



# RHETT LASHLEE

**HEAD COACH**  
**ARKANSAS, 2006**  
 **RHETTLASHLEE**

Rhett Lashlee returned to SMU as Head Football Coach on Nov. 29, 2021. Lashlee previously served as offensive coordinator for the Mustangs for two seasons, including the record-setting 2019 campaign.

Lashlee, a one-time finalist (2013) and two-time semifinalist (2019, 2020) for the Broyles Award, presented to the nation's top assistant coach, came back to the Hilltop after two seasons as the Miami Hurricanes' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Lashlee also has the distinction of being the only coach ever nominated for the Broyles Award four different times at four different schools (Arkansas State, Auburn, SMU, Miami).

In his first season in Coral Gables, the Hurricanes jumped to No. 32 in the FBS in total offense (from No. 98), No. 29 in passing offense (from No. 52), No. 26 in scoring offense (from No. 90), No. 17 in red zone offense (from No. 122) and No. 20 in first downs gained (from No. 84). In 2021, Miami again ranked 26th in scoring averaging, improving to 34.1 PPG, and jumped up to 22nd in total offense at 448.8 yards per game.

Under his watch, QB D'Eriq King was a semifinalist for the Maxwell Award, Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and Davey O'Brien Award. Several offensive players enjoyed career years under his tutelage, including Michael Harley, who became the school's all-time leading wide receiver, and TE Brevin Jordan, who was a Mackey Award semifinalist and an eventual 2021 NFL Draft pick of the Houston Texans. In 2021, freshman Tyler Van Dyke was named the ACC Rookie of the Year, and Charleston Rambo broke the Miami single-season receiving yards and receptions record.

Prior to heading to Coral Gables, Lashlee helped lead the Mustangs to a 10-3 finish in 2019, guiding an offense that ranked No. 7 in FBS in scoring (41.8 points per game), No. 13 in passing offense (309 yards per game), No. 9 in total offense (489.8 yards per game) and No. 12 in first downs gained (322). SMU's 10 wins were the school's most since the 1984 season, and its 35 rushing touchdowns set a school record.

The Mustangs were ranked No. 3 nationally in plays per game, averaging 80.9 – a testament to Lashlee's up-tempo offensive style. SMU was one of only 34 teams in FBS to average more than six yards per play in 2019. Quarterback Shane Buechele threw for 3,929 yards with 34 touchdowns and just 10 interceptions, completing 63 percent of his passes. Running back Xavier Jones rushed for 1,276 yards and 23 touchdowns, averaging 5.2 yards per carry. His 23 TDs led the nation. James Proche led the nation with 111 catches. All three were first-team All-AAC selections.

In his first season at SMU, the Mustang offense ranked 27th nationally in passing offense at 271.7 yards per game. Quarterback Ben Hicks registered 2,582 yards and 19 touchdowns to finish his SMU career as the all-time leader in passing yards (9,081), total offense (8,977), TD passes (71), TDs responsible for (74), completions (718) and 300-yard games (12). His season passing yards ranked 11th at SMU, while his 19 touchdowns tied him for eighth. Wide receiver Proche was named a first-team All-AAC selection, and finished the season ranked fifth nationally in receptions per game (7.8), seventh in receiving touchdowns (12) and ninth in receiving yards (1,199).

Prior to joining SMU's staff, Lashlee served as an offensive coordinator for seven seasons, spending 2017 at UConn, 2013-16 at Auburn, 2012 at Arkansas State and 2011 at Samford.

In his only season in Storrs, Lashlee improved the Huskies' offense significantly, as UConn jumped from 122nd to 49th in the nation in total offense and from 94th to 34th in passing offense.

Prior to UConn, Lashlee helped Auburn to the 2013 SEC Championship, a BCS Championship berth and the 2016 Sugar Bowl, managing one of the more prolific offenses in college football during his tenure. The 2013-14 seasons were the best back-to-back offensively in Auburn history, and the 2014 squad set an Auburn record for total offense.

## LASHLEE COACHING EXPERIENCE

2006	Arkansas (Graduate Assistant)
2009-10	Auburn (Graduate Assistant)
2011	Samford (Offensive Coordinator)
2012	Arkansas State (Offensive Coordinator)
2013-16	Auburn (Offensive Coordinator)
2017	Connecticut (Offensive Coordinator)
2018-19	SMU (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks)
2020-21	Miami (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks)
2022-	SMU (Head Coach)

Lashlee also served as the quarterbacks coach and demonstrated impressive ability to develop talent. In 2013, Auburn had the second biggest turnaround in college football history. Starting QB Nick Marshall did not practice until August, but Lashlee tutored the junior college transfer to 3,044 yards of total offense (1,976 passing, 1,068 rushing), 14 TD passes and 12 rushing TDs.

Lashlee was the offensive coordinator at Arkansas State (2012), helping the Red Wolves to a Sun Belt Championship and quarterback Ryan Aplin to Conference Player of the Year honors, and at Samford (2011), after having served as a graduate assistant at Auburn (2009-10) and Arkansas (2006). While at Auburn as an offensive graduate assistant during the 2009-10 seasons, Lashlee assisted Gus Malzahn with all aspects of the offense and coached the quarterbacks and slot receivers in 2010. In 2009, the Tigers finished 8-5 winning the Outback Bowl. During the 2010 season, he helped the Tigers finish 14-0, winning the SEC title and the BCS National Championship behind Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Cam Newton. Lashlee coached at Springdale (Ark.) High School in 2004-05, working with the quarterbacks and 2005 National Player of the Year Mitch Mustain.

Lashlee graduated from Arkansas in 2006 with a degree in marketing and business administration. He received his master's degree in higher education from Auburn in 2009.

He is married to the former Lauren Lee. They have twin sons, Thomas and Hudson, and twin daughters, Rowyn and Scarlet.





# SCOTT SYMONS

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
**LINDENWOOD, 2008**  
 **COACHSYMONS**

Scott Symons was hired as SMU's Defensive Coordinator in December 2021 after spending three seasons as Defensive Coordinator at Liberty, while also working with safeties and linebackers.

Prior to the 2022 season, Symons was named to Dave Campbell's Texas Football 40 Under 40 List.

Liberty closed out the 2021 season with a win in the Lending Tree Bowl and finished in the top 20 in passing yards allowed (9th, 180.3), red zone defense (10th, .725), total defense (15th, 320.2) and tackles for loss (16th, 7.1), while also ranking 26th in sacks (2.85) and 27th in scoring defense (21.5).

In 2020, Symons helped the Flames to a 10-1 season and a No. 17 final ranking in the AP Poll, its highest in program history. He was named to the Broyles Award Watch List and led the defense to a top-20 ranking in total defense (No. 11, 317.7). Liberty also ranked No. 12 in passing yards allowed (184.0) and No. 22 in scoring defense (20.5). The 2019 season saw Liberty finish 28th nationally in sacks (2.69/game) and 31st in interceptions (12).

During his time with the Flames, Symons mentored NFL free agent signees Solomon Ajayi, Elijah Benton, Jessie Lemonier and Bejour Wilson. Liberty also won back-to-back FBC Mortgage Cure Bowl titles in 2019 and 2020.

He spent the 2018 season as inside linebackers coach at Memphis, where he helped the Tigers to an 8-6 record and appearances in the American Athletic Conference Championship game and the Birmingham Bowl.

From 2014-17, Symons served as Defensive Coordinator and safeties coach at West Georgia, where he helped the Wolves to three NCAA Division II playoff appearances, as well as back-to-back 12-win seasons, two NCAA Division II Super Region 2 titles and a Gulf South Conference Championship. Two players were drafted during his time at West Georgia in Alex Armah and Dylan Donhue, while Tyrell Adams and Marcus Sayles signed as free agents.

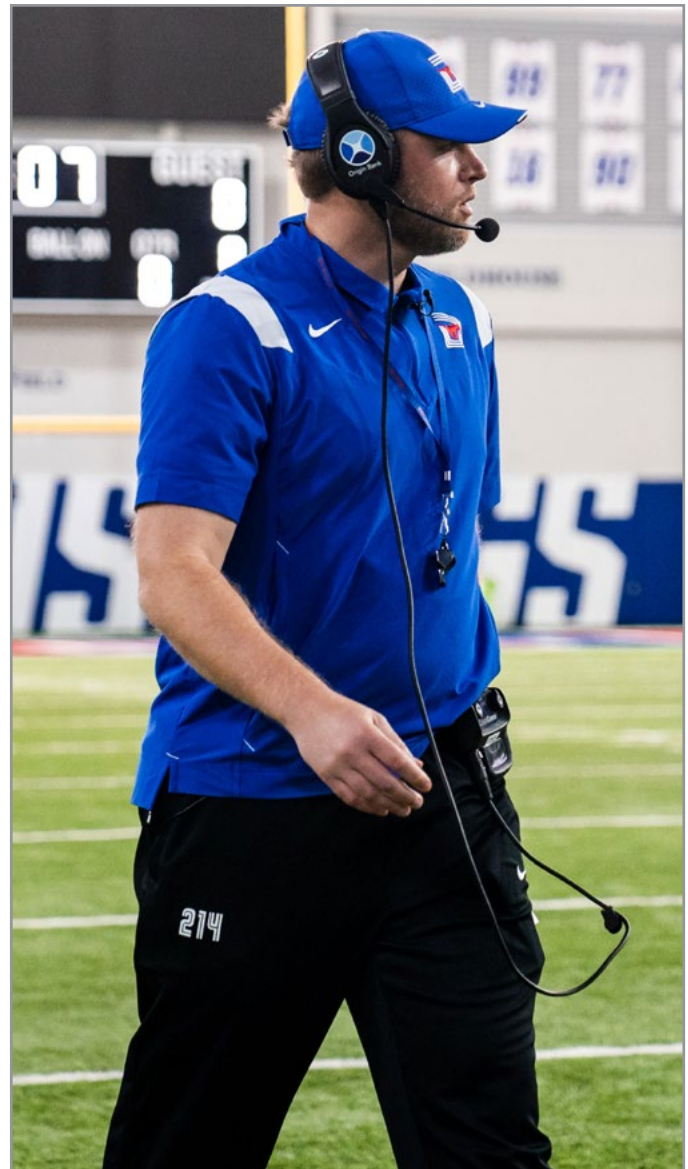
Symons spent the 2013 season at Arkansas Tech as Defensive Coordinator, after serving in a variety of roles, including working with wide receivers, defensive backs and as co-Defensive Coordinator and recruiting coordinator at Harding from 2008-11.

