 players received Big Ten all-academic accolades.

Burns was an active part of the Columbus community, establishing the Beth Burns Bucks for Breast Cancer Research fund at the OSU/James Cancer Hospital, and putting together an annual fundraiser, OSU Bounce for Bucks, for cancer research.

Off the court, the Chatham, N.J., native joined some of the game's elite coaches, Ceal Barry (Colorado), Kay Yow (North Carolina State) and Pat Summitt (Tennessee), as a member of the USA Basketball Olympic team selection committee from 1997-2000.

Burns returned to San Diego from Ohio in 2001, as the owner and operator of her own fitness and basketball instruction business, BB-Hoops, before serving as the strength and

conditioning coach for the women's basketball program at Stanford in 2004-05. The Cardinal finished the regular season ranked first in the nation, advanced to the Elite Eight and won the Pac-10 regular season and championship titles.

Burns' collegiate coaching career began at Ohio State as a graduate assistant from 1979-81, under current Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer. She then spent two seasons as an assistant coach at East Carolina (1981-83), helping the Lady Pirates to a No. 17 national ranking, before moving to Colorado (1983-88), where the Buffaloes made their first-ever NCAA tournament appearance in 1987-88.

Prior to taking her first head coaching job, Burns was an assistant coach at North Carolina State when the Wolfpack advanced to the Sweet 16 in 1989.

Burns has a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Ohio Wesleyan University (1979), where she was the school's all-time leading rebounder and garnered the most outstanding female student-athlete award as a senior. In 1984, her first year of eligibility, she was inducted into the Battling Bishops' athletic hall of fame.

Burns earned a master's degree in physical education from Ohio State (1981). She is a member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) and the National Strength and Conditioning Association and was on the voting panel for the WBCA/USA Today Coaches Top 25 national weekly poll.

## BURNS: BY THE NUMBERS

### 265 Career Wins As A Head Coach

*Burns has won 265 career games as a head coach in 16 seasons, including 184 at San Diego State. Nearly thirty percent of her losses have come during her first seasons.*

### 98% Graduation Rate

*In 16 seasons, 98 percent of players who have completed their eligibility under Burns have gone on to earn their degrees.*

### 30 Conference All-Academic Selections

*Burns' players have also succeeded in the classroom, garnering all-academic honors 30 times.*

### 20+ Win Seasons

*Burns' teams have won 20 or more games in a season five times, including four straight at SDSU from 1993-97.*

### 15 First Team All-Conference Selections

*Players have earned first team all-conference honors on 15 occasions in Burns' 16 years as a head coach.*

### 5 NCAA Tournament Appearances

*Burns has directed five teams to NCAA tournament bids. The Aztecs' advanced to the second round in 1994.*

### 3 WAC Coach Of The Year Awards

*Burns was honored as the WAC coach of the year in 1994, 1995 and 1997, as her teams went a combined 42-2 in league regular season play.*

### 2 Conference Tournament Championships

*The Aztecs won a pair of Western Athletic Conference championships under Burns in both 1994 and 1997, and were the runners-up in 1995.*

### 2 WAC Players of the Year

*Two Aztecs earned conference player-of-the-year honors during Burns' first stint as head coach, including Kieishsha Garnes in 1991 and Christina Murguia in 1995.*

### 1 WNIT Title

*Burns' 2000-01 Ohio State team claimed the WNIT title and finished with a 22-11 record, including a 10-0 mark in non-conference play.*

