



THE COO



ACHES

Head Coach

Jimmy Tillette

Samford's all-time winningest coach, Jimmy Tillette, is in his 15th season at the helm of the basketball program. During his tenure, he has led the Bulldogs to a pair of NCAA Tournaments and has registered a 140-114 record against conference opponents.

Tillette quickly climbed the school's career wins list and rapidly became the only coach in Samford history to record consecutive 20-win seasons. In 1999 and 2000, he guided the Bulldogs to 24 and 21 wins, respectively, and led his team to back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances.

With an overall record of 218-200 at Samford, Tillette passed former LSU Head Coach John Brady atop the Samford victory list with a 70-61 victory over Arkansas State in the second game of the 2002-03 season. The win helped Tillette reach the top of the list in only five years, compared to six seasons for Brady.

On Dec. 22, 2009, Tillette earned the 200th victory of his career as his squad posted a 58-56 win at Eastern Michigan. With the victory, Tillette became the first basketball coach in Samford history to reach the 200-win plateau.

Over the years, the Bulldogs have excelled under the tutelage of Tillette. With his guidance, Samford owns a 95-50 record against conference opponents at home. During the 2004-05 campaign, the Bulldogs posted a 10-3 home record, including a 7-2 mark against conference opponents.

As head coach, Tillette immediately made his mark on the Samford program, incorporating the Princeton-style offense, which relies on precision cuts and 3-point shooting. Under Tillette, the Bulldogs distinguished themselves statistically among the nation's best, finishing third in the nation in 3-pointers made per game during the 1998-99 season.



In 1999, the Bulldogs finished No. 1 in the nation in field-goal percentage (50.3) and second in the nation in 3-pointers made per game. During the 2002–03 season, Samford finished third in 3-pointers made per game (9.8) and 19th overall in scoring defense (62.7 ppg) nationally.

During the 2004–05 campaign, Tillette's squad concluded the season as the second-ranked team in the nation in 3-point field-goal percentage (41.9) and finished third in the country in field-goal percentage (50.3). The Bulldogs also ended the season ranked fourth in the nation in fewest personal fouls per game (14.7), 11th in 3-point field goals per game, 19th in free-throw percentage (74.5) and 24th in turnovers per game (12.3).

Prior to becoming a member of the Ohio Valley Conference in 2003, Samford had been a perennial leader in the Atlantic Sun Conference since the 1978 campaign. In 2000–01, Tillette's squad set a conference record for 3-pointers made in a game (23), breaking the previous mark established by the 1995 Samford team. At the conclusion of the 2000 season, the Bulldogs ranked either first or second in nine of 15 A-Sun statistical categories.



In his first season at the helm, Tillette guided the Bulldogs, then the youngest team in Division I, to a 14-13 overall record and a 9-7 mark against A-Sun opponents. Tillette's first team featured a starting lineup that consisted of one senior and four sophomores, with the remainder of the 11-man squad totally comprised of underclassmen. After being picked to finish third in the 1998–99 A-Sun preseason poll, the Bulldogs went on a magical run that culminated with a 24-6 overall record and the school's first NCAA Tournament berth. The 24-win season was Samford's best since joining Division I in the early 1970s and came within one game of tying the school record of 25 victories set in the 1938–39 season.

During the 1998–99 season, Tillette guided Samford to a 15-1 record in conference play, which was highlighted by a 13-game winning streak. For his efforts, Tillette was named the Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year.

In 1999, Tillette's Bulldogs were preseason favorites to win the A-Sun title, but finished third in the regular season with a 12-6 conference record and a 21-11 overall mark. The 1999–2000 season marked Tillette's second 20-win campaign, and included groundbreaking wins over St. John's and Alabama. The Bulldogs also rallied to win the Atlantic Sun Tournament championship and earned their second NCAA Tournament appearance.

