

# 2007-08 COACHES & STAFF PROFILES



## INSIDE

Head Coach Beth Burns	....18-20
Associate Head Coach Heidi VanDerveer	.....21
Asst. Coach Jualeah Woods	..22
Asst. Coach Renee Jimenez	..23
Dir. of Basketball Operations Tammy Stephens	.....24
Support Staff	.....25-26



# BETH BURNS

COACHES AND STAFF PROFILES



## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

**A**lready the winningest coach in Aztec women's basketball history, Beth Burns returned to SDSU on April 8, 2005, and immediately began laying the foundation for the program's return to the national spotlight.





# BETH BURNS



**HEAD COACH  
THIRD SEASON OF SECOND STINT AT SDSU/16TH OVERALL  
OHIO WESLEYAN, 1979**

This past year, she 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. This past spring, 11 players were recognized at the department's annual scholar-athlete awards banquet, which honors student-athletes with at least a 3.0 cumulative or 3.2 semester GPA. Among the 10 are seniors Shanna Demus, who received the school's Academic Initiative Medal for her persistent commitment toward meeting her academic goals, and Kate Eveland, who is a member of the elite Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

On the recruiting trail, Burns and her staff signed each of the last three *San Diego Union-Tribune* section players of the year, including two-time winner, freshman Paris Johnson.

This past September, Burns was rewarded with a new five-year contract, which runs through the 2011-12 campaign.

"(Coach Burns') work in two seasons has been nothing short of phenomenal, and is the direct result of her relentless focus on the success of her student-athletes," SDSU Director of Athletics Jeff Schemmel said. "Her leadership, charisma, energy and expertise are apparent in all that she does, and to all the people she meets. We look forward to working with her in taking our women's basketball program to unparalleled heights."

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 Mountain West Conference 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, including serving as honorary Homecoming chair in 2005.

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

## 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

## BETH BURNS' HEAD COACHING CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Five 20+ win seasons, including four at SDSU
- ◆ NCAA First Round (1999, 1997, 1995, 1993)
- ◆ NCAA Second Round (1994)
- ◆ 2001 WNIT Team Champion
- ◆ 1994, 1997 WAC Tournament Champions
- ◆ 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 Garnes (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
- ◆ 14 - Big Ten All-Academic Honorees
- ◆ 5 - MWC All-Academic Picks



# BETH BURNS

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 was inducted into

the Aztec Hall of Fame in 2002.

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 at San Diego State, 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), and is a member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

## BURNS: BY THE NUMBERS

### 247 Career Wins As A Head Coach

Burns has won 247 career games as a head coach in 15 seasons, including 166 at San Diego State.

### 26 Conference All-Academic Selections

Burns' players have also succeeded in the classroom, garnering all-academic honors 26 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.

### 11th Most Improved Team In The Nation

Under Burns' direction, SDSU was the 11th-most improved team in the nation in 2006-07, winning its most games in six seasons and posting the biggest turnaround in Mountain West Conference history.

### 15 First Team All-Conference Selections

Players have earned first team all-conference honors on 15 occasions in Burns' 15 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

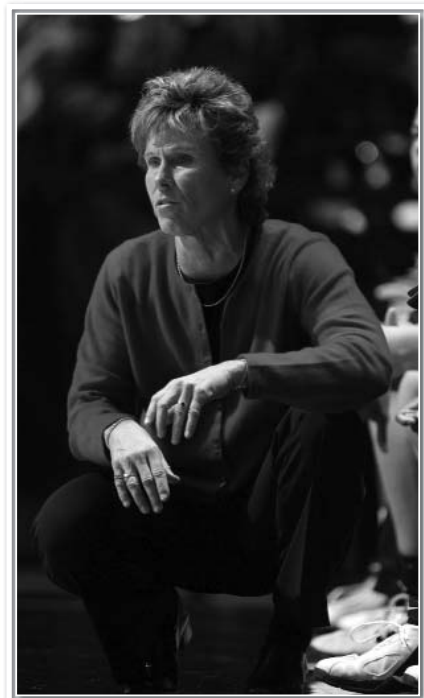
The Aztecs won a pair of Western Athletic Conference championships under Burns in both 1994 and 1997, and were the runners-up in 1995.

