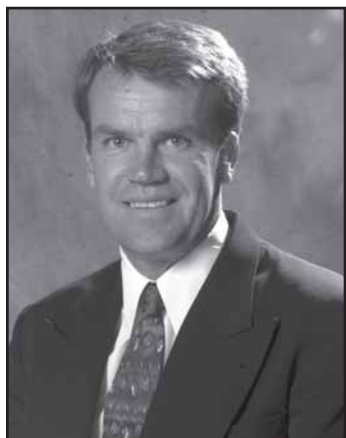




## 2006 RICE WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

# Jim Bevan, Head Coach



**Jim Bevan** is in his 20th year with the Rice women's track and field program, and is in his first season as head coach after taking over the reins last summer following the retirement of long-time head coach Victor Lopez.

Bevan, 44, is a four-time conference coach of the year for cross country, winning the honors in the Southwest Conference after the Owls' 1994 championship, and in the Western Athletic Conference following Rice's titles in 1999 and 2002. He won the first Conference

USA coach of the year award for a Rice coach after leading the Owls to the 2005 cross country championship. Before taking over as head coach, Bevan was an assistant coach in charge of cross country, and served as the program's recruiting coordinator, worked with the Owls' jumpers, and coordinated the team's travel.

Throughout his tenure, Bevan has nurtured the careers of numerous all-Americans. **Claudia Haywood** was perhaps the most successful of his jumpers. She went on to win five SWC championships, earn four all-America honors and capture both the NCAA and USA outdoor triple jump titles in 1993.

**Sonya Henry, Diane Somerville, Yvette Haynes** and **Alice Falaiye** have earned all-America honors under his direction. Falaiye later won the long jump gold medal in the 2003 Pan American Games and also competed in the 2001 world championships.

The distance runners have also prospered under his guidance. The cross country team finished second in the SWC and qualified for the NCAA championships the two seasons prior to the 1994 conference championship. As coach of the cross country squad, Bevan has tutored two WAC freshman of the year runners in **Shannon Murto** (2000), who was the top runner for the Owls in each of the last four races in 2003, and **Tanya Wright** (1999). In 2004, the Owls finished second in the WAC with junior **Kate Gorry** winning the individual title. Later, freshman **Marissa Daniels** ran in the NCAA championships after qualifying in the regional meet. Last fall, the Owls qualified as a team for the NCAA national championships for the first time since 1993 after winning C-USA gold.

Bevan's runners have succeeded not only on the cross country course, but on the track as well. **Julie Jiskra** placed fourth in the 10,000 meters at the 1991 NCAA outdoor meet, Nicole Aleskowitch finished fourth in the 3,000 meters at the 1994 NCAA outdoor meet, and Canadian **Candace Lessmeister** was an eight-time SWC middle-distance champion and the runner-up in the mile at the national indoor meet in 1994.

In 1999, the distance medley relay team, comprised of **Kari Vigerstol, Margaret Fox, Aimee Teteris** and **Erin Brand**, won the USA Track and Field Championships and finished sixth at the

NCAA championships. The 2000 DMR crew of Vigerstol, Teteris, **Allison Beckford**, and **Shaquandra Roberson**, one of the best relay teams to run under Bevan, set the Rice record of 11:15.70 with a sixth-place finish at the NCAA indoor championships.

**Stacy Swank** garnered all-America honors in the 3,000 in 1995, while Roberson earned all-America honors in 2000 following her fourth-place finishes at the NCAA outdoor championships in the 800- and 1,500-meters, the only runner in the nation to double as an all-American.

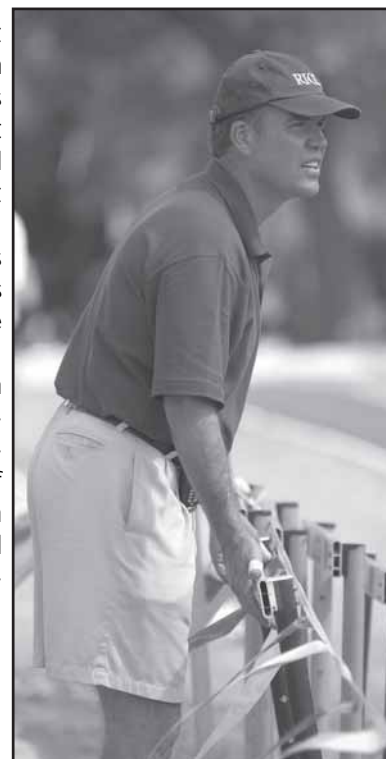
In all, Bevan has coached 16 runners and jumpers to 29 all-America honors and has seen four different cross country teams ranked in the top 25 in the nation. The 1994 team captured the SWC championship, and the 1993 team finished 19th in the NCAA meet. His 1999 and 2002 squads earned WAC titles.

