



HEAD COACH

Neil Harper
Head Coach
8th Year
Louisiana State, '90



2006 ACC Women's Coach of the Year
2004 ACC Women's Coach of the Year

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 continues to ascend into one of the nation's top programs. The architect of this master plan, eighth-year head coach Neil Harper is positioning his squads to win conference championships and make huge impacts at the NCAA Championships.

There is no greater evidence of FSU's constant improvement than on the women's side. In 2006 they won their first Atlantic Coast Conference Championship and had their highest finish ever at the NCAA National Championships of 16th with 84 points. Harper was awarded the 2006 Women's ACC Coach of the Year honor for the second time in three years after the women's outstanding performance at the ACC Championships and Christie Raleigh was awarded Women's ACC Freshman of the Year. At nationals the women earned All-American American honors in two events and Honorable Mention All-American honors in three events. The 200 medley relay of Raleigh, Lauren Brick, Lauren Sparg and Carrie Ellis finished third which is the highest finish ever for an FSU relay. Brick also picked up All-American honors in the 100 breast taking eighth. Honorable Mention All-American honors were earned by the 400 free and 400 medley relays as well as Raleigh in the 100 fly.

The men's team continued to be a top force in the conference and nation in 2006. During the season they reached as high as 13th in the national rankings due to strong performances in the fall and spring semesters. This is the highest in-season ranking in Harper's seven years. The team amassed 685.5 points at the ACC Championships finishing just 8.5 points outside of first place. It was the fourth year in a row that they finished in second place however the deficit from 2004 to 2006 has shrunk from over 300 points to 8.5! At the NCAA Championships they took home Honorable Mention All-American honors in three events. The 400 free relay of Stephan Connor, Joel Roycik, Alex Kennon and Ed Denton finished in 14th while the 200 free relay of Roycik, Kennon, Denton and Jarryd Botha finished 15th. Steve Roof brought home the men's first All-American honors in an individual swimming event since 1999 as he took 15th in the 1650 free earning Honorable Mention accolades.

In 2005, the men broke through for their first All-America award in the pool since 1999. The 800 freestyle relay of Roof, Thomas Bishop, Kyle Young and Billy Jamerson produced Honorable Mention All-America accolades. For the sixth year in a row the women's team placed at the NCAA Championships.

In 2004 Harper put together an impressive season on the

women's side, culminating in a 17th-place finish at the NCAA Championships – the second 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 seven years, the women's team has won 34 individual and relay titles – 24 more than the previous eight years – while the men have amassed 21. The 13 combined championships in 2006 were the most since 1995's total of 19. Only Florida State and Virginia have produced an individual 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.



During the 2006 conference meet, the Seminoles came away with 13 championships with a combined 16 All-ACC awards at the men's and women's meets. At the national level, the Tribe has produced 33 All-Americans during Harper's seven years. During his 17 years of coaching, Harper has worked with 59 athletes who have produced 148 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 11 marks that were reset or broken in the last two years. On the men's side, 11 records have fallen during Harper's watch.

Not only are more of the Florida State records held by Harper's student-athletes, but the all-time top ten contains more of his athletes than any other coach in the program's history. Within the women's lists, 82 of the best times in Seminole lore—more than half of all entries—have been set during Harper's seven years, including either the number one or two spots in all but one event. The men's team has put its name down 60 times since Harper's arrival in 1999.

Over the last five 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 six of Harper's seven seasons with the women making the list the last five years while the men have been there four of the last five.



During Harper's tenure, the women have an 84-21 record with the .800 winning percentage ranking him third in conference history. His 62-24 (.721) mark on the men's side is second in school history and his winning percentage is first among active ACC coaches. Since the 2001-02 season, the women have won at least ten 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 25 student-athletes on the list.

