

# HEAD COACH



**NEIL HARPER**

*Head Coach*

*7th Year*

*Louisiana State, '90*

**COACHING RESUME:**

- 1999-present: Head coach, Florida State University
- 1997-99: Head women's coach, Ohio State University
- 1994-97: Assistant coach, Florida State University
- 1988-94: Assistant coach, Louisiana State University

**INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- 2004: Swaziland Olympic Team (Athens, Greece)
- 2003: Swaziland World Championship Team (Barcelona, Spain)
- 2002: Commonwealth Games (Swaziland)
- 2001: Swaziland World Championships Team (Fukuoka, Japan)
- 2000: South African Olympic Team (Sydney, Australia)

With each passing season, the Florida State University swimming and diving program gets a little bit stronger and a little bit closer to being the best program in the Atlantic Coast Conference. The architect of this master plan, seventh-year head coach Neil Harper is positioning his squads to make a run at a conference championship.

There is no greater evidence of FSU's constant improvement than on the men's side. With an extra team in the mix at last year's ACC meet, the Seminoles produced their highest point total under Harper with their second-place finish of 580 points. The 146-point gap between Florida State and champion Virginia is the smallest margin in six years. For the second year in a row the conference schools recognized the men's team with the ACC Sportsmanship Award after both squads won it in 2004.

Last season also saw the men break through for their first All-America award in the pool since 1999. The 800 freestyle relay



of Thomas Bishop, Steve Roof, Kyle Young and Billy Jamerson produced Honorable Mention All-America accolades and the four representatives made up FSU's largest men's contingency at the meet in six seasons. For the sixth year in a row, the women's team placed at the NCAA Championships while it was the second time in the last three years that both teams placed.

In 2004 Harper put together his best season to date on the women's side, culminating in a 17th-place finish at the NCAA Championships – the highest in school history. FSU claimed nine individual and relay titles at the ACC meet and produced a conference and school record 15 dual meet triumphs as Harper was named 2004 Women's ACC Coach of the Year. Emma Dutton was named ACC Swimmer of the Year as she became the first Seminole in 14 years to win a pair of All-America certificates in the same season after becoming just the third swimmer in ACC history to win seven events at the conference championships.

Florida State athletes are a regular sight on top of the medal stand at the ACC Championships. Over the last six years, the women's team has won 24 individual and relay titles – 14 more than the previous eight years – while the men have amassed 18, the second best six-year run in school history. The 12 combined championships in 2004 were the most since 1995's total of 19. Only Florida State and Virginia have produced a men's champion in each of the last six years and the Seminoles are the only ones with at least one gold medal winner since 1992. FSU, UVA and North Carolina have all produced one or more women's champions in the last six seasons.

Each team has produced at least four All-ACC award winners since 2000 with the women collecting 43 under Harper – the third highest total in the ACC during that span. The men's 36 certificates are second only to Virginia since 2000. The women's 10 selections in 2004 are a school record for men or women and tie Maryland (2005), Virginia (2003) and North Carolina (2001) for the most since 1998. During the 2005 conference meet, the Seminoles came away with three championships – the men's 400 freestyle relay, Lauren Brick in the 100 breaststroke and Brittany Lerew on the three-meter board – with a combined 14 All-ACC awards at the men's and women's meets.

At the national level, the Tribe has produced 22 All-Americans during Harper's six years. During his 16 years of coaching, Harper has worked with 49 athletes who have produced 125 All-American honors.

As to be expected, the Tribe has been rewriting the school's record books. Nineteen of the women's 24 school marks have fallen during Harper's tenure, including 13 marks that were reset or broken in the last two years. On the men's side, seven records have fallen during Harper's watch, including the second-oldest record in school history as Thomas Bishop took down the 1,650-yard freestyle mark last season.

Not only are more of the Florida State records held by Harper's student-athletes, but the all-time top 10 contains more of his athletes than any other coach in the program's history. Within the women's lists, 71 of the best times in Seminole lore—more than half of all entries—have been set during Harper's six years, including either the number one or two spots in all but one event. The men's team has put its name down 55 times since Harper's arrival in 1999.

Over the last four seasons Florida State has built itself into one of the best dual meet teams in the country. Both teams have finished the year ranked in the final CSCAA Top 25 poll in five of Harper's six seasons with the women making the list the last four years while the men have been there three of the last four.