### 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)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15-40 (.273)</b>	<b>5-27 (.156)</b>

<b>SDSU</b>	<b>166-123 (.574)</b>	<b>86-62 (.581)</b>
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>247-188 (.568)</b>	<b>121-107 (.531)</b>



# HEIDI VanDERVEER



**ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH  
FIRST SEASON AT SDSU/20TH OVERALL  
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON, 1986**

*Burns on VanDerveer: "Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm." Coach VanDerveer will continue to accomplish MANY great things. She is an immediate impact person. Her vast basketball (WNBA, USA Basketball, worldwide scouting and recruiting, collegiate) and life experiences are incredible. Our staff and students get these benefits every day, as her energy and enthusiasm is contagious."*



With over 20 years of experience on both the collegiate and professional levels, Heidi VanDerveer begins her first season as associate head coach at San Diego State.

VanDerveer comes to San Diego State from the Seattle Storm, where she recently completed her second season as an assistant under head coach Anne Donovan. The Storm advanced to the WNBA playoffs in each of her two campaigns in Seattle.

VanDerveer began her coaching career as a graduate assistant for Pat Summitt at the University of Tennessee, when the Lady Volunteers won the 1987 national championship and advanced to the 1988 Final Four. She then spent six seasons as an assistant at the University of South Carolina (1988-94), helping to guide the Gamecocks to three NCAA tournament appearances, including a trip to the Sweet 16 in 1990, and a conference tournament title in 1989.

In 1994, she was hired as the head coach at Eastern Washington, where she led the Eagles to 12 victories in her inaugural campaign and back-to-back Big Sky tournament appearances, including the school's first in five years.

VanDerveer's first stint in the WNBA came as an assistant coach with the Sacramento Monarchs in 1997, before being promoted to head coach of the Monarchs in 1997-98. She spent four years with the Minnesota Lynx as both an assistant (1999-2002) and head coach (2002).

VanDerveer served as a league scout from 2003-05, while also working one year at the University of San Francisco as an assistant and later head coach.

In addition to her extensive experience in both the professional and collegiate coaching ranks, VanDerveer has worked with USA Basketball as a scout for the 2006 World Championship team and as a court manager for World Championship, World University, Goodwill Games and select squads.

A native of Chautauqua, N.Y., she was a four-year letterwinner in basketball at the College of Charleston from 1982-86, serving as team captain as senior. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science in 1986, and also has a master's degree in physical education/sports psychology from the University of Tennessee (1988).

VanDerveer's sister, Tara, is the head coach at Stanford.

## THE HEIDI VanDERVEER FILE

**Hometown:**  
Chautauqua, N.Y.

**Education:**  
Bachelor's of Science -  
Political Science  
College of Charleston, 1986

Master's of Arts -  
Physical Education/Sports Psychology  
Tennessee, 1988

**Playing Experience**  
College of Charleston  
1982-96

**Coaching Background**  
**San Diego State -**  
Associate Head Coach  
2007-Present

**Seattle Storm -**  
Assistant Coach  
2005-07

**University of San Francisco -**  
Assistant/Head Coach  
2004-05

**Minnesota Lynx -**  
Head Coach  
2002  
Assistant Coach  
1999-02

**Sacramento Monarchs -**  
Head Coach  
1997-98  
Assistant Coach  
1997

**Eastern Washington -**  
Head Coach  
1994-97

**South Carolina -**  
Assistant Coach  
1988-94

**Tennessee -**  
Graduate Assistant Coach  
1986-88





# JUALEAH WOODS



**ASSISTANT COACH  
THIRD SEASON AT SDSU/10TH 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 10th season as an NCAA Division I assistant coach, Jualeah Woods is in her third 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.

After coming to San Diego in May 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.

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, before spending a year with the Long Beach StingRays of the American Basketball League in 1996-97.

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

The Berkeley, 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:**

Long Beach StingRays (ABL)  
1996-97

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





# RENEE JIMENEZ



**ASSISTANT COACH  
THIRD SEASON AT SDSU/THIRD OVERALL  
SAN FRANCISCO STATE, 2004**

*Burns on Jimenez: " 'Paint a masterpiece daily. Always autograph your work with excellence.' Coach Jimenez is an artist. Her ability to use all technology, most specifically our players' film, gives us a cutting edge instructional tool every day. She enhances our preparation; which in turn, elevates our student-athletes' level of confidence and impacts our daily performance."*

Renee Jimenez begins her third season as an assistant coach with the Aztecs.

At SDSU, Jimenez is the team's technical and multimedia coordinator. In that capacity, she organizes all the computer/video editing and teaching tapes. She specifically focuses on player and scout edits, as well as helping to organize summer camps.

Before coming to San Diego State in May 2005, Jimenez was an intern for the women's basketball team at Stanford, where she was the team's videographer and coordinated film exchange. She also organized pre-game youth clinics and assisted with recruiting evaluations and summer camps.

