



DAVID BAILIFF HEAD COACH

In his first two seasons at Rice, David Bailiff has established a foundation for success that has already seen the Owls achieve a level of success that the program has not enjoyed for over 50 years.

In 2008, the Owls endured a series of challenges as well as the aftermath of Hurricane Ike and produced the first 10-win season for Rice since 1949 and the Owls' first victory in a bowl game since their memorable win over Alabama in the 1954 Cotton Bowl. For his efforts, Bailiff was honored by his conference peers as the 2008 Conference USA Coach of the Year.

With their 38-14 victory over Western Michigan in the Texas Bowl, the Owls closed the season with seven straight wins, validating the faith he had placed in the 2008 senior class to motivate its teammates to make it a memorable year. From the rigors of winter conditioning to the early morning workouts all through the summer of 2008, the Owls were molded into a team determined to make a statement this season.

The results of their combined efforts were readily apparent from the first whistle of the 2008 campaign.

Opening with a 56-point outburst against SMU on national TV in late August, Chase Clement and his band of receivers piled up points at a record pace. Clement and Jarett Dillard went on to become the most productive passing duo in NCAA history, while Dillard broke the NCAA career mark for touchdown receptions. Clement shattered the conference career marks for touchdown passes and total touchdowns, while James Casey, the multi-talented former pro baseball player, broke the C-USA record with 111 catches.

At the same time, the Owls defense, bolstered by the fruits of Bailiff's first two recruiting classes, was able to improve with each game and produced some stout efforts during a seven-game winning streak to end the year.

Bailiff and staff built on that momentum during the first half of 2009, landing another stellar class of recruits to further enhance the Owls hopes for this season. In July, he accepted an invitation to join with four other college football coaches on a goodwill tour to visit military personnel stationed in Afghanistan.

Bailiff came to Rice after three seasons as the head coach at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX where he posted a 21-15 record while leading the Bobcats to their first Southland Conference championship and the semifinals of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs in 2005.

In his last two seasons at Texas State, Bailiff produced standouts both on the field and in the classroom. He produced both the Southland Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year in 2005 (Barrick Nealy and Fred Evans) and the league's Student Athlete of the Year for football in 2006 (Walter Musgrove). Overall, he produced a total of 14 All Southland Conference first team selections, and 13 players who were named to the academic all conference squad in his last two years.

The 2005 season was truly a magical one. The Bobcats went 9-2 during the regular season and earned the school's first berth in the Division I-AA playoffs.

In their first game, the Bobcats stormed back from a 35-16 deficit against Division I-AA national power Georgia Southern to score 34 unanswered points and beat the Eagles 50-35. The 'Cats then defeated Cal Poly 14-7 to move on to the national semifinals. Only a 40-37 overtime loss to Northern Iowa stood between Texas State and an appearance in the Division I-AA National Championship Game.

Bailiff was named the American Football Coaches Association's Region 5 Coach of the Year and finished third in the voting for the Eddie Robinson Award presented annually to the top coach in Division I-AA.

Prior to being named Texas State head coach, Bailiff spent three seasons on the staff at TCU. He served as the Horned Frogs' defensive coordinator in both 2002 and 2003 while working with the team's defensive lineman.

The 2003 Horned Frogs posted an 11-2 record and were ranked 25th in the final Associated Press writers poll and 24th in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll. Bailiff was part of a staff which built quite a tradition on defense at TCU. During his three seasons in Fort Worth, the Horned Frogs were ranked 24th, 1st and 38th in the country in total defense and 10th, first and ninth against the run.

In 2002, TCU allowed just 240.2 yards of total offense per game which led the country. The Horned Frogs surrendered an average 64.8 yards on the ground. During the year, the Frogs held Tulane to a school-record -53 yards rushing. TCU also ranked second in the country in pass efficiency defense, allowing opponents to complete less than 39 percent of their passes.

SEASON-BY-SEASON

Texas State, Graduate Assistant - Defense

Season	Overall		Conference	
	W	L	W	L
1988	4	7	1	5

Texas State, Defensive Line Coach

Season	W	L	W	L
1989	5	6	3	3
1990	6	5	3	3
1991	7	4	4	3

New Mexico, Defensive Line Coach/Recruiting Coordinator

Season	W	L	W	L
1992	3	8	2	6
1993	6	5	4	4
1994	5	7	4	4
1995	4	7	2	6
1996	6	5	3	5

Texas State, Defensive Coordinator

Season	W	L	W	L
1997	5	6	2	5
1998	4	7	2	5

Texas State, Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator

Season	W	L	W	L
1999	3	8	2	5
2000	7	4	5	2

TCU, Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Line Coach

Season	W	L	W	L	Post-Season
2001	6	6	4	3	galleryfurniture.com Bowl

TCU, Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Line Coach

Season	W	L	W	L	Post-Season
2002	10	2	6	2	Liberty Bowl
2003	11	2	7	1	Fort Worth Bowl

Texas State, Head Coach

Season	W	L	W	L	Post-Season
2004	5	6	3	2	
2005	11	3	5	1	Semifinalist, NCAA FCS Playoffs
2006	5	6	3	3	

Rice, Head Coach

Season	W	L	W	L	Post-Season
2007	3	9	3	5	
2008	10	3	7	1	Texas Bowl

Head Coaching Record

School	Years	W	L	W	L
Texas State	3	21	15	11	6
Rice	2	13	12	10	6
Totals	5	34	27	21	12

RICE COACHING STAFF

Six TCU defensive players earned all-conference accolades in 2002 including Conference USA Defensive Player of the year and Second-Team All-American LaMarcus MacDonald.