## BETH BURNS' HEAD COACHING LEDGER

| -At San Diego State (1989-97)      |                       |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                    | Overall               | Conference            |
| 1989-90                            | 7-23 (.233)           | 6-12 (.333)           |
| 1990-91                            | 14-14 (.500)          | 6-6 (.500)            |
| 1991-92                            | 18-11 (.621)          | 9-5 (.643)            |
| 1992-93                            | 19-9 (.678)           | 9-5 (.643)            |
| 1993-94                            | 26-5 (.839)           | 13-1 (.929)           |
| 1994-95                            | 24-6 (.800)           | 14-0 (1.000)          |
| 1995-96                            | 20-8 (.714)           | 9-5 (.643)            |
| 1996-97                            | 23-7 (.767)           | 15-1 (.938)           |
| <b>Totals</b>                      | <b>151-83 (.645)</b>  | <b>81-35 (.698)</b>   |
| -At Ohio State (1997-2002)         |                       |                       |
|                                    | Overall               | Conference            |
| 1997-98                            | 15-12 (.556)          | 7-9 (.438)            |
| 1998-99                            | 17-12 (.607)          | 9-7 (.692)            |
| 1999-2000                          | 13-15 (.464)          | 5-11 (.313)           |
| 2000-01                            | 22-11 (.667)          | 6-10 (.375)           |
| 2001-02                            | 14-15 (.483)          | 8-8 (.500)            |
| <b>Totals</b>                      | <b>81-65 (.555)</b>   | <b>35-45 (.438)</b>   |
| -At San Diego State (2005-present) |                       |                       |
|                                    | Overall               | Conference            |
| 2005-06                            | 3-24 (.111)           | 0-16 (.000)           |
| 2006-07                            | 12-16 (.429)          | 5-11 (.313)           |
| 2007-08                            | 18-13 (.581)          | 7-9 (.438)            |
| <b>Totals</b>                      | <b>33-53 (.384)</b>   | <b>12-36 (.250)</b>   |
| <b>SDSU</b>                        | <b>184-136 (.575)</b> | <b>93-71 (.567)</b>   |
| <b>OVERALL</b>                     | <b>265-201 (.569)</b> | <b>128-116 (.525)</b> |



# JUALEAH WOODS



**ASSISTANT COACH  
FOURTH SEASON AT SDSU/11TH OVERALL  
USC, 1994**

***Burns on Woods:** "The greatest ability? Dependability.' Coach Y is always thinking ahead, making personal sacrifices and catching that next plane ready to go anywhere to find that next special player to join our team. She is committed to developing and role modeling our current athletes; and most importantly, does it all with a smile, please and thank you."*

Entering her 11th season as an NCAA Division I assistant coach, Jualeah Woods is in her fourth year at San Diego State.

Woods is the Aztecs' recruiting coordinator, while her on-court duties include working with the forwards and centers, as well as concentrating on team defense.

Hired in May of 2005, Woods immediately got to work on the recruiting trail, playing an instrumental part in laying a strong foundation for the future success of Aztec basketball.

Since her arrival, the team has become a Mountain West Conference contender, finishing as runner-up at the league championships in 2008 and posting an 18-13 record, the Aztecs' most wins in 11 years. She also helped tutor a pair of 2007-08 league honorable mention selections in center Paris Johnson and forward Allison Duffy.

Woods most recently was an assistant coach at Oregon State for five years, serving as the program's recruiting coordinator for the last three seasons. The Beavers made four consecutive WNIT appearances from 2001-04, and advanced to the quarterfinals in 2004.

Before moving to Corvallis, she was an assistant coach for two seasons at California. She started her coaching career at Santa Monica High School as both an assistant and later as the head girls' basketball coach from 1994-97.

Woods was a four-year starter at small forward and two-time team captain at USC from 1990-94. The Berke-



ley, Calif., native helped lead the Women of Troy to four NCAA tournament appearances, including trips to the Elite Eight in 1993 and 1994 and the Sweet 16 in 1992.

Woods earned her bachelor's degree in public administration from USC in 1994.