Bevan also has worked with some post-collegians in their efforts to represent their country in Olympic and other world competitions. In 1995, he coached Diana Orrange, who set a U.S. Olympic Festival record with a mark of 46-2 in the triple jump, and went on to represent the United States at the 1995 World Championships and 1996 Olympics. Bevan has also coached two-time Olympian and 1998 CAC champion Flora Hyacinth in both the long jump and triple jump.

Bevan came to the Owls with excellent credentials. Before joining the Rice staff in 1986, he was an assistant men's track and cross country coach for two years at his *alma mater*, Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo. Bevan was an assistant to Dr. Joe I. Vigil, the U.S. distance coach for the 1988 Olympics and 1991 U.S. Pan American team head coach. He also spent one season as the Indians' assistant coach when the men's and women's programs were combined.

While Bevan was at Adams State, the Indians won three consecutive NAIA cross country titles. During his last year at Adams State, the squad set an NAIA scoring record at the national cross country meet. The school has won more cross country national championships than any other school in the country (30).

Bevan graduated from Adams State in 1984 with a degree in history and physical education, and in the summer of 1986 received his masters in health, physical education and recreation. He is a USATF certified Level I and Level II coach.





## 2006 RICE WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

# Nancy Wenzel, Assistant Coach



**Nancy Wenzel-Sanregret** is in her fifth year as an assistant coach at Rice. She joined the Owls' track and field staff in 2002 after spending a year as an assistant coach for the Michigan State Spartans. Prior to her tenure in East Lansing, Mich., she was an assistant with the Washington State Cougars.

Wenzel-Sanregret's main responsibility lies with the Rice throwers. A 1996 graduate of Central Connecticut State University, Wenzel-Sanregret was a 1996 Olym-

pic Trials qualifier in the hammer throw and a TAC national qualifier in the hammer throw in 1995.

Her expertise has paid off for the Owls as Wenzel-Sanregret's throwers helped Rice secure the 2003 and 2004 Western Athletic Conference outdoor track and field crowns. In 2005, she guided **Krystal Robinson** to a fourth-place finish in the discus at the NCAA championships, earning the first-ever Rice all-America honor in that event. Robinson also set a school record to win the WAC title, moving up from her second-place finish in 2004.

Robinson also took silver in the discus at the 2003 WAC outdoor championships to help Rice to another team title. The 2003 season also saw **Teresa Crismon** set a school record in the hammer throw, a heave of 159-9.

At Michigan State, Wenzel-Sanregret's coaching focus was on the throws and pole vault, while also serving as the strength and conditioning coach for the entire women's track and field team. Additionally, she was heavily involved with recruiting and was in charge of equipment procurement and travel for the Spartans.

As an assistant coach at WSU, Wenzel-Sanregret worked primarily with the sprinters while assisting with the throwers, and provided strength and conditioning support for the women's track team.

Wenzel-Sanregret worked as a graduate assistant coach at Western Illinois from 1996-98, and served as the executive assistant for the Western Illinois Sports Management Council. In addition, she spent a year as an intern/assistant compliance officer at WIU.

Since coming to Houston, Wenzel-Sanregret has worked at the track and field summer camps at the St. John's School under the direction of Richie Mercado.

In addition to working with the Owls throwers, Wenzel-Sanregret is also in charge of purchasing team equipment, making travel arrangements and performing administrative duties. She also serves as the meet coordinator for the annual Rice Bayou Classic. After graduating from CCSU in 1996, the Hebron, Conn., native earned a master of science degree in sports administration from WIU in 1998. She and her husband, Michael Sanregret, reside in Houston.





## 2006 RICE WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

# Andrea Blackett, Assistant Coach



One of the most successful women's track athletes to don the Rice Blue and Gray, **Andrea Blackett** is in her first year as an assistant coach for the Owls after five years as a volunteer assistant coach at her *alma mater*. She was inducted into the Rice athletic hall of fame on Oct. 14, 2005.

