



# 2003-04 Swimming & Diving Quick Facts

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### On The Cover:

Fernando Barros,  
Daniel Cruz and Jessica Thompson



## University of Kentucky Quick Facts

**Location:** Lexington, Ky.  
**Enrollment:** 35,052  
**Founded:** 1865  
**Nickname:** Wildcats  
**Colors:** Blue & White  
**Conference:** Southeastern  
**President:** Dr. Lee T. Todd Jr.  
**Athletics Director:** Mitch Barnhart  
**Executive Associate AD:** Rob Mullens  
**Associate ADs:** Sandy Bell, Bob Bradley,  
 Greg Byrne, John Cropp, Russ Pear,  
 Rick Thompson  
**Assistant ADs:** Alvis Johnson, Micki King,  
 Lisa Peterson, Micheline Schott, Joe Sharpe,  
 Rodney Stiles, Scott Stricklin, Rena Vicini  
**Senior Women's Administrator:** Micki King  
**Athletic Trainer:** John Ostrowski  
**Swimming & Diving Trainers:** Laura Byrne,  
 James Miller, Courtney Mulvihill  
**Academic Counselor:** Dan Childs  
**Strength and Conditioning:** Stephanie Tracey

### Swimming & Diving Quick Facts

**Head Swimming Coach:** Gary Conelly  
 (Indiana '73)  
**Record at UK:** 127-103 (12 years)  
**Record Overall:** same  
**Diving Coach:** Michael Lyden  
 (Western Michigan '80)  
**Assistant Coaches:** Pete Knox (Florida '78)  
 John Brucato (Northern Kentucky '85)  
**Facility (Capacity):**  
 Lancaster Aquatic Center (750)  
**2002-03 Women's Dual Meet Record:** 3-6  
**2002-03 Men's Dual Meet Record:** 5-4  
**2002-03 Women's SEC**  
 Championship Finish: 9th  
**2002-03 Men's SEC**  
 Championship Finish: 6th  
**2002-03 Women's NCAA**  
 Championship Finish: N/A  
**2002-03 Men's NCAA**  
 Championship Finish: 17th

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### To The Media

The 2003-04 University of Kentucky media guide is intended to answer any questions you might have about the upcoming season and assist you in your coverage of the team throughout the year. If you need additional information, special stories, pictures, or have any questions, please feel free to contact us by writing to the UK Media Relations Office, Room 23, Memorial Coliseum, Lexington, KY 40506-0019 or by calling (859) 257-3838.

Questions about the 2003-04 UK swimming and diving team should be directed to Travis Feldhaus at the UK Media Relations office at (859) 257-3838 ext. 335.

### Credits

The 2003-04 University of Kentucky Swimming and Diving Media Guide was produced by the University of Kentucky Athletics Association, Mitch Barnhart, Director.

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## Coaching Staff

### Gary Conelly

Head Coach



The 2003-04 season marks the 13th campaign for Gary Conelly as the University of Kentucky head swimming coach. The women's squads have compiled a 74-45 record since Conelly began coaching that squad in 1991-92. The men,

whom he started coaching in 1992-93, have put together a record of 53-58, bringing his overall coaching record to 127-103.

In 2002-03, Conelly led the men's team to its second-highest finish ever in the NCAA championships, a 17th-place showing. Conelly's 2001-02 men's team earned its highest-ever finish at the NAAs, placing 16th. At the Southeastern Conference Championships, the men had the second-highest point total in school history (282), finishing in sixth-place. Competing at the NAAs for the men were juniors Clayton Moss, Roger Watkins and sophomore Joey Faltraco. Faltraco's 11th-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke earned him honorable mention All-America honors, the first UK athlete to earn the honor in the event, while Moss was an All-American on the one- and three-meter springboards and the platform. The women also competed at the national championships, continuing a string of 10 straight appearances.

During the 2000-01 year, Conelly led the men's team to a NCAA 17th-place finish. UK also achieved its highest SEC finish in 18 years, placing fifth. Five individuals from the men's team competed at the NAAs, seniors Dave Tweedie, Macon White, Aaron Workman and Shaun Zitani and sophomore Roger Watkins, all five of them earning All-America honorable mention. Conelly also coached the women to the NAAs, where they placed 39th. Seniors Melissa Olson and Jaime Siegele competed at the championships, with Siegele earning All-America honorable mention in the 50 freestyle.

