COACHES

Head Coach Steve Smith .............. 46-48
Assistant Head Coach Mitch Thompson ... 49
Assistant Coach Steve Johnigan ........ 50
Assistant Coach Trevor Mote .......... 51
Support Staff .................. 52
Steve Smith is in his 18th season as head coach of Baylor's baseball program. In his first 17 years, Smith guided Baylor to its most successful 10-year run in the program's history and a 2005 College World Series appearance. Smith also served as 2008 president of the American Baseball Coaches Association and head coach of the 2005 USA Baseball National Team.

A 2006 Baylor Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, Smith has compiled a 619-415-1 career record, all at Baylor. He holds the third-best winning percentage (.599) of any coach with at least five years experience leading the Baylor program. He also ranks second among the program's 18 head coaches in career victories and enters the 2012 season 30 wins shy of all-time leader Mickey Sullivan.

In conference play, Smith has compiled a 245-209 record in 17 seasons, making him the program's all-time leader in conference victories. He's also led the Bears to two of the program's four conference titles. Smith has led Baylor to 12 NCAA Regional appearances, three NCAA Super Regional appearances and one College World Series. With 12 NCAA Regional appearances since 1998, Smith has placed Baylor on a list with only 13 other teams. He also has coached 12 All-America selections and eight USA Baseball National Team members while at Baylor.

Off the field, Smith's teams have maintained a high standard of excellence in the classroom and in the community. In 2007, Baylor was one of 30 Division I programs and the only Big 12 school to receive a Public Recognition Award from the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program for having an Academic Progress Rate (APR) score among the nation's top 10 percent. The Bears' APR was 983 with an adjusted squad size mark of 992. The baseball team was Baylor's only program so honored.

The names of Baylor baseball players regularly appear on the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll, the Baylor Dean's List and on national academic awards lists. The 2009 squad posted the highest team GPA of any Baylor baseball team in school history during the 2008 fall semester.

Additionally, the Bears are actively involved in service projects both on campus and in the Waco community. However, the program's service also reaches beyond Central Texas. In October 2008, the team and staff spent a weekend in League City, Texas, doing Hurricane Ike relief work. More information on the Bears' service program so honored.

Steve Smith was named head coach of the Baylor baseball program July 29, 1994, replacing Baylor legend Mickey Sullivan, who retired after 21 seasons. Smith is the 18th head coach in Baylor history. He was named the 2000 Big 12 Coach of the Year after guiding the Bears to their first outright conference title in 77 years.
HEAD COACH STEVE SMITH

In January 2001, Smith was named by Baseball America as one of 10 rising stars on all levels of baseball. He was the only person associated with college baseball on the list. In January 2007, he was elevated to first vice-president of the American Baseball Coaches Association and in 2008 served as the organization’s president.

An accomplished pitching coach, Smith has tutored eight pitchers in the last 15 years who were selected in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft. He also has coached at least one all-conference pitcher in each of the last 17 seasons. In 1999, under Smith’s tutelage, right-hander/designated hitter Jason Jennings won the Golden Spikes Award as the best player in college baseball and was the 16th overall pick by the Colorado Rockies. In fact, Jennings claimed every national player of the year award that season, becoming the first unanimous national player of the year in Division I history.

Since the inception of the Big 12, Baylor has produced 75 Major League Baseball draft selections. In 2005, the Bears produced a school-record nine draftees to rank third nationally in number of players drafted. Included in that group was right-handed pitcher Mark McCormick, a first-round selection by the St. Louis Cardinals.

In Smith’s 17 years as head coach, the Bears have produced 12 All-Americans, including two-time honoree Jennings, 11 CoSIDA Academic All-American honorees, one CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year, 39 first-team all-conference performers, 10 freshman All-Americans and three conference players of the year. Baylor has placed 89 players on the Big 12 Academic All-Conference first team in the conference’s first 15 seasons, 30 more than any other program.

