



JOANNA HAYES

The Sherie L. and Donald G. Morrison UCLA Director of Track & Field/Cross Country
2nd Season at UCLA
UCLA '01

UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame member and Olympic gold medalist Joanna Hayes returned to UCLA as the new The Sherie L. and Donald G. Morrison UCLA Director of Track & Field/Cross Country on June 17, 2024. Hayes previously served as an assistant coach for the Bruins from 2014-16 and for USC from 2017-24.

Shortly after being named to the top job at UCLA, she was selected as the USATF Nike Coach of the Year for the 2024 calendar year.

UCLA started off its new era under Hayes in a strong way in 2025. The women's outdoor squad was nationally ranked all season, climbing as high as No. 13 in the polls. The Bruins swept their dual meet over crosstown rival USC at Drake Stadium, a first for the program since 2013. UCLA set five school records over the course of the year, including in the women's indoor 4x400 and outdoor 4x100 relays. The Bruins made a strong impression at their first Outdoor Big Ten Championships, with Michael Pinckney bringing home a gold medal in the men's discus and the UCLA women finishing third in the team standings. A total of 11 individuals combined for 16 All-America honors at the Outdoor NCAA Championships, with two more earning Indoor All-America accolades earlier in the season.

A six-time All-American at UCLA from 1996-99, Hayes won seven Pac-10 titles and the 1999 NCAA outdoor title in the 400m hurdles. She led UCLA to three-straight Pac-10 team titles and two-straight NCAA runner-up finishes, and her Bruin teams went 39-0 in dual meets in her career. At the Pac-10 level, Hayes won three-straight 100m hurdles titles from 1996-98 and two-straight 400m hurdles crowns from 1996-97. In 2004, she won Olympic gold, breaking a 16-year Olympic record with a winning time of 12.37 in the 100m hurdles. Also that year, she won the 2004 Jesse Owens Award as USA Track & Field's outstanding female athlete and finished as the No. 1-ranked 100m hurdler in the world. Additionally, she won gold in the 400m hurdles at the 2003 Pan American Games.

In her previous coaching stint at UCLA, Hayes was an assistant sprints, hurdles and relays coach. In her first season in 2014, she coached Brea Buchanan and Trinity Wilson to the NCAA finals in the 100m hurdles. Hayes also guided the women's 4x100m relay team to the NCAA Championship meets in 2015 and 2016.

At USC, Hayes earned USTFCCA West Region Assistant Coach of the Year honors four times, most recently being selected for the 2024 outdoor season with the women after her hurdlers scored 16 of the

Trojans' 25 points at the NCAA Championships, where USC finished 10th. She was the 2023 and 2024 indoor men's assistant of the year, coaching a pair of Trojans to the top two times in the nation in the 60m hurdles during the 2023 indoor campaign. Her first award came in 2018, when two USC hurdlers won Pac-12 titles and four of her 100m hurdlers advanced to the NCAA Championships.

Hayes' athletes were among the most successful at USC during her time with the team. Anna Cockrell was a three-time NCAA Champion, 2021 Honda Sports Award Winner, and 2021 Pac-12 Tom Hansen Medal winner before earning a silver medal in the 2024 Summer Olympics. Jasmine Jones was the 2024 Pac-12 Women's Track Athlete of the Year and won a pair of NCAA titles in 2024, taking the outdoor 400m hurdles title with a school and meet record, and winning the indoor 60m title.

Olympians Sydney McLaughlin and Rai Benjamin are among the elite athletes Hayes has trained. McLaughlin is the current world record holder in the 400m hurdles, and Benjamin ranks No. 2 in the world and No. 1 in the USA.

Hayes, who graduated from UCLA in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in sociology, resides in Los Angeles with her husband, Eric Thomas, and daughters, Zoe and Aly.





TATE CURRAN

Assistant Coach -
Pole Vault
2nd Season at UCLA
UCLA '22

Former UCLA student-athlete Tate Curran joined the track and field coaching staff on August 1, 2024.