While at TCU, the Horned Frogs played in a bowl game every season - the galleryfurniture.com Bowl (2001), AXA Liberty Bowl (2002) and the Plains Capital Fort Worth Bowl (2003).

He began his coaching career as the defensive line coach at New Braunfels High School (1982-84). He went into private business from 1984-88 before returning to the coaching ranks as a defensive graduate assistant coach at Texas State in 1988. He was elevated to the Bobcats' defensive line coach in 1989.

Bailiff left Texas State in 1992 for an assistant coaching position at New Mexico. He returned to Texas State in 1997 as defensive coordinator and added assistant head coach responsibilities to his role in 1999.

It was in 1999 that Bailiff was selected the NCAA Division I-AA Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association. While at TCU Bailiff was also honored as the Top Assistant Football Coach by the All-American Football Foundation following the Horned Frogs' 2002 season.

As a player, Bailiff was named All-Lone Star Conference as well as All-America honorable mention while playing at Texas State from 1977-80. He served as a team captain in 1980 and was named honorable mention to the Lone Star Team of the Decade.

In addition to his coaching efforts, Bailiff also is a member of the Advisory Board for Gridiron Heroes, a non-profit organization offering financial support to young men who have suffered spinal cord injury while playing football. He and Houston coach Kevin Sumlin have partnered to host a coaching clinic to benefit the organization.

Bailiff is married to the former Angie Daniels of Versailles, Mo. He has a daughter, Brooke (25), and the couple has twin 12-year-old sons, Grayson and Gregory.

BAILIFF vs. OPPONENTS

Head Coaching Record Against All-Time Opponents

Opponent	W	L	Last Meeting	Outcome
Angelo State	1	0	S 2, 2004	W, 45-10
Appalachian State	0	1	O 2, 2004	L, 41-34
Army	1	0	N 8, 2008	W, 38-31
Baylor	0	2	S 8, 2007	L, 42-17
Cal Poly	1	1	D 3, 2005	W, 14-7
Delta State	1	0	S 3, 2005	W, 32-25
Florida Atlantic	0	1	O 9, 2004	L, 20-13
Georgia Southern	1	0	N 26, 2005	W, 50-35
Houston	1	1	N 29, 2008	W, 56-42
Kentucky	0	1	S 9, 2006	L, 41-7
Marshall	1	1	N 22, 2008	W, 35-10
McNeese State	3	0	O 14, 2006	W, 27-17
Memphis	1	1	S 6, 2008	W, 42-35
Nicholls State	1	3	S 1, 2007	L, 16-14
Northern Colorado	0	1	S 16, 2006	L, 14-13
Northern Iowa	0	1	D 9, 2005	L, 40-37 ot
North Texas	1	0	S 27, 2008	W, 77-20
Northwestern State	1	2	O 28, 2006	L, 19-10
Oklahoma Panhandle St.	1	0	O 15, 2005	W, 75-7
Sam Houston State	2	1	N 16, 2006	W, 28-21
South Dakota State	1	0	O 1, 2005	W, 42-12
Southern Miss	2	0	O 18, 2008	W, 45-40
Southeastern Louisiana	3	0	O 21, 2006	W, 38-17
SMU	2	0	A 29, 2008	W, 56-27
Southern Utah	1	1	S 23, 2006	L, 30-21
Stephen F. Austin	2	1	O 7, 2006	L, 24-13
Tarleton State	1	0	S 2, 2006	W, 27-23
Texas	0	2	S 20, 2008	L, 52-20
Texas A&M	0	1	S 22, 2005	L, 44-31
Texas Southern	1	0	N 9, 2006	W, 41-21
Texas Tech	0	1	S 15, 2007	L, 59-24
Tulane	1	1	O 25, 2008	W, 42-17
Tulsa	0	2	O 4, 2008	L, 63-28
UTEP	2	0	N 1, 2008	W, 49-44
Vanderbilt	0	1	S 13, 2008	L, 38-21
Western Michigan	1	0	D 30, 2008	W, 38-21





CHUCK DRIESBACH
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR
LINEBACKERS

Chuck Driesbach is in his third year as the Owls' Assistant Head Coach and Co-Defensive Coordinator. He will also once again tutor the Rice linebackers.

Driesbach's 2008 defense held opponents to fewer total yards in all areas compared to 2007 while playing one additional game. They tied for seventh in the country in Turnover Margin (1.15) and tied for 10th in Fumble Recoveries (15). They held three opponents to less than 100 yards rushing and allowed just one rushing touchdown over the final three games.

The Owls intercepted 16 passes on the season and returned four for touchdowns. In their Texas Bowl victory over Western Michigan, Rice's defenders held the Broncos off the scoreboard until less than seven minutes remained in the game.

Entering his 33rd year of college coaching, including 17 years as a defensive coordinator, Driesbach has crafted a number of nationally-ranked defensive attacks while also developing numerous future NFL players including Ole Miss linebacker Patrick Willis, who was the 2007 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year while playing for the San Francisco 49ers.