Baylor saw its 2003 season end in the program’s second-ever NCAA Super Regional appearance, losing to LSU two games to one. The Bears finished the season ranked 11th nationally with a 45-23 record and set team single-season marks in eight statistical categories, including batting average, hits, doubles and total bases.

In 2002, Baylor earned its fifth straight NCAA Tournament selection and once again ranked among the nation’s top 25 baseball teams nearly all season. The Bears opened the year hot and claimed series wins against then-No. 6 Southern California, eventual national champion Texas, and 2002 College World Series participant Nebraska. Baylor advanced to the championship game of the NCAA Austin Regional, the team’s third regional title game in four years.

The Bears went 37-24 in 2001 and capped off the year with their fourth straight NCAA regional tournament. Catcher Kelly Shoppach was a consensus first-team All-America selection, as well as being named the Big 12 Player of the Year and winning the Johnny Bench Award. En route to winning the 2000 Big 12 Conference title, the Bears posted a 45-17 record, marking Smith’s third straight 40-win season. The Bears also participated in their third consecutive NCAA regional, hosting the event for the second year in a row.

In 1999, the Bears posted a 50-15 record and advanced to the NCAA Super Regional, also hosted by Baylor. The Bears’ 50 wins broke the school record of 43 set in 1977 when the Bears went to the College World Series. In addition, the 1999 squad posted its second straight 100-100 season, hitting more than 100 home runs and stealing more than 100 bases. Baylor was one of only two schools to accomplish the feat two years in a row.

The 1998 Baylor baseball team finished the season with a 41-20-1 record. The squad broke or tied 40 team and individual records, set a Big 12 record with a 14-game winning streak and participated in the NCAA regional tournament in Gainesville, Fla. In addition, Smith was named Big 12 Coach of the Year by two publications.

Following the 1998 season, Smith spent the summer serving as the pitching coach for the USA National Team. Smith directed a pitching staff that consisted of the nation’s top freshmen and sophomores to a 30-12 record with a 3.72 team ERA. The USA National Team played in the World Championships qualifier in Managua, Nicaragua, before advancing to the World Championships in Palermo, Sicily.

Smith’s track record, however, cannot be measured over one season or one team. His ability to help athletes make it to the professional ranks is impressive. Since 1992, Smith has coached 77 players who have signed professional contracts, including 68 in the past 17 years as a head coach. Thirty-three of those 77 were pitchers, including first-round picks Kip Wells (1998, Chicago White Sox), Jason Jennings (1999, Colorado Rockies), Chad Hawkins (2000, Texas Rangers), Mark McCormick (2005, St. Louis Cardinals) and Aaron Miller (2009, Los Angeles Dodgers).

Smith began his playing career as a two-sport standout in baseball and football at Gulfport (Miss.) High School, where he quarterbacked the 1978 Gulfport High team to a state championship. On the diamond, Smith excelled as a pitcher. As a senior, he was 8-2 on the mound with a 0.81 ERA, earning all-state honors and an appearance in the 1979 Mississippi High School All-Star Game.

Following high school, Smith went on to Mississippi College, where he lettered in football and baseball (1979-80). He pitched 42.2 innings with a 1.27 ERA and 26 strikeouts for the Choctaws. As a true freshman, Smith quarterbacked the football team to the Gulf South Conference title and a third-place finish in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Smith then transferred to Baylor, sitting out the 1981 season due to NCAA transfer rules. While playing for the Bears in 1982, Smith led the Southwest Conference with a 1.72 ERA, bettering league foes and future major league pitchers Norm Charlton, Roger Clemens, Doug Drabek and Calvin Schiraldi. He posted a 5-4 record in nine starts, giving up only 13 earned runs in 68 innings pitched. In 1983, he was 6-7 with a 3.57 ERA for the Bears, allowing only 32 earned runs in 80.2 innings of work.

