

# SEMINOLE SOFTBALL

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## COACHES

PREVIEW COACHES ATHLETES REVIEW HONORS & AWARDS RESULTS & RECORDS THE UNIVERSITY THIS IS FSU SOFTBALL







## **DR. JOANNE GRAF**

**Head Coach • 30th Season  
Florida State, 1975**

**1399-450-6 (career) • 1180-397-6 (fastpitch)**

### **DYNASTY**

Few collegiate head coaches reach the 30-year mark at the same institution in their careers and Florida State University is lucky enough to have two. Dr. JoAnne Graf enters her 30th season at the helm of the Seminole softball program this year armed with a team ready to take over Oklahoma City at the end of May.

The 2007 season brought the FSU program its 26th 40-win season and pushed Graf one victory away from the 1,400 career win mark. She enters the 2008 season with a career record of 1,399-450-6 (.757) with a 1,180-397-6 (.749) ledger during fastpitch competition. In her 29 years as the dugout boss for the Seminoles, Graf's squads have maintained an average of 51 wins a season and have had 15 separate years of 50 or more wins.

Last season's successes included three ACC All-Tournament selections in current sophomore Robin Ahrberg and graduates Yuruby Alicart and Veronica Wootson, five All-ACC team honors and the ACC Freshman of the Year, Monica Montez. Alicart was the sole Seminole on the All-ACC First Team while Wootson, Montez, and current seniors Tiffany McDonald and Whitney Buckmon earned second team accolades.

With each passing year, the winningest coach in softball history keeps pushing her record farther and farther up the charts. Florida State ended 2007 ranked fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a 13-7 conference record.

While her coaching contemporaries are inching closer in victories - there is now double the number of coaches with 1,000 wins or more compared to just four years ago — Graf joined even more elite company on April 2, 2005. That day university president Dr. T.K. Wetherell officially renamed the softball stadium "JoAnne Graf Field at the Seminole Softball Complex."

She joins Bob Heck at Georgia State as the only two active softball coaches with fields named after them. It was only fitting that one day later Graf crossed the 1,300-win plateau with a 5-2 triumph over Virginia Tech as the Seminoles marched to their 18th appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

One of the most prolific coaches in collegiate softball, Graf kicked down another barrier a year earlier on Feb. 11, 2004, when she recorded her 1,000th NCAA win against Mercer. At the time she was only the fourth Division I coach to ever reach that milestone and just the fifth coach at any level to record 1,000 victories.

Her accomplishment was recognized by Sports Illustrated as Graf appeared in the "Faces In The Crowd" section. Reaching that milestone erased any doubts that Graf is the greatest DI softball coach in the history of the game. Only three coaches with 1,000 wins in any division have a higher winning percentage than Graf and no coach has more NFCA wins (slow pitch and fast pitch combined) than Graf's 1,355.

Every year Graf seems to surpass another major milestone. From winning her first slow pitch National Championship in 1981 to becoming the all-time winningest coach in NFCA history in 2002, Graf's career has been nothing but remarkable. After setting the NFCA's all-time wins record in 2002 with 1,125 victories, Graf was inducted into the organization's Hall of Fame in the fall of 2003. On May 6, 1999 in a 2-1 victory over South Florida, Graf became the first coach in Division I softball to earn 1,000 wins, including slow and fast pitch competition, and in 2001 she picked up her 1,100 win by downing rival Florida.

Graf, who was voted the South Region Coach of the Year in 1986, has seen 95 of her players selected to All-Region teams, including 24 players in the last seven seasons. In 2001, 2002 and 2004 Graf and her entire staff were named the Southeast Coaching Staff of the Year.





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On top of all of those records, Graf has coached 24 All-Americans including her seventh first team NFCA All-American in 2006 with Veronica Wootson's selection. Wootson was named to the third team NFCA All-American team in her senior season in 2007. Two-time All-American Jessica van der Linden will go down as one of the greatest players to ever be coached by Graf and she had nothing short of a dream season in 2004 as she became the most decorated female athlete ever at Florida State. She was named the USA National Softball Player of the Year, a back-to-back NFCA All-American, a Honda Broderick Award winner for softball, and one of five nominees for an ESPY Award in the "Best Female College Athlete" category.

