



# COACHES

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*Tribe*

# DEBBIE TAYLOR

Having guided the William and Mary women's basketball team through the best three-year stretch in program history, head coach Debbie Taylor enters her 10th year at the helm of the Tribe as the winningest coach in school history and on the cusp of earning her 100th career victory.

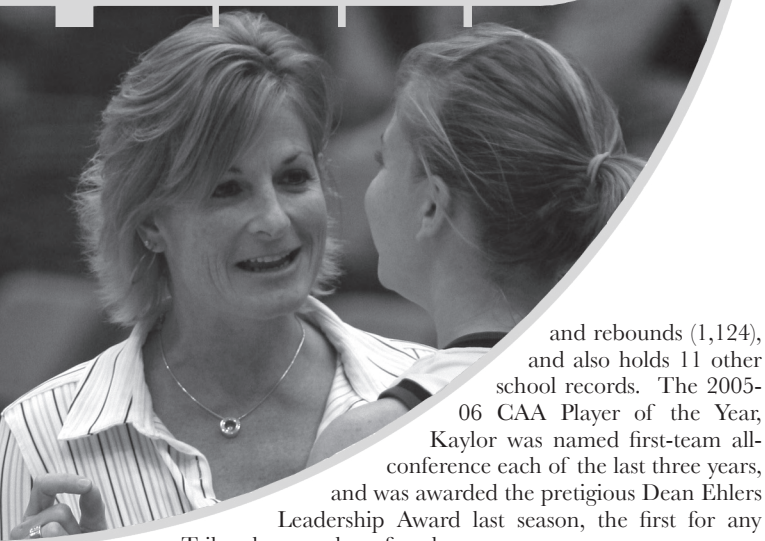
Under her direction, W&M has produced outstanding scholar-athletes both on the court and in the classroom. Last season was illustrative of this, with two players graduating with more than 1,000 career points and the Tribe reaching the quarterfinal round of the CAA Championships for the second year in a row.

One of the top players in the program's history, Kyra Kaylor's success throughout her career is a testament to Taylor's ability to recruit and develop outstanding talent. Kaylor graduated as the school's all-time leader in points (1,873)



**DEBBIE TAYLOR**  
**Head Coach**  
**B.S. Kinesiology**  
**William & Mary '86**

**Coach of the Year**  
**2005-06**  
**Colonial Athletic Assoc.**  
**W&M Alumni Assoc.**



and rebounds (1,124), and also holds 11 other school records. The 2005-06 CAA Player of the Year,

Kaylor was named first-team all-conference each of the last three years, and was awarded the prestigious Dean Ehlers Leadership Award last season, the first for any Tribe player male or female.

The Dean Ehlers award, first presented following the 2004-05 season, is named in honor of a former James Madison athletics director, and is awarded each year to a male and female basketball player in the CAA who best exemplifies the highest standards of leadership, integrity, and sportmanship both on and off the court.

Devin James also graduated last spring after helping lead the Tribe to aver-

age 16 wins over the final three years of her career. Surpassing the 1,000-point barrier in the first game of her senior campaign, James finished her career with 1,348 points, the fifth-highest total in school history.

Two returning players have been a large part of the Tribe's success and will be counted on by Taylor to ensure that the high-level of play characteristic of the team over the past several years continues in 2008-09. Courtney Portnell took, and made, more three-point shots than any other player in school history as a junior (72-193), including making seven of the high-reward shots in each of three consecutive games in December.

Tiffany Benson continued to build off of her outstanding freshman season with arguably an even more impressive season as a sophomore. Named to the all-defensive team, Benson recorded 58 blocks, ranking second both in the conference and on the Tribe's all-time season totals list. She also led the CAA with 139 offensive rebounds, and ranked fourth in the conference with 259 total rebounds.

The 2007-08 squad won 14 games, the third-straight season with double-digit wins, and between individual and team performances the squad set 20 school records. The win against Georgia State on January 17 made Taylor the winningest coach in school history with 93 career victories, and she would finish the season with 99 wins, setting the stage for a historic 2008-09.

In 2006-07, W&M won 19 games, the second-most in school history, and three members of the Tribe were recognized with all-conference honors. Highlighting the group was forward Kyra Kaylor, who was selected to the All-CAA First Team for the second consecutive season. Honored as the CAA Player of the Year as a sophomore, Kaylor proved to be one of the conference's elite players once again in 2006-07. The Pittsburgh, Pa., native averaged 14.8 ppg and 9.1 rpg, while ranking among the league's best in numerous categories.

Under Taylor's tutelage, forward Tiffany Benson had an outstanding rookie season and developed into one of the league's top defensive players, as she was chosen as a member of the CAA All-Rookie Team. An outstanding shot blocker, the Virginia Beach, Va., native established a single-season school record with 67 blocks, a total that ranked fourth on W&M's career list. Benson's selection marked the eighth time in the last nine years that one of Taylor's players has garnered all-rookie accolades.