**THE JUALEAH WOODS FILE**

**Hometown:**  
Berkeley, Calif.

**Education:**  
Bachelor's of Arts -  
Public Administration  
Southern California, 1994

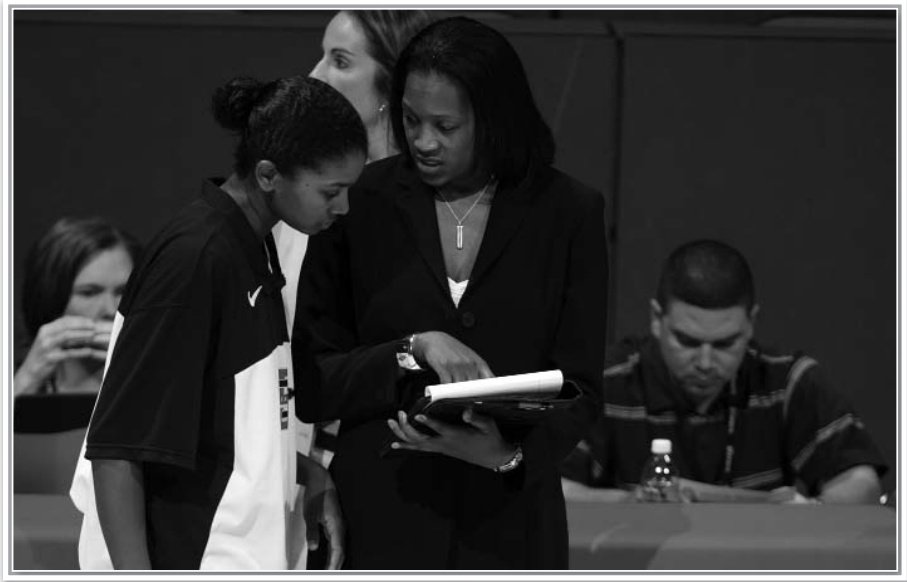
**Playing Experience:**  
USC  
1990-94

**Coaching Background:**  
**San Diego State -**  
Assistant Coach  
2005-Present

**Oregon State -**  
Assistant Coach  
2000-05

**California -**  
Assistant Coach  
1998-2000

**Santa Monica High School -**  
Head Coach/Assistant Coach  
1994-97





# SHANELE STIRES



**ASSISTANT COACH  
FIRST SEASON AT SDSU/SIXTH OVERALL  
KANSAS STATE, 1995**

*Burns on Stires: " 'Without passion you don't have energy, without energy you have nothing.' Coach Stires is a proven winner, who is passionate about basketball. Her versatility as an athlete allowed her to have a long and successful professional career (ABL, WNBA). Playing all five positions at the pro level is remarkable and is a testament to her work ethic, determination and coachability. Shanelle has played for and worked with some excellent teachers of the game. Her expertise in X's and O's and ability to teach and communicate set her apart."*

Shanelle Stires, who starred at Kansas State and played professionally both overseas and in the WNBA, joined the Aztecs this past June as an assistant coach.

Utilizing over eight years of WNBA and professional playing experience, coach Stires works directly on the court with the Aztec forwards and centers. Administratively, she assists with recruiting, scouting future opponents and player development and coordinates all electronic and hard mail correspondence.

Stires recently completed her second year as an assistant coach at the University of San Francisco, where she worked with the Dons' forwards and post players, while also assisting with recruiting and scouting and working as the team's community service liaison. In her two years in the Bay Area, USF went from 9-20 the year prior to her arrival in 2005-06, to a 14-16 overall mark last season.

Before moving to California, Stires was an assistant coach at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, from 2003-06. Her on-court duties included working with the Bobcat post



players, while off the court, she helped with recruiting, opponent scouting, team conditioning, marketing, summer camps, travel and community outreach. Stires tutored a pair of all-Mid-American Conference players and an all-league freshman team performer at Ohio.

Stires also has experience coaching at the prep level as an assistant for the 1997 5A Kansas state runner-up team at Salina South High School and was a volunteer assistant coach at NCAA Division III Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., from 2002-03. In 2002, she organized and conducted her own high school basketball clinic and has worked behind the scenes with both the Minnesota Lynx and Columbus Quest.

Stires entered the coaching ranks after a successful professional playing career in the WNBA and ABL and overseas in Greece, Portugal and Sweden. She played both guard and forward for the Minnesota Lynx from 2000-03, and the Columbus Quest from 1996-98, when the team won a pair of ABL championships.

A 1995 graduate of Kansas State with a bachelor's degree in social science, Stires was a three-year letterwinner for the Wildcats from 1992-95. She was an honorable mention Kodak All-American, first-team all-Big 8 selection and runner-up for conference player of the year as a senior in 1995, after twice being named to the all-league second team. The Salina, Kan., native left K-State ranked fifth in career rebounding (701) and sixth in scoring (1,344 points).