Driesbach joined the coaching staff on February 19, 2007, after spending the previous two years as the secondary coach at Michigan State. Prior to his time with the Spartans, Driesbach served as the Defensive Coordinator at Ole Miss (2002-04), TCU (2001), Western Michigan (1997-2000); Pittsburgh (1993-96) and Cornell (1990-92).

In 2003, Ole Miss tied for the Southeastern Conference Western Division title en route to a 10-3 record, including a 31-28 victory over Oklahoma State in the Cotton Bowl, and a No. 13 ranking in the final Associated Press poll. The Rebels ranked fourth in the SEC and No. 14 in the NCAA in rushing defense in 2003, allowing 102.5 yards per game. The Ole Miss defensive unit also ranked among the league leaders in tackles for losses (106), interceptions (15) and turnovers forced (25).

In 2002, the Rebels went 7-6 including a 27-23 victory over Nebraska in the Independence Bowl.

During his tenure, two Ole Miss players earned first-team All-SEC honors, including nose tackle Jesse Mitchell (2003) and linebacker Eddie Strong (2002). Driesbach also helped develop two players that were selected in the 2004 National Football League Draft: outside linebacker Charlie Anderson (Houston) and cornerback Von Hutchins (Indianapolis).

Prior to his appointment at Mississippi, Driesbach spent the 2001 season at TCU where he served as defensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach under Gary Patterson. The Horned Frogs finished 6-6 in 2001, including an appearance in the Galleryfurniture.com Bowl (vs. Texas A&M). In 2001, TCU ranked among the NCAA leaders in both rushing defense (No. 10 at 93.8 yards per game) and total defense (No. 24 at 322.5 ypg.). Driesbach tutored linebacker LaMarcus McDonald, a second-team all-league selection in 2001 who went on to be named Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year in 2002.

He served as defensive coordinator for four years under Gary Darnell at Western Michigan (1997-2000), helping the Broncos win back-to-back Mid-American Conference West Division titles in 1999-2000. Driesbach worked with the Bronco outside linebackers for the first three years before taking over the safeties in 2000.

Western Michigan recorded three shutouts (vs. Indiana, Kent State and Eastern Michigan) on its way to a 9-3 overall record in 2000. The Broncos also snapped the nation's longest home winning streak at 33 games by posting a 30-10 victory over Marshall in Huntington, W.Va. Western Michigan ranked among the NCAA leaders in scoring defense (No. 4 at 11.6 points per game), total defense (No. 9 at 283.3 ypg.) and rushing defense (No. 20 at 105.3 ypg.) in 2000. The Broncos held seven opponents below the 100-yard rushing mark, while four opponents failed to throw for 100 yards in a game.

For his efforts in 2000, Driesbach was nominated for the Frank Broyles Award, which is named in honor of the former Arkansas head coach and presented annually to the nation's top assistant football coach.

In his final season at Western Michigan, Driesbach worked with defensive end Jason Babin, who became the only true freshman on the Bronco roster to letter in 2000. Babin went on to earn All-America honors as a senior in 2003 and became the first player in WMU history to be selected in the first round of the NFL Draft, going to Houston (No. 27 overall) in 2004.

In 1997, he played a major role in helping Western Michigan post the nation's biggest turnaround, producing an 8-3 record after finishing just 2-9 in 1996.

Driesbach spent four years as defensive coordinator under John Majors at Pittsburgh (1993-96) where his pupils included three future NFL players: defensive back Anthony Dorsett Jr. (Houston, 1996; Tennessee, 1997-99; and Oakland, 2000-03), linebacker Tom Tumulty (Cincinnati, 1996-99) and defensive tackle Mike Mohring (San Diego, 1997-2001; and Oakland, 2002).

He worked for three years as defensive coordinator under Jim Hofher at Cornell (1990-92), where he helped the Big Red to a combined record of 19-11 (.633), including the 1990 Ivy League championship.

In 1989, Driesbach began his first stint at Ole Miss where he coached the defensive secondary for Billy Brewer. The Rebels finished 8-4 in 1989, including a 42-29 victory over Air Force in the Liberty Bowl.

His college coaching credits include a two-year stop at East Carolina (1987-88) where he worked with the running backs in addition to performing the duties of admissions and academic coordinator for head coach Art Baker. While on the ECU coaching staff, Driesbach recruited linebacker Robert Jones, who later became a consensus All-American and Butkus Award finalist in 1991 and a first-round pick (No. 24 overall) by Dallas in the 1992 NFL Draft.

Driesbach spent three seasons at Wake Forest (1984-86) where he coached on both sides of the football for Al Groh. He worked with the defensive line for two years before overseeing the receivers and tight ends in 1986. During his tenure with the Demon Deacons, Driesbach tutored three future NFL players, including defensive lineman Gary Baldinger (Kansas City, 1986-88; Indianapolis, 1989; and Buffalo, 1990-92), tight end Greg Scales (New Orleans, 1988-91) and wide receiver Ricky Proehl (Phoenix/Arizona, 1990-94; Seattle, 1995-96; Chicago, 1997; St. Louis, 1998-2002; and Carolina, 2003-05).