During Harper's tenure, the women have a 71-19 record with the .788 winning percentage ranking him third in conference history. His 53-21 (.716) mark on the men's side is second in school history and his winning percentage is second among active ACC coaches. Since the 2001-02 season, the women have won at least 10 meets and only one loss outside the Top

25. The men have produced at least nine wins per season in that same time frame with three losses beyond the Top 25.

Florida State swimmers and divers excel in the classroom just as well as they do in the pool. Since 2000, the Seminoles have had at least 20 student-athletes on the ACC Honor Roll every year, including a program-high 32 in 2002. Last season, FSU had 22 student-athletes on the list, including Emily Breen who was named Second-Team Academic All-District for the ESPN The Magazine Women's At-Large team.

Harper's acumen in the pool extends internationally as he has coached at the biggest international competitions in the last five years. Last summer he was on deck for his fourth Olympic Games as he traveled to Athens, Greece, to coach Wickus Nienaber as the head man for the Swaziland contingency. Nienaber was just one of five Harper's pupils competing in the Olympics as Chris Vythoulkas swam for the Bahamas. Golda Marcus carried the El Salvador flag and Julio Santos represented Ecuador.

The biggest thrill for Harper at last year's Olympics was watching one of his former pupils on the medal stand. Stephen Parry – a stand out for the Seminoles while Harper was an assistant – brought home the bronze medal in the 200-meter butterfly after posting the fastest time during the semifinals.

In 2000 Harper was a member of the South African Olympic coaching staff in Sydney, Australia. The following year he traveled to Fukuoka, Japan to coach Nienaber in the FINA World Championships. During the summer of 2002 he mentored Nienaber at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, where he was joined by former Seminole All-Americans Stephen Parry and Brett Petersen, as well as Vythoulkas. During the summer of 2003 he returned to the FINA World Championships with Nienaber.

In May of 1999, Harper returned for his second stint in Tallahassee after two years as the women's head coach at Ohio State. In two seasons with the Buckeyes, Harper's team posted a 15-12 mark while qualifying six athletes for the NCAA Championships. In the classroom, Ohio State excelled just as well as both of his teams received NCAA All-Academic selections. Within the conference, the Buckeyes received more than 20 Academic All-Big Ten Conference honors during his two seasons.

From 1994-97, Harper served as the top assistant at Florida State under Don Gibb. One of his main duties was to coordinate the Seminoles' recruiting efforts. His work with the recruiting speaks for itself as during that time Florida State produced numerous All-Americans, including FSU's first NCAA champion Parry in the 200 butterfly. As a top aide, Harper was



also in charge of the team's strength and conditioning, while working with the stroke and individual medley swimmers. His work in the pool produced the school's first female All-Americans in six years as former assistant coach Anne Blachford (200 IM), Helen Jepson (200 fly) and Samantha White (100 breast) all enjoyed NCAA success.

A 1990 graduate of Louisiana State University, Harper served as an assistant at his alma mater following graduation up until his first appointment with the Seminoles. During his six years in Baton Rouge, LA, he helped Tiger swimmers earn 21 NCAA All-America honors and seven Southeastern Conference titles. During the 1991 season, both the men and women posted one of their best finishes at the NCAA meet as both came away with a 14th-place showing.

As a competitor, Harper is one of the top swimmers in LSU history. He first made his name in the SEC when he won the 100-yard backstroke at the 1986 meet. Throughout his career, Harper collected four SEC titles while earning seven NCAA All-America awards. During his final year, LSU finished sixth at the NCAA championships, the highest finish in school history. He still ranks on the Tigers' all-time top 10 in four different categories.

The London native represented Great Britain in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics in the 100 and 200-meter backstroke as well as a member of the 400-meter medley relay with sixth and fourth-place finishes respectively.

The 40-year-old Harper is married to the former Paige Busch, who was also an All-American and SEC champion in the 100-yard breaststroke at LSU. The couple has two daughters, Katherine (11) and Kelly (9).