After being selected by the San Francisco Giants in the fifth round of the 1983 free agent draft, Smith spent four years working his way through the Giants’ minor league system, ending his professional career in 1986 with the Class AAA Phoenix Firebirds. In his initial season of professional baseball with the Great Falls Giants, Smith went 8-3 with 107 strikeouts in 94 innings and only 16 walks. After an elbow injury limited him to only 60 innings in 1984, Smith won eight games for the Fresno Giants en route to the California League championship in 1985.

Smith returned to Baylor in 1986 to complete a degree in secondary education. He then served as a graduate assistant for coach Mark Johnson at Texas A&M, where he received his master’s degree in business administration in 1989. While at A&M, his coaching responsibilities included working with the outfielders and assisting with recruiting, scouting and summer camps. During his tenure at A&M, the Aggies compiled a 110-22 record, captured a share of the Southwest Conference title and appeared in two NCAA regional tournaments.

Following his stint at A&M, Smith spent the next five years on Polk’s staff at Mississippi State, working primarily with the pitchers. He also served as the recruiting coordinator and put together the nation’s top recruiting class, as ranked by Collegiate Baseball, in 1994. In addition, Smith directed the MSU baseball camps that drew more than 1,000 campers each year and grew to be one of the nation’s top baseball camps.

During his first year at Mississippi State, the Bulldogs advanced to the College World Series, where they finished fifth with a final record of 50-21.

Smith then guided a Bulldog pitching staff that ranked among the top three Southeastern Conference schools in ERA in each of the last four seasons he was there. His 1992 staff led the league and ranked 14th nationally with a 3.22 ERA. That staff also posted the lowest ERA of a MSU team since 1976 and set a school record with 304 strikeouts on the season.

While at MSU, Smith was also responsible for the development of three major league first-round draft picks in B.J. Wallace, Jay Powell and Carlton Loewer.

Impressively, in his seven years as an assistant coach, Smith made six NCAA regional appearances and coached for three teams that were ranked No. 1 nationally at one point in the season.

Off the field, Smith co-produced a two-volume video, “The Care and Maintenance of the Pitching Shoulder,“ and has since released an instructional video, “Preparing for Pitcher Success.” He speaks to numerous youth and civic groups each year and serves as a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Woodway.

Smith also was instrumental in creating Baylor’s first baseball support group, Heart of the Order, with a current membership of more than 300. Smith, 51, is married to the former Melinda Newcom of Fort Worth. Melinda, also a Baylor graduate, was a Baylor yell leader from 1981 to 1983. They have two sons, Ryan (19) – a freshman on the Baylor baseball team — and Case (17).
COACHING EXPERIENCE

BAYLOR, 1995-PRESENT

- Head Coach
- 2008 President American Baseball Coaches Association
- 2005 NCAA College World Series (national semifinalist)
- Two Big 12 Conference championships (2000, 2005)
- 1998 Big 12 Coach of the Year (Austin American Statesman, Waco Tribune-Herald)
- 1999 Big 12 Coach of the Year (Dallas Morning News)
- 2000 Big 12 Coach of the Year (coached)
- 2005 Big 12 Coach of the Year (Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, San Antonio Express News, Waco Tribune-Herald)
- 2006 Baylor Athletics Hall of Fame Inductee

USA BASEBALL NATIONAL TEAM, 2005

- Head Coach
- 16-4 record, 14-0 on American soil

USA BASEBALL NATIONAL TEAM, 1998

- Pitching Coach
- World Championships qualifier

MISSISSIPPI STATE, 1990-1994

- Assistant Coach
- 1990 NCAA College World Series
- Four straight NCAA Regionals (1990-1993)
- 1990 SEC Tournament co-champions

TEXAS A&M, 1988-1989

- Graduate Assistant
- Back-to-back NCAA Regionals (1988-89)
- 1989 SWC co-champions

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS SYSTEM, 1983-1986

- Great Falls Giants (Rookie), 1983
- Shreveport Captains (AAL), 1984
- Fresno Giants (A), 1984-1986
- Phoenix Firebirds (AAA), 1986