He began his coaching career at Kansas State where he spent eight seasons (1976-83), including three years as a graduate assistant under Ellis Rainsburger and five more as a full-time assistant under Jim Dickey. As a graduate assistant, Driesbach worked primarily with the tight ends and receivers, including future NFL All-Pro Paul Coffman (Green Bay, 1978-85; and Kansas City, 1986-87).

From 1979-83, Driesbach coached the Wildcat defensive secondary. In 1982, Kansas State (6-5-1) made its first-ever postseason appearance, earning a trip to the Independence Bowl (vs. Wisconsin). In 1980, the Wildcats led the NCAA in pass defense, allowing just 91.4 yards per game.

During his stay in Manhattan, Kan., Driesbach recruited three future pros, including wide receivers Eugene Goodlow (New Orleans, 1983-86) and Gerald Alphin (New Orleans, 1990-91) and tailback Tony Jordan (Phoenix, 1989-90).

A native of Philadelphia, Pa., Driesbach was a three-year starter at wide receiver for Coach Lou Ferry at Villanova (1972-74). He earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Villanova in 1975.

Married to the former Kim Widmer of Coffeyville, Kan., Driesbach and his wife have two daughters: Lindsay, who graduated from Michigan State in 2006, and Kate, a 2008 graduate of Ole Miss.



CRAIG NAIVAR **CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR** **SAFETIES**

Craig Naivar returns for his third season as Rice's co-defensive coordinator as well as guiding the Owls' safeties. Naivar's primary recruiting focus is the western half of the greater Houston area.

Naivar heads into the 2009 campaign with an experienced lineup of returning players, including preseason All C-USA pick Andrew Sendejo, 2008 second team Freshman All America Travis Bradshaw and juniors Chris Jones and Willie Garley.

Naivar joined the Rice Owls football coaching staff on January 19, 2007, following head coach David Bailiff to Rice from Texas State.

Prior to coming to Rice, he masterminded the defensive and special teams' schemes for the previous five years at Texas State and Sam Houston, schemes that annually produced league leading totals.

In addition to coordinating the Bobcats' defensive unit, Naivar was also responsible for coaching the squad's safeties. The 2005 season marked the second time Naivar had been a part of a Southland Conference championship. During his tenure in Huntsville, Sam Houston won the Southland Conference title in 2001 and reached the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, losing in the quarterfinals to eventual national champion Montana.

Naivar also served two seasons as the special teams coordinator and defensive line coach at Southern Illinois. Naivar was a defensive graduate assistant coach at TCU during the spring of 1998 under former Texas A&M head coach Dennis Franchione. He also worked under Franchione at New Mexico in 1996 and 1997, coaching the defensive line, tight ends and wide receivers.

From 1994 to 1995, Naivar was the special teams coordinator and defensive assistant at Hardin-Simmons under Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor member Jimmie Keeling.

Naivar holds both a master of sports management and a bachelor's of science degree in physical education from Hardin-Simmons. He was a four-year football letter winner at quarterback and free safety, earning all-conference honors. He played on a conference championship team which advanced to the national semifinals his senior year. He also received academic honors from Hardin-Simmons.

Naivar and his wife Michelle, also a Taylor native, have a daughter, Jordan Ashleigh (6) and a son, Gunner, (3).



ED ZAUNBRECHER **OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR** **QUARTERBACKS**

Ed Zaunbrecher took over the reigns of the Owls offensive attack on January 23, 2009.

Zaunbrecher, 58, comes to Rice from Purdue University where he spent three years as the Boilermakers' quarterbacks coach. In his first two seasons, he served as co-offensive coordinator before assuming the coordinator duties on his own this past year.

Zaunbrecher helped Curtis Painter break Drew Brees' Big Ten season passing yards record with 3,985 and lead the conference in total offense (292.3 yards per game) in 2006, while Purdue led the Big Ten in passing offense (291.6 yards per game) and total offense (415.7), ranking sixth and 13th nationally. Painter finished his career with 11,167 yards passing, second only to Brees in Big Ten history.

Over the course of his career, Zaunbrecher has mentored 42 National Football League draft picks, including six first-round selections. Ten of his quarterbacks, including Painter, have set school passing records. His list of signal-callers includes three currently playing in the NFL: Rex Grossman of the Chicago Bears, Byron Leftwich of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Chad Pennington of the Miami Dolphins.

While this will be his first experience in Conference USA, Zaunbrecher knows one of the member schools very well. From 1999 to 2001, he was quarterbacks coach at Marshall. He also filled the role of offensive coordinator in 2000 and 2001. Marshall ranked third nationally both in passing offense and total offense in 2001, averaging 350.1 and 505 yards per game.

Prior to his stint with Purdue, Zaunbrecher coached from 2002-05 on the staff of Ron Zook, first at Florida (2002-04) and then at Illinois (2005). He coached the Gators quarterbacks from 2002-04 and was the offensive coordinator from 2002-03. He was the passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Illinois.

Zaunbrecher was head coach at Northeast Louisiana (now Louisiana Monroe) from 1994 to 1998, compiling a 20-36 record. The Indians moved to NCAA Division I-A status in 1994 and went on to win five games each of his last three seasons.

Zaunbrecher's other experience includes stops at Michigan State (1991-93 - linebackers and kickers); LSU (1984-90 - offensive coordinator and quarterbacks); Wake Forest (1980-83 - offensive coordinator, quarterbacks and wide receivers); and Arizona (1973-74 - graduate assistant, 1975-76 - offensive line).