Blackett was a member of the Rice track and field team from 1994-97, when she set the Rice record in both the 100-meter and 400-meter hurdles. She joined **Melissa**

**Straker, TaNisha Mills and Margaret Fox** in the 4x400-meter relay to win the first NCAA indoor relay title for the Owls in 1997, setting a school record of 3:34.44.

Blackett finished her collegiate career as a six-time all-America, including back-to-back turns in the 400-meter hurdles in 1996 and 1997. She qualified for the NCAA championships all four years. Eight years later, she still holds the school record in both outdoor hurdle events, as well as the indoor hurdle mark.

A veteran international competitor, Blackett has represented her native Barbados in the past five IAAF World Championships, qualifying for the final four times and placing fourth in 1999. In 2000 she competed in the Sydney Olympics, making it to the semifinal of the 400 hurdles, and she also competed in that event in 2004 at the Athens Olympics. She has a personal best of 53.36 in the 400 hurdles, which is also a national record for Barbados. She set the Barbados 100 hurdles record of 13.39 in 2003. Blackett is ranked sixth in the world by the IAAF and continues her training under the tutelage of former Owls' head coach **Victor Lopez**.

Blackett holds an undergraduate degree from Rice and a master's in hotel management from the University of Houston.



*Andrea Blackett (second from left) discusses relays with (l-r) Nina Mayes, Desarie Walwyn and LaToya Adekoya*



## 2006 RICE WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

# David Butler, Volunteer Assistant Coach



**David Butler** is in his sixth year as a volunteer assistant coach for both the men's and women's track and field programs at Rice. As such, he is primarily responsible for the Owls' pole vaulters.

In 2005, Butler guided freshman **Rachel Greff** to the U.S. Junior national title and a silver medal at the Pan American Junior Championships in Canada. Greff also won silver at the WAC championships, and qualified for the NCAA national meet.

Over four years with Butler, **Beth Hinshaw** went from learning how to pole vault in 2001 to earning indoor all-America honors and winning both WAC indoor and outdoor titles in 2004. Hinshaw also won the 2004 NCAA regional crown en route to the NCAA championships and set the Rice outdoor record of 13-6.25. **Ally Daum** also flourished under Butler's guidance. The pair share the Rice indoor record of 13-3.5. Daum finished fourth at the 2004 WAC indoor meet and was fifth at the outdoor meet.

In 2004, he coached **Ryan Walsh** to the WAC indoor crown and a third-place finish at the outdoor meet. His efforts also guided **Ryan Harlan** to second-place in the pole vault at WAC outdoors and contributed to his NCAA and WAC decathlon titles.

In 2001, he coached **David Jacobs** to a second-place finish at the indoor conference championships, and guided Harlan and Walsh to fourth and fifth, respectively, at the WAC outdoor meet. Jacobs continued to flourish under Butler's guidance, finishing second again at the 2003 WAC indoor meet. In three years with Butler, Harlan evolved from a 10-6 beginner to a 16-7 competitor. Butler coached high school track and field for 23 years. He is recognized nationally for outstanding contribution to the development of the pole vault in the United States. He was named the 1998 USA high school pole vault coach of the year and coached the 1998 high school indoor and outdoor national champion. Butler is an active member of the USA national pole vault developmental staff and currently teaches at Spring Branch Middle School.

# Casey Thom, Volunteer Assistant Coach



**Casey Thom**, 26, is in his first year as a volunteer assistant coach at Rice after serving stints at Tulane and UCLA. Thom was a standout decathlete at Nebraska, with a personal-best of 7,522 points. He was 10th at the 2003 NCAA championships, and placed third at the Big 12 championships that year. Thom will work with the Owls' multi-event athletes and assist with practices and meet operations.

Thom earned a bachelor's degree in classics from Nebraska, and also has a master's degree in sport coaching from the United States Sports Academy.

He is certified by the National Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association, and has achieved certification from USA Track & Field as a Level II sprints and multi-events coach.

In 2005, Thom guided Nastassja Hall to a Brazilian under-23 national record in the heptathlon. He also assisted in the development of South Korean pole vault record holder Yoo Kim. UCLA's Chris Staton qualified for the NCAA championships in 2004 under Thom's guidance.

The Nebraska native also works with former Rice NCAA decathlon champion Ryan Harlan, and he helped Harlan to a second-straight USA indoor heptathlon title in March.

Thom and his wife, Carly, reside in Houston.