Lashlee and Symons spent the 2012 season together at Arkansas State, where Symons was a defensive quality control analyst.

Symons earned his bachelor's degree in history from Lindenwood in 2008 and went on to earn a master's in kinesiology from Harding in 2010. Originally from Hurst, Texas, he and wife Kristen have four children – Peyton, Hudson, Rhett and Logan.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

2008-11	Harding (Co-Defensive Coordinator/Recruiting Coordinator)
2012	Arkansas State (Defensive Quality Control Analyst)
2013	Arkansas Tech (Defensive Coordinator)
2014-17	West Georgia (Defensive Coordinator/Safeties)
2018	Memphis (Inside Linebackers)
2019-21	Liberty (Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers/Safeties)
2022-	SMU (Defensive Coordinator)





# CASEY WOODS

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR  
TENNESSEE, 2006**

**COACHCASEYWOODS**

Casey Woods joined the Mustangs as Offensive Coordinator in December 2021. Woods came to the Hilltop after two seasons at Missouri, serving as tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator for the SEC school. Woods-led teams have won four conference championships across three different conferences (SEC, Conference USA, Sun Belt).

Woods helped Mizzou to back-to-back bowl appearances during his time in Columbia, and off the field, his recruiting classes set back-to-back program highs, with the class of 2022 finishing No. 10 nationally.

Prior to arriving at Mizzou, Woods spent three seasons at UAB as tight ends coach, run game coordinator and recruiting coordinator, joining the program as it was reestablished in 2016. Woods helped the Blazers set 21 school records in 2018, including total points (418), total yards (5,680), rushing yards (2,818), total touchdowns (53), rushing touchdowns (32), single-game total yards (668 vs. UTSA) and single-game rushing yards (419 vs. UTSA). UAB posted an 11-3 record and a Conference USA title in 2018, and went to three straight bowl games from 2017-19. He also helped construct the three highest-ranked recruiting classes in school history in Birmingham.

Woods spent the 2013-15 and 2009-11 seasons with Lashlee at Auburn, and the 2012 season at Arkansas State.

During his three seasons as the Tigers' Director of Player Development (2013-15) and three seasons as offensive quality control (2009-11), he was part of the 2010 National Championship team that finished 14-0 and won the BCS Championship Game, as well as the 2013 team which also reached the BCS title game, and won two SEC Championships. As Director of Player Personnel, he led Auburn to three straight top-10 recruiting classes.

As wide receivers coach at Arkansas State, Woods led the unit and served as recruiting coordinator. In his season in Jonesboro, the Red Wolves won the Sun Belt Championship and went 10-3 with a victory over No. 25 Kent State in the GoDaddy.com Bowl.

Woods spent 2008 as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, Tennessee. As a student-athlete, he played in 41 games from 2003-07 as a wide receiver and holder. He was named a team captain as a senior in 2007. In five seasons in Knoxville, the Vols went 44-20 with three 10-win seasons. Woods was a four-time All-SEC academic selection.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Tennessee in 2006, and went on to earn his graduate degree from UT as well in 2008. Woods and wife Lauren have four children – Waverly Grace, Sawyer Davis, Adaline Leigh and Amelia Ann.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

2008	Tennessee (Graduate Assistant)
2009-11	Auburn (Offensive Quality Control)
2012	Arkansas State (Wide Receivers)
2013-15	Auburn (Director of Player Development)
2017-19	UAB (Tight Ends)
2020-21	Missouri (Tight ends/Recruiting Coordinator)
2022-	SMU (Offensive Coordinator)





# ROB LIKENS

**ASSISTANT HEAD COACH / WIDE RECEIVERS / PASS GAME COORD.**  
**MISSISSIPPI STATE, 1990**

**COACHROBLIKENS**

Arriving with 30 years of coaching experience, Rob Likens was named assistant head coach, wide receivers coach and pass game coordinator December 2021. Likens came to the Hilltop after two seasons at Miami, where he served under Lashlee and worked with Mustang assistants Jonathan Brewer, Kyle Cooper and Garin Justice.

The 2020 season saw the Hurricanes jump to No. 32 in the FBS in total offense (from No. 98), No. 29 in passing offense (from No. 52), No. 26 in scoring offense (from No. 90), No. 17 in red zone offense (from No. 122) and No. 20 in first downs gained (from No. 84). In 2021, Miami again ranked 26th in scoring averaging, improving to 34.1 PPG, and jumped up to 22nd in total offense at 448.8 yards per game.

While at Miami, Likens mentored Michael Hawley, Jr., and Charleston Rambo. Hawley, Jr., broke program records for career receptions and single-game receptions, while Rambo became the all-time leader in season receptions and single-season receiving yards.

Prior to his time in Coral Gables, Likens spent three seasons (2017-19) at Arizona State where he served from 2018-19 as Offensive Coordinator and quarterbacks coach where he mentored true freshman quarterback Jayden Daniels. Daniels completed the 2019 season just south of 3,000 yards to go with 17 touchdowns and only two interceptions. Running back Eno Benjamin and wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk also had 1,000-yard seasons, earning first-team All-Pac-12 honors.

The Sun Devils were the only P5 program to have a 3,000-yard passer, 1,500-yard rusher and 1,000-yard receiver in 2018. Wide receiver N'Keal Harry was selected by the Patriots in the first round of the 2019 NFL Draft.

In 2017, Likens served as co-Offensive Coordinator and wide receivers coach, leading the Sun Devils to the 10th highest-graded passing attack in the nation according to Pro Football Focus after being graded 86th in 2016.

Likens served as Offensive Coordinator at Kansas from 2015-16, and from 2013-14 was Cal's assistant head and outside receivers coach, adding passing game coordinator to his title as well (2014). His 2014 squad, led by future NFL top overall draft pick Jared Goff, ranked sixth nationally in passing yards per game (346.0) and broke the school's single-season passing yardage record with 4,152 yards. Additionally, three of Cal's top four receivers were Biletnikoff Award candidates in Chris Harper, Kenny Lawler and Bryce Treggs.

During the 2013 season, Cal set single-season school record for passing yards (3,977), completions (368) and attempts (622), while also establishing new single-game marks for passing yards (521 vs. Washington State) and attempts (65 vs. Northwestern).

Prior to his time at Cal, Likens served as assistant head coach and wide receivers coach at Louisiana Tech (2010-12). The Bulldogs posted a 9-3 record and led the nation in scoring offense (51.5) and total offense (577.9) in 2012, putting up 40 points in 11 of 12 games and 50+ eight times. Wide receiver Quinton Patton was named a second-team AP All-American as well as a Biletnikoff Award semifinalist Likens' 2011 receiving corps registered 3,200+ yards and helped the Bulldogs to the WAC title.

Likens served as Offensive Coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Central Connecticut State from 2006-09, helping CCSU to the winningest four-year stretch in program history, including a 9-3 season and Northeast Conference title in 2009. The Blue Devils led the conference in scoring offense twice during his tenure, as he coached a pair of 1,000-yard rushers, Walter Payton Award finalists, All-American running backs and NEC Offensive Players of the Year in Justise Hairston and James Mallory.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

1992-97	North Alabama (Running Backs/Wide Receivers)
1998-03	Temple (Wide Receivers)
2004-05	Southeast Missouri State (Offensive Coordinator)
2006-09	Central Connecticut State (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks)
2010-12	Louisiana Tech (Assistant Head Coach/Wide Receivers)
2013-14	Cal (Assistant Head Coach/Outside Receivers/ Pass Game Coordinator)
2015-16	Kansas (Offensive Coordinator)
2017-19	Arizona State (Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks)
2020-21	Miami (Passing Game Coordinator/Wide Receivers)
2022-	SMU (Assistant Head Coach/Wide Receivers/Pass Game Coordinator)

CCSU averaged 239.2 yards per game on the ground in 2008 to rank seventh in the FCS. In 2007, the Blue Devils led the NEC in both total offense (387.7) and rushing offense (257.6). The Blue Devil offense set numerous school records in 2006, including single-season total yards (4,271), rushing yards (3,150), rushing touchdowns (42) and total touchdowns (51). CCSU led the nation in rushing yards per game (284.9) and finished 10th in total offense.

Likens spent two seasons as the Offensive Coordinator at Southeast Missouri State (2004-05), and served six seasons at Temple (1998-2003) and North Alabama (1992-97). His North Alabama team became the first program in NCAA scholarship football to win three consecutive national championships.

While at Temple, Likens mentored All-Big East receiver Sean Dillard, who set the Owl's all-time career receptions record, and first-team All-Big East selection Zamir Cobb, who set program records for career receptions and single-season receptions.

At Northern Alabama, he coached Michael Edwards to several program records, including career and season receptions, career and season reception yards and career TDs.

Likens played wide receiver at Mississippi State where he earned his bachelor's degree, graduating cum laude, in math education in 1990 before going on to earn his master's degree in math education from North Alabama in 1995.

Likens and his wife, Soni, have one son, Cutter.





# CRAIG NAIVAR

## SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR / SAFETIES

HARDIN-SIMMONS, 1994

 [COACH\\_NAIVAR](#)

With nearly 30 years of experience, most recently in the Pac-12 and Big 12, Craig Naivar took over as the Mustangs' Special Teams Coordinator and safeties coach in December 2021.

He came to the Hilltop after two seasons as safeties coach at USC, where he mentored Talanoa Hufanga to consensus First-Team All-America and Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year honors in 2020.