### MEN'S YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORDS

YEAR	RECORD	CONF. FINISH	NCAA FINISH	CSCAA RANK
2000	7-3 (.700)	4th (488.5 points)		22nd
2001	6-7 (.462)	4th (401.5 points)		N/A
2002	10-3 (.769)	4th (395 points)		N/A
2003	11-2 (.846)	2nd (567 points)	32nd (9 points)	25th
2004	9-3 (.750)	2nd (537 points)		28th
2005	10-3 (.769)	2nd (580 points)	35th (2 points)	22nd

**Career Record:** 53-21 (.716) – Six Seasons

**Record at Florida State:** 53-21 (.716) – Six Seasons

### WOMEN'S YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORDS

YEAR	RECORD	CONF. FINISH	NCAA FINISH	CSCAA RANK
1998	7-6 (.615)*	9th (189 points)	26th (15 points)	21st
1999	8-5 (.272)*	10th (196.5 points)		N/A
2000	9-4 (.643)	5th (395.5 points)	35th (10 points)	25th
2001	8-5 (.615)	5th (421 points)	32nd (17 points)	N/A
2002	14-2 (.875)	3rd (577 points)	24th (24 points)	22nd
2003	12-2 (.857)	3rd (557 points)	36th (9 points)	24th
2004	15-2 (.882)	3rd (611 points)	17th (84 points)	18th
2005	13-4 (.764)	4th (433 points)	31st (11 points)	20th

**Career Record:** 86-30 (.719)

**Record at Ohio State:** 15-11 (.458) – Two Seasons

**Record at Florida State:** 71-19 (.788) – Six Seasons

# ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH



**ANDY ROBINS**

*Associate  
Head Coach*

*11th Year*

*William &  
Mary, 1983*

## COACHING RESUME:

### 2002-present:

Associate Head Coach, Florida State

1995-2001: Assistant Coach, Florida State

1993-97: Head Coach, ATAC

1990-91: Head Coach, Florida All-Stars

1989: Assistant Coach, Florida All-Stars

1986-91: Head Coach, Leon High School

1985-92: Assistant Coach, ATAC

During the last decade, the Florida State University swimming and diving team has made the move from conference contender to national prominence and one man has been around the entire time to help guide the program's development. The 2005-06 season marks year number 11 for Associate Head Coach Andy Robins.

An invaluable component of the program, Robins' contributions to the program were rewarded in 2003 as he was elevated to the position of associate head coach. In addition to his on-deck duties, Robins' responsibilities include organizing team workouts, performance data, team travel and home meet management.

Florida State's team results during his tenure speak for themselves. The men's squad has scored points at the NCAA Championships in seven of his 11 years, including two of the past three, with the highest finish in school history, a ninth-place showing in 1997. The women's 17th-place finish in 2004 was their best ever and part of nine trips to the NCAA Championships since 1995.

At the conference level, the numbers are just as impressive. The men have been in the top four the last 11 seasons at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships with five runner-up finishes, including the last two years. The women have a trio of top-three finishes led by 2004's school-record 611 points. During dual meets since 1995, Florida State has only had one sub-.500

season with 148 dual meet victories.

On the deck, his primary duty is to focus on the sprinters, a group that has been very successful over the years. Florida State sprinters have earned ten All-America honors during Robins' tenure, topped off by Brendon Dedekind, the 1998 NCAA Champion in the 50 freestyle. Most recently Christy Cech won back-to-back (2001-02) All-America awards in the 50 freestyle. The Seminoles have also brought home 12 All-America certificates in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

ACC championships and awards have been very prominent for Seminole sprinters in the last 10 years. Florida State has won 11 titles in the 50 and 100 freestyles since 1995 - with Emma Dutton capturing the 50 freestyle crown in 2004 - to go along with 16 gold medals in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. The men won the 400 freestyle relay at last year's meet, while the women swept the sprint relays in 2004. All told, 23 sprinters have collected All-ACC honors over the last 10 years.

Out of the possible 40 top times in the 50 and 100-yard freestyle, 37 of the times have been recorded with Robins on the staff. Joel Roycik moved himself up the 100 freestyle list last year, while newcomer Ed Denton joined the list. In her first season at FSU, Carrie Ellis nearly broke the 100 record and put her name down on the 50 freestyle roll call as well.

