# TRE COACHING STAFF

Head coach Carrie Nixon and assistant coach Joel White embark on their third season as the leaders of the Notre Dame women's swimming & diving team. Nixon carried on the great Irish tradition last season, as she led Notre Dame to its 11th consecutive BIG EAST swimming & diving title.



# Head Coach





Head Coach Third Season Notre Dame '02

Carrie Nixon, one of the most decorated student-athletes in any sport in University of Notre Dame athletics history and an Irish assistant women's swimming coach in 2004-05, was named the fourth head women's swimming and diving coach in Irish history on May 13, 2005.

A 2002 Notre Dame graduate and former NCAA 50-meter freestyle record-holder who won 18 BIG EAST Conference titles and earned All-America honors on 12 occasions, Nixon is the first female student-athlete from Notre Dame ever to be hired at her alma mater as a head coach.

In her eight-year affiliation with the program as a swimmer from 1997-98 to 2001-02, an assistant coach in 2004-05 and the head coach from 2005-07 - Nixon has helped Notre Dame win the BIG EAST championship each season. Additionally, the Irish have been in the top 30 at the NCAA Championships in all but one of those eight years - and they have been a regular presence in the national rankings, including the program's first-ever top-10 ranking in 1999-2000. Individually, the Nixon years have seen the Irish post 72 first-place finishes at the BIG EAST meet, earn 55 invitations to the NCAA Championships, and cop eight All-America accolades and 32 more honorable-mention All-America citations. Seventeen of the 19 current Notre Dame swimming records were set during Nixon's affiliation with the Irish.

"Carrie has a tremendous understanding of and appreciation for Notre Dame and specifically for Notre Dame swimming," says Notre Dame athletics director Kevin White. "She has been a huge part of the success of our program, both in and out of the pool, and she knows what is required when it comes to competing at the elite level of women's collegiate swimming. Carrie's vision for our program and where it's headed dovetails perfectly with our expectations for the

future of women's swimming at Notre Dame."

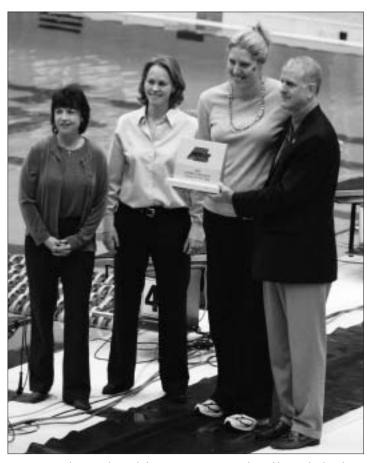
Nixon was named head coach of the program in May of 2005 and continued the programs unparalleled success in her second season leading the Irish. Her team, led by All-American Katie Carroll, won its record setting 11th consecutive BIG EAST title with an outstanding 228point victory over (758-530).Rutgers Nixon coached the women's team to 10 individual and two relay BIG EAST championships and took her team onto the national scene where the Irish finished 27th the NCAA at Championships with 25 points. Along with Carroll, the Irish sent seven additional swimmers to the national meet, the secondlargest number in Irish women's swimming an 8-1 record in dual meets and ranked 19th

nationally in the dual-meet pool by the College Swim Coaches Association of America (CSCAA). Her hard work and determination did not go unnoticed as she was named the 2007 BIG EAST Women's Swimming Coach of the Year.

Individually it was senior Katie Carroll that led the Irish during the 2007 season. Under Nixon's tutelage she earned her second All-America honor in the 400-yard individual medley, the same event Carroll became an All-American in during her sophomore campaign in 2005. Carroll finished seventh, but her success continued onto the second day of competition at the NCAA Championships where she finished 12th in the 200-yard butterfly, setting a Notre Dame record in the prelims with a time of 1:58.39 and earned her fourth honorable-mention All-America accolade.