Prior to his time at USC, Naivar spent five seasons in the Lone Star State. From 2017-19 he served as safeties coach at Texas, while also serving stints as Special Teams Coordinator (2017-18) and Co-Defensive Coordinator (2019). During the 2015 and 2016 seasons, he was Houston's Co-Defensive Coordinator and safeties coach.

Naivar helped the Longhorns to a win in the 2019 Alamo Bowl, limiting No. 12 Utah to just 254 total yards and 15 first downs. He coached Caden Sterns to Big 12 Defensive Freshman of the Year honors in 2018, and Jim Thorpe Award Finalist DeShon Elliott to unanimous All-America honors in 2017. That year, Texas also had one of the nation's top punt units, led by 2017 Ray Guy Award winner, Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Year and unanimous All-American Michael Dickson. Dickson averaged a program-record 47.4 yards per punt and the Longhorn's net average (44.2) led the nation.

In his two seasons at Houston, the Cougars compiled a 22-5 record. The 2015 season saw top-20 rankings in rushing defense (8th) and scoring defense (20th), as UH was crowned American Athletic Conference Champions, won the Peach Bowl and finished No. 8 in the AP Poll. In 2016, the Cougars ranked fourth in rushing defense, 13th in total defense and 14th in sacks and tackles for loss.

Naivar spent the 2014 season at Kentucky, serving as Special Teams Coordinator and safeties coach. His defense registered 15 interceptions, ranking 22nd nationally, after posting just eight in the two seasons prior to his arrival. Kick returned Stanley Williams and placekicker Austin MacGinnis were named Freshman All-Americans.

In his second of two stints at Texas State (2011-13), Naivar coached Michael Ebbitt to 2011 Independent Defensive Player of the Year and mentored NFL talent in linebacker Joplo Bartu and cornerback Darryl Morris. In his first stint (2004-06), the Bobcats finished the 2005 season at 11-3, made an appearance in the FCS semifinals and finished in the top 25 for scoring defense and total defense. He led Fred Evans to Southland Conference Newcomer of the Year honors (2004) and AFCA All-America, conference player of the year and conference defensive player of the year honors (2005).

Naivar served as Co-Defensive Coordinator and safeties coach (2007-09) and Special Teams Coordinator and defensive line coach (2010) at Rice, helping Kyle Martens to All-America honors, in 2010. The Owls ranked 26th in the nation in punt returns and had the nation's 10th-best kickoff returner, Charles Ross. Kicker Chris Boswell earned All-Conference USA first team honors.

In 2001, he helped Sam Houston to an appearance in the FCS quarterfinals and spent four seasons overall with the Bearkats, working as Special Teams Coordinator and Defensive Coordinator and with the defensive line and safeties.

Naivar also had stints at Southern Illinois (1998-99), New Mexico (1996-97) and Hardin-Simmons (1994-95).

A four-year letterwinner (1990-94) at Hardin-Simmons, Naivar played safety and quarterback. As team captain his senior year, he earned all-conference honors and helped the Cowboys to a conference championship and a trip to the national semifinals.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

1994-95	Hardin Simmons (Special Teams Coordinator)
1996-97	New Mexico (Graduate Assistant)
1998-99	Southern Illinois (Special Teams Coordinator/Defensive Line)
2000-03	Sam Houston State (Defensive Coordinator/Safeties Special Teams Coordinator/Densive Line)
2004-06	Texas State (Defensive Coordinator/Safeties)
2007-10	Rice (Special Teams Coordinator/Defensive Line Co-Defensive Coordinator/Safeties)
2011-13	Texas State (Defensive Coordinator/Safeties)
2014	Kentucky (Special Teams Coordinator/Safeties)
2015-16	Houston (Co-Defensive Coordinantor/Safeties)
2017-19	Texas (Safeties/Special Teams Coordinator, Co-Defensive Coordinator)
2020-21	USC (Safeties)
2022-	SMU (Special Teams Coordinator/Safeties)

He earned his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1994 and went on to earn a master's in sports management in 1996.

Naivar attended Taylor High School (Texas). He and wife, Michelle, have two children – Jordan and Gunner.





# JONATHAN BREWER

**QUARTERBACKS**  
**ARKANSAS, 2010**  
**COACHBREWHHA**

Jonathan Brewer returned to the Hilltop as an assistant coach in December 2021, and works with quarterbacks.

Brewer spent the 2020 and 2021 seasons at Miami under Lashlee, after spending two seasons with Lashlee at SMU (2018-19), serving as a senior offensive quality control analyst for the Hurricanes.

He was part of a record-setting offense in 2019 that helped the Mustangs to an historic season, going 10-3 winning the most games since 1984 and earning their highest national ranking since 1985 of No. 15/14. SMU set season records in scoring (544), scoring average (41.8), total yards (6,368), total yards per game (489.8), total plays (1,037), rushing TDS (35), total first downs (322) and total TDs (73), while tying the then-passing TDs record (35). The Mustangs finished in the top 15 of the national rankings in scoring offense (7th, 41.8), total offense (9th, 489.8) and passing offense (13th, 309.0). SMU hadn't cracked the top 25 in any of the three categories in 2018, finishing just outside the top 25 in passing offense at No. 27.

During his first season at Miami, the Hurricanes jumped to No. 32 in FBS in total offense (from No. 98), No. 29 in passing offense (from No. 52), No. 26 in scoring offense (from No. 90), No. 17 in red zone offense (from No. 122) and No. 20 in first downs gained (from No. 84). Miami finished second in the AAC Coastal standings in 2021 after a 7-5 regular season, and were in the top 25 for fourth down conversion % (10th, .714), passing offense (10th, 321.2), first down offense (14th, 293) and total offense (23rd, 448.8).

Brewer has also been part of Lashlee's staffs at UConn (2017) and Auburn (2013-16), serving in offensive analyst roles (2016-17) and as a graduate assistant with the Tigers' offensive line (2013-15). Prior to entering the collegiate ranks, Brewer served as an offensive coordinator and assistant at various high schools in Arkansas from 2005-12.

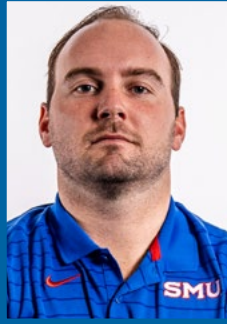
Brewer graduated from Arkansas in 2010 and earned a master's degree in adult education from Auburn in 2014.

He is married to the former Danielle Stevens. The couple has three children, two sons, Wynton and Walter, and a daughter, Everlee Grace.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

2013-16	Auburn (Offensive Analyst/Graduate Assistant)
2017	UConn (Offensive Analyst)
2018-19	SMU (Offensive Quality Control Analyst)
2020-21	Miami (Senior Offensive Quality Control)
2022-	SMU (Quarterbacks)





# KYLE COOPER

**NICKELBACKS / RECRUITING COORDINATOR**  
**ROBERT MORRIS, 2013**  
 **COACHKYLECOOPER**

Kyle Cooper returned to the Hilltop as an assistant coach in December 2021, and works with nickelbacks while serving as recruiting coordinator.

Cooper spent the 2020 and 2021 seasons at Miami under Lashlee, after spending two seasons with Lashlee at SMU (2018-19), serving as a senior offensive quality control analyst for the Hurricanes.

He was part of a record-setting offense in 2019 that helped the Mustangs to an historic season, going 10-3 winning the most games since 1984 and earning their highest national ranking since 1985 of No. 15/14. SMU set season records in scoring (544), scoring average (41.8), total yards (6,368), total yards per game (489.8), total plays (1,037), rushing TDS (35), total first downs (322) and total TDs (73), while tying the then-passing TDs record (35). The Mustangs finished in the top 15 of the national rankings in scoring offense (7th, 41.8), total offense (9th, 489.8) and passing offense (13th, 309.0). SMU hadn't cracked the top 25 in any of the three categories in 2018, finishing just outside the top 25 in passing offense at No. 27.

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Cooper joined the Mustangs in 2018 after serving as a graduate assistant at UConn where he worked with the offense.

Prior to his time at UConn he was a graduate assistant coach for two years at Westminster College (New Wilmington, Pa.) working with the defensive line.

Cooper was a two-time team captain at Robert Morris and a two-year starting linebacker. The team won the 2010 Northeast Conference championship and earned a spot in the FCS playoffs. He is a 2013 graduate of Robert Morris with a degree in sport management and has a master's of business administration from the school as well. Cooper was named a Capital One Academic All-District pick as a senior and named to the NEC Fall Academic Honor Roll.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

2015-16	Westminster College (Graduate Assistant)
2017	UConn (Graduate Assistant)
2018-19	SMU (Graduate Assistant)
2020-21	Miami (Senior Offensive Quality Control Analyst)
2022-	SMU (Nickelbacks/Recruiting Coordinator)





# KHENON HALL

**RUNNING BACKS**  
**ILLINOIS STATE, 2010**  
 **COACHK\_HALL**

South Oak Cliff High School graduate Khenon Hall joined the SMU football staff as an assistant coach in December 2021. Hall comes to the Hilltop after spending the 2021 season at Texas Southern, where he served as the team's running backs coach.

Hall arrived at TSU after a seven-year stint at his alma mater, Illinois State. At ISU, Hall worked his way up the ladder serving as a student assistant, football operations director, defensive assistant, running backs coach, recruiting coordinator and ultimately assistant head coach in charge of player personnel.

In his first year at ISU as the team's defensive assistant in 2014, Hall made an immediate impact as Dontae McCoy earned All-MVFC Honorable Mention honors. McCoy recorded 67 tackles and broke up four passes. Hall also helped Alec Kocour earn MVFC Honorable Mention honors, despite playing in just nine games due to an injury. He also mentored and developed Davontae Harris, who finished his career with 208 tackles (152 solo stops), 38 passes defended (tied for 5th all-time at ISU), 10 tackles for loss, four interceptions and three sacks in 49 games played for the Redbirds. He was drafted in the fifth round of the 2018 NFL Draft by the Cincinnati Bengals. Hall also had a hand in the development of Luther Kirk, who was named the Defensive MVP at the 95th East-West Shrine Bowl. Kirk was also named an AFCA FCS Coaches' and HERO Sports FCS All-America First Teamer while also earning STATS FCS All-America Second Team and Associated Press FCS All-America Third Team honors while serving as team captain.