During the 1999-2000 season, Conelly led the men's team to a top-20 finish and had two men qualify for the NCAA championships, both earning honorable mention All-America honors. Four women qualified for the NCAA Championships. The women comprised the 800 freestyle relay that finished 12th and earned the women

honorable mention All-America honors in addition to competing individually. Following the season, nine Wildcats participated in the 2000 Olympic trials.

In 1998-99, Conelly led both the men's and women's teams to top-25 finishes at the NCAA Championships. The men finished at No. 24, while the women finished 21st, their fifth consecutive top-25 showing. The women's squad had 10 athletes advance to the NCAA meet, the most in school history. Senior diver Paco Rivera finished second in platform diving, becoming the top NCAA finisher in school history.

Conelly led the 1996-97 men's team to a 26th-place NCAA finish and Nat Lewis finished third in the 1,650 freestyle and still ranks as the second-highest NCAA finisher in school history. The women finished in 24th place and had three team members earn All-America honors.

In the 1995-96 season, Conelly led the women's team to a 14th-place finish at the NCAA Championships, the highest finish in school history. In 1994-95, Conelly led the women's team to a fourth-place finish at the SEC Championships and a second straight 19th-place finish at the NCAA Championships. Conelly was named 1995 SEC Women's Coach of the Year for his efforts.

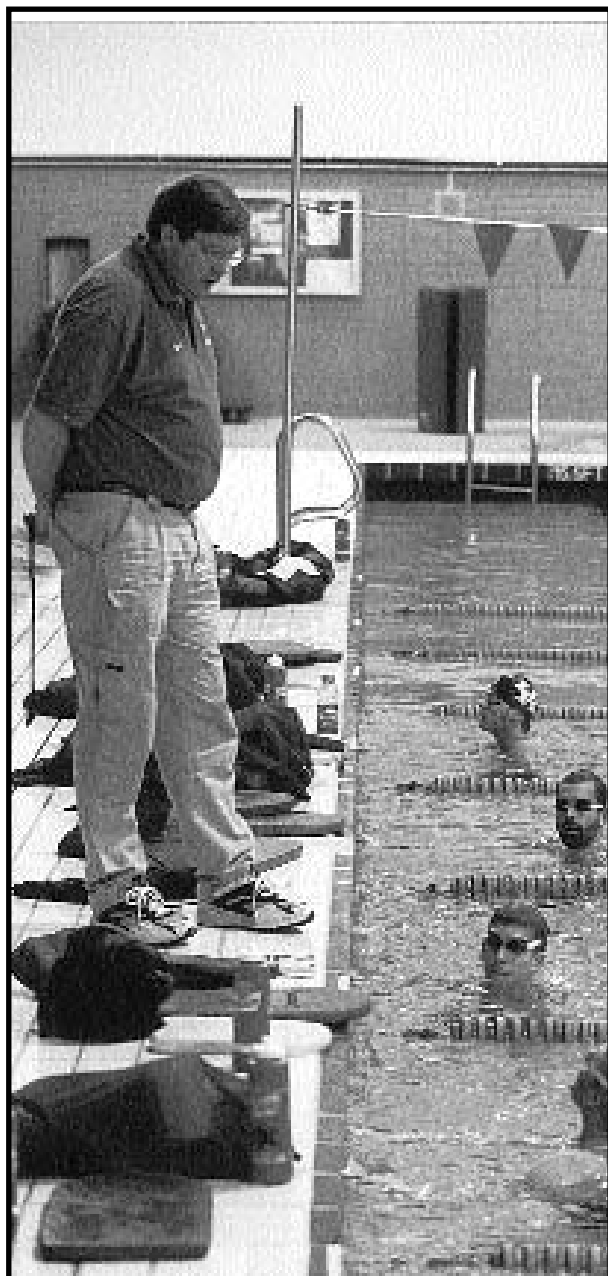
Prior to becoming head coach at Kentucky, Conelly spent three years with UK as a graduate assistant coach. In Conelly's 12 years with UK, the swimming and diving programs have made great strides. In 1990, Conelly coached the team's first female All-American and NCAA finalist, Kellie Moran. Since then, 19 more Wildcat swimmers have garnered All-America accolades under Conelly's tutelage.