Her first year as head coach saw the Irish set two school records (200 freestyle and 200 medley relay), while bringing home two individual titles at the BIG EAST Championships (400 IM and 200 breaststroke) and 37 all-BIG EAST selections. Her team, due to a poorly timed illness at the NCAA Championships, scored four points to place 41st at the NCAA meet. The Irish finished the season ranked 24th nationally and was 6-2 in dual meets during the 2005-06 campaign, with both losses coming to ranked teams.

Nixon returned to her alma mater in June 2004 to become an assistant coach. In her first year back at Notre Dame, Nixon helped the Irish to various heights, including winning 11 of 20 events - the second-most ever by Notre Dame in the meet - in cruising to a ninth consecutive BIG



history. The Irish fin- Carrie Nixon became the 28th former Notre Dame student-athlete to be hired as a ished the season with head coach at their alma mater. In 2007, she was named BIG EAST Women's Coach of an 8-1 record in dual the Year.

EAST championship with 804 points, the second-highest total in program history. Notre Dame then scored 32 points at the NCAA meet - its third-highest total ever - en route to a 24th-place tie in the team standings. The Irish were ranked as high as 21st in the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) national dualmeet poll. Notre Dame went 6-3 in dual meets, with all three defeats coming against nationally-ranked squads.

The 2004-05 squad was just the second in Notre Dame history to feature an All-American in both swimming (sophomore Katie Carroll) and diving (fifth-year senior Meghan-Perry Eaton). The only other squad to have achieved that was the 2001-02 team, for which Nixon was the swimming All-American.

The Irish also excelled academically in Nixon's first year on staff, as they ranked 29th in Division I in team grade-point average in the fall semester (3.22) and were one of just five schools to rank in the top 30 in both fall GPA and at the NCAA Championships. The Irish saw senior Kelli Barton selected as one of the University's three nominees for the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America women's at-large program. Formerly tabbed an Academic All-American by the CSCAA after reaching the NCAA Championships in 2002, she compiled a 3.934 GPA, having been named to the Dean's List in all seven of her semesters.

Individually, the 2004-05 campaign saw some of the top performances in program history, as well as marked improvement for Notre Dame's top student-athletes. Carroll turned in the sec-

"Notre Dame is about a lot of things - tradition, community, service, family, commitment, hard work, loyalty, passion, strength - but it's also so much more. Each person who passes through this place feels some incredible sense of ownership as they leave their mark - touched in some way by the magic that surrounds campus. Notre Dame is about PRIDE. Pride in our country, pride in our families, pride in our body of work. It's about feeling great when you're here and longing for it when you're away."

"You see, to me, bleeding blue and gold means giving back. It means returning the favor to all those who made your experience what it was, and gifting your good fortune to the next generation. That's why I became a coach in the first place - to help new athletes feel the same pride and strength from their hard work - and it's why, when given the chance to return, I didn't flinch. Having the honor now to lead this Irish team, to take everything I have learned and give it back to the team that I love - simply amazing. Simply perfect."

- Carrie Nixon

ond-highest finish ever by an Irish swimmer at the NCAA meet - behind only Nixon's 50-free swim in 2000 - in taking sixth in the 400 individual medley. She also broke her own Irish records in both the 200-yard individual medley and the 400-yard IM, while posting a then lifetime best in the 200 butterfly at the NCAA meet, as well. Carroll was the BIG EAST Championships high-point scorer, and she nearly joined Nixon in the elite club of Notre Dame swimmers to have won seven titles in seven swims at the BIG EAST meet, ending up with six race victories.

Perry-Eaton turned in the second-best result ever by a Notre Dame diver in the national championships (fifth in one-meter action) and tied conference records by both winning her fifth-career BIG EAST diving title and being named the league's Most Outstanding Diver for the third consecutive year. In her final meet, Perry-Eaton broke the Rolfs Aquatic Center championshipmeet records off both springboards. She also broke her own one-meter dual-meet school record and claimed the BIG EAST Championships record in three-meter action.