Even prior to his graduation from college, Robins had been actively

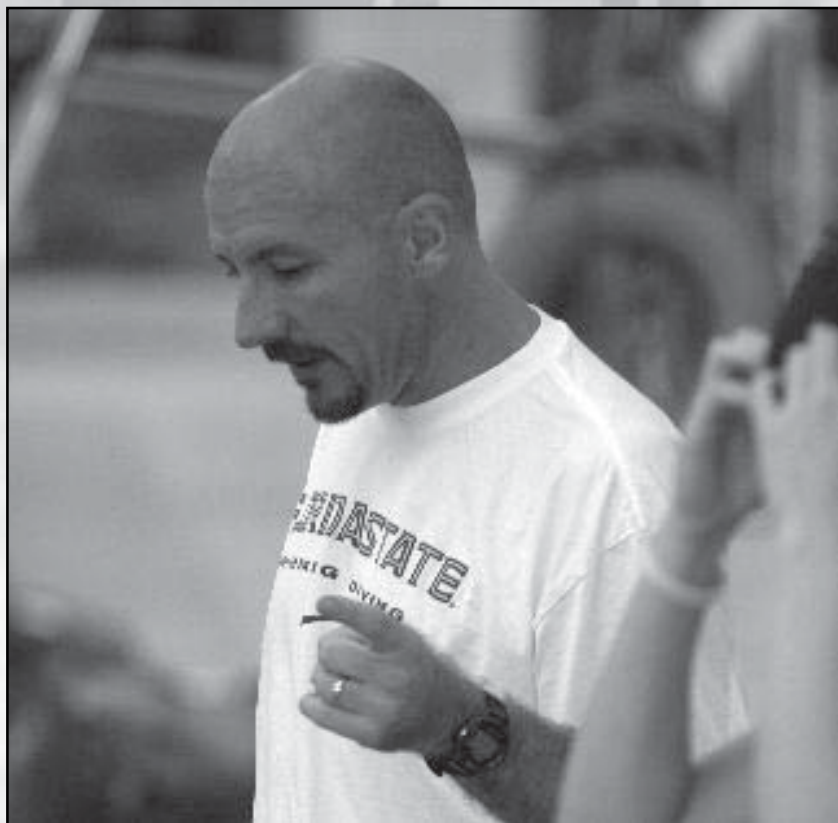
involved in coaching and his involvement with local swimming and diving dates back nearly 20 years. His association with swimming in the Big Bend began in 1985 when he took a position with the Area of Tallahassee Aquatic Club. Robins took over the head coaching duties for ATAC in 1993 and led the squad to a top 10 finish at the 1996 Junior National Championships.

In conjunction with his work with ATAC, Robins served as the head coach at Leon High School in Tallahassee from 1986-91. After only his second year on the job he was named High School Coach of the Year by the *Tallahassee Democrat*.

He also served as head coach for the Florida All-Star Team in 1990 and 1991 after spending the previous two seasons as an assistant coach. Away from the pool Robins served on the Florida Swimming Board of Directors, the House of Delegates and the Technical Planning Committee from 1987-98.

A 1983 graduate of The College of William & Mary with a bachelor's degree in psychology, he earned his master's degree in science education from Florida State in 1987. While in college, Robins swam both the backstroke and distance freestyle events. His swimming accomplishments at William and Mary include setting the school record in the 1650 freestyle while also serving as co-captain.

The 45-year-old Robins and his wife Karen have four children, Beth (27), Kurt (26), Jenna (20) and Annemarie (9).



# DIVING COACH



**PATRICK JEFFERY**

*Diving Coach*

*7th Year*

*Ohio State, 1988*

## COACHING RESUME:

2001: US World Championship Team

2000: US Olympic Team

**1999-present:** Diving Coach, Florida State

1998: Junior National Team

1997: US World Cup Team

1996-present: Senior National Team

1996-99: Diving Coach, Florida Atlantic



A blend of world-class experience and knowledge makes Florida State diving coach Patrick Jeffrey one of the best diving mentors in the country today. A three-time NCAA Champion and two-time Olympian, Jeffrey will be inducted into the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame this October. Entering his seventh year in Tallahassee, his experience has brought a new level of success to the Seminole swimming and diving program.

Since Jeffrey's arrival in 1999, Seminole divers have captured 16 of the 24 ACC championships on the boards. Within that stretch, eight different Seminoles have claimed conference titles with 10 divers named All-ACC. In this time span, Florida State divers have also claimed four Women's ACC Divers of the Meet awards, two Men's ACC Diver of the Meet honors as well as Women's ACC Swimming & Diving Rookie of the Year.