## THE SHANELE STIRES FILE

**Hometown:**  
Salina, Kan.

**Education:**  
Bachelor's of Arts - Social Science  
Kansas State, 1995

**Playing Experience:**  
2000-03  
Minnesota Lynx (WNBA)

2001  
Clube Amigos du Basket (Madeira, Portugal)

1999-2000  
Visby Ladies (Gotland, Sweden)

1996-98  
Columbus Quest (ABL)

1995-96  
A.O. Pagrati (Athens, Greece)

1992-95  
Kansas State

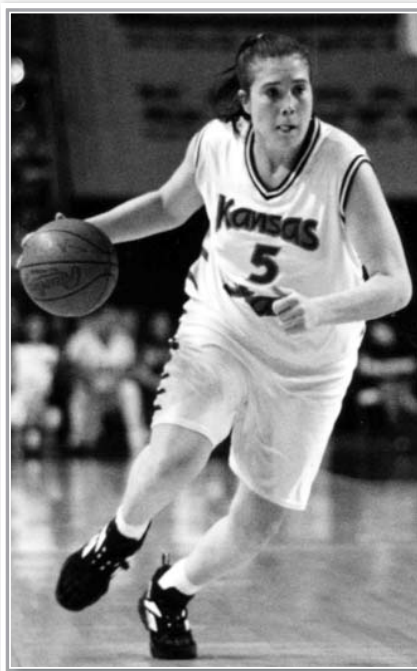
**Coaching Background:**  
2008  
San Diego State - Assistant Coach

2006-08  
Univ. of San Francisco - Assistant Coach

2003-06  
Ohio University - Assistant Coach

2002-03  
Augsburg College - Volunteer Assistant Coach

1996-97  
Salina (KS) South High - Assistant Coach





# FRED CHMIEL



**ASSISTANT COACH  
FIRST SEASON AT SDSU/  
15TH OVERALL**

*Burns on Chmiel: "I play to win, whether during practice or a real game. And I will not let anything get in the way of my competitive enthusiasm to win: not anything." Coach Chmiel brings a wealth of experiences to us with his basketball background as a collegiate and professional head coach, WNBA assistant coach and proven clinician on the national level. Coach Chmiel is a high-energy person who is passionate about the game of basketball. He will greatly impact the individual skills of our athletes, with a specific focus on our point guards and perimeter players."*



## THE FRED CHMIEL FILE

**Hometown:**

Palmer, Alaska

**Family:**

Wife, Julie

**Playing Experience:**

1992-94

Univ. of Alaska-Fairbanks

1990-92

Feather River College

**Coaching Background:**

2008

San Diego State - Assistant Coach

2006-08

Temple University - Assistant Coach

2006-08

Detroit Shock (WNBA) - Advance Scouting

2006

San Jose Spiders (NWBL) - Head Coach

2004-05

Charlotte Sting (WNBA) - Assistant Coach

1999-2005

Lassen College - Men's Head Coach

1995-99

Feather River College - Men's Head Coach

1994-95

Feather River College - Men's Assistant Coach

Fred Chmiel, an assistant coach at Temple University the last two seasons, joined the Aztec women's basketball staff as an assistant coach this past July. Chmiel has spent the last 14 years coaching on the professional, NCAA Division I and community college levels.

At SDSU, coach Chmiel primarily works with the perimeter players and opponent scouting and assists with scheduling, camp coordination, recruiting, player development and team analysis.

He recently completed his second season on Dawn Staley's staff at Temple, where the Owls boasted a 21-13 record in 2007-08, including a 12-2 mark in Atlantic 10 play to claim the conference regular season championship. Temple advanced to the NCAA tournament twice during his stay on the Philadelphia, Pa., campus and posted a two-year combined record of 46-21 overall and 25-3 in league action.

Before joining the Owls' staff, Chmiel was the head coach of the San Jose Spiders in the National Women's Basketball League in San Jose, Calif., in 2006, following a one-year stint as an assistant with the WNBA's Charlotte Sting in 2005. The Palmer, Alaska, native also has worked with the WNBA's Detroit Shock as an advance scout, providing opponent evaluation and film analysis.