EDUCATION

Texas A&M, 1989

- Master of Business Administration

BAYLOR, 1986

- Bachelor of Secondary Education
- Led SWC in ERA in 1982 (1.72)
- Fifth-round draft pick, SF Giants (1983)

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

- Earned letters in football (quarterback) and baseball (pitcher)
- Led Choctaws to NCAA Division II third-place finish

GULFPORT [MISS.] HIGH SCHOOL, 1979

- Quarterback, 1978 state champions
- Pitcher, 1978 Mississippi HS All-Star Game

POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

BAYLOR HEAD COACH, 1995-PRESENT

- 2011 NCAA Houston Regional (Rice)
- 2010 NCAA Fort Worth Regional (TCU)
- 2009 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional (LSU)
- 2007 NCAA Houston Regional (Rice)
- 2006 NCAA Houston Regional (Rice)
- 2005 NCAA College World Series
- 2005 NCAA Waco Super Regional (Baylor)
- 2005 NCAA Waco Regional (Baylor)
- 2003 NCAA Baton Rouge Super Regional (LSU)
- 2003 NCAA Hattiesburg Regional (Southern Miss)
- 2002 NCAA Austin Regional (Texas)
- 2001 NCAA Houston Regional (Rice)
- 2000 NCAA Waco Regional (Baylor)
- 1999 NCAA Waco Super Regional (Baylor)
- 1999 NCAA Waco Regional (Baylor)
- 1998 NCAA South 1 Regional (Florida)

MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSISTANT COACH, 1990-1994

- 1993 NCAA East Regional (Florida State)
- 1992 NCAA Midwest Regional (Mississippi State)
- 1991 NCAA Northeast Regional (Maine)
- 1990 NCAA College World Series
- 1990 NCAA South II Regional (Mississippi State)

TEXAS A&M GRADUATE ASSISTANT, 1988-1989

- 1989 NCAA Central Regional (Texas A&M)
- 1988 NCAA South Regional (Mississippi State)

MILESTONE WINS

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Mitch Thompson is in his 18th year on the Baylor staff and his third season as assistant head coach in 2012. No stranger to championship-level baseball, he has helped coach nine teams to 40-win seasons and has seen more than his share of postseason action, helping lead three teams to the College World Series and participating in 16 NCAA Regional tournaments. Thompson also serves as the Bears’ recruiting coordinator.

In November 2006, Thompson was named National Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association and Baseball America. The honor came on the heels of Baylor’s 2006 incoming class being ranked first nationally by Baseball America.

As hitting coach, Thompson has seen the program achieve tremendous success. Since arriving at Baylor, Thompson has helped the Bears set team season records in virtually every category, including batting average, hits, runs, doubles, home runs, RBI, total bases, stolen bases, slugging percentage and on-base percentage.

Thompson’s hitters have also set many individual records, including single-season marks for hits, runs, doubles, triples, home runs, RBI, walks and extra-base hits. Through his efforts, recent Bears have set school career marks for hits, runs, doubles, triples, home runs, RBI, extra-base hits and total bases. Of the 18 major offensive statistical categories in Baylor’s record book, school records have been established in 15 categories during Thompson’s tenure (both season and career). Furthermore, since Thompson’s arrival, the Baylor program has had 86 all-conference players, nine All-Americans and 10 freshman All-Americans.

As recruiting coordinator, Thompson has helped bring in classes ranked in the top 25 six times since 1998 (23rd, 1998; 25th, 2001; 13th, 2002; 19th, 2003; 23rd, 2005; first, 2006). Thompson’s recruiting prowess has not been limited to the Lone Star State as he has regularly scoured the nation for talent. Some of Baylor’s top players in the past 17 years have come from out-of-state, including but not limited to Ross Bennett (Missouri), Jace Brewer (Oklahoma), Zach Dillon (Iowa), Kyle Evans (New Mexico), Tim Hartshorn (Minnesota), Shaver Hansen (Colorado), Trevor Mote (Arizona), Kevin Russo (Colorado), Josh Scott (California), Kevin Svingy (Maine), Jared Theodorakos (Missouri), Preston Underdown (Arizona), Beamer Weems (Virginia), Matt Williams (California) and Paul Witt (Arkansas).