The Ventura, Calif., native played three seasons at San Francisco State from 2001-04, finishing her career as the Gators' all-time leader in three-point field goals. Jimenez also set two school season records, including most three-pointers made (62).

A 2004 graduate of San Francisco State with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and kinesiology, Jimenez also competed for one year at Ventura College, helping the Pirates to the 2001 state junior college championship.



## THE RENEE JIMENEZ FILE

**Hometown:**  
Ventura, Calif.

**Education:**  
Bachelor's of Arts -  
Liberal Studies, Kinesiology  
San Francisco State, 2004

**Playing Experience:**  
Ventura College  
2000

San Francisco State  
2001-04

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

**Stanford -**  
Intern  
2004-05



# TAMMY STEPHENS



## 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

**DIRECTOR OF BASKETBALL OPERATIONS  
THIRD SEASON AT SDSU/SEVENTH 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 six years of experience as a director of basketball operations at the Division I level, Tammy Stephens enters her third 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.





# AZTEC BASKETBALL STAFF



**TARA MORRISON**  
**Head Manager**  
**First Season at SDSU/  
 Seventh Overall  
 Adams State, 2001**

*Burns on Morrison: "We are excited to add Tara Morrison to our Aztec Basketball staff for the upcoming season. Her background and level of experience will allow her to assist our coaches in many ways. As head manager, she will supervise our student managers, do our live game editing, as well as coordinate all our practice, game and scouting video."*

Tara Morrison enters her first season as the head manager with the Aztecs after spending the past six seasons as a Division I assistant coach.

Morrison spent the last two seasons as an assistant women's basketball coach at Binghamton University in Binghamton, N.Y. 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.

A native of Arvada, Colo., Morrison is a certified personal trainer and resides in San Diego.



**WENDELL RICHARDS**  
**Assistant Strength &  
 Conditioning Coach**  
**Second 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 second season as the strength and conditioning coach for the Aztec basketball team.

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 also assisted with football and men's basketball teams.

Prior to his stay in Idaho, the Broadalbin, N.Y. native first worked as 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.



**JON FRANCIS**  
**Director of Strength & Conditioning**  
**Fourth Season at SDSU  
 Appalachian State, 1993**

Jon Francis is in his fourth year at San Diego State and first as the director of strength and conditioning after spending the previous three years as head strength and conditioning coach at the University of Idaho.

Before arriving in Idaho, Francis was the assistant strength and conditioning coach at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. He worked with the University's football, basketball, baseball, wrestling, volleyball and men's soccer programs. He also served as a graduate assistant at Appalachian State.

Francis is a 1993 graduate of Appalachian State and completed his master of arts in sport management at the school in 2001. He is a member of the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association and is Strength and Conditioning Coach Certified (SCCC). He is also a member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association and has earned certification from USA Weightlifting.

His wife, Joy, is San Diego State's director of athletic development.

## THE TARA MORRISON FILE

**Hometown:**  
 Arvada, Colo.

**Education:**  
 Bachelor's of Arts -  
 Exercise Physiology and  
 Leisure Science,  
 K-12 Physical Education  
 Minor - Coaching  
 Adams State College, 2001

**Playing Experience:**  
 University of Colorado -  
 Colorado Springs, 1996-97  
 Adams State College,  
 1998-2001

**College Basketball  
 Background:**  
**San Diego State -**  
 Head Manager  
 2007-Present

**Binghamton University -**  
 Assistant Coach  
 2005-07

**University of Maine -**  
 Assistant Coach  
 2001-05



# AZTEC BASKETBALL STAFF



**HELEN KANAHEL**  
Administrative Assistant  
Second Season at SDSU

An SDSU graduate with a degree in business administration, Helen Kanavel is in her second year as women's basketball's administrative assistant.

Kanavel most recently was an administrative assistant for five years in the technology transfer office at the SDSU Research Foundation. She also worked for 10 years beginning in 1991 at Fremont Corporation, which specializes in workers compensation, in

San Diego.

Kanavel, who attended Hoover High School, resides in La Mesa, Calif., with her dalmatian, Ruby, and her cat, Burton. She has one daughter, Polly, whose husband, Scott, also works in the athletic department as the information technology coordinator.



**WILLIE JUDD**  
Academic Advisor  
Second 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 second 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 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.

A San Diego native, 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 one 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.



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

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

Before coming to SDSU, Maggio spent the last 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.



**EMILY BANVILLE**  
Student Manager



**KARLA MORAN**  
Student Manager