The 2004-05 squad reasserted Notre Dame as the dominant relay force in the BIG EAST, as the Irish won four of the five relays after taking first in just three total relays since Nixon's graduation. The highlight was the 800 free relay, which broke the Notre Dame record with a time of 7:16.95 and just missed a trip to the NCAA meet, ending up as the 16th-fastest in Division I (the top 13 make the national championships).

Nixon was previously an assistant coach for the Clemson University men's and women's

teams in 2003-04, serving as coordinator of recruiting, while working primarily with the sprinters, butterflyers, and IMers in the pool.

She helped the Tigers to an outstanding season, as both squads finished among the top 40 at the NCAA Championships (men tied for 35th, women 39th). The Clemson men, who scored points in the NCAA meet for the first time since 1989, were 13-2-1 (4-1-1 in Atlantic Coast Conference competition) in dual-meet action, registering

their highest victory total in the 52-year history of the program before winning two titles and taking fourth place at the ACC Championships. The women's team was 10-5 (1-4 in the ACC) - its highest win total since 1988 - and finished fifth in the ACC meet.

Three Clemson swimmers earned invitations to the NCAA meet, with a pair of them named honorable mention All-America. The Tigers also had one CoSIDA Academic All-American. A total of nine Clemson records fell during the '03-'04 campaign, seven on the men's side plus two women's marks. Among her other duties at Clemson, Nixon was the webmaster for its swimming and diving alumni internet site and the organizer of the Tigers' first annual alumni meet.

Five years after graduating, Nixon remains one of the most accomplished Notre Dame student-athletes in any sport. During her time at Notre Dame, she was tabbed an All-American twice and on 10 other occasions named honorable mention All-America, with that total of 12 All-America citations standing as the most in program history. She won 18 BIG EAST titles - six individual and 12 relays - standing one shy of the Irish record for any sport. In 2000, Nixon set the NCAA record in the 50-meter free (24.99), became the first Irish swimmer to be the top qualifier in any event at the NCAA Championships, and finished fourth at the NCAA meet in the 50 free, a result that still stands as the best ever by a Notre Dame swimmer. She also was tabbed the BIG EAST Championships Most Outstanding Swimmer that year after finishing first in all seven of her events (50 free, 100



Carrie Nixon ended her career in 2001-02 as one of the most accomplished and decorated student-athletes in Notre Dame history. She was a two-time All-American, 10-time honorable mention All-American and won 18 BIG EAST championship titles.

free, 100 fly, 200 and 800 free relay, 200 and 400 medley relay), an accomplishment still unequaled in Irish history.

Nixon, who missed the 2000-01 season with a shoulder injury, remains the Notre Dame recordholder in the 50 (22.39) and 100 free (49.18), as well as the 100 butterfly (54.07). She continues to hold the 10 best times in program history in the 50 free, as well as the top nine in the 100 free. Nixon also swam on three relay teams that still hold Irish records: the 200 free (1:32.01), 400 free (3:21.25) and the 400 medley (3:40.98). The BIG EAST Championships records still feature her in three events - 50 free (22.58), 200 free relay, and 400 medley relay - and her time of 22.94 in the 50 in the 1998 Notre Dame Invitational is the quickest in Rolfs Aquatic Center history, as is the 3:45.77 mark by the 400 medley relay team she anchored in the 2001 Shamrock Invitational.

Nixon, three times voted Notre Dame women's swimming MVP, also participated in the United States Olympic Trials in 2000, taking 21st in the 50-meter freestyle and finishing in the top 40 in both the 100 free and 100 fly.

She graduated in May of 2002 from the College of Arts and Letters as a pre-professional studies/anthropology and computer applications double major. As a senior, Nixon was honored with the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award, which each year recognizes one female and one male Notre Dame student-athlete who best exemplify the spirit and leadership the University embodies in their actions and inspirations to their respective teams.