In 17 years at Baylor, Thompson has helped coach the Bears to two Big 12 titles, 12 NCAA Regionals, three NCAA Super Regionals and the 2005 College World Series. Since he joined the program in 1995, at least one of his players has been selected in every MLB draft. In fact, 71 different Baylor players have been drafted a total of 83 times during Thompson’s tenure. Nine of those players have gone on to play in the Major Leagues.

Thompson’s top-ranked class from 2006 saw six players drafted, including Dustin Dickerson (6th round), Craig Fritsch (8th round), Kendal Volz (9th round), Adam Hornung (19th round) and Raynor Campbell (31st round) all had their names called during the draft.

Thompson joined the Baylor staff after serving as an assistant coach at Auburn during the 1994 season. While at Auburn, he helped guide the Tigers to a then-school record 44 wins and a place in the 1994 College World Series (one of three CWS appearances during his collegiate coaching career). Thompson worked with the catchers and outfielders and was also the defensive coordinator at Auburn.

Prior to joining the Baylor staff, Thompson and Steve Smith coached together at Mississippi State in 1990 and 1992-93. Thompson’s coaching career began in 1990 as a graduate assistant for the Bulldogs. He then moved to Radford (Va.) where he served as the assistant coach for the 1991 season. While at Radford, Thompson coordinated recruiting, worked with team defense and assisted with hitting. He rejoined coach Ron Polk at MSU as a full-time assistant in 1992, working with the hitters and outfielders.

Thompson is a 1988 honors graduate of Fort Hays State in Kansas where he twice earned academic all-conference honors as a baseball standout. Lettering both as a first baseman and a third baseman, Thompson was named team captain as a senior. He toured Europe as a player in the summer of 1987 with Athletes in Action, the athletic ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. He continued his education by earning his master’s degree in physical education from Mississippi State in 1991.

In 1998, Thompson produced an instructional video entitled “Contact Hitting and Plate Coverage” with Championship Books and Videos. In 1999, he again joined Championship Books and Videos to co-produce a six-tape series of videos designed to help youth league coaches teach the game of baseball.

Thompson, 46, is a native of Goodland, Kan. He is married to the former Amber Kennedy of Brandon, Miss. They have two daughters, Mary Conley (15) and Caroline (12).
**ASSISTANT COACH STEVE JOHNIGAN**

Steve “Hoot” Johnigan is in his 17th season as an assistant coach at Baylor after serving four years as an assistant at Mississippi State, including three seasons alongside Baylor head coach Steve Smith.

At Baylor, Johnigan serves as the primary hitting coach, coordinates the Bears’ offense and baserunning and coaches the infielders and catchers. Johnigan also serves as the director of the Baylor baseball camps and coordinates the Baylor Coaching Clinic held in conjunction with the Texas High School Coaches Association convention each January.

As the Bears’ third base coach, Johnigan directed the Baylor offense to record seasons for runs scored and stolen bases in 1999. Baylor was one of only two Division I teams nationally to hit at least 100 home runs and steal at least 100 bases during both the 1998 and 1999 seasons.

Johnigan has also established Baylor as one of the nation’s leaders in development of catchers. During Johnigan’s time on staff, Baylor catchers have been named All-Big 12 Conference seven times, ABCA All-Midwest Region four times and seven have signed professional contracts with Major League organizations.

That list starts with Kelly Shoppach, who was a 2001 unanimous first-team All-America selection, won the Johnny Bench Award as the nation’s top collegiate catcher and was a second-round draft pick of the Boston Red Sox. Shoppach went on to play for the Cleveland Indians, who reached the 2007 American League Championship Series, and later for the Boston Red Sox. Shoppach went on to play for the Cleveland Indians.