Want to really know just how dominant Florida State has been, ask the other teams in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Since the league began sponsoring the sport in 1992, the Seminoles have won 10 of the 15 ACC Tournaments and 11-of-15 regular season crowns. In terms of league wins, FSU holds a 30-game lead over the next closest team, North Carolina, and the 4-3 win over NC State on April 16, 2006, made FSU the first school in the ACC to amass 100 conference victories.



## DR. JOANNE GRAF'S YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD

Year	Overall Record	Conference Record	Highlight
1979	26-15 (.634)		
1980	37-10 (.787)		
1981	54-7 (.882)		AIAW National Champion
1982	56-10 (.848)		AIAW National Champion
1983	46-11 (.807)		
1984	41-5-2 (.875)		First Fast Pitch Season
1985	50-12-2 (.797)		
1986	42-7 (.857)		NCAA Regional WCWS
1987	50-14 (.781)		
1988	44-14 (.759)		NCAA Regional
1989	39-14 (.736)		NCAA Regional
1990	47-16 (.750)		WCWS
1991	62-12 (.838)		WCWS
1992*	63-9 (.875)	4-2 (1st)	WCWS
1993*	52-9 (.852)	4-0 (1st)	WCWS
1994	50-19 (.724)	9-2 (1st)	NCAA Regional
1995*	58-15 (.795)	6-0 (1st)	NCAA Regional
1996*	51-21 (.708)	5-3 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
1997*	45-18-1 (.700)	7-1 (1st)	ACC Tournament Champion
1998*	51-21 (.708)	5-3 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
1999*	40-25-1 (.614)	6-2 (T-1st)	ACC Tournament Champion
2000*	51-27 (.654)	6-2 (T-1st)	NCAA Regional
2001	58-12 (.829)	6-2 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
2002	55-20 (.733)	6-0 (1st)	WCWS
2003*	46-33 (.807)	8-0 (1st)	NCAA Regional
2004*	62-12 (.838)	9-1 (1st)	WCWS
2005	35-28 (.556)	11-6 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
2006	44-30 (.595)	16-16 (5th)	NCAA Super Regional
2007	44-25 (.638)	17-4 (4th)	NCAA Regional
<b>Career</b>	<b>1399-450-6 (.757)</b>	<b>120-37 (.764)</b>	

\*-ACC Tournament Champions





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THE UNIVERSITY

THIS IS FSU SOFTBALL



Florida State's league dominance has carried over into the individual awards as well. Graf has earned ACC Coach of the Year honors six times, UNC's Donna Papa is the only other coach to earn more than one. The Seminoles also have twice as many ACC Player of the Year awards (6) than any other school and their 69 All-ACC selections outdistances the next closest team, UNC, by 32. There have been 39 All-Americans from the ACC since 1992 and 22 of them have worn the Garnet & Gold. The Tribe's conference dominance under Graf was never illustrated more clearly as when 23 Seminoles were named to the ACC's 50th Anniversary softball team. Florida State players comprised 43 percent of the 53-player roster.

If there was any question that former women's athletics director Barbara Palmer made the right decision to hire Graf, it was answered during her third season. During the 1981 campaign, Florida State burst onto the softball scene by winning 54 games and bringing home the AIAW National Championship. All the Seminoles did for an encore one year later was win 56 contests and successfully defend its national championship.

Two years later Florida State joined the NCAA ranks and it didn't take very long for Graf's squad to make its presence felt amongst the nation's elite teams. The 1986 edition secured the first of 11-straight trips to the NCAA tournament and in year four of NCAA competition, the Seminoles advanced to their first WCWS.

As the school prepared to enter the ACC in 1992, a warning shot went out signifying that Tobacco Road had to go through Tallahassee in the softball neighborhood. FSU's 1990 squad was the first of four-straight to qualify for the WCWS and during the last three years of the run the Seminoles posted 177 victories, the highest three-year total in school history.

The mid-1990's saw FSU post 50, 58, 51 victories and three more regional appearances from 1994-96. After a 'slow period' by FSU standards with just one NCAA Tournament from 1997-99, the Seminoles started their current streak of seven-straight national summits in 2000 and two years later were back in the WCWS.

FSU's run at the 2002 WCWS was one of the top moments in program history. The Seminoles entered the WCWS as the eighth seed and used a home run in the top of the ninth inning to upset top-seeded UCLA. After a 1-0 loss to eventual national champion Cal, Florida State bounced back by eliminating Nebraska 4-3 and advancing to the semis versus No. 2 Arizona. Florida State staged another dramatic comeback tying the game 2-2 in the bottom of the fifth before succumbing to the Wildcats in 11 innings.