Hall eventually moved over to the offensive side of the ball and spent three years as the team's running backs coach. Once again, Hall's presence generated another quick impact as running back James Robinson had his first 1,000-yard season and tied for second in the MVFC with 12 rushing touchdowns. As a result of his efforts on the field, Robinson was named a STATS FCS Walter Payton Award finalist and an All-American from multiple agencies. One year later, Hall helped Robinson move to another level as a consensus first-team All-American, a STATS FCS Walter Payton Award finalist for the second time and an All-MVFC First-Team selection for the third-straight season. Robinson led the MVFC in rushing yards (1,899), yards per game (126.6) and touchdowns (18) and recorded eight 100-plus yard rushing efforts, including a pair of 200-plus yard efforts in the first and second round of the FCS playoffs that included a school-record breaking 297-yard effort in the first-round with at Southeast Missouri. He finished the season ranked No. 2 in the FCS in rushing yards and yards per game and sixth in rushing touchdowns. One year later, Robinson took what he learned from Hall and broke an NFL record for most yards by an undrafted rookie in a Week 1 game as a member of the Jacksonville Jaguars. Robinson finished his rookie campaign with 1,000-plus yards and 10 total touchdowns.

Off the field, Hall also had a major impact serving as the team's recruiting coordinator and director of player personnel. Hall's 2020 recruiting class ranked No. 8 in the FCS by HERO Sports.

Prior to joining Illinois State on a full-time basis, Hall served as a graduate assistant at New Mexico working with defensive backs during the 2011-12 season. Hall spent the 2009 and 2010 seasons as a student assistant at Illinois State and assisted with the Redbirds' secondary and defensive line.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

2011-12	New Mexico (Graduate Assistant)
2014-20	Illinois State (Player Personnel/Recruiting Coordinator/ Running Backs/Defensive Assistant)
2021	Texas Southern (Running Backs)
2022-	SMU (Running Backs)



Hall's collegiate playing career began at Trinity Valley Community College after a solid high school career at South Oak Cliff in Dallas. Hall ranked second on the team in 2007 with 70 tackles, including a team-high 66 solo stops, in eight games of action. In addition, he added four tackles-for-loss and a quarterback sack and was named to the 2006 All-Southwest Junior College Football Conference Honorable Mention team. He signed with Illinois State in 2008 and would start six games before a career-ending injury led him to coaching.

Hall graduated from Illinois State in 2010 with a degree in University Studies. He has three children: Jazlyn, Khenon Jr., and Khaydon.



# RICKEY HUNLEY, JR.

**CORNERBACKS / PASS GAME COORDINATOR**

**DRAKE, 2005**

**COACHHUN\_SMU**

Rickey Hunley, Jr., joined the Mustang coaching staff as pass game coordinator and cornerbacks coach in December 2021.

Hunley came to the Hilltop after spending three seasons (2019-21) as cornerbacks coach at Liberty under the direction of SMU Defensive Coordinator Scott Symons.

In year one with the Flames, Hunley helped the program to its first bowl game in school history before going on to win back-to-back FBC Mortgage Cure Bowl titles (2019, 2020).

Liberty closed out the 2021 season with a win in the Lending Tree Bowl and finished in the top 20 in passing yards allowed (9th, 180.3), red zone defense (10th, .725) and total defense (15th, 320.2).

Liberty went 10-1 in 2020 and ranked No. 17 in the final AP Poll. The defense ranked 11th nationally in total defense (317.7), 12th in passing yards allowed (184.0), 22nd in scoring defense (20.5) and 23rd in interceptions (11). Hunley mentored cornerback Bejour Wilson, who signed a free agent contract with the Arizona Cardinals. The 2019 season saw the Flames rank 28th in sacks (2.69) and 31st in interceptions (12).

Hunley arrived at Liberty after spending one season at UIW (2018) as safeties coach and recruiting coordinator. The Cardinals reached the NCAA FCS Playoffs during its second year of postseason eligibility, posting a 6-2 record in conference play and winning the Southland Conference title. UIW led the Southland and ranked fourth nationally in turnovers gained (30).

From 2015-17 Hunley served as special teams coordinator and linebackers coach at West Georgia, where he also worked alongside Symons. The Wolves made two NCAA Division II playoff appearances, posted a 12-win season and won the Gulf South Conference as well as the NCAA Division II Super Regional title (2015).

He also made coaching stops at Southwest Baptist (2013-14), Lindenwood (2012), Grandview HS (Mo., 2010-11), Drake (2007) and Theodore Roosevelt HS (Iowa, 2004-06), while also serving as an athletics academic coordinator at Iowa State in 2008.

Hunley earned his degree in social sciences from Drake in 2005. He and wife, Nakisha, have three children – Taylor, Raegan and Kamryn.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

2007	Drake (Safeties)
2008	Iowa State (Athletics Academic Coordinator)
2012	Lindenwood (Safeties)
2013-14	Southwest Baptist (Defensive Backs/Special Teams Coordinator/ Recruiting Coordinator)
2015-17	West Georgia (Special Teams Coordinator/Linebackers)
2018	UIW (Safeties/Recruiting Coordinator)
2019-21	Liberty (Cornerbacks)
2022-	SMU (Cornerbacks/Pass Game Coordinator)





# GARIN JUSTICE

**OFFENSIVE LINE / RUN GAME COORDINATOR  
WEST VIRGINIA, 2006**

**TWITTER GARINJUSTICE**

Garin Justice was hired as the Mustangs' offensive line coach and run game coordinator in December 2021. Justice comes to the Hilltop after spending the 2020 and 2021 seasons at Miami with Mustang Head Coach Rhett Lashlee.

In 2020, the Hurricanes jumped to No. 32 in FBS in total offense (from No. 98), No. 29 in passing offense (from No. 52), No. 26 in scoring offense (from No. 90), No. 17 in red zone offense (from No. 122) and No. 20 in first downs gained offense (from No. 84). The 2021 season saw a pair of Justice's offensive linemen earn All-ACC honors.

Prior to his time with the Hurricanes, Justice spent two seasons at UNLV responsible for the offensive line and run game before being promoted to Offensive Coordinator/offensive line coach. The 2019 season saw two offensive linemen (Julio Garcia, Justin Polu) earn All-Mountain West Conference recognition while running back Charles Williams, Jr., was named first-team All-Mountain West.

Justice spent two seasons as offensive line coach at FAU (2016-17) where he helped lead the 2017 team to top-10 national rankings for scoring offense (40.6) and rushing offense (285.3), while ranking 12th for fewest sacks allowed (16). They finished the season with an 11-3 record, a Conference USA Championship and a win at the Boca Raton Bowl. Three of his linemen earned All-C-USA first-team honors in 2017, blocking for Devin Singletary, who became the program's first AP All-American and set the Owls' single-season rushing record with 1,920 yards. In 2016, the Owls had a record-setting rushing attack under Justice despite losing four projected starters in the first three weeks of the season.

Justice served as head coach at Concord University (West Virginia) from 2011-15, going 40-17, including a 13-1 record in 2014. He led the program to a pair of conference championships and two NCAA Division II playoff appearances. During his five seasons, 84 student-athletes earned all-conference honors, eight picked up All-America accolades, two were named defensive WVIAC Players of the Year and 18 were named to all-region teams.

He began his coaching career as a student assistant and graduate assistant at West Virginia working with the offensive line. He also spent two seasons as an offensive graduate assistant at Florida State.

Justice earned his Regents Bachelor of Arts degree at West Virginia in 2006, and went on to earn a Master's of Sports Administration from Florida State in 2008. He was a three-year starter on the Mountaineers' offensive line and served as team captain for the 11-1 2005 squad that won the Sugar Bowl and earned a No. 5 ranking to close the season. Justice earned All-Big East honors and was a Sporting News Second-Team All-American.

He and wife, Casie Coughlin Justice, have one daughter, Juliet.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

	West Virginia (Graduate Assistant)
2007-08	Florida State (Graduate Assistant)
2011-15	Concord University (Head Coach)
2016-17	FAU (Offensive Line)
2018-19	UNLV (Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line/Run Game)
2020-21	Miami (Offensive Line)
2022-	SMU (Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator)





# CALVIN THIBODEAUX

**DEFENSIVE LINE  
OKLAHOMA, 2006**  
**COACHTHIBBS**

Calvin Thibodeaux was named defensive line coach in December 2021. Thibodeaux came to the Hilltop after six seasons at Oklahoma.

Thibodeaux was named one of Rivals' top-25 recruiters of 2018 and 2019.

The 2021 Sooners finished the regular season 10-2, ranking in the top 25 nationally in tackles for loss (7th, 7.6), turnovers gained (18th, 22) and rushing defense (24th, 123.8), while a pair of Thibodeaux's linemen, Isaiah Thomas and Perrion Winfrey, earned second-team All-Big 12 honors.

Thibodeaux's 2020 line helped the Sooners to rankings of seventh nationally in sacks per game (3.4), ninth in rushing defense (105.1 ypg), 22nd in TFLs (7.4) and 29th in total defense (350.6 ypg).

The 2019 season saw OU improve to 38th in total defense (356.4), up from 114th in 2018, and to 32nd in rushing defense (134.1), up from 59th. The line was led by AP first-team All-Big 12 selection Neville Gallimore, second-team all-league pick Ronnie Perkins and Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year LaRon Stokes. Gallimore went on to be a third-round draft pick by the Dallas Cowboys in 2020.