Born Sept. 20, 1978, in Montrose, Colo., Nixon graduated from Ouray High School in Ouray, Colo., as its valedictorian in 1997. She was a fivetime Colorado state champion for the Montrose High School swim team, on which she competed because Ouray did not have one. She won three state championships in the 50 free and a pair in the 100 free. Nixon was named the 1996 Colorado Sportswoman of the Year and the Colorado high school swimmer of the year in '97. Upon enrolling at Notre Dame, she held 10 state summer club records and a pair of Colorado prep records. She also set all but two school records while at Montrose. Nixon was recruited by a number of top collegiate swim teams, as well as various top Division I volleyball pro-

Additionally, Nixon placed 25th in the 50 free at the senior national meet in Fort Lauderdale in 1996 and was second in both the 50 and 100 in the 1997 NISCA National High School Championships. Nixon was active in club swimming first for the Ouray Swimming Team and then for the Montrose Marlins club, coached by Silas Almgren.

Upon graduation from Notre Dame, Nixon returned to her native area and served as an assistant coach for the Ouray High School volleyball team and the Ouray club swimming team, instructing children from six to 17 years of age in the latter pursuit. She also has served as a counselor and coach at the Notre Dame summer swimming camp on four occasions (1999-2001, 103)

Nixon will lead a program that has scored points in the NCAA meet in each of the last 12 years (and 16 of the last 18), finishing in the top 25 seven times in the last 11 years. Notre Dame has won 11 consecutive BIG EAST titles, which is an Irish record for the longest string in conference history in any sport.

# Diving Coach





Diving Coach
13th Season
Beijing Institute of
Physical Education '85

Now in 30th year of his career as a diving coach, Caiming Xie has helped his protégés win BIG EAST titles, All-America honors and gold medals. A proven winner, Caiming's experience reaches all over the world and he is in his 13th season as head women's and men's diving coach at Notre Dame.

During his tenure, he has molded the top two divers ever to compete for the Irish - Heather Mattingly and Meghan Perry-Eaton - who combined for five BIG EAST titles, seven appearances in the NCAA Championships, and eight All-America citations. The duo also holds all six of the Notre Dame diving records, as well as four Rolfs Aquatic Center records. He also has coached the top two men's divers in school history.

For his efforts, Caiming, the first full-time diving coach in Notre Dame history, has been named his

# The Caiming File

#### • 1977-90

Diving Coach, Chinese Olympic and National Team

\* Two-time Chinese National Diving Coach of the Year (1986, 1987)

## 1991-92

Assistant Diving Coach, University of Pittsburgh

#### · 1992-95

Head Diving Coach, University of Toledo

\* Two-time Mid-American Conference Diving Coach of the Year

### • 1995 - current

Head Diving Coach,

University of Notre Dame

\* 1999, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 BIG EAST Diving Coach of the Year conference's top diving coach on five occasions, including in the BIG EAST in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. The last five seasons have been the most successful in Irish women's diving history, featuring five BIG EAST titles, five All-America honors and three BIG EAST Championships Most-Outstanding-Diver awards.

In 2006, Caiming molded two women's divers into all-BIG EAST performers in the three-meter dive as freshman Lucy Hirt was the runner up while her sophomore teammate Tara Hyer placed third in the same event at the BIG EAST Championships. For his efforts, Caiming captured his fourth BIG EAST Coach of the Year Award

From 2003-05, Perry-Eaton turned in the most impressive two-year stretch ever by an Irish diver, as she was beaten just one time during the regular season before sweeping the springboard events at the 2004 and 2005 BIG EAST Championships en route to being tabbed the meet's top diver. Perry-Eaton was the first Notre Dame diver ever to win a title at the NCAA Zone C Championships in 2004, taking first off the one-meter board. At the NCAA Championships, she delivered the highest-ever finish for a Notre Dame swimmer or diver, taking third in that event, ending up just 3.30 points behind the national champion to become an All-American. She followed up with a fifth-place finish in one-meter diving at the '05 NCAA meet.