Harper's acumen in the pool extends internationally as he has coached at the biggest international competitions in the last five years. During the summer of 2004 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 the 2004 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 2005 he returned to the FINA World Championships in Barcelona, Spain 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 and won its only SEC Team Championship. He still ranks on the Tigers' all-time top ten 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 41-year-old Harper is married to the former Paige Busch, who was also an All-American and SEC champion in the 100-yard breast-

stroke at LSU. The couple has two daughters, Katherine (12) and Kelly (10).



MEN'S YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORDS

| YEAR | RECORD | CONF. FINISH | NCAA FINISH | CSCAA FINAL RANK |
|------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 2000 | 7-3 | 4th (488.5 points) | | 22nd |
| 2001 | 6-7 | 4th (401.5 points) | | N/A |
| 2002 | 10-3 | 4th (395 points) | | N/A |
| 2003 | 11-2 | 2nd (567 points) | 32nd (9 points) | 25th |
| 2004 | 9-3 | 2nd (537 points) | | 28th |
| 2005 | 10-3 | 2nd (580 points) | 35th (2 points) | 22nd |
| 2006 | 9-3 | 2nd (685.5 points) | 33rd (12 points) | 18th |

Career Record: 62-24 (.721) – Seven Seasons

Record at Florida State: 62-24 (.721) – Seven Seasons

WOMEN'S YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORDS

| YEAR | RECORD | CONF. FINISH | NCAA FINISH | CSCAA FINAL RANK |
|------|--------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1998 | 7-6* | 9th (189 points) | 26th (15 points) | 21st |
| 1999 | 8-5* | 10th (196.5 points) | | N/A |
| 2000 | 9-4 | 5th (395.5 points) | 35th (10 points) | 25th |
| 2001 | 8-5 | 5th (421 points) | 32nd (17 points) | N/A |
| 2002 | 14-2 | 3rd (577 points) | 24th (24 points) | 22nd |
| 2003 | 12-2 | 3rd (557 points) | 36th (9 points) | 24th |
| 2004 | 15-2 | 3rd (611 points) | 17th (84 points) | 18th |
| 2005 | 13-4 | 4th (433 points) | 31st (11 points) | 20th |
| 2006 | 13-2 | 1st (596.5 points) | 16th (84 points) | 18th |

Career Record: 99-32 (.755) – Nine Seasons

Record at Ohio State: 15-11 (.576) – Two Seasons

Record at Florida State: 84-21 (.800) – Seven Seasons

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH

Andy Robbins
Associate Head Coach
12th 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 whole time to help guide the program's development. The 2006-07 season marks year number 12 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 eight of his 12 years, including three of the past four, with the highest finish in school history, a ninth-place showing in 1997. The women's 16th-place finish in 2006 was their best ever and part of ten 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 12 seasons at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships with six runner-up finishes, including the last three years. The women won their first ACC Championship in 2006 with 596.5 points and they have finished in the top three in four out of the last five years. During dual meets since 1995, Florida State has only had one sub-.500 season with 161 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. Prior to Coach Harper's return, Robins worked with the Stokers and IMers. Most

notably, Stephan Parry, many time NCAA Finalist, as well as a 2004 Olympic bronze Medalist. In addition, during that time Robins coached Seminoles All-American, Anne Blachford, Keam Ang and Nelson Mora. Florida State sprinters have earned ten All-Americans honors during Robins' tenure. Most recently Christy Cech won back-to-back (2001-02) All-America awards in the 50 freestyle. The Seminoles have also brought home 15 All-America certificates in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

ACC championships and awards have been very prominent for Seminole sprinters in the last ten years. Florida State has won 15 titles in the 50 and 100 freestyles since 1995 - with Carrie Ellis capturing the 100 free and Christie Raleigh taking the 50 free in 2005 and Emma Dutton winning the 50 freestyle crown in

2004 - to go along with 20 gold medals in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. The men and women both swept the 200 and 400 free relays last year. All told, 28 sprinters have collected All-ACC honors over the last ten 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. Last year Joel Roycik, Ed Denton and Alex Kennon moved into second, third and fourth, respectively on the 100 freestyle list. Kennon moved into third on the 50 free while Roycik moved into fifth. Carrie Ellis set the all-time record in the 100 free and currently sits fourth on the 50 free list. In just one season Christie Raleigh put her name into third place on both the 50 and 100 free lists.