Thibodeaux took over the full defensive line in 2018 after previously working with defensive ends. Amani Bledsoe, Gallimore and Kenneth Mann were named honorable mention All-Big 12 picks, and Perkins was named an ESPN Freshman All-American.

His 2017 group featured Walter Camp First-Team All-American and Co-Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year Ogbornia Okoronkwo, who ranked second in the Big 12 with 17.5 tackles for loss and third with 8.0 sacks, as well as D.J. Ward, who earned second-team all-league accolades.

He arrived in Norman after stints at Kansas (2015), Tulsa (2012-14) and Dartmouth (2011).

At Kansas, he led defensive end Ben Goodman to honorable mention All-Big 12 honors after totaling 51 tackles, 9.5 TFLs and 5.5 sacks.

He helped the Golden Hurricane to an 11-3 record in 2012 and a win over Iowa State in the Liberty Bowl. That same season, he coached Derrick Jackson to All-C-USA honors after Jackson combined with Daeshon Bufford 17.5 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks. His 2012 squad registered 53 sacks on the season, compared to only 27 the season prior to his arrival.

At Dartmouth, the Big Green posted its first winning season in Ivy League play in seven years. The Bulldogs registered 41 sacks while ranking 11th nationally in rushing defense and 12th in total defense. He tutored NJCAA All-American and Championship Game Defensive MVP Toby Jackson and coached first-team All-Ivy League and first-team All-New England defensive tackle Eddie Smith.

Thibodeaux spent the 2010 season at Navarro Junior College where he helped the Bulldogs to an 11-1 record and the 2010 NJCAA National Championship. As a graduate assistant at Houston (2008-09), he coached defensive end Phillip Hunt to Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year honors.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

2008-09	Houston (Graduate Assistant)
2010	Navarro (Defensive Line)
2011	Dartmouth (Defensive Line)
2012-14	Tulsa (Defensive Tackles)
2015	Kansas (Defensive Line)
2016-21	Oklahoma (Defensive Line)
2022-	SMU (Defensive Line)

As a student-athlete, Thibodeaux was part of three Big 12 Championship teams and helped the Sooners to appearances in a pair of BCS National Championship Games (2003, 2004), as well as the 2003 Rose Bowl, 2005 Holiday Bowl and 2007 Fiesta Bowl. An All-Big 12 selection in 2005, he registered 44 tackles, 17.0 TFLs and a league-high 10.0 sacks, the sixth most in school history. He finished his career with 90 tackles, 28.5 TFLs and 13.0 sacks.

He went on to sign with the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League in 2007.

A 2006 graduate of OU, he and wife, Terrika, have three kids – Kamiah, Camar and Camsen.





## DENNIS SLUTAK

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER  
FLORIDA STATE, 1995  
1ST SEASON

Dennis Slutak was hired as the Mustangs' Chief Operations Officer in January 2022. Slutak came to the Hilltop after spending the 2021 season with Head Coach Rhett Lashlee at Miami as the assistant director of football operations.

Slutak arrived in Coral Gables after serving his third stint in the Pac-12, most recently as the Director of Football Operations at Washington State (2019-20). He also spent three seasons at Washington as the Assistant AD for Football Operations (2009-11) and four seasons as the Director of Football Operations at USC (2005-08).

Prior to transitioning into operations at USC, Slutak coached special teams, helping the Trojans to consecutive National Championships in 2003-04. He coached punter Tom Malone to All-Pac-10 first-team honors in 2004, while kicker Ryan Killeen set the USC and Pac-10 career records for PATs and PAT attempts and the USC career points record. In 2003, Malone was a first-team All-American.

Slutak also served as Director of Football Operations at UNLV (2015-18) and Bowling Green (2013), and made coaching stops at Ole Miss, N.C. State and Lehigh, where he helped the Mountain Hawks to a Patriot League Championship in 1995 and punter Ben Talbott to Division I-AA All-America honors.

Slutak was a punter for Florida State where he earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education in 1995. He went on to earn a master's in athletic administration & management from N.C. State in 2002. Slutak and wife, Erin, have one son, Landon.



## ALEX BROWN

DIRECTOR OF SCOUTING  
UT ARLINGTON, 2014  
1ST SEASON  
ALEXM\_BROWN

Alex Brown was hired as SMU's director of scouting in January 2022.

Brown came to the Hilltop after three seasons at Rice, where he served as the director of football recruiting as well as the Owls' NFL liaison. Prior to his time at Rice, he spent four seasons as part of the recruiting staff at Houston, most recently as recruiting coordinator after three seasons as the assistant director of player personnel and pro liaison and one as a football recruiting assistant.

Prior to his time in collegiate athletics, Brown spent four years as the head central scout for Optimum Scouting where he scouted the Big 12, SEC, Southland, Missouri Valley, MIAA, Lone Star Conference and all D3/NAIA schools in the state of Texas. In his position, he graded NFL Draft prospects via film study, play charting, statistical analysis and live evaluations.

Brown also served stints with NFL Network, USA Football and Bleacher Report.

Brown graduated cum laude from UT Arlington in 2014 with a bachelor's of business administration - economics.

## BOBBY BROWN

DIRECTOR OF RECRUITING OPERATIONS  
BUENE VISTA UNIVERSITY  
1ST SEASON  
BOBBYJP\_

Bobby Brown was hired as SMU's Director of Recruiting Operations in January 2022, coming to the Hilltop after serving as Air Force's Coordinator of Recruiting & Player Personnel.

Prior to his time at Air Force, he spent 2019 through the summer of 2021 at North Carolina. He most recently served as the Assistant Director of Player Personnel after serving as a Recruiting Analyst and Recruiting/Player Personnel Assistant at the beginning of his tenure with UNC. He helped the Tar Heels bring in back-to-back top-15 recruiting classes.

In 2018, Brown served as a defensive quality control at Wake Forest. Prior to Wake Forest, he served as the Assistant Director of Recruiting and Player Personnel for the Air Force Academy from 2016 to 2018 under Troy Calhoun. Brown also served as a football operations intern at Iowa State, operations assistant for Army's athletics department and as an offensive quality control coach at UIW.

Brown was a member of the Iowa State football team in 2010-11 before transferring to Buena Vista University, where he was a four-year starter at quarterback. Brown was named all-conference twice, MVP of the National Bowl, three-year captain and broke over 20 records. He graduated with a double-major in accounting and business management, while also being named to the Dean's List.



## SHAY TAYLOR

DIRECTOR OF ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING  
SMU, 2009  
1ST SEASON  
THEROYALTAYLOR

Shay Taylor returned to the Hilltop in 2022 as the director of on-campus recruiting and experience.

Taylor came from Arizona State, where she served as on-campus recruiting coordinator with the Sun Devil football team during the 2020 and 2021 seasons. Prior to that, she worked in Olympic sports operations at ASU starting in November 2018.

She served two previous stints with the Mustangs, one as the administrative assistant for Olympic sports from Nov. 2017 to Nov. 2018, and the other as the administrative assistant/recruiting assistant for SMU football from 2010-16.

Taylor has also worked as a teaching assistant at The Rise School of Dallas, as a Member Services Representative with the Moody Family YMCA and as a sports specialist/manager on duty at FieldhouseUSA.

Taylor earned her undergraduate degree in cinema-television from SMU in 2009, and went on to earn a master's in counseling from SMU in 2016. She is also a licensed chemical dependency counselor intern. Taylor completed internships with SMU's Center for Family Counseling at Frisco ISD and with the SMU Health Center in alcohol and drug prevention. She has also served on the SMU Lettermen Executive Board.



## SCOTT X. NADY

**SR. ASSISTANT FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT & DALLAS RECRUITING RELATIONS**  
**FIFTH SEASON**  
 **COACHNADY**

Scott X. Nady is in his fifth season (2022) on the Hilltop and serves as the senior assistant for player development and Dallas recruiting relations. He was born and raised in Dallas.

Coach Nady built the accomplished football program at Parish Episcopal in Dallas, Texas, from scratch as the head coach for 13 years. After starting the program, he served as the architect of Parish's two state championships—in 2010 and 2014. The team took its first snap in 2007 and was State Champs in 2010, the fastest from first snap to champions in Texas state history. He closed his tenure with a 120-36 record.

Prior to taking over the Parish Episcopal football team, Nady worked with Coach Dan Calcagno to resurrect the San Leandro High School football program in California. He spent a total of six years on the sidelines at San Leandro in which the last four seasons the team dominated the competition with an impressive 48-4 record.

Nady played football at Cal, helping the team to appearances in the Copper Bowl, Alamo Bowl and Citrus Bowl. Coach Nady is also a former Golden Glove Champion.



## MEGAN CORNELL

**DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS FOR FOOTBALL**  
**AUBURN, 2015**  
**FIRST SEASON**  
 **MEGANACORNELL**

Megan Cornell joined the SMU football staff for the 2022 season as Director of External Relations for Football.

She arrived on the Hilltop after a stint with the Las Vegas Raiders, where she served as a coordinator for corporate partnerships activation before being promoted to manager. With the Raiders, she oversaw the execution of \$10 million in partnerships annually. She arrived with the Raiders after a year in Las Vegas at Legends, where she served as coordinator of global partnerships and was part of the global partnerships team that sold founding partnerships and naming rights for the Raiders and Allegiant Stadium.

Cornell started her career in Texas as a coordinator in client services with the Texas Rangers, after serving an internship in business partnerships with the ball club.

She earned a degree in public relations with a minor in business from Auburn in 2015, and went on to earn a master's in sports management from SMU in 2016.



## JOSH NASH

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS**  
**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, 2017**  
**FIRST SEASON**  
 **JDNASH33**

Josh Nash is in his first season (2022) as the assistant director of football operations at SMU after spending the previous three seasons as the director of football operations at UC Davis.

Nash also made stops at Drake University serving as assistant offensive line coach and in operations, and at Washington as a director of basketball operations graduate assistant.

He has also worked operations for the Crossover Class (2020) and Baha Mar Showdown (2019) with Complete Sports Management, served as a football operations assistant at Kirby Smart Football Camps (2018) and was a director of football operations intern with ESPN for the Bahamas Bowl.