Conelly came to the University of Kentucky from the West Florida Lightning Aquatics USS team in Largo, Fla. During his seven years at West Florida, Conelly directed 150 swimmers and produced three Olympic Trial qualifiers, two National Sports Festival team members, and one

Sports Festival champion in the 100 backstroke.

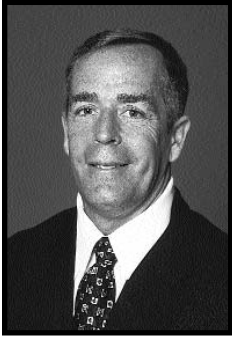
As a swimmer, Conelly was a member of the 1972 U.S. Olympic Team and he participated on the world record-setting 400-meter freestyle relay team. An Indiana University alumnus, Conelly was a 15-time NCAA All-American and is a member of the Indiana Swimming Hall of Fame. In 1973, Indiana honored him with the Balfour Award for excellence in swimming, leadership, and scholarship.

Conelly is married to Kathleen Healey and has two children, Cody and Emily.





**Michael Lyden**  
*Diving Coach*



The 2003 Southeastern Conference Men's Diving Coach of the Year, Michael Lyden begins his 11th season as diving coach at the University of Kentucky. Since joining UK in 1993, Lyden has led the Wildcats to diving prominence, coaching UK's first All-American, Tina Johnson, in 1994 on the platform, and the Cats' first single-season three-time All-American, Clayton Moss in 2002 and 2003.

The past three seasons have been productive for Lyden and his divers. Moss ended his brilliant Wildcat career in 2003 with a runner-up finish on the three-meter and third and fourth-place finishes on the one meter and platform, respectively, at the NCAA championships. During the 2001-02 season, he helped Moss successfully defend his SEC one-meter title, the first UK diver to win consecutive titles in an event at the conference championships, and become an All-American on all three boards, as Moss placed second on the one-meter, fifth on the three-meter and sixth on the platform. For all of his accomplishments, Moss was named the SEC Male Diver of the Year, also a first for UK.

Lyden also aided in the success of 2002 senior Aaron Kirkpatrick, who won silver on both the one- and three-meter springboards and placed seventh on the platform at the conference championships.

His run of success with the duo also included the 2000-01 season when Moss became the third UK man to be an SEC Champion, winning the one-meter, and followed it up with a fourth-place finish on the three meter and a 10th-place finish on the platform, earning All-American honors on both. Kirkpatrick also had a successful season under Lyden's tutelage. The junior garnered honorable mention All-American status with a 12th-place finish on the three-meter springboard at the NCAA championships.

Since joining the Wildcats, Lyden has led UK to diving prominence. At the 1994 NCAA Championships, Tina Johnson became UK's first diving All-American on the platform, placing eighth, and Jenny Baker earned honorable mention All-America in two events. In 1995, both

divers earned All-America status, with Baker finishing eighth on the one-meter and Johnson finishing second on the platform. He had a third diver, Beth Leake, qualify for the meet, but Leake tore her medial collateral ligament in a training session prior to the competition.

During the 1999-2000 season, Lyden had junior Carrie Knoeber and freshman Moss qualify for the NCAA Championship meet. Knoeber earned honorable mention All-American honors on the three-meter while Moss earned All-American honors on the one-meter, three-meter, and platform. Moss' honors were the first for a freshman in UK history.

In 1998 Paco Rivera became the first male UK diver to claim a Southeastern Conference title, winning the platform event and garnering All-SEC honors. Rivera advanced to the NCAA Championships, where he was named as an All-American in three events, including a second place finish on the platform.

In 1997, Lyden coached Christy Soulakis to the SEC three-meter springboard championship and SEC Female Diver of the Year honors. Soulakis and Rivera both earned All-America honors.