Before being named the school's 27th head coach in 1997, Tillette spent eight seasons as an assistant coach,

including six years at Samford, where he helped the Bulldogs earn a share of the championship in 1995–96 and the A-Sun's West Division title in 1996–97. In Tillette's six years as an assistant coach, he was a key factor in Samford's 89-77 overall record and Atlantic Sun West Division titles.

Tillette is widely respected in coaching circles for his teaching of the motion offense, which was previously the cornerstone of the Bulldogs' offense. Tillette also served as an assistant coach at Tulane (1990–91) under Perry Clark and at Mississippi State (1989–90) under Richard Williams.

A New Orleans native, Tillette proved himself for a number of years as a head coach in the high school ranks. He led hometown De La Salle High School to a 196-55 overall record over seven seasons. He was named the Louisiana High School Coach of the Year after De La Salle set a state record for wins with a 40-1 mark and won the Class 4A state championship.

His first coaching job was a seven-year stint as an assistant at New Orleans' Jesuit High School. There, he served under his close friend and former Birmingham-Southern head coach Duane Reboul.

Tillette is a graduate of Holy Cross College in New Orleans. He earned a master's degree in history from the University of New Orleans. He married his wife, Stephanie, in the summer of 2010. Tillette has one son, Tristan, and three grandchildren: Shea, 8, and twins Cian and Aury, 5.



Jimmy Tillette is Samford's all-time winningest coach with 218 career victories.

Fifteenth Season

Coaching Experience

1997–present	Head Coach Samford University
1991–97	Assistant Coach Samford University
1990–91	Assistant Coach Tulane University
1989–90	Assistant Coach Mississippi State University



EDUCATION

1978	M.A., history University of New Orleans
1975	B.S., history Our Lady of Holy Cross College

PERSONAL

Born	April 8, 1950
Hometown	New Orleans, La.
Wife	Stephanie
Son	Tristan

TILLETTE'S COACHING RECORD

Year Overall	Conference	
1997–98	14-13	9-7
1998–99*	24-6	15-1
1999–2000*	21-11	12-6
2000–01	15-14	12-8
2001–02	15-14	12-8
2002–03	13-15	9-7
2003–04	12-16	7-9
2004–05	15-13	10-6
2005–06	20-11	14-6
2006–07	16-16	12-8
2007–08	14-16	10-10
2008–09	16-16	9-11
2009–10	11-20	5-13
2010–11	12-19	4-14
Total	218-200	140-114

*Atlantic Sun Tournament Champions, NCAA Tournament



Highlights

- Winningest coach in Samford history
- Only Samford basketball coach to record back-to-back 20-win seasons
- Only Samford coach to lead teams to two NCAA Tournaments
- Team finished second in the nation in 3-point field-goal percentage (.419) in 2005
- 1999 Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year
- Bulldogs finished third in the nation in field-goal percentage (.503) in 2005



The Tillettes


TILLETTE VS. ALL OPPONENTS

Alabama	1-2
Appalachian State	2-4
Arizona	0-1
Arkansas State	2-0
Asbury University	1-0
Auburn	1-0
Austin Peay	3-9
Belmont	1-9
Bethel	1-0
Bradley	0-1
Brewton—Parker	1-0
Bryan College	2-0
Butler	0-1
California State—Fullerton	1-0
Campbell	12-2
Campbellsville	2-0
Centenary	4-1
Central Connecticut	1-0
Chattanooga	2-8
Chicago State	1-1
The Citadel	1-5
Clemson	0-1
College of Charleston	0-5
Covenant College	1-0
Creighton	0-1
Davidson	0-4
Dayton	0-1
Eastern Illinois	6-2
Eastern Kentucky	6-6
Eastern Michigan	2-0
Eastern Washington	0-1
Elon	5-1
Evansville	1-1
Florida	0-1
Florida Atlantic	9-0
Florida International	0-1
Florida State	0-1
Furman	2-5
Gardner-Webb	2-1
Georgia	0-1
Georgia Southern	2-2
Georgia State	8-7
Green Bay	0-1
Hampton	1-0
Idaho State	1-0
Illinois—Chicago	0-1
Illinois State	0-1
IUPUI	1-1
Jacksonville	7-3
Jacksonville State	15-7
Kent State	0-1
Lipscomb	1-1
Louisiana—Lafayette	0-1
Louisiana—Monroe	3-3
Louisiana Tech	2-0
Loyola Marymount	1-0
LSU	0-1
McNeese State	2-0
Memphis	0-1
Mercer	7-4
Middle Tennessee	0-1
Mississippi	0-1