In 2002-03, Perry-Eaton became the first Notre Dame diver - and first non-University of Miami diver since 1996 - to win a BIG EAST championship, placing first in the one-meter competition. She also was second on the three-meter board and was named the BIG EAST's top diver – her first of three consecutive diver-of-the-year awards. Perry-Eaton then qualified for the NCAA Championships, where she placed ninth in the one-meter event and 20th on the three-meter board to earn honorable mention All-America honors.

Perry-Eaton finished her career holding four of the six Notre Dame diving records: six-dive onemeter in both dual (322.64) and championship

(331.58) action, as well as 11-dive, threemeter championship competition (586.43) and 10-meter platform championship action (336.60). Additionally, she boasts Rolfs Aquatic Center records in both six-dive one-meter formats (322.64 dual, 315.25 championship), as well as for dual-meet three-meter action (333.82). Her score of 309.20 in one-meter diving in 2003 en route to winning her first BIG EAST title stands as the highest since the switch to a six-dive format in championship meets in 2000-01.

Heather Mattingly was the first Irish diver to earn All-America honors, as she was a four-time honorable mention selection before being named an All-American in three-meter action in 2002 with an eighth-place finish. Mattingly was the first Notre Dame diver to qualify for the NCAA Division I Championships, and she earned bids to the meet in each



of her four collegiate campaigns. Mattingly also had a great deal of success in the NCAA zone meet, taking second in one-meter action in 1999, in addition to thirdplace results in three-meter competition in both '99 and 2002. She still maintains two Notre Dame records: for 10 dives in a championship meet off the one-meter board (425.40) and for six-dive, three-meter action (351.15). Her score of 550.55 in winning the three-meter competition in the 2000 Notre Dame Invitational also is the best in the history of Notre Dame's home facility.

Before coming to Notre Dame, Caiming was the head diving coach for three years at Toledo, earning Mid-

American Conference diving-coach-of-the-year laurels in each of his last two seasons. Prior to his stint with the Rockets, Caiming was an assistant coach for the 1991-92 season at Pittsburgh. Boasting a wealth of international experience on his résumé, Caiming served as the 1980 Chinese Olympic diving coach. He also was a technical consultant for United States Diving since 1994 and has held clinics and presentations for the United States Diving national team.

The Chinese national team coach from 1977-90, Caiming coached Sun Shu-Wei, a gold medalist in the men's platform competition at the '92 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and Zhu Jin-Hong, who finished fourth in the women's platform in Barcelona. Caiming's divers also have earned medals at the Asian Games, World Cup, World University Games, and World Championships.

A competitive diver in his own right, Caiming won the springboard competition at the Asian Games in 1974 and earned first place in the platform and second in the springboard competition at the National Games of China in 1975. A 1985 graduate of the Beijing Institute of Physical Education, he also won numerous Chinese diving championships. Caiming and his wife, Ping Tong, have one son, Tong, who graduated from Notre Dame in 2003 after a successful career as an Irish diver



Caiming Xie with his wife Ping Tong and son Tong, a 2003 graduate and diver at Notre Dame.

# Assistant Coach





Assistant Coach Third Season Wisconsin-Milwaukee '02

Joel White is in his third season as an assistant coach with the Notre Dame women's swimming and diving team.

After one successful season at Notre Dame as an assistant, White worked closely with the team as it clinched its 11th consecutive BIG EAST Championship in 2007, setting a new BIG EAST record for the longest string in conference history in any sport. He assisted in the grooming of senior Katie Carroll as she earned her second All-America honor in the 400-yard individual medley with a seventh-place finish at the 2007 NCAA Championship.

Also at the 2007 national meet, White helped guide the team to a 27th-place finish. The Irish sent eight individuals to the competition, the second largest in school history.