"I'm so excited to have Tate back in Westwood," said The Sherie L. and Donald G. Morrison Director of Track & Field/Cross Country Joanna Hayes. "He was the ultimate competitor as a vaulter and an incredible teammate; Tate will be a great example for our student-athletes and help carry on our tradition of excellence in this program."

Curran most recently served as the Director of Track & Field at the Chadwick School in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., for the 2023-24 school year.

As a student-athlete at UCLA, Curran claimed silver at his final Pac-12 Championships in 2022. The pole vaulter cleared 5.01m at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., to finish as the Pac-12 runner-up. The same mark earned Curran an event victory at the 2022 dual meet against USC. Curran won four pole vault competitions during the 2022 indoor and outdoor seasons and had five podium finishes in his final year competing for the Bruins. He was also a point scorer for UCLA at the 2021 Pac-12 Championships, finishing eighth at the Conference meet.

The UCLA pole vaulter competed in 36 meets during his three-year career with the Bruins. Curran earned his bachelor of arts in political science and government from UCLA in June 2022.



SEAN DENARD

Assistant Coach - Throws
5th Season at UCLA
Mount Union '12

Sean Denard was named to the position of Assistant Coach – Throws on September 24, 2021 and enters his fifth season with the UCLA coaching staff.

"As coach, mentor, and leader of this program and for these student athletes, I want to emphasize the importance of finding balance in life through studying, living, and training at the number one public university in the world, in the greatest city in the world, and at the most successful athletic department in college sports," said Denard. "Through balance we will discover new levels of excellence and elite performances."

During the 2022-23 campaign with the Bruins, UCLA throwers captured a Pac-12 individual and three All-American honors. Federica Botter set a new outdoor school record in the javelin throw, launching for a mark of 57.81m (189-8) to secure the Conference title. Mayyi Mahama, a second team All-American, landed second all-time in UCLA's history books in the hammer throw, recording a mark of 68.38m (224-4) to claim third at the Pac-12 Championships. Lyvante Su'emi showed steady improvement throughout the season in the discus, placing fifth at the Conference championships before throwing a PR mark (55.69m, 182-8) in the discus event at outdoor nationals.

Freshman thrower Michael Pinckney also shined under Denard's guidance – in his second meet with UCLA, Pinckney set a new indoor school record in the weight throw (22.05m, 72-04.25). Pinckney also claimed a national title during the summer, winning gold in the hammer throw at the 2023 USATF U20 Outdoor Championships in July. He went on to place fifth at the PanAmerican u20 Championships in the hammer before claiming a silver in the shot put event. Aidan Elbettar also had an impressive summer, throwing 53.21m in the men's discus final at the 2023 NACAC U23 Championship to claim a bronze medal in Costa Rica.

In his first year at UCLA, Denard's athletes found outstanding success in the ring and on the runway. At the Pac-12 Championships, Lauren McFall secured five points for the Bruin women in the javelin, finishing fourth overall with a mark of 47.15m (154-8). Kris Emig launched a lifetime-best throw of 67.36m (221-0) in the hammer, securing fourth place overall in the competition and solidifying his No. 5 position on UCLA's all-time list in the event. Jacob Wilson was also impressive in the men's shot put, as the senior uncorked an effort of 19.28m (63-03.25) for second place overall and eight points for the Bruins.

Freshman Lyvante Su'emi and sophomore Natalie Ramirez competed in the discus event at the NCAA West Preliminaries under Denard's guidance. Su'emi placed 14th overall with a mark of 54.14m (177-07) and Ramirez threw for a distance of 48.41m (150-10) to place 38th overall.

Before coming to Westwood, Denard most recently served as an Assistant Coach for CSUN Track & Field (2019-21) and has a strong history of elite coaching accomplishments. He has coached six student-athletes to NCAA titles and has 51 top-10 finishes at the NCAA Championships to his coaching credit.