This year's ACC Championships were no different as Brittany Lerew captured the three-meter title with a new 11-dive school record, breaking her sister Chelsie's old mark. The Lerews are only the second set of sisters to win the same event at the ACC Championships. Courtney McClow added a second-place mark on the one-meter board and won the exhibition platform competition. On the men's side, sophomore Alex Tilbrook picked up a second-place finish on the three-meter board to earn his first All-ACC award.

Over the last four seasons, that success has carried over to the national level where the Seminoles are making their mark. Jeffrey produced his fifth All-America diver last season when Courtney McClow earned honorable-mention accolades on the one-meter board and platform. In total, Seminole divers have earned 10 All-America certificates during Jeffrey's six years as head diving coach.

With as much as a stranglehold as Florida State divers have had over the last six years, the accomplishments of the women's team at the 2004 conference meet might have even exceeded Jeffrey's expectations. The Seminoles captured the top five spots on the one-meter board then took first through third during the three-meter competition.

During Jeffrey's second year the women's program started controlling the league when Chelsie Lerew won her first of five titles. She added All-America honors to her resume in 2002 on the one-meter board. In 2002, McClow got into the act when she won the one-meter event. The older Lerew claimed both titles in 2003 with Tiffany Manning sweeping the one and three-meter events in 2004 on her way to a trio of All-America Awards. Taryn Ignacio also produced a national award

that year, earning Honorable Mention on the platform.

Four out of the six years that Jeffrey has been with Florida State, the school has claimed at least one conference title on the men's side. Brent Burkman collected the men's first diving title since 1992 when he won the one-meter event in 1999. The following year Josh Edelman swept both events and for the next two years Gagnet was crowned champion on the one and three-meter boards. Florida State's four-straight championships on the one-meter and three more in the three-meter haven't been equaled in nearly 20 years.

Seven of the 10 FSU diving records have been broken in the past three years, including new marks by Brittany Lerew (three-meter) and McClow (platform) last season. The only records not owned by Jeffrey's divers are from All-Americans Phil Boggs, Paul Spray and Wendy Fuller. Boggs and Fuller were both Olympians and Boggs was the 1971 NCAA Champion on the one-meter board.

Jeffrey's wealth of diving knowledge is a direct result of his own career. A seven-time All-American, he highlighted his tenure at Ohio State with a tremendous senior season in 1988. He became the first diver in NCAA history to win all three boards with championships on the one-meter, three-meter and platform, earning him NCAA Diver of the Year. Leading up to the NCAA Championships that year, he swept the Big Ten Conference meet and was honored with Big Ten Diver of the Year as well.

On the international scene, Jeffrey was a finalist on the 10-meter platform at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. He is a three-time U.S. National Diving Champion in the 10-meter competition, while holding a pair of titles in the three-meter event. In addition, he won bronze medals at the 1991 and 1995 Pan-Am games. He also competed as a member of the US's 1989 and 1995 World Cup teams as well as at the 1993 Goodwill Games.

Jeffrey's international coaching experience is just as extensive as his diving career. On the world stage he has coached the 2000 US Olympic team along with the 1997 and 1999 Senior World Cup squads. Most recently he mentored the 2001 US World Championships team in Fukuoka, Japan. He has served as the Senior National team coach from 1997-2000 with a one-year stint (1998) with the Junior National Team. Under Jeffrey's tutelage, divers have won four US Senior National titles, three Junior National championships, and a pair of third-place finishes for the Senior Men's team.

# ASSISTANT COACHES



<b>LIZ KLINK</b>
<i>Assistant Coach</i>
<i>2nd Year</i>
<i>Connecticut, 2001</i>

Maintaining one of the top programs in the conference is a tall order and that's why Florida State head coach Neil Harper turned to one of the best up-and-coming coaches in the country. Second-year assistant coach Liz Klink oversees the middle distance freestyle and longer stroke group that produces major points at the conference meet year in and year out and is well represented at the NCAA meet. Away from the pool she oversees FSU recruiting efforts.

All her group did at the ACC Championships was break a ten-year-old record and tie another school mark as part of eight swims in the finals and consolations. Freshman Lindsay Kenney became the first Seminole to go under two minutes in the 200 fly with her second-place 1:59.92 and sophomore Romy Altmann tied the school record as she hit the wall in 1:59.50 to take third in the 200 backstroke.

At last year's men's league summit, eight different Seminoles made it to the finals and consols of three stroke events, capped off by freshman Billy Jamerson who took second in 200 breaststroke. Three more freshmen made the finals with Jarryd Botha earning All-ACC honors in the 200 backstroke while Dan Keeling took fifth in the 200 IM and Ian Powell was a spot back in the 200 backstroke.