In 1996, Leake and Soulakis joined Baker and Johnson in earning All-America honors. Leake finished second on the one-meter and fourth on the three-meter, Johnson finished third on the one-meter and platform, and Baker finished seventh on the platform. For his divers' accomplishments, Lyden was honored as the Southeastern Conference and NCAA Women's Diving Coach of the Year.

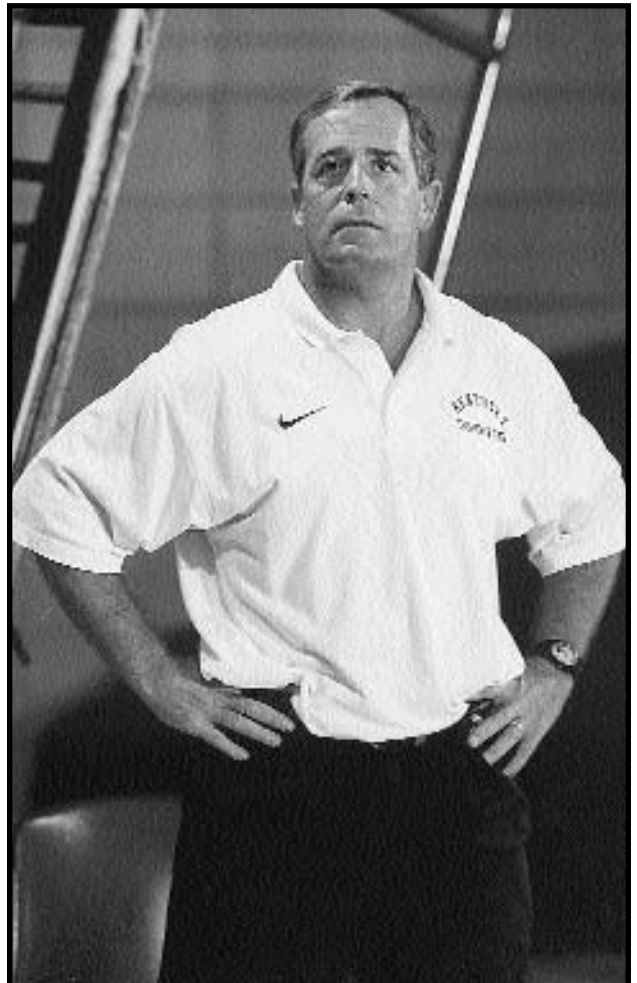
Before arriving at UK, Lyden had spent nine seasons at Eastern Michigan where he was the Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year nine times. He then moved to LSU where he received SEC Women's Coach of the Year four times consecutively and was the 1992 SEC Men's Coach of the Year. During Lyden's tenure at LSU his divers won 15 of 24 possible SEC titles.

Along with his college coaching, Lyden has also

coached U.S. Diving Clubs and has had numerous All-Americans and has coached six age group divers to 17 national championships. He was chosen to coach at the Junior World Diving Championships in the summer of 2002 held in Aachen, Germany. At that event he coached one member to a seventh place finish in the 1-meter and 3-meter boards. Lyden has served as the National Team Coach in 1988-90, 1992, 1994-96, 1998-2000 and has directed divers in competitions in Italy, Austria, Mexico, Canada, Spain, China, France, and Holland.

In addition to coaching, Lyden has been a member of the U.S. Diving Rules Committee, the U.S. Olympic International Diving Committee and is a lifetime member of U.S. Diving. In 1993-94 and 1997-99, Lyden served on the NCAA Rules Committee.

A 1980 graduate of Western Michigan University, Lyden is married to Emily Joan Sullivan of Toledo, Ohio. They have three children — Jessica Ann, John Tyler (Jack) and Brittany Barbara.





**Pete Knox**  
*Assistant Coach*



**P**ete Knox enters his 12th year as assistant coach after serving four years as UK's graduate assistant. Often described as a vigorous and intense leader, Knox primarily works as a sprint coach and has developed many Wildcats swimmers, such

as 1996 NCAA qualifier Rick Barber and Shaun Zitani. Knox brings his vocal and energetic approach to every practice and has an exceptional ability to motivate his swimmers. With an exercise physiology and research background, Knox specializes in an ongoing weight-training program.