Johnigan was a catcher on the 1986 Midwest League championship team in Waterloo, Iowa. He also served as pitching coach for the 1989 Appalachian League champion Kinston Indians in Kinston, N.C.

A native of Bryan, Texas, Johnigan was a two-time all-district shortstop and pitcher at Bryan High School. He went on to Bee County Junior College in Beeville (1982-83) where he was team captain and all-conference catcher in 1983.

Johnigan, 49, is married to the former Donna Vaughn of Blossom, Texas. They are the parents of two boys, Zachary (18) and Brycen (15).

**THE JOHNIGAN FILE**

**COACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 1986-PRESENT  Baylor, assistant coach
- 1992-1995  Mississippi State, assistant coach
- 1989-1991  Texas A&M, graduate assistant
- 1989  Kinston Indians (Appalachian League), pitching coach
- 1988-1989  Texas A&M, student assistant

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 1985-1987  Cleveland Indians Organization

**EDUCATION**

**HIGH SCHOOL:**  Bryan (Texas) High School, 1981

**COLLEGE:**  Bee County College, 1983 (Assoc.); Texas A&M, 1989 (B.S.); Mississippi State, 1991 (M.E.)

**POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE**

**BAYLOR ASSISTANT COACH, 1996-PRESENT**

- 2011 NCAA Houston Regional (Rice)
- 2010 NCAA Fort Worth Regional (TCU)
- 2009 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional (LSU)
- 2007 NCAA Houston Regional (Rice)
- 2006 NCAA Houston Regional (Rice)
- 2005 NCAA College World Series
- 2005 NCAA Waco Super Regional (Baylor)
- 2005 NCAA Waco Regional (Baylor)
- 2003 NCAA Baton Rough Super Regional (LSU)
- 2003 NCAA Hattiesburg Regional (Southern Miss)
- 2002 NCAA Austin Regional (Texas)
- 2001 NCAA Houston Regional (Rice)
- 2000 NCAA Waco Regional (Baylor)
- 1999 NCAA Waco Super Regional (Baylor)
- 1998 NCAA Waco Regional (Baylor)
- 1998 NCAA South Regional (Florida)

**MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSISTANT COACH, 1992-1995**

- 1993 NCAA East Regional (Florida State)
- 1992 NCAA Midwest Regional (Mississippi State)

**TEXAS A&M GRADUATE ASSISTANT, 1990-91**

- 1991 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional (LSU)

**TEXAS A&M STUDENT ASSISTANT, 1988-89**

- 1989 NCAA Central Regional (Texas A&M)
- 1988 NCAA South Regional (Mississippi State)
Former Baylor letterman Trevor Mote is in his fourth season as the program’s volunteer assistant coach. Mote assists with all phases of defensive instruction, works with Baylor’s hitters and outfielders and assists head coach Steve Smith with the pitching staff.

Mote returned to Baylor in 2009 after a three-year stint as assistant coach at Yavapai College in Arizona, which followed a three-season professional career.

The Bears have advanced to NCAA Regional play in all three of Mote’s seasons as assistant coach. Baylor finished third in the 2009 Baton Rouge Regional and advanced to the championship rounds of the 2010 Fort Worth Regional and the 2011 Houston Regional.

A native of Kingman, Ariz., Mote played at Baylor during the 2001 season. He began his collegiate career at Yavapai College, where he twice led the Roughriders to ACCAC conference championships and was named a Junior College All-American in 1999. Mote spent his junior season at the University of Arizona before transferring to Baylor for his senior campaign.

In his one season with the Bears, Mote started all 61 games at second base and earned honorable mention All-Big 12 Conference honors. He hit .313 with five home runs, 34 RBI, 19 doubles, 68 runs scored and six stolen bases. A switch hitter, Mote established a Baylor record for hits in an NCAA Regional when he was 10-for-19 with a double, a home run and four RBI in the Bears’ four games at the NCAA Houston Regional. He earned all-tournament honors for his performance.