Mississippi Valley State	1-0
Monmouth	1-0
Morehead State	7-5
Murray State	6-4
New Orleans	0-2
Northern Illinois	0-1
Northern Iowa	1-0
North Georgia	4-0
Northwestern State	1-0
Notre Dame	0-1
Ohio	1-1
Ohio State	0-2
Oklahoma	0-1
Oklahoma State	0-1
Purdue	0-1
Reinhardt	1-0
Richmond	0-1
Sacramento State	1-0
Saint Louis	0-1
Shorter College	1-0
South Alabama	0-4
Southeast Missouri	4-4
Southern Miss	1-1
Southwest Texas	0-2
Spring Hill	2-0
Stetson	8-1
St. John's	1-1
Syracuse	0-1
Tennessee—Martin	6-3
Tennessee State	7-4
Tennessee Tech	6-5
Tennessee Temple	5-0
Tennessee Wesleyan	3-0
Texas	0-1
Texas A&M	0-1
Texas A&M—Corpus Christi	0-1
Texas—Arlington	3-0
Texas—El Paso	0-1
Texas—San Antonio	1-0
Texas Tech	0-1
Toledo	0-1
Towson	0-2
Troy	7-5
Tulane	1-0
UAB	0-1
UCF	8-5
UNC—Greensboro	4-2
Valparaiso	0-1
Youngstown State	0-1
Western Carolina	2-4
Winthrop	1-0
Wisconsin—Green Bay	0-1
Wofford	0-5
Wright State	0-1
Wyoming	0-1
Xavier	0-1
TOTAL	218-200

PAUL KELLY

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH

Paul Kelly is in his 15th year at Samford University and his seventh full season as the team's associate head coach. On June 2, 2005, Head Coach Jimmy Tillette promoted Kelly to associate head coach after he proved to be an integral member of the coaching staff. He had been an assistant under Tillette since the 1997-98 season.

Kelly's main duties include recruiting, scouting and on-court coaching. He also runs the Samford summer basketball camp that draws more than 650 participants each year.

During the 2009-10 campaign, Kelly further proved his leadership abilities as he assumed head coaching duties after Tillette suffered a seizure in a Southern Conference game at UNC-Greensboro.

After taking over for Tillette, Kelly helped guide the Bulldogs to a 70-67 victory against UNC-Greensboro, and later coached in games against Furman, Appalachian State and Western Carolina.

Since his arrival in 1997, Kelly has been a vital part of the Samford coaching staff and was a key component in the Bulldogs' NCAA Tournament appearances in 1999 and 2000.

Before his tenure at Samford, Kelly spent three years as the associate head

coach at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., where he worked under the tutelage of head coach Ron Everhart. At McNeese State, he oversaw the Cowboys' offensive system and directed the team's academic progress. In Kelly's final year at McNeese State, the Cowboys finished with an 18-12 overall record and earned a share of the Southland Conference championship.

Before his stint at McNeese State, Kelly spent seven years as an assistant coach at Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, La., where he coached former Bulldog and All-Atlantic Sun performers Jonathan Pixley and Derrick Jones. In 1992, the Bears won their second-straight district title and finished the season with a 32-1 mark, advancing to the Class 5A state semifinals.