A 1975 graduate of Florida State, Graf returned to her alma mater after two years at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro where she earned her master's degree in physical education. Graf also worked in the athletic department at UNC-Greensboro as head coach for the men's and women's swim teams while also serving as assistant softball coach.

Graf, who serves as director of the FSU softball camp each summer, is a former president of the Florida Collegiate Athletic Association. She has also served as a member of the NCAA Softball Committee and chaired the NCAA Softball Advisory Committee for the South Region. Presently she also has served on the NFCA All-American Committee.

In 1992, she added "Dr." to her name after completing her doctorate degree in athletic administration at FSU.





## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### TWO-TIME AIAW NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Before FSU made the switch to fast pitch softball, JoAnne Graf's squads dominated the slow pitch game as evidenced by back-to-back national titles in 1981 and 1982. Not only did Graf's teams win national titles, but they went to the national tournament three straight seasons, won five consecutive state titles and saw five players earn All-American honors.

### FASTPITCH WIN NUMBER 1,000

Head coach Dr. JoAnne Graf's 1,000th NCAA win didn't come easy on Feb. 11, 2004. A scrappy Mercer team fought FSU all the way but a three-run sixth inning broke the game open for the Seminoles as Graf joined one of the most exclusive clubs in NCAA softball with the 5-1 win. The long-time Seminole coach became just the third Division 1 coach ever to win 1,000 games and only the fourth in NCAA history at any level to reach that plateau. No NCAA coach with 1,000 wins has a better winning percentage than the FSU coach. "Florida State is my alma mater and it is a special place for me," she said moments after the victory. "It is kind of neat that this is the only place I have ever coached and all 1,000 wins came here."



Coach Graf with FSU president Dr. T.K. Wetherell

## DR. JOANNE GRAF BY THE NUMBERS

2:	..... National Championships
10:	..... ACC Regular Season Titles
20:	..... NCAA Tournament Appearances
35:	..... All-America Awards
44:	..... NCAA Tournament Victories
67:	..... ACC Honor Roll Awards
70:	..... All-ACC Selections
96:	..... All-Region Awards
1,399:	..... All-Time Victories



# SEMINOLE SOFTBALL

2008

## NFCA COACHING RECORDS - (BY VICTORIES)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. JoAnne Graf (Florida State 1984-2007)	29	1399	450	6	.757
2. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2007)	28	1253	446	3	.738
3. Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2007)	28	1136	529	5	.683
4. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003, 2005-07)	21	1131	228	1	.832
5. Yvette Girouard (La.-LaFayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-07)	27	1122	351	0	.762

## NCAA DIVISION I COACHING RECORDS - ALL-TIME WINNINGEST COACHES (BY VICTORIES)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2007)	28	1253	446	3	.738
2. JoAnne Graf (Florida State 1984-2007)	29	1180	397	6	.749
3. Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2007)	28	1136	529	5	.683
4. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003, 2005-07)	21	1131	228	1	.832
5. Yvette Girouard (La.-LaFayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-07)	27	1122	351	0	.762

## NCAA DIVISION I COACHING RECORDS - ALL-TIME WINNINGEST COACHES (BY PERCENTAGE)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003, 2005-07)	21	1131	228	1	.832
2. Yvette Girouard (La.-LaFayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-07)	27	1122	351	0	.762
3. JoAnne Graf (Florida State 1984-2007)	29	1180	397	6	.749
4. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2007)	28	1253	446	3	.738
5. Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2007)	28	1136	529	5	.683

## NCAA ALL-DIVISION COACHING RECORDS - (BY VICTORIES)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2007)	28	1253	446	3	.738
2. JoAnne Graf (Florida State 1984-2007)	29	1180	397	6	.749
3. Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2007)	28	1136	529	5	.683
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\* - Active Coach

### ALL-TIME NCAA DIVISION I WINS-LOSS TOTAL (BY SCHOOL)

School	Wins	Losses	Ties	Years
1. UCLA	1214	255	4	25
2. Florida State	1180	396	6	23
3. Cal St. Fullerton	1142	494	4	25
4. La.-Lafayette	1107	317	0	25
5. California	1091	544	2	25

