

Kate Costanzo
Allegheny

Allegheny College Director of Athletics and Recreation Betsy Mitchell has named Kate Costanzo the eighth head coach in the history of Allegheny women's basketball. Costanzo served as the Gators' interim head coach during the 2007-08 season.

With a very young squad consisting of six freshmen, three sophomores, and three juniors, Costanzo led the Gators to an 11-15 finish with an 8-8 mark in the North Coast Athletic Conference. Allegheny closed out the season with six wins in its final eight contests before falling at Denison in the first round of the NCAC Tournament.

Three Gators – Stephanie Wolf (Pittsburgh, Pa./North Allegheny), Emilie Simone (Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon), and Brittany Bell (Hempfield, Pa./Greensburg Area) – were named to the all-conference squad, with Wolf garnering first-team honors.

"It is very exciting to know that we don't lose anybody to graduation," said Costanzo. "Having that type of experience will make a big difference as we look for our players to step up into new leadership roles next season."

Allegheny is expected to return all five starters and 13 letter winners in 2008-09, as the squad aims to improve on its fifth-place conference finish from a year ago.

A native of Manorville, Pa., and a 2002 graduate of Penn State Erie, the Behrend College, Costanzo was a two-year all-Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference selection for the Lady Lions. In 2001, she helped the squad to only its second NCAA Tournament berth. She ranks fourth on Behrend's all-time scoring list with 1,055 points, having averaged 10 points per game for her career.

Costanzo also holds a Master of Arts degree in student affairs and higher education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The Allegheny women's basketball program is in its 35th year of existence. Gator teams have combined to produce 487 wins and a .616 winning percentage. Allegheny has captured six NCAC regular season championships as well as five conference tournament crowns.

Sara Lee
Denison

In 2008-09, Sara Lee enters her 20th season as Denison's head women's basketball coach.

Last season the Big Red captured the program's fourth consecutive North Coast Athletic Conference Tournament Championship. The tournament title sent the Big Red back to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight season and ran their four-year win total to a program-best 85 victories.

In 2006-07 the Big Red captured their third consecutive NCAC Tournament championship and advanced to their third straight NCAA Division III Tournament where they defeated defending national champion, Hope College, 82-66 in the first round before falling to eventual national champ, DePauw, in the second-round. Denison's 25 victories were a new school single-season record and their 15-game winning streak, which spanned over eight weeks during the season, was also a new high. Over the last four seasons Denison women's basketball has won two NCAA tournament contests, gone 85-32 (.726) and has posted a 49-15 record in conference play.

Lee is Denison's all-time leader in coaching victories with a career mark of 269-219 since the 1989-1990 season. She is a three-time NCAC Coach of the Year (1990-91, 1997-98 and 2006-07).

In addition to her basketball coaching duties, Lee spent 18 seasons as the head volleyball coach for the Big Red. She stepped down prior to the 2007 season after recording 395 career victories. She is the program's all-time leader in wins and holds a .618 career winning percentage as the head volleyball coach. The team's 31 victories in 1993 set a new school record which still stands.

In 1989 Lee came to Denison from Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, where she was the head coach of women's volleyball, basketball and softball for two years. While at Lake Erie, she also served as the coordinator of women's athletics, an instructor of physical education, a residence hall director and an academic advisor.

A native of Moorhead, Minn., Lee enrolled at Moorhead State University after graduating from high school in 1982. She earned her B.S. in physical education from Moorhead State in 1986. Lee went on to earn an M.A. in athletic administration from Kent State in 1987.

While at Moorhead State, Lee's athletic career was highlighted by several outstanding accomplishments. She was a four-year letter winner in each of three sports: volleyball, basketball and softball. In volleyball, Lee earned all-conference and all-district recognition her junior and senior years, and was twice named as her team's most valuable player. Her senior year, Lee served as a basketball captain, and she was an all-district selection in softball.

Most recently, Coach Lee has been inducted into the Moorhead State University Athletic Hall of Fame for her distinguished accomplishments and career both on and off the playing field. Lee's honors as an undergraduate include the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Scholarship which is awarded annually by NAIA athletic directors. Lee was also honored as the recipient of the Moorhead State Student-Athlete Award her senior year. At Kent, Lee was selected for a graduate assistantship in physical education.

In addition to her coaching duties, Lee is an associate professor in Denison's department of athletics, physical education and recreation, and is an assistant to DU's director of athletics.

Liana Coutts
Earlham

Liana Coutts brought an extensive basketball background to Earlham College when she arrived in Richmond prior to the 2004-05 season.

Coutts graduated from The Ohio State University in 1989 with a degree in photography. As a starting point guard in 85 of her 113 games for the Buckeyes, Coutts was an honorable mention All-Big Ten selection, part of three conference championships and one conference runner-up finish at Ohio State. Coutts participated the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament in all four seasons advancing to the Sweet 16 three times and the Elite Eight once.