During Zaunbrecher's first tenure at Purdue, he coached the running backs (1977-78) and receivers (1979) under head coach Jim Young. One of his pupils, Dave Young, concluded his career as the Big Ten all-time receptions leader. The Boilermakers won the 1978 Peach Bowl and the 1979 Bluebonnet Bowl.

A native of Rayne, La., Zaunbrecher (born March 1, 1950) earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Middle Tennessee State in 1972 and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Arizona in 1974. At Middle Tennessee State, Zaunbrecher was a three-year starter at center, earned the team's Scholar-Athlete Award and received the 1972 NCAA Postgraduate Award Scholarship. He has three children: Ann Lindsay, Emily and Zack.



LARRY EDMONDSON WIDE RECEIVERS

Larry Edmondson joined the Rice staff on January 30, 2009 as the Owls' wide receiver coach.

Edmondson, who was the offensive coordinator and assistant head coach at Katy Taylor High School this past season, brings a total of 19 years of college coaching experience, including 14 years of coaching wide receivers, to the Owls. He was the wide receivers coach at SMU from 2004 to 2007, Auburn in 1997-98, Mississippi State in 1996, LSU from 1991-94 and at Southern Miss from 1988-90. He has also served as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at SMU (2002-03) and Louisiana-Lafayette (1999-2001).

While at SMU, Edmondson guided Bobby Chase to All-C-USA honors in 2005 and Emmanuel Sanders to All-Conference and freshman All-America honors in 2006. As the offensive coordinator at Louisiana-Lafayette, he constructed an offense that set six school records in 2001 and was credited with the development of sophomore quarterback Jon Van Cleave, who led the Sun Belt Conference in passing yards per game.

In addition to coaching wide receivers at Auburn, Edmondson also oversaw the Tigers recruiting efforts. Auburn won the 1997 SEC West Division championship and went on to defeat Clemson in the 1998 Peach Bowl.

A 1983 graduate of Texas A&M where he lettered as a tight end and was a teammate of Houston Texans head coach Gary Kubiak, Edmondson began his coaching career as a graduate assistant with the Aggies from 1984 to 1986. He served as a GA at Arizona in 1987 before joining Curly Hallman's staff at Southern Miss as the passing game coordinator and wide receivers coach in 1988.

In his first year at USM, the Golden Eagles went 10-2 including a 38-18 win over UTEP in the Independence Bowl. Southern Miss opened the 1990 season with a win over Florida State and played in the All-American Bowl that year, and also posted wins over both Alabama and Auburn during his time there.

Married (Cara) with two children, son Sean and daughter Taylor.



DARIN ELIOT RECRUITING COORDINATOR DEFENSIVE LINE

Darin Eliot is back for his third year of tutoring the Owls' defensive line in addition to coordinating the Owls' recruiting efforts.

Eliot's defensive front will be anchored in 2009 by a pair of athletic junior defensive ends in Scott Solomon and Cheta Ozougwu, who have been stalwarts since arriving on campus in 2007. The interior line will be looking for the healthy return of senior Chance Talbert and sophomore Michael Smith, who each missed spring drills. But in their absence, sophomores John Gioffre and Brian Stacey picked up valuable repetitions.

Eliot was named to his position on January 24, 2007, after spending the 2006 season as the linebacker coach at Tulsa where he developed linebacker Nick Bunting into the C-USA Defensive Player of the Year. Eliot also coached Nelson Coleman (All C-USA first-team coaches) and Chris Chamberlain (coaches' third-team) as the Golden Hurricane reached the Armed Forces Bowl.

Eliot is no stranger to David Bailiff, serving on his Texas State staff for three years prior to going to Tulsa. He coached the linebackers in 2004 and 2005 and the secondary in 2003. The Bobcats' defense ranked first in the Southland Conference and 20th nationally in total defense in 2005. Texas State won the Southland Conference Championship in 2005 and advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. Eliot coached LB David Simmons to All-Conference honors in 2004 and 2005.

Prior to joining the Texas State coaching staff, Eliot spent one year at the University of Miami where he served as a graduate assistant coach and worked with the Hurricanes' secondary and special teams in 2002. In that season, Miami won the Big East Championship and played for the national championship in the Fiesta Bowl, finishing the season with a 12-1 record. The Hurricanes' secondary led the nation and set an NCAA record for fewest yards allowed per pass completion.

Eliot also served as a graduate assistant coach at the University of Houston for two seasons (2000-01), working primarily with the secondary and special teams. Before that, he was a student assistant coach at the University of Wyoming in 1998 and a graduate assistant working with the linebackers in 1999.

Eliot played linebacker at Wyoming for three years (1995-97). He earned his bachelor's degree in Natural Science with a minor in Zoology from Wyoming in 1999. He received a master's degree in sports administration from Houston in 2002.

He and his wife, Miekell, have one son, Dawson (4) and a daughter Drue (2).



RICK LaFAVERS TIGHT ENDS SPECIAL TEAMS

Rick LaFavers is in his third year of coaching the Owls' special teams in addition to coaching the tight ends.

In 2008, Rice tight end James Casey smashed the school records for receptions (111) and receiving yards (1,329), sparking the Owls to a win in the Texas Bowl. Casey ranked second in the nation in receptions and was selected in the fifth round of the NFL Draft by the Houston Texans.