Kelly played under Tillette at New Orleans' De La Salle High School before attending Tulane University, where he graduated cum laude in English in 1987. Kelly earned his master's degree in English from McNeese State in 1998.

Born in Passaic City, N.J., Kelly and his wife, the former Jill Schexnaildre, have four sons: Kevin (18), Luke (16), Stephen (14) and John (10).



Fifteenth Season COACHING EXPERIENCE

2005-present	Associate Head Coach Samford University
1997-2005	Assistant Coach Samford University
1994-97	Assistant Head Coach McNeese State University
1987-94	Assistant Coach Catholic High School, Baton Rouge, La.

EDUCATION

1998	M.A., English McNeese State University
1987	B.A., English Tulane University

PERSONAL

Born	Aug. 17, 1965
Hometown	New Orleans, La.
Wife	Jill
Children	Kevin (18), Luke (16), Stephen (14), John (10)



The Kellys

LEE BURGESS

ASSISTANT COACH

Lee Burgess is in his ninth full season as an assistant coach at Samford University. His duties include scouting, on-court coaching and recruiting.

During the summer before the 2005–06 campaign, he was promoted to the team's top assistant position after handling the team's travel and film exchange duties for the previous two seasons.

After graduating with a bachelor of science degree in education from Samford, Burgess spent the 2001–02 season as an assistant coach under Tony Duckworth at Huntingdon College. In 2002–03, he moved to Berry College, where he served as the primary recruiting coordinator for Jeff Haarlow.

Burgess was a member of the Samford basketball team for four seasons (1996–2000) and competed

for three seasons under the tutelage of Head Coach Jimmy Tillette. He was a member of Samford's NCAA Tournament teams in both 1998–99 and 1999–2000, and helped guide the team to a 78-39 overall record during his playing career.

As a freshman, he played for former head coach John Brady, and the Bulldogs finished with a 19-9 overall record.

Burgess played in 28 games as a Bulldog and connected on 30 percent of his 3-point attempts.

Burgess played at Trinity Presbyterian High School in Montgomery, Ala., and helped lead his team to both the conference championship and regional finals.

Burgess and his wife, Dawn, have a son, Lee IV, 3, and a daughter, Lacy, 1.



Ninth Season COACHING EXPERIENCE

2003–present	Assistant Coach Samford University
2002–03	Assistant Coach Berry College
2001–02	Assistant Coach Huntingdon College

PLAYING EXPERIENCE

1996–2000	Samford University
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EDUCATION

2001	B.S., education Samford University
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PERSONAL

Born	June 14, 1978
Hometown	Birmingham, Ala.
Wife	Dawn
Children	Lee IV (3), Lacy (1)



The Burgessses

TERRENCE JOHNSON

ASSISTANT COACH

Terrence Johnson, an up-and-coming high school coach in Louisiana and Texas, joined the Samford basketball program as an assistant coach in the fall of 2010 and immediately proved to be an energetic addition to the staff.

"Terrence has been outstanding for us," said Samford Head Coach Jimmy Tillet. "He has great recruiting roots in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, and we were very excited to have him join our basketball program."

Born in New Orleans, La., Johnson grew up in the close-knit community of Sebastopol, La., located in St. Bernard Parish. As the son of a basketball coach, Johnson was taught the fundamentals of basketball and instilled with the values of perseverance, dedication and teamwork.

He had successful careers at Warren Easton High School of New Orleans, La., and Meadowcreek High School of Norcross, Ga. He attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., where he earned a bachelor of science degree in microbiology.

Like his father, Johnson began teaching at St. Bernard High School,

where he started his coaching career as an assistant under Head Coach Butch Stockton. He also worked as a personal trainer and conducted the individual workouts for Hollis Price (Oklahoma), Quannas White (Oklahoma), Brandon Spann (Tulane) and a number of additional collegiate players.

Johnson came to Samford from Houston, Texas, where he taught at George E. Hopper Middle School and coached at Alief Elsik High School for five years.