Mote was a 15th-round selection of the Houston Astros in the 2001 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. He spent three seasons in the Astros’ organization, reaching Advanced A classification with the Salem Avalanche of the Carolina League in 2003. Mote, who primarily played third base at the professional level, was a Midwest League all-star selection in 2002 while with the Class A Michigan Battle Cats. That season, he hit .277 with nine home runs, 70 RBI, 25 doubles and seven stolen bases. In three professional seasons, Mote hit .256 with 12 homers, 133 RBI, 53 doubles and 22 stolen bases.

Following his time as a player in professional baseball, Mote returned to Baylor to complete his Bachelor of Science degree before returning to Yavapai College as a coach for the 2005 season. In three seasons with Mote on the coaching staff, Yavapai was 134-51-1 with two ACCAC conference titles and an NJCAA national runner-up finish in 2006.

Mote, 32, is married to the former April Luce from Lake Jackson, Texas. April was a four-year letterwinner for Baylor’s softball program. She is the cousin of former Baylor baseball letterwinner Brandon Luce and the niece of former Baylor football standout Derrel Luce. The couple has a three-year-old daughter, Maci Louise.
Michael Deal is in his eighth year of work as an athletic trainer at Baylor and his second season as the head trainer for the baseball team. He also handles athletic training for the nationally-ranked men’s and women’s tennis teams.

Prior to working with baseball, Deal spent six seasons as trainer for the soccer and softball teams and one season with the equestrian squad.

A native of Claremore, Okla., Deal graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor’s of science in athletic training in 2004. He also received a master’s of science in sports management from Baylor in 2006.

While studying at Oklahoma State, Deal assisted with athletic training duties for OSU’s track, cross country, football, soccer and baseball teams. Deal is Athletic Training Certified, is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist and is Graston Technique Certified.

David Kaye is in his third year as assistant director of athletic communications at Baylor, serving as the primary contact for the baseball and acrobatics & tumbling teams and assisting with the football program.

Kaye joined the Baylor staff in November 2009 after spending 16 months at the University of South Alabama. Kaye started at USA as an intern and was later promoted to assistant media relations director. He served as the primary contact for Jaguar baseball and women’s golf, and was the secondary contact during USA’s inaugural football season.

Prior to joining the USA staff, Kaye spent two years as a student intern in the Baylor Athletic Communications Office. He worked specifically with baseball, but also assisted with football, men’s basketball and women’s basketball in his time as a student.

Kaye began his studies at Baylor in the fall of 2002. He joined the Army Reserve in May 2003, and, two weeks before the completion of his junior year at Baylor, he was called to active duty. After a three-month extended training session, he was deployed to the Middle East. He spent his first two months in Kuwait and Uzbekistan before being stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan, for the final 10 months of his deployment.

After returning home, Kaye resumed his studies at Baylor and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism – public relations in May 2008.

Prior to entering the media relations field, Kaye gained experience as a sportswriter with the Waco Tribune-Herald and The Baylor Lariat newspapers. He also did freelance work for Dave Campbell’s Baylor Bear Insider Report.

Kaye is a member of College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA).

A native of Katy, Texas, he is married to the former Emily Ingram of Bastrop, La., who graduated from Baylor in 2005 and works in Baylor’s University Development office.

Stephen Kelly is in his first season as director of operations for Baylor baseball, following a three-year stint as a student manager for the team.

As a student manager, Kelly spent three years as video coordinator and has worked on the pitching mound for the past three seasons.

Kelly graduated from Baylor in May 2011 with a degree in secondary education. He is currently pursuing his master’s degree in sports management at Baylor.

A native of Arlington, Texas, Kelly has worked on the Texas Rangers’ grounds crew since the 2007 season.