Chmiel began his coaching career in Northern California, serving as head men's coach at both Lassen College (1999-2005) in Susanville, Calif., and Feather River College (1995-99) in Quincy, Calif. He led Lassen to three Golden Valley Conference titles in his six seasons with the Cougars.

As a player, Chmiel was a standout guard at Feather River, averaging 12.5 points and six assists per outing, garnering first-team all-league accolades and twice earning defensive team MVP honors. He finished his playing career at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks from 1992-94, before returning to Feather River as a men's assistant coach for one season.

Chmiel and his wife, Julie, reside in San Diego.



# TAMMY STEPHENS



**DIRECTOR OF BASKETBALL OPERATIONS  
FOURTH SEASON AT SDSU/EIGHTH OVERALL  
CAL STATE FULLERTON, 1981**

*Burns on Stephens: "It's amazing what one can accomplish when no one cares who gets the credit." Tammy is the consummate professional. She is the front door to everything we do as a program. Her pure passion, foresight and determination to make every detail perfect as it relates to our team, our team's families, and our staff is unparalleled. She is the ULTIMATE team player."*

With seven years of experience as a director of basketball operations at the Division I level, Tammy Stephens enters her fourth season with the Aztecs.

At SDSU, Stephens plays a critical role in the Aztec basketball program. She handles all of the off-the-court responsibilities relative to the budget, facilities and travel. She also coordinates community service projects, the season ticket campaign, summer camps, equipment and fundraising.

Stephens works with the Aztec Athletic Foundation as the team's point person for the "Full Court Press" booster club and establishes on-going relationships with Aztec basketball alumnae.

In 2004-05, Stephens was a part of coach Tara VanDerveer's staff at Stanford, helping the Cardinal to a No. 1 national ranking, a 32-3 record and a trip to the NCAA Elite Eight. She coordinated the team's practice facilities and worked with the booster club in its fundraising efforts. She also was the primary contact for summer camps and



was responsible for the Cardinal's game scheduling for the 2005-06 campaign.

Stephens was the director of basketball operations at Ohio State from 1997-2000. In that position, she managed the day-to-day operations of the Buckeye program, which included overseeing the budget, hiring and supervising the office staff and coordinating team travel. She also was in charge of summer camps and was the community relations liaison.

Before leaving for Ohio State, Stephens was an assistant women's tennis coach at the University of San Diego from 1993-97. She graduated in 1981 from Cal State Fullerton with a bachelor's degree in sociology and has a master's of education in counseling from USD.

## THE TAMMY STEPHENS FILE

### Hometown:

San Diego, Calif.

### Education:

Bachelor's of Arts -  
Sociology  
Cal State Fullerton, 1981

Master's of Education -  
Counseling

University of San Diego, 1991

### College Basketball Background:

**San Diego State -**  
Director of Operations  
2005-Present

### Stanford -

Director of Operations  
2004-05

### Ohio State -

Director of Operations  
1997-2000





# AZTEC BASKETBALL STAFF



**JORGE CERNA**  
**Director of Player Development**  
**First Season at SDSU/**  
**First Overall**  
**San Diego State, 2006**

*Burns on Cerna: "Jorge will be a large part of our program's success because of how he will use technology to assist and enhance how we teach our players and prepare for opponents. "Jorge aspires to be a college basketball coach. He has a fabulous background as a manager in coach Fisher's program, is an SDSU graduate and is 100 percent Aztec. He will be able to experience and contribute to every facet of our program."*

A student manager with the Aztec men's basketball squad the last three seasons, Jorge Cerna will serve as SDSU's director of player development.

Cerna will be in charge of all of the program's video needs. Cerna's job duties at SDSU will include coordinating film exchange, editing game and practice film, developing team highlight videos and supervising student managers. He will also assist director of basketball operations Tammy Stephens in the planning and setting up of all women's basketball events.

Cerna graduated from Christian High School in 2001, where he played four years of varsity basketball. While a student at San Diego State, he coached at Marian Catholic High School from 2002-05, serving as the boys' freshman team coach as well as an assistant with the boys' and girls' varsity squads.