Denard has also recruited athletes who have garnered 28 All-American accolades, as well as 34 conference and four NCAA individual or team titles. Twenty-two of his athletes have collected Academic All-American awards. Additionally, 16 of Denard's former athletes or volunteer assistants have gone on to coach at the collegiate level.

Throughout his coaching career, Denard has coached many notable athletes, including Sean Donnelly (Four-time NCAA Division III Champion, Olympic Trials qualifier), Bobbie Goodwin (NCAA Division II Champion), Justin Rodhe (Olympian, Commonwealth Games finalist), and Darien Thornton (NCAA Division II Champion, Olympic Trials qualifier).

Denard also had coaching stops at Grand Valley State University (2014-19) and North Central College (2012-14). He graduated from the University of Mount Union in 2012, where he earned NCAA Division III All-America acclaim as a thrower. Denard earned his second master's degree at UCLA during the 2022-2023 school year.



ANDREW FERRIS

Assistant Coach - Distance
3rd Season at UCLA
Griffith University '09

Andrew Ferris joined the UCLA track & field and cross country coaching staff on October 5, 2023, as announced by UCLA Athletics. Ferris enters his third campaign with the Bruins in 2025-26.

Since 2023-24, Ferris has been responsible for guiding the cross country team and distance runners on the track for the 800m through 10,000m events. In his first season with UCLA track & field, he helped junior Mia Kane capture the Pac-12 individual title in the 3,000m steeplechase. With Ferris' guidance, senior Michael Mireles finished as the Conference runner-up in men's 5,000m race. The Bruins also claimed eight marks on UCLA's all-time top 10 lists in indoor and outdoor distance events.

Ferris boasts 14 All-Americans and 21 champions under his supervision in his NCAA coaching career. He also coaches Maël Gouyette, who will represent France in the men's 1500m at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Prior to his arrival in Westwood, Ferris served as an assistant coach at Iona University from 2021-23. He coached three All-Americans and saw four school records with the Gaels. Ferris also coached at Wake Forest University from 2017-21. He helped Deacons earn All-America honors eight times, set eight program records and claim four ACC event titles.

He mentored Robert Heppenstall en route to five All-America finishes at Wake Forest, as he won three league titles in the 800m before signing a pro contract with the District Track Club in 2019. Heppenstall also set four program records under Ferris in the indoor and outdoor 800m, the indoor 1000m and outdoor 1500m.

In cross country, Ferris helped the Wake Forest men's program post top-five finishes in back-to-back years (2018-19) for the first time since 2000-01, when there were only nine programs in the ACC. In his first season with the Deacon men's cross country team (2017), the men improved from eighth to sixth at the conference meet, the highest finish since 2010. Freshman Mitchell Day earned All-ACC honors after finishing 13th to become the program's first-ever male ACC Freshman of the Year honoree and first All-Conference recipient since 2005.

Other All-ACC honorees under Ferris include Archie Wallis (2019-20) and Johanna Schulz (2019-20), while Aaron Las Heras won a European U-20 title in the 5000m in 2019.

Off the track, the men's program won the Dean's Cup for highest team GPA three straight years from 2017-19.

Prior to his stint in Winston-Salem, Ferris worked as the Head Coach at Emmanuel College where he coached multiple state and national medalists, including two Australian Steeplechase Champions, two Australian Champion teams, 38 Australian Junior Championship qualifiers and an Oceania Women's Champion.

Ferris has progressed to a level three coaching qualification, one of the highest accreditations offered in Australia. He was also an Apprenticeship Coach at the Altis World Athletics Center, an elite athlete and coach training organization that improves performances of both athletes and coaches. He also has Level 1 Strength and Conditioning certification through ASCA.

Ferris attended the Ipswich Grammar School where he graduated in 2001. From there, he achieved a Bachelor of Health Science in 2009 from Griffith University in South East Queensland, Australia.