### ALL-TIME NCAA DIVISION I AVERAGE WINS (BY SCHOOL)

School	Wins	Years	Average
1. Florida State	1180	23	51.30
2. UCLA	1214	25	48.56
3. Cal St. Fullerton	1142	25	45.68
4. La.-Lafayette	1107	25	44.28
5. California	1091	25	43.64



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## LOUIE BERNDT

Associate Head Coach • 10th Season  
Western Michigan, 1983

As familiar as the face is patrolling the third base coach's box for Florida State University, the one across the diamond is just as recognizable to Seminole loyalists. Now in her 10th season at Florida State, associate head coach Louie Berndt is part of one of the elite and longest running coaching tandems in the country.

Berndt joined the Florida State staff for the second time — previously she had a one year stint in 1989 — in 1999 after six seasons as the dugout boss at Marshall University. Following the Seminoles' run to the 2004 Women's College World Series, Berndt was bestowed with the new title of associate head coach.

In 25 years of coaching, Berndt has been to 12 NCAA Tournaments, including nine at Florida State, and a pair of Women's College World Series. At her four different stops, she has helped coach 15 All-Americans and 30 All-Region selections.

Berndt works mainly with the Florida State hitters and outfielders and serves as the Seminoles' recruiting coordinator. Since her return, the Seminole softball program has landed eight NFCA All-Americans including USA Softball National Player of the Year and Honda Award winner Jessica van der Linden. Four of FSU's recruits have been named ACC Rookie of the Year in her tenure (van der Linden, Veronica Wootson, Tiffany McDonald and Monica Montez) with van der Linden becoming the first back-to-back ACC Player of the Year.

On top of her recruiting expertise, Berndt's coaching of the FSU hitters and outfielders has paid dividends as well. In 2004, Florida State shattered the single season home run record and all five of the highest single season HR totals have all come since Berndt returned to FSU in 1999. In 2004, the squad also set new records for RBIs, runs and walks. Three of FSU's seven all-time highest batting averages have come under Berndt's guidance and the team has finished among the NCAA leaders in that category in two of the last four seasons. In 2004, FSU finished seventh in the nation in triples per game and 17th in scoring offense.



Florida State's offense enjoyed a resurgence in 2006 as the Seminoles surpassed many of the numbers put up by the 2002 and 2004 World Series teams. New single-season records were established for at-bats, doubles and home runs, while Florida State's 29 triples was the second-highest total in the nation last year. Left fielder Natasha Jacob earned Third-Team All-America honors from Easton-Bell Sports and was joined on the All-ACC team by right fielder LaShaun Davis. Jacob ended her career ranked sixth in ACC history with 271 hits and eighth at 69 stolen bases to go along with FSU Top 10 rankings in eight offensive categories.

Berndt came to FSU after serving as the head softball coach at Marshall for six seasons. She was brought to Marshall to help jumpstart the softball program, which was reinstated in 1993. In 1994, Berndt made her head-coaching debut and guided the Thundering Herd to a 17-21 record. One year later she led Marshall to its first Southern Conference Tournament title and NCAA Tournament. She was named the Southern Conference Coach of the Year in 1996 after the squad set numerous school records with a 39-23 record. Her career record was 143-154 in Huntington, W.Va. Several of Berndt's players at Marshall received All-Conference accolades, including back-to-back freshman "Player of the Year" honors.



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Berndt is a graduate of Western Michigan University, where she was a two-time All-American at second base. She led the Broncos to three NCAA Tournament bids, including two World Series berths where her squad finished fifth in 1982. During her Western Michigan career, Berndt's teams won 132 games. The team leader in hitting three straight seasons, Berndt had a career .321 batting average and .973 fielding percentage and she set the record at WMU for hits in a season.

An All-Mid American Conference and NCAA All-Region selection, Berndt was also invited to the Pan American Team tryouts and was selected to play in the Tri-Nation Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., during her senior year. A two-sport athlete at Western Michigan, having lettered three times in basketball, she was inducted into the Western Michigan Hall of Fame in 2003.

In 1985, Berndt turned her efforts to coaching as an assistant at Nicholls State. She helped lead NSU to a school-record 47 wins that year. In 1987, the Colonels won the Gulf Star Conference Championship. Berndt joined the FSU staff as a pitching and outfield coach for the 1989 season. She helped the Seminoles to a Top 20 ranking and a second-place finish at the Southwest Regional. Then in 1990 she returned to the north as an assistant at Ohio State. During her first year the Buckeyes won their only Big Ten Championship and advanced to just their fourth NCAA Tournament.