Nash graduated from Concordia University of Chicago in 2017, and majored in business communications with a sports management minor. He was a four-year letterwinner, special teams captain and a member of the Academic Honor Roll all four seasons. Named the Cougar Challenge team captain, Nash led a team of 10 with community service and academic achievement. He also created a scholarship fund with Northwestern Mutual to be given to a Student-Athlete at Concordia. Nash went on to earn a Masters of Education in intercollegiate athletic leadership from the University of Washington in 2018.



## DEVON KLEICH

**DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL VIDEO SERVICES**  
**NEBRASKA**  
**FIRST SEASON**  
 **DEVONKLEICH**

Devon Kleich joined the SMU football staff in spring of 2022 and serves as director of football video services.

Kleich arrived on the Hilltop after three seasons at UAB, where he served as video coordinator. Prior to that, he served collegiate stints at Miami as an assistant video producer (2017-19) and at Kansas as a video assistant (2017).

Kleich spent the 2016 season in the NFL as a video intern for the Minnesota Vikings.

A graduate of Nebraska, Kleich earned a degree in journalism and served as a student video coordinator for the football program.



## WILL LATERZA

**DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE VIDEO**  
**OHIO UNIVERSITY**  
**FIRST SEASON**  
 **LATERZAWILLIAM**

Will Laterza joined the SMU football staff in May of 2022 as the director of creative video.

Laterza arrived on the Hilltop from Ohio University where he served as the director of video production during the 2021 football season. He led a team of five interns and was responsible for social media video content and individual player packages. Laterza initially joined the staff in 2018 in an intern capacity before being promoted.

Prior to his time at Ohio University, he was a creative video producer at The Ohio State University where he oversaw a small creative team working with basketball.

He also has experience at the professional level, serving as a videographer intern with the Baltimore Orioles and as part of the Cincinnati Bengals staff for the 2022 AFC Wild Card game.

Laterza serves as a freelance videographer for the NCAA and has filmed and produced video content for the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball and Women's Basketball Championships.

A 2022 graduate of Ohio University, Laterza earned his bachelor's degree in journalism and was a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.



## ALEX MCMURTRY

**DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE MEDIA  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS, 2016  
FIRST SEASON**  
ALEXXKACIEE

Alex McMurtry joined the Mustang staff in the spring of 2022 and serves as the Director of Creative Media where she is tasked with overseeing SMU football's creative efforts. McMurtry handles content capturing, creation and content strategy, while spearheading SMU football's visual identity and branding.

McMurtry came to SMU after a season as the Director of Graphic Design with Missouri Football (2021).

Prior to her time in Columbia, she was a part of the staff at Oklahoma, serving as a graphic design research fellow (2016), before going on to serve as an assistant director of graphic design until 2021, coordinating and designing for all Sooner sports.

She began her career as a graphic designer at her alma mater, Northern Illinois, where she worked with all programs.

McMurtry is a 2016 graduate of NIU with a degree in graphic design, and is married to husband Shaun'Qae.



## MATT SCHUMACHER

**DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL  
CALIFORNIA BAPTIST, 2020  
SECOND SEASON**  
MATTSCHUMACHER\_

Matt Schumacher arrived on the Hilltop in July 2021 and serves as the Mustangs' Director of Social, tasked with producing, developing and posting content on SMU football social channels.

Schumacher came to SMU after serving as an assistant in social and digital content at California Baptist. He has also served with the club operations and gameday staff at the San Diego Loyal Soccer Club.

A 2020 graduate of California Baptist, Schumacher earned his degree in marketing with a concentration in sports marketing.



## TERRY GARDNER

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD COACH  
16TH SEASON**

Terry Gardner begins her 16th (2022) year at SMU as the executive assistant to the head football coach. She is responsible for maintaining the head coach's calendar and correspondence, as well as all other aspects of the day-to-day office operation.

Gardner came to SMU after a decade as an executive assistant at companies in the Dallas area. Prior to that, she worked for Halliburton as a training coordinator.

Gardner and her husband Bill have three children - Breanne Bishop, Allison Lough and Brady Bishop, as well as daughter-in-law Jenni Bishop and son-in-law Sean Lough. They also have eight grandchildren - Kelby, Perry, Halle, Ryanne, Lochlyn, Evelyn, Sailor and Jude. Gardner has deep ties to SMU as her husband, father-in-law, two of her children, daughter-in-law and nephew are SMU grads.



## SHAWN GRISWOLD

**HEAD FOOTBALL STRENGTH COACH/ASST. AD FOR  
HUMAN PERFORMANCE  
UTAH STATE, 1996  
FIRST SEASON**  
COACHGRIZ91

Shawn Griswold was hired as Head Football Strength Coach/Assistant A.D. for Human Performance in January 2022.

Griswold arrived on the Hilltop after four seasons at Virginia, where he served as the Director of Football Development and Performance. He helped the Cavaliers to three bowl appearances, including the 2018 Belk Bowl Championship, and the ACC Coastal Division title in 2019.

Prior to his time at Virginia, Griswold served as Head Coach for Sports Performance at Arizona State from 2012-17 and was the Director of Strength and Conditioning at Pittsburgh in 2011 and Tulsa from 2008-10. During that 10-year stretch, he helped teams to eight bowl games and four 10-win seasons. The Sun Devils made five bowl appearances, won the Pac-12 South Division in 2013 and finished No. 12 in the final AP Poll in 2014, while Pitt earned a berth in the BBVA Compass Bowl. The 2008-10 stint at Tulsa was the second for Griswold, who also led strength and conditioning efforts for the Golden Hurricane from 2004-06. TU earned four bowl berths in that time and won the 2005 Conference USA Championship. In 2007, Griswold was Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach at Louisville. Griswold spent five years as Head Strength and Conditioning Coordinator at his alma mater, Utah State, where he oversaw athletic development for 16 varsity sports and worked with football, basketball and volleyball.

Griswold was a four-year letterwinner at tight end for the Aggies from 1992-95. He earned his bachelor's in exercise science in 1996 and went on to earn a master of science degree in 1998. His coaching career began as a graduate assistant for the Aggies before he was promoted to Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach.



## COLBY CAMERON

**OFFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST  
LOUISIANA TECH, 2012  
FIFTH SEASON**  
COLBYCAMERONSMU

Colby Cameron joined the Mustang staff in 2018 and serves as senior offensive quality control analyst.

Cameron came to the Hilltop after spending four seasons with the Fujitsu Frontiers in Japan where he played professionally and also served as the offensive passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach. He implemented a new offensive system that led the team to its first championship in 28 seasons, and compiled three X Bowl Championships in four seasons (2014, 2016, 2017) overall.

As a player, Cameron earned Rookie of the Year honors in 2014, and went on to be named Rice Bowl MVP in 2016 and 2017 and X Bowl MVP in 2016.

In April 2013, he signed as a free agent with the NFL's Carolina Panthers and participated in team and preseason activities.

Cameron played quarterback at Louisiana Tech from 2008-2012 and helped guide the Bulldogs to an appearance in the 2011 Poinsettia Bowl and a 2011 Western Athletic Conference Championship. The 2012 WAC Player of the Year also helped Louisiana Tech to its first national ranking in 15 years and was the 2012 Sammy Baugh Award winner as well as a Davey O'Brien Award Semifinalist and a member of both the Manning and Maxwell Award Watch Lists.

Cameron graduated in 2012 with a degree in business finance. He and wife Kelsey have two children, Anderson Jack and Emmerson Dane.



## HERSCHEL SIMS

OFFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST  
ACU  
SECOND SEASON  
COACHSIMS23

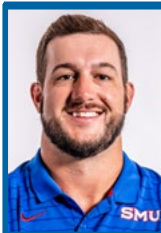
Herschel Sims joined the Mustang staff in June of 2021 as an offensive analyst.

Sims came to the Hilltop after serving as a tight ends coach with the Richardson Independent School District. Prior to that, he spent time at UIW in a defensive quality control capacity.

For three seasons, Sims was a graduate assistant at North Texas where he assisted in recruiting for offensive coaches.

Sims was a Division I AA Preseason Player of the Year and a Preseason All-American at Abilene Christian, where he played from 2013-15. He also earned Southland Conference Honorable Mention accolades at ACU in 2012 and was a two-time Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week and a Big 12 All-Freshman Team selection while at Oklahoma State (2011-12).

He graduated from ACU with a degree in kinesiology with a focus in sport and recreational management, and went on to earn a master's in science and interdisciplinary studies with a focus in business administration from UNT.



## SAM DUNNAM

SENIOR DEFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST  
OUACHITA BAPTIST, 2013  
FIRST SEASON  
SAM\_DUNNAM

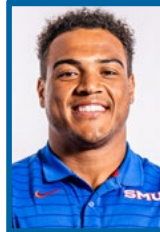
Sam Dunnam arrived on the Hilltop in 2022 and serves as the senior defensive analyst for the Mustangs.

Dunnam served as a graduate assistant at North Carolina in 2018 and in quality control in 2019, where he helped the Tar Heels to the 2019 Military Bowl Championship. He was also a graduate assistant (2013-14) and defensive line coach (2014-18) at his alma mater, Ouachita Baptist.

While at Ouachita Baptist, Dunnam helped the Tigers to an undefeated regular season and GAC Championship in 2014 and the No. 1 seed in the regional rankings, as well as a second-round appearance in the NCAA Division II playoffs. In 2014, three of the top-10 conference sack leaders came from OBU, and a pair of student-athletes earned all-conference honors. In 2016, Dunnam mentored a pair of all-conference selections, and in 2017 OBU won another GAC Championship, advanced to the DII playoffs and produced a pair of all-conference defensive line selections.

Dunnam also previously served as defensive line coach at Trinity Christian Academy (2021), where he helped TCA to the TAPPS League State Championship, and at Bishop Lynch (2020).