ARMAN "GINO" HALL

Assistant Coach - Sprints
2nd Season at UCLA
Florida '16

Arman "Gino" Hall, an Olympic Gold Medalist, three-time NCAA Champion, and 17-time All-American, joined the UCLA track & field coaching program as an assistant coach in September 2024 as part of Joanna Hayes's inaugural staff.

"I couldn't be more excited to welcome Gino to our staff," said Hayes. "His exceptional coaching skills, combined with his Olympic-level athletic experience, align perfectly with our program's goals. I look forward to seeing him work with our student-athletes."

Hall was most recently an assistant coach at Arizona State for the 2023-24 season, helping the Sun Devils reach a top-10 ranking in both the men's 200m and men's 400m. Prior to his time in Tempe, he was named the 2023 USTFCCA NJCAA Division I Women's Assistant Coach of the Year at New Mexico Junior College after helping the Thunderbirds to team National Championships on both the men's and women's sides.

Earlier in his career, Hall made coaching stops at Miami Killian High School (2021-22), Arizona State (2019-21), and Florida (2017-18).

Hall's decorated career as a sprinter includes a 2016 Olympic Gold Medal in the 4x400, a 2013 gold medal at the World Championships in the 4x400, two gold medals at the 2012 World Junior Championships (4x400, 4x100), and a pair of gold medals at the 2011 World Youth Championships (400m, medley relay).

As a student-athlete at Florida, Hall helped Florida to three SEC Championships and was the 2014 SEC Indoor Men's Runner of the Year. He claimed three NCAA titles (400m, 4x100, 4x400) during his time in Gainesville, and finished his career with five individual marks inside the program's all-time top-10 lists.

In 2023-24, Hall helped a pair of Sun Devil sprinters break program records (Kaleb Simpson, 100m; Adriana Tatum, 100m, 200m), while the men consistently sported a top-10 USTFCCA squad ranking all year.

In his one season at NMJC, Hall's sprinters and hurdlers combined for four national titles across the men's and women's outdoor seasons. In total, Hall coached nine national champions and 28 first-team All-Americans across the sprints and hurdles at both the indoor and outdoor NJCAA National Championships. His student-athletes rewrote the school record books that year, gaining 14 new program records. Under his tutelage, every single sprinter and hurdler PR'd in at least one event during the 2022-23 campaign.

Prior to NMJC, Hall helped Miami Killian High School to a Florida State Championship for the 2021-22 school year. He served two years as a volunteer assistant at ASU in his first stint in Tempe, and got his start in the coaching ranks as a volunteer assistant at his alma mater in 2017-18.

Hall earned his Bachelor of Arts in cultural studies from Florida in 2016.



MECCA McGLASTON

Assistant Coach - Sprints/Hurdles
2nd Season at UCLA
USC '22

UCLA added former USC hurdler Mecca McGlaston to the track & field coaching staff, The Sherie L. and Donald G. Morrison UCLA Director of Track & Field/Cross Country Joanna Hayes announced Friday, Aug. 23, 2024.

"I'm extremely happy to have Coach McGlaston on board with us at UCLA," said Hayes. "She is going to bring high energy and a high level of understanding to our student-athletes. Mecca is a huge addition and will be a great benefit to our program."

McGlaston ran for the Trojans from 2018-22, winning two NCAA team titles in 2018 and 2021. She was an eight-time All-American as a student-athlete; the hurdler holds one indoor (60m hurdles) and two outdoor (100m hurdles, 4x100m relay) top 10 marks for her former program. McGlaston also served as the Track & Field Team Captain from 2021-2022 and was a student coach during the 2022 season.

Prior to joining the Bruin coaching staff, McGlaston worked as a communication consultant at Kaiser Permanente beginning in September 2022. She led organization-wide projects, developed and implemented communication strategies and conducted research to help aid and enhance communication at the organization.

McGlaston earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a minor in cinematic arts, Master of Science in Project Management and Master of Arts in Studies in Law from USC.