A native of Dearborn, Mich., Berndt earned a bachelor's degree in recreation and leisure studies from Western Michigan in 1983. She added a bachelor's degree in education from Nicholls State in 1985.



## FORMER SEMINOLE ATHLETES & ASSISTANT COACHES AT COLLEGIATE LEVEL (ALPHABETICALLY)

Leslie Adams (1992-93).....	Former Asst. Coach Univ. of Louisville
Patti Benedict-Townsend (1996).....	Head Coach Tallahassee Community College
Michelle Bolster-Gardner (1996-99).....	Head Coach Univ. of Nevada at Reno
Serita Brooks (2000-01).....	Former Asst. Coach Georgia Tech
Kimmy Carter (1999-2002).....	Head Coach Palm Beach Atlantic Univ.
Connie Clark (1990-95).....	Head Coach Univ. of Texas
Frances Cox (1981).....	Former Head Coach Univ. Of FIA & UNLV
Jo Evans (1984-95).....	Head Coach Texas A&M
Eve Gaw (2003-04).....	Asst. Coach Univ. of Washington
Becky Harrison (1988-91).....	Former Asst. Marshall Univ.
Amy Herrington (2004).....	Head Coach Appalachian State
BJ Hodges (1990-91).....	Former Head Coach Lake City Community College
Kelley Kirkland (1992).....	Former Head Coach Georgia Southern
Tina Kyler-Deese (1986).....	Head Coach Auburn
Joanna Lane (2003).....	Head Coach South Dakota State
Marla Looper (1993-94).....	Asst. Coach Univ. of Texas
Megan Matthews Buning (2005-07).....	Asst. Coach Coastal Carolina
Susan Painter (1981-84).....	Head Coach Gulf Coast Community College
Doug Palmer (1984-85).....	Former Head Coach Univ. of West Florida
Chandelle Schulte (1997-99).....	Head Coach Univ. of Washington
Penny Siqueiros (1994-95).....	Head Coach Emory Univ.
Beth Wade (2001-04).....	Asst. Coach Appalachian State
Wendy Weltz-Thees (1994-97).....	Head Coach Univ. of Memphis
Jen White-Cody (1998-2001).....	Assistant Coach North Texas





## **BARBARA SHERWOOD**

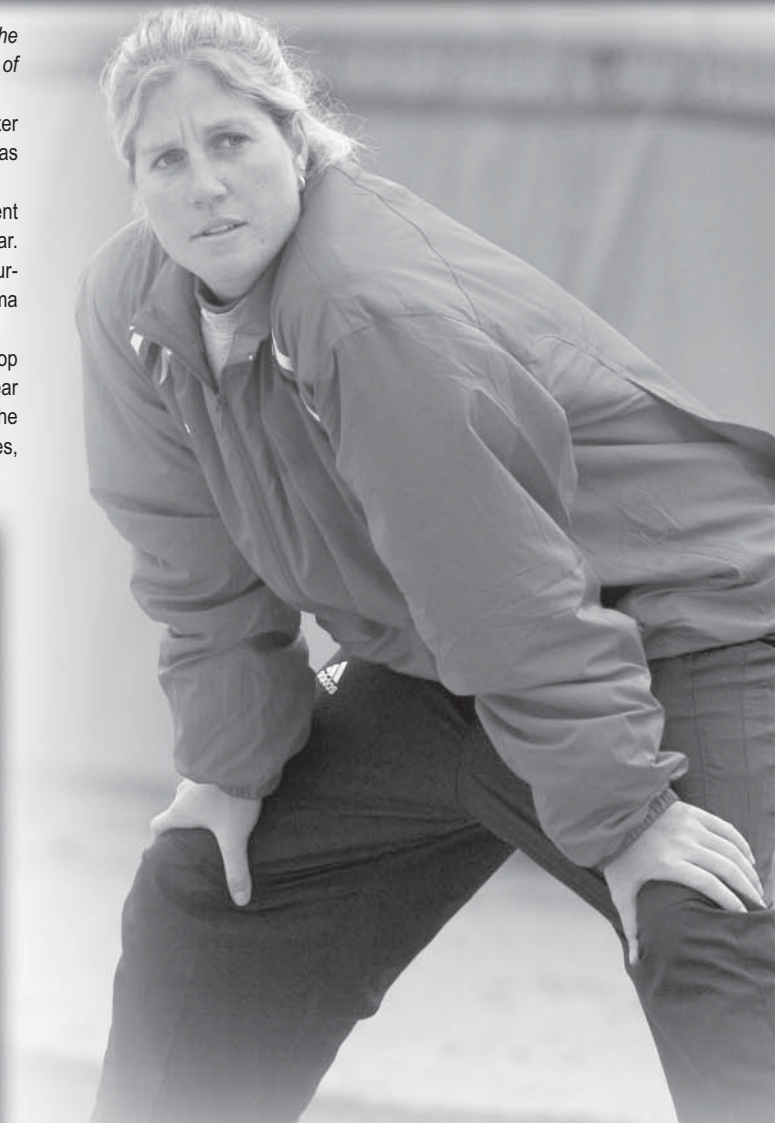
**Assistant Coach • 1st Season  
Troy, 1998**