Prior to joining the coaching staff at Florida State, the 26-year-old Klink was helping two-time Big East Conference Coach of the Year Ned Skinner build Virginia Tech into one of the emerging programs in the conference. In 2004, Virginia Tech took third on the women's side, its second-best finish ever and the program's highest since 2001. During her first year in Blacksburg, VA, the men's squad posted its highest finish ever with a second-place showing.

Handling mostly the distance swimmers, Klink's star pupil in 2004 was freshman Gus Calado. The first Big East Champion in school history in a distance event, Calado was named Big East Outstanding Swimmer of the Year after setting the conference record in the 500-yard freestyle on his way to the conference title.

On the women's side she had just as much of an impact, especially in the 500 and 1,650-yard freestyle. At the 2004 Big East Championships, the



Hokies had three swimmers in the finals of both events. During Klink's first year, Virginia Tech only had one per race. One of those competitors was Jamie Spradlin, who set the school record in the 1,650 and 1,000 that season. 2003 also saw the women's team take down the 800-free relay mark.

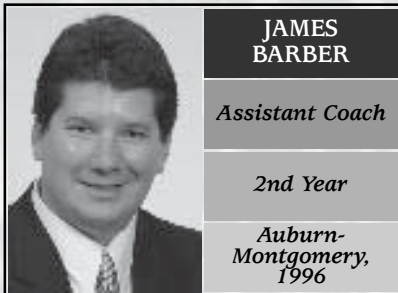
Before she was one of the top assistants in the league, Klink was one of the top swimmers in the Big East. She swam four years at the University of Connecticut, specializing in the middle distance freestyle events. When she completed her career in 2001, Klink held the school record in the 500 freestyle and was a member of the record-setting 400 and 800 freestyle relays. During her freshman season she helped lead the Huskies to their best finish at the conference championships in the last eight years as UConn swam to a sixth-place finish. Klink excelled in the classroom just as well as she did in the pool, earning a spot on the Big East Academic All-Star team each of her four years at UConn. She completed her career with the Huskies by earning the

2001 UConn Club Outstanding Senior Student-Athlete Award.

That year she also won the University of Connecticut's Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athlete Award for academic excellence and was a member of the student-athlete advisory committee. As a freshman in 1998, she participated in the NCAA Y.E.S. (Youth Education through Sports) Clinic and attended the NCAA Leadership Conference two years later.

Prior to joining the coaching staff at Virginia Tech, Klink served as a volunteer assistant for the Huskies while she pursued her master's degree. Her coaching career dates back to her four-year stint as a coach for the Shongum Lake Swim Team in Randolph, NJ.

A native of Mt. Arlington, NJ, Klink graduated from Connecticut in 2001 summa cum laude in elementary education before adding a master's degree from UConn in the same field.



**JAMES BARBER**

*Assistant Coach*

*2nd Year*

*Auburn-Montgomery, 1996*

No one group made a bigger improvement last season than the distance group and the man responsible for a great deal of the advancement was second-year assistant coach James Barber. Not only did Florida State have its first distance representative at the men's NCAA Championships in eight years, but a record three Seminoles swam in the 500 and 1,650 freestyles events.

Results of Barber's work were first evident at the men's ACC Championships as not one, but three swimmers got under the old 1,650 record. Freshman Kyle Young and sophomore Steve Roof both broke the mark then sophomore Thomas Bishop did them one better as he earned All-ACC honors with his third-place 15:08.47. In the process, he broke his own 1,000 record during the opening split and his award was the first for an FSU distance swimmer since 1994.

Last season, the men's distance trio

supplanted the top three spots on the school's all-time 1,650 free list and also hold three of the top five slots on the 500 freestyle. On the women's side, Golda Marcus broke into the top five in both the 500 and 1,650 freestyle with three more swimmers cracking the top 10 in the 500.

The 32-year-old Barber joined the Seminoles in 2004 after a six year run as the head coach at Club Makos in Gulf Breeze, FL, where he produced national caliber swimmers. Included in this group were former Seminole Loren Hansen and Kyle Cormier who both participated at the US Nationals and US Junior Nationals. Hansen earned NCAA Honorable Mention All-America honors in 2003, participated on two record-setting relays and is ranked in the FSU all-time top five in three different events.