A four-year letterwinner at Ouachita Baptist, Dunnam was part of the 2011 GAC Championship team and was a two-time team captain.



## WARREN MESSER

DEFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST  
ELON, 2019  
FIRST SEASON  
COACHMESSER\_

Warren Messer is in his first season (2022) as a defensive quality control analyst at SMU. He arrived on the Hilltop after spending the 2021 season as cornerbacks coach at Elon, where he mentored Tre'Von Jones to all-league honors.

Messer previously served as a graduate assistant for defense at Liberty starting in March of 2020. He helped coach a pair of all-conference linebackers in Storey Jackson and Anthony Butler. Prior to that, he was an inside linebackers coach at Leesville Road High School in Raleigh, N.C. for the 2019 season. He helped Leesville Road to a 13-1 record and coached a pair of all-league selections.

A 2019 Elon graduate in sport management, Messer was a four-year linebacker for the Phoenix (2015-18), finishing his career with 318 tackles (10th in program history), 29.0 tackles for loss and 13.0 sacks (tied for second in school history). He was a STATS FCS All-American in 2017 and 2018 as Elon went to the FCS playoffs. In 2017, Messer finished 10th in the final voting for the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the top defensive player in the country. Messer was also a two-time First Team All-CAA Football selection, the first two-time selection during the program's CAA tenure. In 2019, he spent time in camp with the Minnesota Vikings.



## SAM HULLENDER

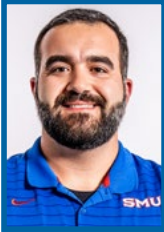
GRADUATE ASSISTANT / OFFENSE  
TEXAS, 2021  
FIRST SEASON  
SAMHULLENDER

Sam Hullender joined the Mustang coaching staff in December 2021 serving as an offensive graduate assistant.

Hullender spent the 2021 season working under Head Coach Rhett Lashlee as an offensive assistant at Miami. Miami finished second in the AAC Coastal standings in 2021 after a 7-5 regular season, and were in the top 25 for fourth down conversion % (10th, .714), passing offense (10th, 321.2), first down offense (14th, 293) and total offense (23rd, 448.8).

Prior to joining Coach Lashlee's staff in August 2021, Hullender joined Coach Danny Gonzales' staff at New Mexico. He worked with the quarterbacks specifically under Drew Mehringer.

Hullender started his coaching career in 2019 as a student coach at Texas. In 2019, he worked on special teams before moving to the offensive side of the ball to work with wide receivers. During the 2020 season, the Longhorns ranked eighth in FBS in scoring offense (42.7 ppg), 16th in passing efficiency (156.2) and 19th in total offense (475.4 ypg). Texas also finished in the top 40 in the country in passing offense (27th; 280.1 ypg) and rushing offense (37th; 195.3 ypg). The 42.7 points per game ranks second in Texas history. The Longhorns had 17 different players catch at least one pass during the 2020 season and nine with at least 10 catches. UT had 12 different players record a touchdown catch.



## HUSSAM OURI

GRADUATE ASSISTANT / OFFENSE  
SHEPHERD, 2015  
FIRST SEASON  
COACHOURI

Hussam Ouri joined the SMU football staff in January of 2022 and serves as an offensive graduate assistant working with the offensive line.

Prior to arriving on the Hilltop, he served in the same capacity at Louisiana Tech (2021).

Ouri spent six seasons as offensive line coach at his alma mater, Shepherd University (January 2015-July 2021), and was promoted to full time in 2018 and to run game coordinator in 2021. He helped Shepherd to a pair of seasons averaging 500+ yards (2019, 2017) and in 2019, Shepherd averaged 45+ PPG. The 2019 season also saw the Rams rank No. 1 in the nation in tackles for loss allowed (3.23) and No. 6 in sacks allowed (11 on 508 pass attempts). Ouri coached eight all-conference offensive line performers, two all-region selections and three All-Americans from 2015-18. He also mentored 2018 NFL Camp invitee Lavonte Hights (Chicago Bears). Shepherd made an appearance in the 2015 Division II National Title game and won three MEC Championships, a pair of Super Region 1 Championships and posted a 36-3 record from 2015-17. From February 2017 to July 2021, he served as head football strength and conditioning coordinator, while also working with baseball, men's and women's basketball, softball and women's lacrosse.

He has also served as Offensive Coordinator for The Podyum Bowl and coached the offensive line for the 2017 USA Football Team.

Ouri was a four-year starter at center for Shepherd and was named a three-time WVIAC/MEC All-Conference selection. He was also named a third-team All-American and an all-region selection. Ouri served as a team captain in 2014 and helped lead Shepherd to three conference championships. A member of the National Football Foundation's Hampshire Honor Society, he served two years as Student-Athlete Advisory Council president and one as vice president.

Ouri earned a pair of degrees from Shepherd, completing an undergraduate degree in exercise science and an MBA in project management. He also spent two years as a professor at his alma mater, teaching essentials of strength and conditioning. Ouri is a USSCC Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist and is USAW Level 1 Olympic and American Red Cross CPR and First Aid certified.

Additionally, Ellefsen was an athletic performance intern with EFT Sports Performance and served as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

Ellefsen graduated from Baylor in 2016 with a degree in exercise physiology and went on to earn a master of science in kinesiology from Louisiana State University in 2018.



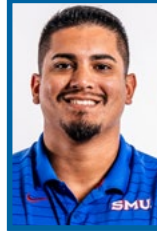
## GASTON LAMASCUS

GRADUATE ASSISTANT / OFFENSE  
TEXAS A&M, 2013  
THIRD SEASON  
COACH\_GATOR

Gaston Lamascus joined the Mustang coaching staff in the spring of 2020 and serves as an offensive graduate assistant.

Prior to arriving on the Hilltop, Lamascus served as a graduate assistant at the University of Kansas during the 2018 and 2019 seasons.

Lamascus played collegiately for Texas A&M from 2009-13.



## XAVIER GARCIA

GRADUATE ASSISTANT / DEFENSE  
EASTERN KENTUCKY, 2017  
FIRST SEASON  
COACHXGARCIA

Xavier Garcia is in his first season (2022) as a defensive graduate assistant on the Hilltop. Prior to arriving in Dallas, he spent the 2020 and 2021 seasons at Temple, where he served in the same role. During his time with the Owls, he helped coached a productive defensive line which included second team All-AAC defensive end Arnold Ebiketie.

Garcia spent time at Central Oklahoma, where he served as a defensive line graduate assistant in the fall of 2019. In the spring of 2019, Garcia was the defensive line coach at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas.

In the fall of 2018, Garcia served as the defensive line graduate assistant at Angelo State (Texas), where he helped coach Harlon Hill finalist and Gene Upshaw Award winner Markus Jones. He began his coaching career in the fall of 2017, when he coached linebackers at New Mexico Military Institute Junior College.

Garcia played defensive end at Eastern Kentucky (2016-17) under former Temple and current Cincinnati defensive line coach Walter Stewart.

Garcia is a native of Austin, Texas, and earned his bachelor's degree in general studies from EKV. He is pursuing a master's in higher education at SMU.



## JOHN BONNEY

GRADUATE ASSISTANT / DEFENSE  
FIRST SEASON  
JBONNEY\_4

## TODD IVICIC

SPECIAL TEAMS QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST  
SAM HOUSTON, 1991  
FIRST SEASON  
IVICICTODD

Todd Ivicic enters his first season on the SMU football staff as Special Teams Quality Control Analyst.

He comes to the Hilltop after spending three seasons at Navarro College. His 2021 Bulldog squad dominated on special teams, helping propel the Bulldogs into the Scooters Coffee Bowl appearance. The kickoff return group ranked third nationally, with returner Adonis Scott leading the nation with a 32.7 return average. The punt return unit finished sixth in the nation while also blocking six kicks. Kicker Alexis Lopez was named second-team All-Conference, while deep snapper Jayden Nicholls earned Honorable Mention accolades. In 2020, Lopez was named first-team All-American.

Ivicic played defensive end for SHSU in 1989 and 1990 after transferring from Blinn JC. He earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology from SHSU in 1991 and a master's degree in kinesiology from SHSU in 1993.



## DANNY WESLEY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
DALLAS COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
FIRST SEASON  
[COACHDWES](#)



## MIKE MORTON

ASSOC. A.D./STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  
PURDUE, 1996  
25TH SEASON

Mike Morton is in his 25th season (2022-23) at SMU, having joined the Mustang staff in the fall of 1998. As the Associate Athletic Director of Student Health and Well-Being, Mike is responsible for managing both the physical and mental health care that is provided to SMU's 17 Varsity Intercollegiate Sports. Morton serves as the primary health care administrator for SMU Sports Medicine, he is the primary liaison to the medical community, he is responsible for managing a staff of 12 full-time and 4 intern certified athletic trainers.

In May 2020, Morton completed a 2 year term as President for Sports Medicine for the American Athletic Conference. He is a member of the Executive Board for the Alliance of Intercollegiate Sports Medicine (The AISM), and he works with the National Football League as an Injury Spotter at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. In 2014, Morton was awarded the SMU President's Award for Continuing Excellence for his service and contributions to SMU.

Morton began his education as a student athletic trainer at Purdue University. He was awarded the Newell-Combs Scholarship for excellence in athletic training his senior year and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Athletic Training in May 1996. As part of his undergraduate study, Morton completed an internship with the Indianapolis Colts during the 1995 season.

Following his time at Purdue, Morton moved on to Auburn, where he earned a Masters of Education in Higher Education Administration and Sports Administration. While completing his degree, Morton served as the graduate assistant athletic trainer for a Tiger baseball team that advanced to the 1997 College World Series and won the 1998 SEC Championship.

A native of Churubusco, Ind., Morton is married to the former Michelle Gilbert and the couple has two daughters, Carys and Violet, and a son, Michael. Mike and his family currently reside in Flower Mound, Texas.