**Coach Graf on Sherwood:** "We're very excited to have Barbara join our staff. She brings a wealth of experience and will be a positive impact on the future success of our team."

Assistant coach Barbara Sherwood joins the Seminole coaching staff in 2008 after spending two seasons with the University of Wisconsin as an assistant and serving as the pitching and catching coach.

Sherwood began her coaching career at Troy University in 1998 as a student assistant coach, but quickly moved to the graduate assistant level the following year. Upon receiving her master's degree in education in June of 2000, the former four-year letterwinning catcher and team captain was named the top assistant at her alma mater.

Sherwood also served as the recruiting coordinator for the Trojans, adding top players such as Atlantic Sun Pitcher of the Year Jocelyn McCallum and four-year Canadian National Team catcher Tamra Howren. McCallum continues to hold the single-season strikeout record at Troy, while Howren led the Trojans in 11 categories, including batting average (.342), in 2004.



During the 2005 season, Sherwood's pitchers achieved a notable 1.45 ERA with two individuals notching 20 wins. That year, both pitchers were named All-Conference performers as well.

In 2006 Sherwood made the leap from Alabama to Madison, Wis., to join the Badgers' coaching staff as an assistant and the pitching and catching coach. While there, Wisconsin's pitching staff ERA was ranked No. 4 in the Big Ten for the 2007 season.

Sherwood earned her bachelor's degree in physical education from Troy in 1998 and followed-up with a master's in education in 2000.

Sherwood remains the winningest player in Troy softball history. The Trojans won 176 games while Sherwood was on the roster from 1995 to 1998.





## SUPPORT STAFF



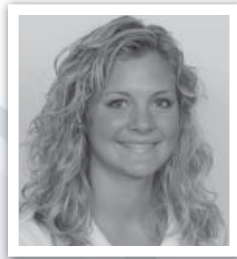
**ROBIN GIBSON**  
*Head Athletic Trainer*



**NICKI GREENE**  
*Student Athletic Trainer*



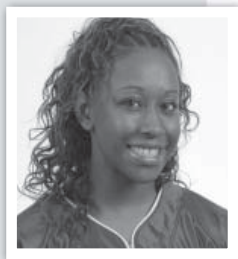
**CAITLIN QUINN**  
*Strength Coach*



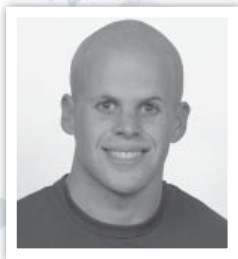
**LAURA NELSON**  
*Equipment Manager*



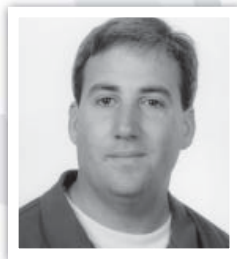
**SHAWNA NORRIS**  
*Manager*



**VERONICA WOOTSON**  
*Manager*



**CHRIS RETTKOWSKI**  
*Assistant Director of  
Event Management*



**CRAIG CAMPANOZZI**  
*Videographer*



**KYLIE AMATO**  
*Athletic Academic Support*



**TODD ADAMS**  
*Marketing Assistant*



**BRIAN DONAWAY**  
*Head Groundskeeper*



*2008 Coaching & Support Staff*