Knox came to Kentucky from Brandon, Fla., where he coached the Brandon High School men's and women's teams from 1980 to 1988. While at Brandon, his teams consistently placed in the top 10 of the Florida High School Championships. Knox also developed two All-America high school swimmers and had several Junior and Senior National qualifiers. An assistant coach with the Brandon Blue Wave USS Team from 1981 to 1988, Knox was selected Hillsborough County Coach of the Year in 1987.

In his tenure at Kentucky, Knox has coached Shaun Zitani to the fastest time in school history in the 50 and 100 freestyle, as well as the school's fastest 100-fly time. He has also coached Roger Watkins to the all-time top position in the record books for the 100- and 200-breaststrokes, while leading Jaime Siegele to the fastest 50-freestyle time.

A native of Norfolk, Va., Knox graduated with honors from the University of Florida in 1978 with a degree in health education and completed his Master's Degree in the spring of 1999. Knox is currently working toward a master's degree in exercise physiology with an emphasis directed toward the application to swimming.

Knox is married to former Wildcat swimming standout Wendy Hipkind.

**John Brucato**  
*Assistant Coach*



**J**ohn Brucato is in his fifth season with the UK swimming program. Brucato works primarily with the middle distance group and breaststrokers.

Brucato comes to UK via the USS club team Wildcat Aquatics in Lexington. He is in his 12th

season with Wildcat Aquatics. Brucato joined WA in the spring of 1990 and has established himself as a leader in the Kentucky swim coaching community.

During his tenure with WA, Brucato has produced numerous Top-16 qualifiers, Junior National qualifiers, Junior National Champions, Senior National qualifiers, and an Olympic Gold Medalist. He is a former Kentucky Swimming Coach of the Year, in addition to being a Select Camp Coach and an Olympic Festival Coach.

In 1992, Brucato coached Megan Kleine to a gold medal in the 1992 Olympic Games as part of the United States' 400-meter medley relay. Kleine, who swam for six years under Brucato at WA, won Senior Nationals twice in the 100-meter breaststroke. Kleine went on to swim at the University of Texas at Austin.

A native of Covington, Ky., Brucato began his coaching career at the Covington YMCA and then spent two years with the Covington Clippers Swim Team. In 1985, he took over the helm at the Nashville Aquatic Club where he spent five successful years as the Head Age Group Coach before being hired on as the WA Senior Head Coach.

Brucato is a 1985 graduate of Northern Kentucky University where he received a degree in psychology. He lives in Lexington with his wife Jan, and their daughter, Katie.

**Azurdee Engel**  
*Assistant Coach*



**A**zurdee Engel begins her second season with the University of Kentucky swimming program. She works primarily with the middle distance and distance swimmers.

Engel, a native of Duluth, Ga., comes to

Kentucky from the University of Tennessee, where she swam from 1997-2001. She was captain of the UT swim team from '99-'01 and owns the sixth-fastest 200-freestyle time in school history. Engel graduated from Tennessee in 2002 with a degree in Art History.

Engel gained coaching experience working at the Stanford University swim camps this past summer with Stanford head coach Skip Kenney and coaching the Tennessee Masters swim team last year. She worked with several Ironman Triathletes in her time with the Masters swim team, while also working swimming camps at UT.

Engel, 24, resides in Lexington.



## Support Staff

### Wynn Paul

*Aquatic Director*



**O**n Oct. 24, 2003 Wynn Paul became the third person inducted into the University of Kentucky Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame. Paul joins former head coach Algie Reece and former diving coach Brigid

DeVries, who is now the Commissioner of the Kentucky High School Athletics Association, in this exclusive membership.

Paul has been a member of the UK staff for almost 40 years, formerly serving as coach of both the men's and women's swimming squads as well as the former water polo program. He relinquished his coaching duties in 1991 to devote his full time to the position of Aquatic Director, overseeing facilities operations and event management at the Lancaster Aquatic Center.

Paul was named UK's men's coach in 1964 and assumed the duties of women's head coach when it became a varsity sport at Kentucky in 1983. During his coaching tenure, Paul compiled an impressive 135-61 dual meet record with the men's program and a 48-30 mark with the women's program.