On special teams, the Owls saw improvements in all aspects of their special teams play, averaging more yardage per kick returns than they allowed. Junior Clark Fangmeier was perfect on PATs for the year while freshman Kyle Marterns earned C-USA All Freshmen honors by averaging just under 40 yards per punt.

LaFavers joined the staff on February 20, 2007, joining four other members of David Bailiff's Texas State staff who followed him to Houston.

LaFavers began coaching Texas State's linebackers in the spring of 2006 after spending three years at Texas A&M where he was the team's head strength and conditioning coach. Prior to his tenure at A&M, he worked two seasons as a defensive graduate assistant (2001-02) for head coach Dennis Franchione at Alabama, working with the defense.

He served as a defensive graduate assistant at his alma matter, TCU, from 1998-2000, working with the defensive tackles and special teams, beginning an eight-year association with Franchione, who took over the program that year and led them to a berth in the Sun Bowl.

In his career, LaFavers has been on the coaching staffs of six bowl teams. In addition to the trip to the Sun Bowl, he was a member of the TCU coaching staff when the Horned Frogs made consecutive appearances in the Mobile Alabama Bowl (1999-2000).

He was a member of Alabama's staff in 2001 when the Crimson Tide played in the Independence Bowl. Alabama had the best record in the SEC West in 2002. In 2005, he was a member of the Texas A&M staff that reached the Cotton Bowl.

In addition to his collegiate coaching experience, LaFavers was the defensive backfield coach at Fort Worth's Southwest High School in 1997.

The Amarillo native was a four-year letterman for the Horned Frogs at defensive back. He was named a team captain as a senior in 1995, compiling 70 tackles and intercepting a pair of passes. He was named All-Southwest Conference Second-Team in 1995. LaFavers was a member of TCU's Co-SWC championship team which advanced to the Independence Bowl his junior year.

LaFavers earned both his bachelor's (physical education-1997) and master's (liberal arts--2000) degrees from TCU. He is married to the former Kim Dooley and the couple has three sons, Austin Joseph (6), Coleson Joshua (3) and Ryan James who was born on July 6, 2009 and shares his birthday with his father.



DARRELL PATTERSON RUNNING BACKS

Darrell Patterson is back for his third season of guiding the Owls' running backs in addition to continuing to spearhead Rice's recruiting efforts in Canada, where he made his name as a CFL standout for eight seasons.

Patterson joined the Rice coaching staff on February 20, 2007 after two seasons as the linebackers coach at Stanford.

Patterson was a standout linebacker at TCU from 1979-82 and is a member of the school's Hall of Fame. He remains the school's all-time leader in total tackles (544), unassisted tackles (286) and assisted tackles (258).

He was selected in the sixth round of the 1983 NFL Draft by the New York Giants, but found his way to the Canadian Football League for a seven-year career as a linebacker for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1984-88) and the Hamilton Tiger Cats (1988-90). Patterson won a Grey Cup championship with Winnipeg in 1984 and was on a runner-up in 1989 with Hamilton.

Following his playing days, Patterson began his coaching career as an intern for the British Columbia Lions in 1991. His collegiate coaching stops have included Akron (1992-94), Temple (1995-96), Kentucky (1997-2000), Arkansas State (2001), Baylor (2002), Southern Methodist (2003-04) and Stanford. He also had a coaching stint with Ottawa of the CFL in 1995.

Patterson coached linebackers during his stops at Southern Methodist, Baylor and Arkansas State. At Baylor, he coached linebacker John Garrett, who went on to sign an NFL free agent contract.

During his four seasons at Kentucky, Patterson was part of a staff that advanced to two bowl games: the Outback Bowl versus Penn State following the 1998 season and the 1999 Music City Bowl against Syracuse. While at Kentucky, Patterson coached safeties Willie Gary and Anthony Wajda to All-SEC honors, as well as Freshman All-American David Jackson.

Patterson coached defensive tackle Larry Chester during his two seasons at Temple. Chester went on to sign an NFL contract with the Indianapolis Colts. He returned to the Canadian Football League in 1995 as a defensive line and special teams coach for the Ottawa Rough Riders.

Patterson's first foray into the collegiate coaching ranks came in 1992 when he began a three-year stint at Akron (1992-94).

Patterson earned a bachelor's degree in Human Relations from TCU in 1984. He and his wife Julie, whom he met while playing professionally in Canada, have three children: Michael, redshirt freshman wide receiver at Rice, Monika and Meghan.



RONNIE VINKLAREK OFFENSIVE LINE

Ronnie Vinklarek joined the Rice football staff as the offensive line coach on February 28, 2009

Vinklarek, 49, has 18 years of coaching experience at the collegiate and professional level and is no stranger to the Houston area or Conference USA. He coached the linemen at the University of Houston from 1988-93 and at SMU from 2004-07. He also coached at the high school level in Houston, coaching the defensive line at Spring Branch High School in 1983-84.

While at Houston, he mentored the offensive line that protected Andre Ware during his Heisman Trophy winning season (1890) and was selected to coach in the 1990 Blue-Gray Game after helping UH to a 10-1 season. Originally came to Houston as a graduate assistant under former Houston Oilers and Washington Redskins head coach Jack Pardee and was promoted to full-time assistant in 1990.