NICK NEWMAN

Assistant Coach - Jumps/Multis
2nd Season at UCLA

Nick Newman joined the Bruin coaching staff on July 15, 2024, the Sherie L. and Donald G. Morrison Director of Track & Field/Cross Country Joanna Hayes announced.

"It's awesome to have Coach Nick Newman back on the west coast," said Hayes. "He has a proven track record of delivering results and bringing the best out of his student-athletes. I'm excited for us to get to work and carry on the legacy of the UCLA jumps and multis program."

One of the top jumps coaches in the country, Newman lands in Westwood after a two-year stint at Auburn University. His Tigers captured seven top-5 finishes at the SEC championships, including student-athletes on the podium in the outdoor men's decathlon, women's indoor heptathlon and the women's indoor triple jump. Newman also helped guide Sanaa Barnes to a fifth-place finish in the women's high jump at the 2023 NCAA Outdoor Championships.

Newman spent one year at Tennessee, two at USC and three at California prior to his time in Alabama. During his NCAA tenure, Newman has coached his student-athletes to 25 All-American honors, five individual conference titles and two NCAA titles. Following the 2022 season, Newman was also named the USTFCCA National Men's Assistant Coach of the Year.

While on Rocky Top, Newman led freshman Wayne Pinnock to a sweep of both the indoor and outdoor NCAA titles in men's long jump and had three long jumpers earn First Team All-American status at NCAA Outdoors. Newman also coached the NCAA Indoors silver medalist in the event, Carey McLeod. On the women's side, Charisma Taylor captured bronze at indoor nationals in the women's triple jump, also under Newman's tutelage.

During the 2021 season at USC, the Trojan jumps group scored 61.5 points at Pac-12 Outdoors en route to capturing the women's conference title and finishing second in the men's standings. Newman then qualified five student-athletes for NCAAs, a group that pushed Southern California to its second women's national title in three seasons. Coached by Newman, the duo of Ernie Sears and Morgan Smalls led the jumps group with First Team All-American performances in high jump at both national meets. In addition to the national accolades, Newman's athletes also captured the conference titles in both women's high jump and men's triple jump during the season.

In three seasons at Cal-Berkeley, Newman coached 10 student-athletes to top-10 marks on Cal's indoor and outdoor lists. He guided Tuomas Kaukolahti to back-to-back Pac-12 titles in the men's triple jump as well as multiple All-American honors.

Originally from England, Newman represented his country in two international competitions and achieved a personal-best long jump of 7.80m (25-7.00) in 2012.



WELLINGTON ZAZA

Assistant Coach - Sprints/Hurdles/
Jumps
2nd Season at UCLA
Auburn '17

Wellington Zaza joined the UCLA track & field coaching staff in September 2024.

Zaza most recently coached at Syracuse, working as a volunteer sprints and hurdles coach with the Orange during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.

"I am excited to welcome Coach Zaza to our staff," said Hayes. "His dynamic energy and enthusiasm for teaching will greatly impact our student-athletes. With his extensive background as both an athlete and a coach, he will bring valuable experience and benefits to our program."

Prior to his time in Syracuse, he made volunteer coaching stops at Youngstown State (2019) and Alabama (2018-19). He began his coaching career as a graduate sprints and hurdles assistant at his alma mater, Auburn, from 2017-18.

Zaza has represented his native Liberia on the international level, making his debut at the 2014 World Junior Championships and setting a then-African junior record in the 110m hurdles at 13.38 en route to a fourth-place finish. He later earned a bronze medal in the 110m hurdles at the 2018 African Championships.

Over two seasons as a student-athlete at Auburn, Zaza tallied five USTFCCA All-America honors, including First Team status in the 4x400m relay as a senior in 2017. In his debut season with the Tigers, Zaza garnered Second Team All-America honors in the 110mH and 4x100m relay.

Hall earned his Bachelor of Arts in public administration from Auburn in 2017. He added a master's degree at Alabama in 2018.



MICHAEL PHILLIPPY

Director of Operations
2nd Season at UCLA
Princeton '22