During his reign as coach of the varsity men's water polo team from 1965-82, Paul amassed a 140-66 record (68 percent) and won the 1977 Midwest Conference Championship before the program was dropped in 1983.

Paul's success as a coach is a testament to his extensive involvement and experience in all aspects of swimming. He has served as meet director for the Southeastern Conference Swimming and Diving Championships, the NCAA Zone "B" Qualifying Meet, the World Games Diving Trials, the Kentucky High School Championships, the Kentucky Special Olympics and the Kentucky USS Championships. He serves as meet director for all UK home meets.

A 1962 Louisville graduate, Paul was captain of his U of L swim team. He was the Cardinals' high point scorer for three years and held 12 varsity records. After graduating from U of L, Paul attended graduate school at UK.

Paul's wife, Helen, is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Eastern Kentucky University.

### Micki King

*Assistant Athletics Director/  
Senior Women's Administrator*



**I**n her 12th year with the UK Athletics Department, Micki King is Assistant Athletics Director and the Senior Women's Administrator.

King, who previously held the title of Special Assistant to the A.D., oversees the sports of

women's basketball, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's tennis, volleyball, rifle, cheerleaders and dance team. For two years, she also managed marketing efforts for the women's basketball team while serving as game director for all home contests.

A native of Pontiac, Mich., King served 26 years in the United States Air Force before retiring with the rank of colonel in 1992. During her years of service, King had assignments in Michigan, Arizona, California, Washington, Colorado, Kentucky, and Germany. In 1973, King was the first woman to teach physical education and coach at a military academy when she served at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

An accomplished diver, King attended the University of Michigan and graduated in 1966.

She won the gold medal for springboard diving in the 1972 Olympic Games. Four years earlier, she just missed a gold medal when a freak accident in the finals of the '68 Olympics dropped her from first to fourth in the standings. During her illustrious career, she also competed in two Pan American Games, won 10 U. S. national championships, and won international diving honors in 15 countries. She is an inductee in seven Halls of Fame, including the prestigious United States Olympic Hall of Fame.

After her diving career, King turned to coaching at the Air Force Academy in 1973-77. After assignments in Arizona and Germany, King returned to the Academy in 1983 and was named assistant athletics director and diving coach. During this stint, she was named NCAA Division II Coach of the Year three times. King's divers won 11 All-America honors and two claimed national titles. In 1988, King traveled to the Seoul Games as a staff member of the U. S. Olympic diving team and served in the same capacity in the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. She attended the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney on behalf of the U.S. Olympic Committee, her

eighth appearance at the summer games as either a participant or staff member.

### Letitia Hollingsworth-Gray

*Pool Manager*



**L**etitia Hollingsworth-Gray begins her eighth season as Lancaster Aquatic Center Pool Manager. Prior to her stint as pool manager, Hollingsworth served as the UK swim team's Staff Assistant. At UK home meets she serves as the

technical manager for the electronic timing system and scoreboard.

The UK alumna and Lexington, Ky. native swam for the Wildcats from 1982-86 and was the captain of UK's first varsity women's swim team for three years.

Hollingsworth also teaches courses in CPR, lifeguarding, and coaches' safety training, as well as serving as an aquatic examiner for the Red Cross.

Hollingsworth is married to Steve Gray and the two reside in Lexington. They have a son, one-year-old Cooper.

### Margo Lynch

*Staff Assistant*

**U**K swimming alumna Margo Lynch re-joined the UK swimming & diving program in Sept. of 2002 as a staff assistant.



During home meets, Lynch serves as the scoreboard and timing systems operations manager.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Lynch came to Kentucky from her family's adopted home of Pittsburgh, Pa. Lynch swam for

the Wildcats from 1991-95 and served as the team captain during her junior and senior seasons. Lynch can be found on the all-time top-10 UK lists in three events; 200-freestyle, 500-freestyle and 1650-freestyle.

Prior to returning to her alma mater, Lynch served as a buyer for Phillip Gall's Outdoor & Ski in Lexington.

In her spare time, Lynch enjoys outdoor activities and rooting on her hometown Pittsburgh Steelers.