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 ten 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 in psychology, he earned his master's 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



SWIMMING & DIVING
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Patrick Jeffrey
Diving Coach
8th Year
Ohio State, 1988
Ohio State Hall of
Fame, 2005



COACHING RESUME

| | |
|---|---|
| 2001: US World Championship Team | 1997: US World Cup Team |
| 2000: US Olympic Team | 1996-present: Senior National Team |
| 1999 World Cup Team | 1996-99: Diving Coach, Florida Atlantic |
| 1999-present: Diving Coach, Florida State | |
| 1998: Junior National Team | |

DIVING RESUME

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1988 Olympic team | 2x Pan Am Bronze Medalist |
| 1996 Olympic team | 2x World Cup Team Member |
| 1996 US Olympic trails Champion | Good Will Games Team Member |
| 5x US National Champion | Many Time International Champion/Medalists |
| 3x NCAA Division I Champion | |

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 was inducted into the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005. Entering his eighth 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 28 ACC championships on the boards. Within that stretch, eight different Seminoles have claimed conference titles with ten 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.

Over the last five seasons, that success has carried over to the national level where the Seminoles are making their mark. Jeffrey produced his fifth All-America diver during the 2004-05 season when Courtney McClow earned honorable-mention accolades on the one-meter board and platform. In total, Seminole divers have earned ten All-America certificates during Jeffrey's seven years as head diving coach.

With as much as a stranglehold as Florida State divers have had over the last seven 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.

Four out of the seven 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 have not been equaled in nearly 20 years.

Eight of the ten FSU diving records have been broken in the past four years, including new marks by Alex Tilbrook (one-meter), Brittany Lerew (three-meter) last season. The only records not owned by Jeffrey's divers are from All-Americans Paul Spray and Wendy Fuller which will stand forever because of event format changes.

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 and still only diver in NCAA history to sweep all three diving events with championships on the one-meter, three-meter and platform, earning him 1988 NCAA Diver of the Year. Leading up to those NCAA Championships, he swept the Big Ten Conference meet as well and was honored with 1988 Big Ten Diver of the Year.

On the international scene, Jeffrey was a finalist on the ten-meter platform at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Ga. He is a five-time U.S. National Diving Champion splitting those championships between disci-

plines with three in the ten-meter platform event while holding a pair of titles in the three-meter springboard event. He was also the US Olympic trials Champion on platform in 1996. 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 Team.

Jeffrey's international coaching experience is just as extensive as his diving career. On the world stage he was on the 2000 US Olympic team coaching staff along with the 1997 and 1999 US Senior World Cup Staffs. Most recently he coached the 2001 US World Championship team in Fukuoka, Japan. He has served as a 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 in US national competition.

Most importantly Jeffrey has drawn from all this experience to structure a program that is designed to develop up and coming athletes into national and world level contenders. He draws from the knowledge that he obtained in his twenty years as an athlete and the subsequent ten as a coach in the trenches at the world and national levels.



"I have had the unique opportunity to observe and study the world's best programs and diving ideologies in action and have applied the common denominators to our program. I still always have the opportunity to consult with my world level mentors from several world powers in diving." Seminole divers use resistance and plyometrics training, dry land spotting and exercises, ballet, pilates, nutrition, competition strategy sessions, film analysis (team and world level footage) and basic and advanced water workouts blended into an individualized peaking progression to fuel their success."