The San Diego native became a student manager for the Aztec men's basketball team in May 2005, and over the next three seasons helped with practice set-up, game statistics, summer camps and team travel. Cerna supervised other student managers and helped the video coordinator with film exchange and game scout edits.

Cerna earned his bachelor's degree in social science in December 2006, and is currently pursuing his master's in kinesiology with a concentration in sports psychology at SDSU.



**WENDELL RICHARDS**  
**Assistant Strength &**  
**Conditioning Coach**  
**Third Season at SDSU**  
**Appalachian State, 2001**

*Burns on Richards: "The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire." Coach Richards gives us an edge; he is our difference maker. He has knowledge, skills, burning passion and a fantastic ability to teach and reach every personality. Each workout is the end result of planning forward for one thing - championships."*

Wendell Richards is in his third season as the strength and conditioning coach for the Aztec basketball team. He is directly responsible for the design, implementation and supervision of each training session.

"Our goal is to play strong and to play fast," Richards says. "To accomplish this, I focuses on developing strength and explosiveness in both the lower and upper body, coupled by a strong core. The gains made in the weight room reflect in faster running speeds, a stronger presence in the paint and increased jump heights. This increase in athleticism transfers directly to the court, making each individual a better basketball player."

Richards came to San Diego State after nearly five years at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, where he was a graduate assistant from 2001-02, and an assistant strength and conditioning coach from 2002-06. He worked with the Vandals' women's basketball, women's soccer, golf, tennis, track and field and volleyball programs. In addition, Richards assisted with football and men's basketball teams.

Prior to his stay at Idaho, the Broadalbin, N.Y., native first worked with coach Francis while he was an undergraduate at Appalachian State in Boone, N.C. As a senior, he focused primarily on men's tennis and assisted with the Mountaineers' 20 other varsity sports.

Richards, who is certified by the CSCCa, earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Appalachian State (2001) and a master's degree in physical education (2003) from the University of Idaho.



**EMILY BANVILLE**  
**Student Manager**  
**Third Season**

*Burns on Banville: "Emily is an integral part of our program. She is always one step ahead of us at practice and, thanks to her efforts, we have made great strides on the court. Emily is extremely bright and talented; she enables our coaches to focus on our players at practice while she juggles everything else!"*

Emily Banville enters her third season as the team's student manager.

A native of Lafayette, Calif., she graduated from Acalanes High School, where she lettered in basketball and golf. Banville spent four summers from 2003-07 as a counselor at various girls' basketball camps in the Bay Area and was an assistant AAU coach for the East Bay Panthers' 12-and-under team as a senior in 2005.

Banville is also a tutor for the SDSU athletic academic services department. She is scheduled to graduate next May with her bachelor's degree in liberal studies, with future plans of becoming an elementary school teacher and a high school basketball coach.

## THE JORGE CERNA FILE

**Hometown:**  
 San Diego, Calif.

**Education:**  
 Bachelor's of Arts -  
 Social Science  
 San Diego State, 2006

**Playing Career:**  
 Christian High School  
 1998-2001

**Basketball Background:**  
**San Diego State -**  
 Men's Basketball  
 Student Manager  
 2005-08

**Marian Catholic High -**  
 Girls' Varsity  
 Assistant Coach  
 2004-05

**Marian Catholic High -**  
 Boys' Varsity  
 Assistant Coach  
 2003-04

**Marian Catholic High -**  
 Boys' Freshman Coach/  
 Varsity Assistant Coach  
 2002-03

# AZTEC BASKETBALL STAFF



**WILLIE JUDD**  
Academic Advisor  
Third Season at SDSU  
Iowa State, 2002

*Burns on Judd: "I believe that education is all about being excited about something. Seeing passion and enthusiasm helps push an educational message. Willie has the heart of a champion. He always puts our student-athletes first. His background as a major college football player gives him great perspective and our athletes benefit from his insights, loyalty and direction."*

Willie Judd is in his third year as the academic advisor for the Aztec women's basketball team. Judd also is the department's CHAMPS/Life Skills Coordinator, as well as a co-advisor for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Judd provides academic guidance and life skill development to the Aztec women's basketball team. He addresses all academic needs for the players, including scheduling course work and coordinating tutoring, study hours and mentor meetings. He also teaches a freshman success class for SDSU student-athletes, in which players learn everything from time management, communication and study skills.