## JOURDAN BLAKE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
DALLAS RECRUITING RELATIONS  
SECOND SEASON  
[JOURDANBLAKE\\_](#)



## WESLEY "RHODIE" MOSS

ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC TRAINER  
TEXAS STATE, 2005  
SECOND SEASON

Wesley Rhodes Moss enters his second season (2022) as the Head Athletic Trainer for football at SMU. Prior to joining SMU, he worked as an Associate Athletic Trainer at the University of Arizona with football for four years. His former places of work include UTSA, Denver Broncos, and BYU.

He carries a Master's Degree in Exercise Sports Science with an emphasis in Athletic Training from Brigham Young University (2007) and a bachelor's degree in the same field from Texas State University (2005).

"Rhodie" is originally from the Rio Grande Valley, TX and graduated from Sharyland High School. His two favorite people are his wife, Aerin Carreno Moss, and his son, Nolan Rhodes Moss.



## SMU ADMINISTRATION



### R. GERALD TURNER

PRESIDENT

As president of SMU since 1995, R. Gerald Turner is leading an era of unprecedented progress. Under his leadership, the University continues to advance as an institution of national excellence and international renown. SMU's progress has included increases in average admission test scores, a near tripling of student applications, an increase in enrollment of underrepresented communities up to 33% and a quadrupling of the endowment.

Building on a history of excellence, SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow, which launched publicly in September 2021, is the third comprehensive fundraising campaign initiated under President Turner's leadership. The multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign for impact aims to build on SMU's strengths and empower outstanding students, enrich teaching and research, and enhance campus and community. SMU Ignited concluded the first year of its public phase with more than \$880 million raised.

During the planning and public phases of the campaign, SMU has secured the largest gifts in its history, including a landmark gift of \$100 million from the Moody Foundation to create the new Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, SMU's eighth degree-granting school; the first \$50 million gift from an alumni family, from Carolyn L. and David B. Miller '72, '73 for the Cox School of Business; the largest gift in SMU Athletics history, a \$50 million commitment from the Garry Weber Foundation toward the Garry Weber End Zone Complex at Gerald J. Ford Stadium; and the largest gift in University history by a non-alumnus from William S. Spears to establish the William S. Spears Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership in the Cox School of Business.

Fueled by these investments, the University continues to advance as a leading center of teaching and research that accelerates knowledge, addresses significant issues, prepares students to be world changers and broadens community engagement. SMU ranks in the top 20% of the best national universities by U.S. News & World Report.

From its home in the global city of Dallas, SMU's vibrant campus offers enrichment opportunities such as the Tate Lecture Series and the Meadows Museum to students and the wider community. President Turner led efforts with the Board of Trustees to attract the George W. Bush Presidential Center, which opened at SMU in 2013. SMU and the Bush Presidential Center partner through fellowships, public lectures, the new George W. Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative and additional collaborations that bring together students, faculty and global experts to tackle pressing challenges.

Beyond the campus, President Turner has been a leader in NCAA Athletics. He has chaired four Division I conferences, including the AAC. He has also served on the boards of the Dallas Citizens Council, the American Council on Education and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he co-chaired the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for nearly 10 years. In Texas, he serves on the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce and is a member of its University CEO Council. He also serves on the boards of the Methodist Health System Foundation, the Salvation Army of North Texas and the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

Before joining SMU, President Turner was the chancellor of the University of Mississippi. He previously served in administrative positions at the University of Oklahoma and Pepperdine University. A native of New Boston, Texas, he earned an A.A. degree from Lubbock Christian University, a B.S. in psychology from Abilene Christian University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Gail, have two married daughters and five grandchildren.



### PAUL ROGERS

FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE

Paul Rogers is the Marilyn Jeanne Johnson Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Professor of Law and the former dean of the SMU Dedman School of Law. He is also the University's faculty athletic representative and helps represent the University with the American Athletic Conference and the NCAA. Rogers currently serves as a member of the National Football Foundation's Awards Committee and was formerly on the NCAA's Football Oversight and Football Competition Committees. He is a former president of the Southwest Conference and also previously served on the NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet, the Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet, and the Executive Committee of the Division I-A Faculty Athletics Representative Association.

In 1988 Rogers was the principal drafter of the Manual of Governance for SMU Athletics and became the first chair of the SMU Athletic Council, which provides oversight of SMU athletics and recommends academic and administrative policies governing student-athletes. He continues as a member of the council.

Prior to joining the SMU law faculty in 1980, he served on the law faculty at Loyola University of Chicago. He previously practiced law in Pennsylvania. Rogers has two degrees (B.A., J.D.) from The University of Texas at Austin and an LL.M. from Columbia University. Rogers served as dean of the School of Law from 1988-97. Earlier he served as associate dean for academic affairs from 1982-86. He has co-authored a leading casebook on antitrust law, now in its fifth edition, and has written articles on antitrust, regulated industries, contracts, commercial law, sports law and legal history. An avid baseball historian, he has published six books and many articles dealing with the history of baseball.

He serves on the board of the Bobby Bragan Youth Foundation in Ft. Worth and is former president of the board of directors of Dispute Mediation Services and a former trustee of the Dallas Bar Foundation. Rogers is a fellow of the Dallas Bar, Texas Bar and the American Bar Foundations. A member of the American Law Institute, he also served as chair of the Ethics Oversight Committee for Dallas 2012 and is president of the Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan Chapter (Dallas-Fort Worth) of the Society of American Baseball Research. In 2006 Rogers was named an Honorary Letterman by the SMU Lettermen's Association. He received the Tom Tunks Distinguished University Service Award in 2016 and the University's "M" Award in 2017.

Rogers is married to Julie Forrester Rogers of the SMU law faculty and together they have five children and five grandchildren.



## RICK HART

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS  
AD\_RICKHART

Rick Hart was named SMU's Director of Athletics on July 16, 2012.

During Hart's tenure, SMU student-athletes have excelled in the classroom, with 67% earning cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher and over one-third boasting GPAs of 3.5 or better. SMU has also experienced broad success athletically, winning 25 team conference titles across 12 sports and advancing 16 sports to the post-season over his nine years on the Hilltop. In the community, SMU's partnership with the City of Dallas has been strengthened through community service and the "Born and Raised" and Triple-D/Pony marketing initiatives.

Due to the generosity of alumni and friends, annual giving has reached record levels in support of operations, projects and facilities. During his time on the Hilltop, SMU has renovated and expanded Moody Coliseum and opened numerous new facilities including the SMU Indoor Performance Center and Armstrong Fieldhouse, Styslinger/Altec SMU Tennis Complex, Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium and the Payne Stewart SMU Golf Training Center at Trinity Forest Golf Club. The Washburne Soccer and Track Stadium is scheduled to be completed in spring 2022, and fundraising is underway for an outdoor pool to complete the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium Complex.

Hart also developed and installed the Strategic Plan for SMU Athletics titled, "The SMU Advantage." The SMU Advantage consists of a departmental vision, mission, values and goals and operates on a principle of S.P.I.R.I.T. (Service, Passion, Integrity, Respect, Innovation and Teamwork), with a focus on the student-athlete and aligning the Athletics Department with the educational mission of the University.



Hart is serving as NACDA President for the 2022-23 membership year and is also a member of the LEAD1 Association Board of Directors. He has previously served on the NACDA Executive Committee, the NCAA Division I Championship/Sports Management Cabinet, the FCS Athletics Directors Association Executive Committee and as a faculty member for the D1-A Athletics Directors' Institute. Hart is an active speaker, and has made presentations at the Career in Sports Seminar, the NACDA Leadership Institute, the Texas High School Athletic Directors' Association and the Dallas Women's Club, to name a few.

Hart came to SMU after six years as Director of Athletics at Tennessee at Chattanooga. Hart served seven years at Oklahoma in various athletics administrative capacities, ending as the Senior Associate Athletics Director in 2006. Hart has also worked in athletics at North Carolina and East Carolina and has served with the U.S. Olympic Committee.

A graduate of UNC, Hart earned a bachelor's degree in physical education, health and sport science. Hart and his wife, Allison, also a graduate of North Carolina, are proud parents of Trevor and Caroline (Carly), both SMU students.

A third-generation athletics administrator, Hart's father, Dave, served as Director of Athletics at Tennessee, Florida State and East Carolina, and his late grandfather, Dave Sr., served in a variety of roles within collegiate athletics including stints as a Coach, Athletics Director and Conference Commissioner.



## KURT POTTKOTTER

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS  
KURTPOTTKOTTER

Kurt Pottkotter has served as SMU's Deputy Director of Athletics since January 2017. In this role, Pottkotter oversees the day-to-day operations of the athletic department in support of 484 student-athletes across 17 sports. He is the primary Sport Administrator for football and is also responsible for the department's capital project planning and development.

For four years prior to his promotion to Deputy AD, Pottkotter led the department's fundraising efforts as Senior Associate AD for Development. His tenure overseeing all private philanthropy in support of Mustang Athletics, including capital projects, major gifts and annual funds, resulted in the three most successful fundraising years in SMU Athletics' history.

During his time on the Hilltop, SMU has renovated and expanded Moody Coliseum and opened numerous new facilities including the SMU Indoor Performance Center and Armstrong Fieldhouse, Styslinger/Altec SMU Tennis Complex, Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium and the Payne Stewart SMU Golf Training Center at Trinity Forest Golf Club.

Before joining SMU Athletics, Pottkotter successfully led SMU's National Major Giving program, increasing major gift commitments from 10 leadership cities across the country. In addition to his major gift experience at SMU and with The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business, Pottkotter previously served SMU as Assistant Director of Development for the Cox School of Business and Assistant Director of Annual Giving.

He was a basketball student-athlete at the University at Buffalo and Ohio Dominican College, receiving a degree in Political Science. Pottkotter earned his Master's degree in Sports Administration from Ohio University in 2000 and began his career in athletic development at Boston College.

Pottkotter and his wife, Amy, have three children, Joshua (20), a student at SMU, Audrey (17) and Katherine (13).