"I am confident that our program is absolutely unique because of the amount of resources and experiences that are available to me. My experiences in diving span from day one all the way to the world level both as an athlete and as a coach, both on springboard and platform and that is hard to find. Every diver who comes through my

program leaves with a comprehensive understanding of the sport of diving to the highest levels. I am also confident that there are very few experiences that one of my athletes could have that I wouldn't be able to advise them on or relate to both personally and professionally after 30 years of diving exposure. At FSU we have the highest quality resources and support to draw from to create a healthy, positive and productive experience. I feel most importantly that I am fully aware that the well being of my athletes is of utmost importance. You need to train from a stable, healthy place within yourself and that always has to come first. We nurture and guard our team culture constantly. All of the opportunities in the world will be wasted if the athlete isn't in a proper environment to take advantage of them. Finally, I always keep in mind that life is waiting for these young men and women after diving is over and I am committed to prepare them for that by providing them experiences in sport to draw from in life."



ASSISTANT COACHES

Liz Klink
Assistant Coach
3rd Year
Connecticut,
2001



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. Third-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.

At last season ACC Championships, Klink's group played a key role as the women won their first ever championship and the men finished in second-place. Romy Altmann won the 200 free and finished second in the 200 back establishing a new school record in the process with a time of 1:57.16. Lindsay Kenney finished second for the second consecutive year in the 200 fly. The team of Romy Altmann, Lindsay Kenney, Georgia Holderness, and Cameron Russell also established a new school record of 7:19.57 in the 800 Free Relay after the record was set just a year ago at the 2005 ACC Championships.

During the 2004-05 season, 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. Lindsay Kenney became the first Seminole to go under two minutes in the 200 fly with her second-place 1:59.92 and Romy Altmann tied the school record as she hit the wall in 1:59.50 to take third in the 200 backstroke.

Prior to joining the coaching staff at Florida State, the 27-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
3rd Year
Auburn-Montgomery,
1996



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.

The distance group has continued to excel and is swimming faster than ever before. The man responsible for a great deal of the success is third-year assistant coach James Barber.

Last season marked the second year in a row that Florida State had at least two student-athletes swim in the 500 and 1,650 freestyle events at the men's NCAA Championships, after eight years without a single distance representative.

Under Barber's guidance, Steve Roof set new school records in the 500 and 1,650 freestyle. Roof also earned Honorable Mention All-American honors for his 15th-place finish in the 1,650 free at the NCAA Championships, which was the first time in school history that a student-athlete had achieved that honor in that event. Kyle Young, who also qualified for the NCAA Championships, moved into second-place in 1,650 free and fifth-place in the 500 free on FSU's all-time list. Young also earned All-ACC honors with his third-place finish in the 1,650 free at the ACC Championships. On the women's side Meredith Martelle moved into second-place in the 1650 free and seventh-place in the 500 free on FSU's all-time lists.

During the 2004-05 season, the 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. Young and Roof both broke the mark and 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. The men's distance trio supplanted the top three spots on the school's all-time 1,650 free list and also held three of the top five slots on the 500 freestyle as well. 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 ten in the 500.

The 33-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 Swimming Championships, a Local Swim Committee 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





SUPPORT STAFF

Carrie Ellis
Graduate Assistant



Wyn Saunier
Graduate Assistant

When head coach Neil Harper was in search of a new graduate assistant, he did not have to look very far as the choice was obvious with the last year's women's team captain Carrie Ellis. Last season for the Seminoles, Ellis was the team's only senior and she definitely went out on top leading the team to a 16th place finish at the NCAA National Championships, the highest in school history, and also to the school's first Women's Swimming and Diving Atlantic Coast Conference Championship.

At nationals, Ellis earned All-American honors as a part of the Seminoles' 200 medley relay that finished third, which was the highest finish for a relay in school history. She was also a part of the 400 medley and 400 free relays that earned Honorable Mention All-American honors.

At the conference meet, she won the 100 free title and was also a part of four winning relays. The winning 200 medley relay established a conference, ACC meet and school record with their time of 1:38.59.

If this year's swimming and diving team forgets how good Ellis was, all they have to do is look up at the school record board and see her name which appears four times. She holds the school record in the 100 free and was a part of the record setting 200 medley, 400 medley and 400 free relay teams.