The Buckeyes were 102-21 (83 percent) during her career and 66-6 (92 percent) in the Big Ten without losing in the conference at home. As a senior, she averaged 3.2 assists as the Buckeyes went 24-6 overall and 16-2 in the conference. Coutts' career best scoring performance was 13 points, which she did three times against Northwestern, Purdue and Arizona State. After graduation, she also earned a Master of Science in Physical Education with an emphasis on Athletic Administration from Ohio University, while an assistant coach with the Bobcats from 1993-95.

The Delaware, Ohio native has been an assistant coach at the University of the Pacific (1995-96), Central Michigan University (1996-97), Ohio University (1997-99) and Butler University (1999-2000). She left Butler to become the head coach at Ohio Wesleyan University in 2001. Coutts led the school to a North Coast Athletic Conference tournament championship and a Sweet 16 appearance in the NCAA Division III tournament in 2002. Her teams defeated Earlham three times that season, including once in the NCAC tourney. While in high school, Coutts was an all-state performer during her senior year and District 11 Player of the Year.

In addition to her duties with the basketball program, Coutts serves as the convener of the Athletics, Wellness and Physical Education (AWPE) Department.

Andrea Preston
Hiram

Andrea Preston will be in her second season as head coach of the women's basketball team at Hiram College in 2008-2009.

Preston comes to Hiram from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, where she was the head women's basketball coach for the past two seasons. At Clarkson, Preston coached two honorable mention All-Liberty League players, nine players who were named Academic All-Liberty League, one first-team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American and nine athletes who earned Liberty League weekly honors.

In addition to coaching at Clarkson, Preston has been a graduate assistant at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (2002-04) and an assistant at Earlham (Ind.) College (2001-02). In 2004, she served in an administration position with the Minnesota Lynx of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). Preston is a member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), Basketball Coaches Association of New York (BCANY) and the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (NACWAA). In addition, she is a graduate of the NCAA Women Coaches Academy and Dimension 2.

Preston is a 2001 graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education. She was a member of the women's basketball team, earning two varsity letters, and was a four-year member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Preston earned a master's degree in exercise and sport science with an emphasis in sport administration from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in 2004.

Suzanne Helfant
Kenyon

Head coach Suzanne Helfant enters her thirteenth season at Kenyon College with an overall record of 191-122, making her the most successful coach in the history of the 34-year-old program.

During the 2004-2005 season, Helfant guided her team to a 22-5 record and was named Women's Basketball Coaches Association District Six Coach of the Year along with being named the NCAC's Coach of the Year for the second time in her career. She also became a member of the WBCA's Victory Club notching win No. 200 in a 65-45 victory on December 21, 2005.

She began her tenure at Kenyon in 1995-'96 and promptly produced an 18-8 season, the most wins ever by a KC team. She followed that season up by directing the 1996-'97 team to a 26-2 record that included the program's first-ever North Coast Athletic Conference Championship and first-ever NCAA Tournament berth.

Helfant guided the 1999-2000 team to a 21-7 record along with another NCAC Championship and NCAA Tournament berth. Prior to her arrival, the Kenyon Ladies had just four winning seasons dating back to the program's inception in 1973. Since then, Helfant has more than doubled that number. She's also coached three NCAC Players of the Year, several National Merit Scholars and the team's first-ever Marshall Scholarship recipient.

Her coaching talents have also netted several other awards. At the conclusion of the 2001-2002 season she was presented with the

NCAC Coaching Legend Award and was also named a national Sports Ethics Fellow by the Institute for International Sport. Helfant worked as the head basketball coach at Marietta College before taking on her current position at Kenyon. She inherited a 5-20 team there and in three short seasons turned around the program and posted a 13-12 record. Her coaching experience also expands to assistant positions at both Lycoming College and John Carroll University.

In her playing days, Helfant was a three-year starter at point guard for the Allegheny College Gators. During her four-year career, the Gators went a combined 95-15. Helfant was named to the All-NCAC Team three times, including being named the conference's Player of the Year in 1988. During that same season, she was selected as both a Kodak All-American and an American Women's Sports Foundation All-American. She also earned her second selection to the NCAA All-Region Team. In 1995 she was named to the NCAC's Tenth Anniversary Team and in 1998 she was inducted into the Allegheny College Hall of Fame.

Helfant graduated from Allegheny in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in communications. She also serves as the athletics department's senior women's administrator.

Kerry Jenkins Oberlin

Delta Lodge Director of Athletics Joe Karlgaard has announced the appointment of Kerry Jenkins as the new head coach of women's basketball at Oberlin College.

"Kerry Jenkins emerged from an outstanding and deep pool of applicants for this position," Karlgaard said. "I cannot say enough about the quality of our applicant pool. It was absolutely outstanding, and I think that says quite a bit about the basketball community's perception of Oberlin College and our program."