In his first season with the Irish, White aided Notre Dame in winning its 10th consecutive BIG EAST Championship. He helped coach two BIG EAST champions (Katie Carroll-400 IM and Julia Quinn-200 breast-stroke) and 12 Irish swimmers and divers that were all-BIG EAST in 37 events.

Previous to the working with Notre Dame, White worked as an assistant at Utah.

The women's team enjoyed a banner year at Utah in 2004-05, finishing the dual meet season 9-0 and 7-0 in Mountain West Conference competition. The team also claimed its first MWC regular-season title and finished third at the conference championship meet, setting nine school records at the conference competition. Combined, the Utah men's and women's team earned 39 all-

conference individual honors and six relays also earned all-conference accolades from the Mountain West. Utah also was solid outside of the pool, earning 26 academic all-conference certificates in 2004-05.

A native of Austin, Texas, White has been highly active in the University of Texas swimming program, working the program's summer camp from 2000-2005. White also was the head swimming coach at Homestead High School in Mequon, Wis., from 2001-03, leading the team to nine All-America honors, five individual state championships and two relay state titles.

White graduated from Wisconsin-Milwaukee in December of 2002 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He swam all four years at UWM and was a nine-time conference finalist and team co-captain in 1999-200 and 2000-01. He specialized in the 400 individual medley, 500 freestyle and 200 backstroke during his collegiate career. White finished eighth at the 2001 Horizon League Championship in the 200 backstroke and ninth in both the 500 freestyle and 400 individual medley.

In 1998-99, White finished fifth in the 400 IM at the Horizon League (then called the MCC) and also competed in the 500 freestyle (ninth) and 1,650 freestyle (12th). He earned the team's Captain's Award at the conclusion of both his freshman and sophomore seasons.

White also added a master's degree from the University of Utah in exercise and sport science with an emphasis in psychosocial aspects of sport in May of 2005.



# 2007-08 Women's Swimming & Diving Team

First Row (Left to Right): Casey Wagner, Amy Langnecker, Lauren Parisi, Natalie Burke, Morgan Bullock, Christa Riggins, Lizzie Gormley, Georgia Steenberge, Gina Mancini, Heidi Grossman, Patricia Duret and Kellyn Kuhlke.

Second Row (Left to Right): Diving coach Caiming Xie, Megan Farrell, Claire Hutchinson, Chrissy Gonzalez, Katie Casey, Zeina Shanata, Lucy Hirt, Tara Hyer, Natalie Stitt, Laura Rings, Katie Hopkins, Tiffany Robak, senior manager Jeney Anderson and volunteer assistant coach Michael Laubacher.

Third Row (Left to Right): Head coach Carrie Nixon, Samantha Maxwell, Amywren Miller, Lauren Sylvester, Delia Cronin, Colleen Bauza, Lexie Shue, Maggie Behrens, Ashlee Edgell, Caroline Johnson, Katie Guida, Keri Masterson, Vivian Healey, Meg Reynolds and assistant coach Joel White.





Michael Laubacher Volunteer Assistant Coach



Elisa Angeles Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach



**Jeney Anderson** Senior Manager



Charmelle Green
Assistant
Athletics Director



**Sue Halasz** *Administrative Assistant* 



Professor William Leahy Academic Mentor



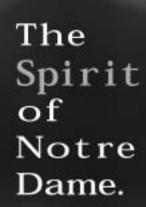
**John Saylor** Aquatics Facilities Manager



Sara Wonderlich Sports Information Assistant



The Notre Dame women's swimming and diving program, under the direction of strength and conditioning coach Elisa Angeles, takes advantage of the Haggar Fitness Center in the Guglielmino Athletics Complex. Both facilities were dedicated in the fall of 2005.



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In January our recognition society, the Director's Circle, announced a second giving level: Irish Legends. We have generous donors who have made \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000 gifts who are now recognized at this new level.

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