Ellis swam two seasons for Florida State. She swam her freshman year at Virginia where she earned All-American honors as a member of the 200 free relay that placed eighth at nationals. She transferred to Florida State during her sophomore year and took two years off before joining FSU's team her senior year. She then used her fifth year of eligibility so that she could swim for the Seminoles another year.

Ellis graduated from Florida State in the spring of 2006 with a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in exercise physiology.

Entering his first season with Florida State as a graduate assistant, Wyn Saunier brings with him an extensive resume filled accolades as a student-athlete and years of experience coaching at the high school and club level.

Saunier served as the head coach at the Winchester Country Club in Winchester, Ky. from 2001 to 2006. He began coaching there in 1999 and then two years later was elevated to the position of head coach. When he joined the coaching staff in 1999 the team was in last place in the Central Kentucky Swim Conference but in his first year as head coach they won the division title. In 2005 he guided the team to its first undefeated season since the early 1970s.

While still coaching at the Winchester Country Club, Saunier also started the first ever swim team at George Rogers Clark High School in 2005 after approaching the Board of Education and showing that there was a demand to begin a swim team. He served as the school's first head coach that same year and had ten student-athletes regionally qualify and four earn academic all-state honors.

Saunier swam at Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky. where he was a three year letterwinner from 2001-2004 and captain during the 2003-04 season. During his sophomore year, Saunier finished 16th in the 100 breast at the NAIA D-I National Championships. He also helped lead his team to conference titles in 2002 and 2003.

Saunier graduated from Transylvania University in the spring of 2005 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is currently pursuing a master's degree sport administration.

Kylie Amato
Academic Advising



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 fifth school year at Florida State, Amato has had an immediate impact on Seminole student-athletes. Along with the swimming and diving teams she also works with the soccer team. Her two sports combined to earn 34 ACC Academic Honor Roll accolades in 2005-06.

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 Toomsaba, Miss., Amato earned a master's degree in sports administration from Northwestern State in 2002 while serving as a graduate assistant volleyball coach.



Jesse Collins
Strength &
Conditioning Coach

In his first year at Florida State, Collins is responsible for writing and implementing the weight program for the swimming and diving teams. He also assists with football and track and field.

Collins graduated from Central College, Iowa with a B.A. in Exercise Science. While attending Central College, he volunteered in the weight room and was a member of their football team. Collins is also a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) through the NSCA.

After graduation, he joined the University of Iowa Strength and Conditioning staff as an Intern. Collins assisted Head Strength Coach Chris Doyle and his staff with the off-season training of the Iowa Hawkeye Football team.

While at FSU, he is pursuing his Masters Degree in Sports Administration.

Matthew Biancuzzo
Athletic Trainer



While he is only in his first year at Florida State University, athletic trainer Matt Biancuzzo brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the swimming and diving program. A 2006 graduate of the University of Central Florida, Biancuzzo will oversee a staff of four athletic training students that will take care of all the Seminoles' needs.

During his four years at UCF, Biancuzzo worked with several of the Golden Knights' sports including football, softball, men's and women's basketball, cross country, track and field and vol-

leyball. Working with the football team during his final semester at UCF, he created and implemented rehabilitation protocols, assisted with maintenance and organization of insurance information, assisted with pre-season paperwork and practices, organized and packed supplies and equipment for home and away games and assisted with inventory in the main and satellite athletic training rooms.

In addition to his tenure with the UCF programs, Biancuzzo also worked as an athletic trainer for Boone High School. During the spring of 2005 he worked with high school athletes in a variety of sports including spring football, boys and girls' lacrosse, baseball, softball and boys and girls' wrestling.

Biancuzzo received his bachelor's of science degree in health sciences with a distinction in athletic training. He is certified through the National Athletic Trainers Association and through the American Heart Association in CPR and First Aid.