Vinklarek coached in the NFL for three seasons. He broke into the league in 2000 with the Tennessee Titans as their defensive quality control, linebackers and special teams coach. He moved on to the Buffalo Bills in 2001 and coached

their offensive line for two seasons. In 2002 the Bills offensive line paved the way for a 4,359-yard passer in Drew Bledsoe, a 1,439-yard rusher in Travis Henry and two 1,200-yard-plus receivers in Eric Moulds and Peerless Price.

Last season, he coached the offensive line for the Edmonton Eskimos of the CFL. He broke into the coaching ranks as the seventh and eighth grade coach at Hill Country Middle School after graduating from Southwest Texas in 1981. From 1983 to 1984, was the defensive line coach for Spring Branch High School in Houston before becoming the defensive coordinator at Marble Falls (Texas) High School from 1984-86.

Also served as offensive line coach at Oklahoma State (1998 & 1999), Valdosta State (1997) as well as with the CFL's Birmingham Barracudas (1995).

A Flatonia, Texas, native, Vinklarek is married to the former Marianne Britz. The couple has two sons, Trevor and Trent.



JASON WASHINGTON CORNERBACKS

Jason Washington returns for his third season of guiding the efforts of Rice's cornerbacks.

In his first season at Rice, two of his pupils (Brandon King and Gary Anderson Jr.) finished first and second in passes defended, while in 2008 his young corners were forced to quickly develop after King was lost for the year with an injury. Thanks to that experience, Washington will count heavily on a pair of experienced true sophomores in Chris Jammer and Jarrett Ben.

Prior to the opening of the Owls' 2009 training camp, Washington spent a week with the coaching staff of the Minnesota Vikings as part of the Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellowship Program. Three current NFL head coaches, including Super Bowl winning coach Mike Tomlin, are graduates of the program.

Washington joined the Rice football coaching staff on January 24, 2007 after serving under David Bailiff in the same capacity for three seasons at Texas State.

In his final season at Texas State, Washington produced the Southland Conference leader interceptions, Walter Musgrove, who was a two-time, All-Southland pick for the Bobcats.

No stranger to the Bobcat athletic program, Washington was a four-year letter winner for both Texas State's football and baseball teams. He started both as a defensive back for the football squad as well as in centerfield for the 'Cats baseball team before graduating in 2002. He was a valuable contributor all four

years for the football team, posting a career-best 66 tackles as a senior. He also earned All-Southland Conference Tournament and NCAA All-Regional honors in baseball in 1999 as the Bobcats captured a league tournament title and played in the NCAA Regional hosted by Baylor.

Washington lettered three seasons at San Antonio MacArthur High for Coach Van Fuschak. At MacArthur, Washington played quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back and led the team to an 11-3 finish as a senior as the squad advanced to the regional quarterfinals. He was a first-team all-district, all-city and all-state selection his senior year.

He was also listed on the Texas Top 100 and selected the 1997 San Antonio Defensive Most Valuable Player as selected by area sports writers. In addition to earning his bachelor's degree from Texas State, Washington earned a master's degree in sports administration from Texas State in 2004.

In addition to his coaching duties, Washington is also active in organizing the annual Gridiron Heroes Coaching Clinic. Gridiron Heroes is an organization offering financial support to young men who have suffered spinal cord injury while playing football and Rice head coach David Bailiff is on the Advisory Board.

He was married to the former Lacey Moore in July, 2008.



JERRY PICKLE **ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, FOOTBALL OPERATIONS**

Jerry Pickle joined the Rice staff in June as the Assistant AD for Football Operations.

He came to Rice after 24 years at Baylor, including the last 13 as the director of football operations. He joined the Baylor program full-time in 1986 as recruiting coordinator and administrative assistant to Hall of Fame coach Grant Teaff.

In his current role, Pickle handles administrative responsibilities for the Rice football program. His broad range of responsibilities include team travel, on-campus recruiting, roster upkeep, compliance, camps/clinics, golf tournaments, coaches/players tickets, academics, banquets, walk-on programs and game-day

duties. Pickle also serves as the NFL liaison and is a liaison for the program with various athletic and university departments.

Pickle began his coaching career at the high school level and then coached five years in the college ranks in Mississippi and Missouri before going to Baylor. He has both bachelor's (1976) and master's (1980) degrees in health, physical education and recreation from Delta State in Cleveland, Miss., where he lettered in football and track.

Pickle is married to the former Julie Turner and they have two sons, Matthew and Jonathan.



TOM KERESZTURY **OFFENSIVE GRADUATE ASSISTANT**

Tom Keresztury joined the Rice Football coaching staff as a graduate assistant in January, 2008 after serving in a similar capacity for one season at Tennessee-Martin.

Keresztury was a four-year starter at offensive tackle at Texas State, and earned All American honors from The Sports Network as a senior in 2005. He was a two-time All Southland Conference selection as well as a two-year team captain.

As a senior, in 2005 under current Rice head coach David Bailiff and offensive line coach Blake Miller, Keresztury did not give up a sack while anchoring an offensive line for an attack that ranked eighth in the nation in scoring (37 points per game) and 11th in total offense (439 yards per game).