All told, Barber has had 18 Junior National qualifiers in over 40 events, 20 national age group top 16 performers and 21 titles at the Southeastern region of the Local Swim Committee Championships - a branch of USA Swimming. In addition to his coaching duties, the last two years Barber served as the Aquatics Director at The Club, home to Club Makos.

Some of Barber's most valuable coaching experience came prior to the completion of his master's degree in exercise physiology at the University of South Alabama. For one year he served

as an assistant coach with the United States Resident National Team. While in Colorado Springs, CO, he worked with several world class athletes, including Amy Van Dyken and B.J. Bedford. Van Dyken - the first American female athlete to win four gold medals in a single Olympics (Atlanta, 1996) - took home the gold in the 50 freestyle at the 1998 World Championships. Prior to the World Championships, Bedford won the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke at the national championships.

Coaching has been a part of Barber's life dating back to his undergrad days at Auburn University at Montgomery, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in exercise science in 1996. He got his first coaching job as the head age group coach for the Montgomery YMCA Barracudas in Montgomery, AL. In his three years there he coached more than a dozen LSC champions with countless other LSC finalists.

From there he moved to Mobile, AL, where he served as Senior Coach for the City of Mobile Swim Association while pursuing his master's degree. Taking over a rather inexperienced program, he built the team up to the point where they were regular finalists at the LSC meet. His next coaching stint had him in the same position for the Colorado Spring Swim Team while also coaching the US National Team.

A native of Prattville, AL, Barber is married to the former Angie Bixler.



# SUPPORT STAFF

**JUSTIN BETTS**



*Graduate Assistant*

Whenever graduate assistant Justin Betts works with the Florida State swimming and diving team, all the team needs to do to check his credentials is look up at the record board to see his name. A four-year standout for the Seminoles, he is in his second season with the program on the deck as a graduate assistant.

Betts holds the distinction of being one of only two Florida State men's swimmers in the last five

years to compete in consecutive NCAA Championships. As a senior in 2003 he had his best finish, taking 20th in the 100 breaststroke. That season he also took part in the 200 breaststroke and 200 individual medley at the national championships.

The NCAA Championships that year was the culmination of a stellar senior season that saw him capture his second and third ACC titles as he won the 100 breaststroke while also taking part on the winning 200 medley relay. He earned his third All-ACC award when he took third in the 200 IM with a school record time of 1:48.61, a mark that still stands.

A finalist at the conference championship in the 100 breaststroke all four years of his career, he finished second in the event as a junior to earn his first individual All-ACC accolade to go along with a gold medal as a member of the winning 200 medley relay. That season he finished in the top 25 of the 100 breaststroke at the NCAA Championships while also competing in the 200 breaststroke and 200 IM.

For his efforts his last two seasons, Betts was named Team MVP in 2002 and 2003. He still ranks in the Florida State all-time top five in the 200 IM (1st), 200 breaststroke (3rd) and 100 breaststroke (5th). Betts excelled in the classroom as well as the pool, earning Academic All-American honors from the College Swim Coaches Association of America in 2003 after securing a spot on the ACC Honor Roll the year before.

Betts came to Florida State after a stellar high school career at Robert E. Lee high school in Springfield, Va. A Junior National champion in the 100 breaststroke, he earned all-state and all-region honors as well as a USA Swimming Academic All-American certificate.

The 25-year-old Betts graduated from Florida State in the spring of 2004 with a bachelor's degree in information studies. Currently pursuing his master's degree in sports management, he is engaged to former Florida State All-American swimmer Emma Dutton.

**KIRK HAMPLEMAN**



*Graduate Assistant*

Florida State swimming & diving head coach Neil Harper wants to build the Seminoles to the point where they're competing for national championships. There is no better way for FSU to make that climb than to learn from someone who has been there and the person for the job is second-year graduate assistant Kirk Hampleman, an All-American at Auburn.

From the moment he stepped foot on Auburn's

campus, Hampleman was a big part of the Tigers' success in the pool. As a freshman he earned Honorable Mention All-America accolades in the 400 individual medley as Auburn captured the 1999 national championship. During his tenure, Auburn finished lower than third only once at the NCAA Championships and captured four SEC titles.