The San Diego native came to SDSU after two years at Santa Barbara City College, where he was an athletic academic counselor and coached the defensive line for the Vaquero football team.

Judd is a former student-athlete himself, playing football for two seasons at Iowa State, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 2002. After completing his eligibility, he spent a year at ISU as a graduate assistant in football operations.

He returned to the West Coast to pursue his master's degree in education counseling (2004), while working as an academic advisor at National University.

Judd's wife, Kate, is a former UC Santa Barbara women's basketball player and is pursuing a master's degree from SDSU in rehabilitation counseling. His parents are both San Diego State alums, and his sister, Katie, played volleyball at Portland State.



**GINA MAGGIO**  
Athletic Trainer  
Third Season at SDSU  
William Paterson, 1999

Gina Maggio begins her third year as an athletic trainer at San Diego State. Maggio works directly with the Aztec women's basketball team.

As the team's head athletic trainer, her primary responsibility is the overall healthcare of the student-athletes. Whether it's the flu or an ankle sprain, the Aztecs see her for all ailments. Maggio

works with state-of-the-art equipment, including a SWIM-Ex Unit and Biodex machine to rehabilitate injuries and return the student-athletes to the court better than before. She also coordinates nutrition services for the team to improve performance.

Before coming to SDSU, Maggio spent six years at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif. From 2000-06, she was a staff athletic trainer working with world-class athletes in a variety of different sports. In 2004, Maggio was the primary athletic trainer for the U.S. canoe and kayak teams at the Olympic Games in Greece.

The New Jersey native came to San Diego in 2000, after completing her master's degree in athletic training at the University of Virginia. While in Charlottesville, she worked with the cross country and track and field teams.

A 1999 graduate of William Paterson University with a bachelor's degree in physical education, Maggio is a certified massage technician through Mueller College of Holistic Studies.

She is also a certified athletic trainer (NATABOC), first-aid/CPR instructor and certified member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Maggio and her husband, Jeff, live in San Diego.



**TARA MORRISON**  
Administrative Assistant  
Second Season at SDSU  
Adams State, 2001

Tara Morrison enters her second year at San Diego State and her first as the team's administrative assistant. In her position, Morrison handles the daily operations and administrative duties of the women's basketball office. She works closely with the staff to organize team travel, daily schedules and the budget. She also works closely with the

members of the "Full Court Press Club" booster group by organizing and running the club's events.

A year ago, the Arvada, Colo., native served as the team's head manager after spending six years as a Division I assistant coach.

Morrison was an assistant women's basketball coach at Binghamton University in Binghamton, N.Y. from 2005-07. Her responsibilities included coaching the Bearcats' forwards and post players, while also helping with the team's recruiting, academics, scouting and summer camps. Binghamton finished in the top four of the America East Conference in each of her two seasons and twice made semifinal appearances at the league championships.

Before moving to New York, Morrison was an assistant from 2001-05 at the University of Maine under head coach Sharon Versyp. The Black Bears were 86-34 overall during her four-year stay, including a 58-10 mark in conference play. Maine claimed three straight America East regular seasons titles from 2003-05, and advanced to the postseason on three occasions, including a trip to the NCAA tournament in 2004.

Her duties with the Black Bears involved coaching the forward and post players, including two-time America East Conference Player of the Year Heather Ernest. Morrison also coordinated team travel and film exchange and helped with film editing, scouting, recruiting, summer camps and academics.

A 2001 graduate of Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo., she was a three-year basketball letterwinner at forward for the Grizzlies, after playing one season at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Morrison, who has a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology with a minor in coaching, was the head coach of the Mile Hi Magic Girl's Basketball Club in Denver, Colo., during the summer from 1999-2001.

Morrison is a certified personal trainer and resides in San Diego.

**A special thank you to the following dealerships for providing the women's basketball staff with courtesy cars.**

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