Jenkins, a 1996 graduate of Amherst College, comes to Oberlin from the University of Vermont where he spent the last three seasons as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the Catamounts. Jenkins also installed and coordinated the Catamounts' defensive scheme – improving Vermont's defensive field goal percentage from eighth to third in the America East Conference during his tenure.

With Jenkins on staff, Vermont has won 43 games over the last two seasons, including a mark of 24-9 this past year. He has recruited former McDonald's All-American finalists and helped numerous players earn league recognition during his tenure with the Catamounts.

"I would like to thank President Krislov and Athletics Director Joe Karlgaard for giving me this opportunity to lead the Oberlin College women's basketball program," Jenkins said. "I am extremely honored to accept this position and I welcome the opportunity of leading this team into a new era."

Before arriving in Burlington, Jenkins spent four years (2001-2005) at Yale University as an assistant coach, responsible for developing post players, while also serving as the team's recruiting coordinator. During his stint with the Bulldogs, six front-court players garnered All-Ivy League honors. He was also responsible for recruiting two top-100 forwards for Yale's Class of 2007 and two McDonald's All-American nominees in the Class of 2008.

"Kerry brings great teaching ability, high integrity, and wonderful communication skills to the department," Karlgaard added. "His experience with the integration of academics and athletics at Amherst, Yale, and Vermont sets a great example for our players. We are confident that Kerry will create a great experience for our student-athletes while leading our program to a championship level."

Jenkins has also been an assistant coach at Tallahassee Community College (2000-2001), where he helped guide the team to a school record in wins with a 28-8 overall record and a third-place finish in the National Community College Tournament, the first appearance in the national tournament in the program's history.

Jenkins, a former football player at Amherst, spent two years as assistant women's basketball at his alma mater, before earning a master's degree in Physical Education and Sports Administration from Florida State University in 2001.

"I want to thank Sharon Dawley and the staff at Vermont for three great years," Jenkins said. "My time at UVM allowed me to grow and learn, while preparing me to take this next step to become the head coach at Oberlin, and for that I am grateful."

Jenkins becomes the ninth head coach in program history, taking over for Christa Champion, who resigned on March 5.

Nan Carney-DeBord Ohio Wesleyan

Twenty-third-year head coach Nan Carney-DeBord has blazed trails never before seen by Ohio Wesleyan women's basketball.

The winningest women's basketball coach in Ohio Wesleyan history, Carney-DeBord guided the Battling Bishops to an 18-8 record and a tie for second place in the North Coast Athletic Conference during the 2007-08 season.

The Bishops compiled a 17-10 record during the 2004-05 season. In 2003-04, the Bishops went 15-12 and placed fourth in the NCAC. In 2002-03, the Bishops compiled an 18-10 record and finished in second place in the NCAC. Those 18 wins included a 55-51 decision over Earlham that was the 300th career victory for Carney-DeBord, making her the 29th active NCAA Division III coach to reach the 300-win mark.

During the 2000-01 season, she piloted the Bishops to a 26-7 record. Ohio Wesleyan advanced to the NCAA Division III semifinals after winning the NCAC championship for the fifth time. She capped that magical season by being named the Russell Athletic/Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division III National Coach of the Year.

A 6-time selection as NCAC Coach of the Year, Carney-DeBord was named Coach of the Year in 2000, when Ohio Wesleyan was 23-3 and won the NCAC championship; in 1999, when the Bishops went 21-7 and won the NCAC championship; in 1993, when the Bishops compiled a 21-6 mark and won an outright NCAC title; in 1992, after the Bishops went 23-2, won their first NCAC tournament and earned their first-ever NCAA Division III playoff bid; in 1988, after leading the Bishops to a 16-10 mark, including a 10-2 league mark and the second of her 7 second-place finishes; and in 1986, when her team finished second in the NCAC and upset Division III quarterfinalist Muskingum on the Muskies' home court.

Her effect on the Ohio Wesleyan field hockey program was just as magical. She guided the Bishops to their first national ranking in 1986, then topped that in 1987, starting a string of 4 straight NCAC titles and NCAA Division III playoff appearances that would continue through the end of her tenure in 1990.

Carney-DeBord came to Ohio Wesleyan from Bethany (W.Va.) College, where she was head field hockey and softball coach and assistant basketball mentor. Her field hockey squads won Pennwood West Conference titles in 1983 and 1984.

Carney-DeBord is a 1980 graduate of Denison University, where she lettered 4 times each in basketball and field hockey. A wing and point guard in basketball, she was team captain and MVP as a senior. As a field hockey back, she was a team captain for 3 years and led one team to a 13-0 record. She was inducted into Denison's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998. She earned her master's degree from Kent State and is a professor of physical education at Ohio Wesleyan.