All four years of his college career, Hampleman brought home at least one NCAA All-America award. His sophomore season he swam on the 400 medley relay that finished in the top eight while earning honorable mention accolades in the 200 backstroke for his 11th-place finish.

A year later he finished sixth in the 200 backstroke to go along with a top-16 finish in the 200 IM. His last season was his best by far as he recorded his highest finish, taking third in the 200 backstroke. He also finished eighth in the 200 IM, 11th in the 100 backstroke and was a member of the eighth-place medley relay.

His final trip to the SEC meet produced his first conference championship as he was a member of the winning 400 medley relay. The relay title was one of numerous All-SEC honors he earned during career for top-three finishes at the conference meet. A four-year letterwinner, he earned the Auburn swimming award for leadership, scholarship and performance as a senior.

A successful high school career vaulted Hampleman to Auburn as he won seven New Mexico high school state championships at Highland high school and was named a high school All-American seven times. He also won Junior National titles in the 200 backstroke and 400 IM.

Hampleman graduated from Auburn in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in radio, television and film while receiving a minor in theater. The 26-year-old Hampleman is currently working on his master's degree in sports management. He is engaged to Kendra Kirby, who is also a graduate of Auburn.

## KYLIE AMATO



*Academic Advisor*

As much as the members of the Florida State swimming and diving program are assisted in pursuit of athletic excellence, they receive just as much, if not more, attention in the classroom. Giving them the guidance they need to complete their degree is academic advisor Kylie Amato.

Starting her fourth school year at Florida State, Amato has had an immediate impact on Seminole student-athletes. Last year she worked with women's basketball, track and field and cross country with the three sports combining to earn 68 ACC Academic Honor Roll accolades in 2003-04. In addition to her duties with swimming and diving, Amato also works with the Seminole soccer team.

A liaison between athletic and academic communities, Amato monitors the academic progress of the student-athletes to ensure graduation and athletic eligibility. Along with her daily duties of updating the coaches and monitoring the student-athletes, Amato also meets with potential student-athletes during the recruiting process.

A former student-athlete herself, Amato knows first hand what it takes to succeed in the classroom. A member of the volleyball team at the University of West Alabama, she earned dean's list honors on her way to earning a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in physical education. A native of Toombs, Miss., Amato earned a master's degree in sports administration from Northwestern State in 2002 while serving as a graduate assistant volleyball coach.

## DWAN RIGGINS



*Strength & Conditioning Coach*

If the coaching staff is the engineer that fine tunes the automobile, then strength and conditioning coach Dwan Riggins is the mechanic that builds the strong engine. In her second year at Florida State, Riggins is responsible for writing and implementing the weight program for the swimming and diving program as well as the softball squad.

A native of Tallahassee, Riggins got her undergraduate degree in 2003 from the University of Florida in exercise sports science. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in sports administration.

During her first three years at Florida, Riggins worked with the Gator women's basketball program. During her first two years with Carol Ross' squad, she served a team manager before spending her third season as a practice player. Her final season in Gainesville she worked as a trainer at the Living Well Facility on the UF campus. Before she joined the Florida State staff, Riggins served this summer as a volunteer for the Gators' strength and conditioning staff, working with volleyball, soccer and women's basketball.

A three-sport athlete during her prep career, she helped Godby High School girls' basketball team win the 1997 state championship.

## CORI THOMPSON



*Athletic Trainer*

While she's only in her first year at Florida State University, athletic trainer Cori Thompson brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the swimming and diving program. A 2005 graduate of the University of Central Florida, Thompson will oversee a staff of five student trainers that will take care of all the Seminoles' needs.

During her two years at UCF, Thompson worked with several of the Golden Knights' sports including football, men's basketball and women's soccer, but it was her work with the UCF softball team where she gained the most experience. The senior athletic training student her final year, her duties included treating and preventing injuries, monitoring injuries during games and practice as well as assisting with doctor's appointments, supervising rehabilitations, making custom injury protection devices and running road trip treatments.

In addition to her tenure with the UCF programs, Thompson also worked as an athletic trainer for a pair of Orlando area high schools. During the fall of 2004 she served as an athletic trainer for Lake Highland Preparatory School football and volleyball programs. The year before she held the same position with the Olympia high school football team.

A member of the dean's list at UCF, Thompson received her bachelor's of science degree in health science studies with a distinction in athletic training. American Heart Association certified in AED, First Aid and CPR, she has an associate's degree from Brevard Community College.