MICHAEL SLATER **DEFENSIVE GRADUATE ASSISTANT**

Michael Slater joined the Rice staff for the 2008 season as the Defensive Graduate Assistant. He will coach the defensive tackles and defensive ends.

Slater has coached at the high school level in the Houston area for the past 12 years, first at Alief Hastings for five seasons and most recently at Alief Taylor for seven years. He coached the defensive line and also coordinated special teams. As the defensive line coach at Taylor, he coached current Owl Cheta Ozo-ugwu.

He began his coaching career while attending Southwest Texas State (now Texas State), where he served as a student assistant coach in 1993 before graduating with a degree in Agriculture/Animal Science.

Slater has one son, Kyle (8).



JARED KAAIOHELO
HEAD STRENGTH & CONDITIONING
COACH

Jared Kaaiohelo joined the Rice Athletics Department on February 17, 2009 after spending the last three seasons as an assistant strength and conditioning at the University of Kansas Athletics. Kaaiohelo administers the conditioning programs for each of the Owls 16 sports.

During his time with the at Kansas, the Jayhawks football team broke into the top ten in the rankings and closed out the 2007 season with a win in the Orange Bowl over Virginia Tech.

Kaaiohelo came to Kansas after spending three years as Central Oklahoma's strength and conditioning coach, working with all 12 varsity programs. He began his affiliation with the school as a volunteer in 2003 and then was hired as the Broncos first-ever fulltime strength and conditioning coach in February of 2004.

Under Kaaiohelo's tutelage, the Broncos enjoyed tremendous success, finishing 36th and 38th in the NCAA Division II Directors' Cup Standing in 2005 and 2006.

Formerly the president and CEO of The Fieldhouse, a strength and conditioning facility in Oklahoma City, Kaaiohelo is a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association as well as a USA weightlifting club coach.

Kaaiohelo is a native of Edmond, Okla. He spent three years at Arkansas before transferring to Division II Missouri Southern for his final two seasons. With the Lions, Kaaiohelo was a member of the 1993 MIAA Conference championship team and he earned a spot in 1994-95 Snow Bowl, the Division II All-Star game.

Kaaiohelo signed as a free agent with the Houston Oilers in 1995 and played two seasons for the Scottish Claymores of NFL Europe in 1996-97. The Claymores won the World Bowl Championship in 1996 and Kaaiohelo was voted team captain for the 1997 season. Later that year, he signed a free agent contract with the Indianapolis Colts.

Kaaiohelo earned his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Christian University. He is married to his wife Connie, and the couple has two daughters, Kora Marie (5) and Kenna Helene who was born in March.



SCOTT MCLAFFERTY
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Scott McLafferty begins his third season on South Main and his first as the Associate Director of Strength & Conditioning. He joined the Owls' strength and conditioning staff on March 5, 2007 as the Assistant Coordinator of Strength & Conditioning.

McLafferty's duties include working with men's basketball in addition to his work with the Owls' football team.

The Stillwater, Okla., native came to Rice from Louisiana Tech, here he worked with the football, soccer and softball in his first year before assuming duties as the men's basketball head strength and conditioning coach for two years. McLafferty also served as a student assistant at Oklahoma State University.

He is a 2007 graduate of Louisiana Tech.



RUSTY WHITT
COORDINATOR
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING



ANDREW JOHN
COORDINATOR
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING



KELLY RICCARDI
ASSISTANT AD/EQUIPMENT

Kelly Riccardi is entering her fourth year as assistant athletics director of equipment operations. Riccardi is responsible for the purchasing, receiving, distribution and inventory of equipment for all intercollegiate sports, primarily football, at Rice.

In 2009, Riccardi and her staff were honored by their peers as the 2009 C-USA Equipment Staff of the Year.

Prior to joining the athletics department at Rice she served as an intern for Disney's Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Fla., and as a graduate assistant for the West Virginia University athletics department specializing in facilities and operations.

As an undergraduate at WVU, Riccardi was a four-year student manager for the Mountaineer football program. Duties included daily practice set up, game-day team operations, assisting with on-field personnel situations, and laundry and equipment maintenance.

A native of Lansdale, Pa., Riccardi is a 2005 and 2006 graduate of WVU with a B.S. in physical education specializing in sports management and a M.S. in sports management. She is a Member of the Athletic Equipment Managers Association and is AEMA Certified.



CHRIS PALOMAREZ
**ASSISTANT EQUIPMENT
 MANAGER**



ALEX SANTOS
LAUNDRY ASSISTANT



RICHIE VALDES
HEAD FOOTBALL TRAINER

Richie Valdes is in his fourth year at Rice and his first as the Head Athletic Trainer for football.

He joined Rice in 2006 after completing his Master's Degree in Sports Administration at the University of Southern Mississippi. While at Southern Miss, Valdes was the athletic trainer for both the football team and the women's softball team.

A native of Lawrenceville, Ga., Valdes is also a 2004 graduate of the University of Georgia where he received a B.S. degree in Exercise and Sports Science — Athletic Training. While at Georgia, Valdes worked with Bulldog football, women's soccer, softball, and men's and women's track and field.

He is a certified member of the National Athletic Trainer's Association and a licensed member of the Texas State Athletic Trainer's Association and the Southwest Athletic Trainer's Association.



JOEY VARGAS
ASSISTANT FOOTBALL TRAINER