Sarah Jurewicz Wittenberg

A member of the Wittenberg University women's basketball family returned to her roots in 2007 as Sarah Jurewicz, class of 1998 and the program's all-time leading scorer, took the head coaching reins at her alma mater for the 2007-08 season. She replaced one of her mentors, Pam Smith, a 1982 Wittenberg graduate and the university's women's basketball head coach for 21 years who passed away in 2007 after a long bout with cancer.

After one year as the interim coach, in which she led the Tigers to records of 15-11 overall and 12-4 in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), Jurewicz was named the permanent coach in March 2008. After finishing in a second-place tie, Wittenberg advanced to the NCAC Tournament championship game in 2008.

Jurewicz returned to Springfield after four years as an assistant coach at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo. She was involved in all aspects of the program, including post player development, scouting, community outreach programming and coordinating team travel. During her four seasons with the program, Colorado College improved from 2-20 in 2003-04 to 15-10 in 2005-06 before slipping back below .500 a year ago.

Prior to her stint at Colorado College, Jurewicz was an assistant in the women's basketball program at Savannah College of Art and Design from 2000-03. Again involved in all aspects of the program, including practice preparation, post development, recruitment and game strategy, Jurewicz helped the team to two winning seasons in her three years, including a 19-7 record in 2001-02.

A native of Shakopee, Minn., Jurewicz is one of the all-time greats in Wittenberg women's basketball history. Her teams posted a four-year record of 85-24 overall, including a phenomenal North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) record of 59-5. The Tigers won NCAC regular season and tournament titles and advanced to the NCAA Division III Tournament three times during Jurewicz's career – in 1995, 1996 and 1998.

Jurewicz earned team Most Valuable Player honors three times in her Wittenberg career, and she garnered All-NCAC awards all four years of her collegiate career, including first-team designations in 1995, 1996 and 1998 and Newcomer of the Year honors in 1995. A post player by trade, Jurewicz holds the school record for career points with 1,297, and she also ranks ninth in career assists and second in career rebounds. Her name appears numerous times in the history books for game and season records, and in 2004 she was one of two Wittenberg alums selected to the NCAC All-Second Decade Team.

A three-year captain for the Tigers, Jurewicz also earned varsity letters in track and field in 1995 and 1996. Wittenberg's NCAC female scholar-athlete award-winner in 1998, Jurewicz even earned All-NCAC honors for her performance in the discus in 1996.

Jurewicz earned a bachelor's degree in art from Wittenberg, and she also holds a master of fine arts from Savannah College of Art and Design. A 2006 Shakopee High School Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, Jurewicz has also served her previous educational institutions in an academic capacity, teaching a variety of art classes at both Savannah College of Art and Design and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Lisa Campanell Komara Wooster

Lisa Campanell Komara, who has compiled about 250 wins as a collegiate head basketball coach, is in the midst of her 12th season in charge of the women's program at The College of Wooster. During her tenure, she has directed Wooster teams to 103 victories, highlighted by double-digit win totals four of the last six years (2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2006-07).

Other notable accomplishments since coming to Wooster prior to the 1997-98 campaign include a 14-12 record in 2006-07, marking the program's first winning record since 1992-93; a 68-61 triumph over Kenyon College Feb. 9, 2005, one of just two losses for the Ladies that season on their way to the North Coast Athletic Conference championship; and a 65-57 victory at rival Wittenberg University on Jan. 17, 1998, when the Tigers went on to be the NCAC champs.

Campanell Komara is in the process of completing a remarkable turnaround at Wooster, just as she did over a 12-year period at Bethany (W. Va.) College. There, her teams won 126 games, highlighted by a four-season stretch with a 71-29 record, capped by a 22-4 mark and the school's first-ever trip to the NCAA Div. III Tournament in 1997. For her efforts that season, Campanell Komara was named the Presidents' Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. The Bison had posted only one winning season in the previous 20 years before she inherited the program.

Besides coaching basketball at Bethany, Campanell Komara also handled stints as the head volleyball coach (1985-93) and head women's tennis coach (1994-97), and left as the school's all-time winningest coach in all three sports. She also served as coordinator of women's athletics (1987-91).

Campanell Komara, who also was a multi-sport coach at Kent State University-East Liverpool (1983-85), is a graduate of Beaver Local High School in East Liverpool, Ohio, and earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from West Liberty State College in 1982. She went on to complete work towards a master's degree in sports administration from West Virginia University as well. Professionally, Campanell Komara is a member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Also, she is the president/owner of Premier Instructional Camps of Ohio; director of Wooster Basketball Camp for Girls; a volunteer for the Region One Special Olympics as well as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; a former chairperson for the PAC women's basketball coaches; past chair of the women's athletic directors in the PAC; and a former member of the Div. III Converse Coach of the Year Selection Committee and the Kodak All-American Selection Committee.