During his time in Houston, Johnson traveled to New Orleans three weeks a month during the spring and summer to develop a coordinated program of high school student-athletes from six schools in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge area communities.

At Samford, Johnson's duties include recruiting, scouting, film exchange and day-to-day preparation of the team.

In 2011, Johnson earned his master of education degree from Prairie View A&M University.

On Sept. 4, 2011, Johnson married the former Iesha Sims of Dallas, Texas.



Second Season COACHING EXPERIENCE

2010–present	Assistant Coach Samford University
2006–10	Assistant Coach Alief Elsik High School (Houston, Texas)
2005	Interim Head Coach St. Bernard High School (St. Bernard, La.)
2003–05	Assistant Coach St. Bernard High School (St. Bernard, La.)
EDUCATION	
2011	M.Ed. Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, Texas)
2001	B.S., microbiology Southern University (Baton Rouge, La.)

PERSONAL

Born	Aug. 10, 1978
Hometown	New Orleans, La.
Wife	Iesha



The Johnsons

Jay Welborn

DIRECTOR OF BASKETBALL OPERATIONS

Jay Welborn is in his 13th season as a member of the Samford basketball program, and his fifth as director of basketball operations for the men's and women's teams. In 2006, he returned to his alma mater after spending a season as an assistant coach at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala.

At Huntingdon, he helped guide the team to 13 consecutive wins, 11 straight home victories and a dozen NCAA wins, the most in the South Region. Huntingdon earned a 23-6 record and swept the conference's regular-season and tournament championships.

Welborn attended Auburn University for a season before transferring to Samford. During 1998-2001, he served as the Bulldogs' head manager and was a part of both of Samford's NCAA

Tournament appearances. In 1998-99, the Bulldogs tallied a 24-6 overall record and a 15-1 mark in Trans America Athletic Conference play.

In 2001, Welborn graduated with a bachelor of arts in religion and remained with the Bulldogs as a graduate assistant until 2005. He earned a master of theological studies degree from Beeson Divinity School in 2004.

Welborn's duties include arranging travel plans, and coordinating film exchange, practice set-up and video editing. He also acts as the liaison between arena staff and coaches. He establishes visiting team practice times and oversees the team's managers. During the summer, Welborn is in charge of maintaining and finding sponsorships for the Samford Basketball Camp.



Brandon Evans

ASSOCIATE HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER

Brandon Evans is in his sixth year at Samford and in his first season as associate head athletic trainer. Prior to his promotion, he spent the previous five years as an assistant athletic trainer.

Evans' duties include an increased role in administrative responsibilities and staff management.

Evans serves as the athletic trainer for Samford's men's basketball team. His responsibilities include prevention, immediate care, management, treatment and rehabilitation of athletic injuries for Samford's student-athletes. He also coordinates any other medical needs of the basketball team while in communication with team physicians and other health-care specialists.

Prior to joining Samford in February 2006, Evans worked for Champion Sports Medicine and provided athletic training services for Mountain Brook High School.

Evans served as a graduate assistant athletic trainer at the University of Alabama at Birmingham beginning in 2003, working with the women's basketball, football, and track-and-field teams. He received a master's degree in exercise physiology from UAB in 2005.

Evans has been an active member of the National Athletic Trainer's Association since 2000. He is also a member of the Southeastern Athletic Trainer's Association and sits on the Young Professionals Committee representing the Alabama Athletic Trainer's Association.

The Kansas City, Mo., native graduated from Missouri State University with a B.S. in sports medicine and athletic training in 2003.

Brandon married the former Sarah Hatch of Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 2, 2008.



Tommy Rohling
Strength and
Conditioning Coach



**Isaiah
Gresham**
Manager



Javen Smith
Assistant Manager



Sara Lightsey
Administrative
Assistant



Sean Wright
Director, Pete
Hanna Center