While the honors poured in for its work on the hardwood, the Tribe also produced impressive results in the classroom. Guard Sarah Stroh distinguished herself by being named to the CAA All-Academic First Team for two consecutive years. Stroh started all 31 games for W&M at the point and ranked seventh in the conference in assists (3.8 apg). A steady player throughout her four years at the College, she finished her career as the school record holder for games played (115), which currently ranks third behind Kaylor (124) and James (119).

Undoubtedly, the individual honors were impressive, but what the team accomplished collectively during the 2006-07 season was far more significant. The Tribe posted the second-most victories in school history (19) to earn consecutive winning seasons for the initial time as a Division-I program. Additionally, W&M recorded 10 regular-season conference triumphs and secured consecutive double-digit league win totals for the first time. Statistically, the Tribe established itself as one of the nation's top defensive teams by limiting the opposition to just 35.5 percent shooting, a figure that ranked 13th in the country. Offensively, the squad was incredibly effective beyond the arc and ranked 23rd in three-pointers made per game (6.3) and 26th in three-point field goal percentage (36.0).

The success of 2006-07 built upon what was accomplished during the 2005-06 campaign. That edition of the Tribe earned the nation's second-best turnaround (+11 wins) and registered the program's best record at 15-13 since the 1998-99 season. Additionally, the Green and Gold's 11 conference victories were a school record, besting the previous mark of nine.

Many of the Tribe's accomplishments in 2005-06 were products of the hard work and dedication put in during the previous year. While the 2004-05 campaign was mired by a slew of injuries, it provided younger players with an immediate opportunity to gain valuable experience. Though the hard work did not lead to immediate results in the win column, Taylor's guidance played an integral role in building the foundation for the Tribe's success the following two seasons.

During the 2003-04 season, Tribe fans were witnesses to what lay ahead as Kaylor emerged as one of the league's top rookies. Despite the team's 11-20 record, Kaylor finished the season ranked among league leaders in scoring (10th), total rebounds (sixth), field goal percentage (fourth), steals

# DEBBIE TAYLOR

(10th) and defensive rebounds (fourth). Her efforts did not go unrecognized, as she was a third-team All-CAA selection and was tabbed to the conference's all-rookie team.

Under Taylor's tutelage, guard Jen Sobota finished her career in 2003 as one of the top players in school history. Sobota broke nine school career records, including points scored with 1,511 and games played and started (113).

In 2002-03, Taylor's recruiting efforts landed the No. 30-ranked class in the nation. The group included Dominique Lewis, who was named to the CAA All-Rookie Team after finishing the year averaging 5.3 ppg and 4.4 rpg. Also in the class that started in 2002-03 was current assistant coach Lizzie Schiel, who graduated in 2006 ranked fifth or better in the school record books in six separate categories.

In 2001-02, Taylor's third season in Williamsburg, she guided the College to 12 wins for only the eighth time in school history. The run-and-gun offense produced 67.4 points per contest, third-highest in the league, up from a 47 points per game effort during Taylor's first year. For the third straight season, a Tribe freshman garnered all-rookie honors, as guard Kia Butts was selected to the team. Butts was also the Tribe's top man-to-man defender, drawing the assignment of the opponent's top scorer.

Along with Butts, the College's dynamic duo of guards Sobota and Jami Lange were the sparkplug behind the 12 wins, as the two "J's" were the only teammates in the CAA to finish the season in the top 10 in scoring. Sobota finished the year sixth in the league with a 13.8 scoring average, two-tenths of a point behind league player of the year Lucienne Berthieu, while Lange was the CAA's 10th-leading scorer at 13.3 points per game.

In her second year at the helm of the Tribe program, Taylor helped guide William and Mary to a number of firsts. For the initial time, the College placed three players on all-conference teams, with two players earning second-team All-CAA status (Jen Sobota, Quintina Walker) and a third to the all-rookie team (Ornit Shwartz). That was the first time since 1996 that a Tribe player had been selected to an All-CAA team. Also, W&M won its first CAA post-season game in five years, defeating VCU in the conference quarterfinals. Additionally, the squad had three CAA Player of the Week recipients, tying for the most in the league.

Taylor, a 1986 graduate of the College, is the fourth Tribe head coach since the program went to the Division I level in 1984.

"This is a very exciting time for Tribe women's basketball," Taylor said at the time. "This program has tremendous potential and we are just beginning to take off. We are really building something special here. It is exciting to work with and recruit the quality of student-athlete that the school attracts. I love our players. They are a great group of people with strong character and tireless work ethic. I am fortunate every day to be around such a unified group who have the ability to balance the demands of high level basketball and prestigious academics."

During her first season, Taylor implemented Team Tribe, a kids' club that provides fan support for women's basketball and volleyball. In nine years, Team Tribe has grown to more than 450 members.

According to Taylor, "Community support is vital to our team's success. Team Tribe provides our players with an opportunity to act as role models for young people in the Williamsburg area." She also believes that her players should maximize their education and potential both on and off the court.

"William and Mary basketball is about unity, about family, about personal growth," Taylor said. "It is the goal of the coaching staff to create an environment that provides an opportunity for our players to challenge themselves academically, athletically and personally. It is also our goal to build a national-caliber program with highly motivated student-athletes through which we will help reinforce and develop the skills necessary for their success after college."

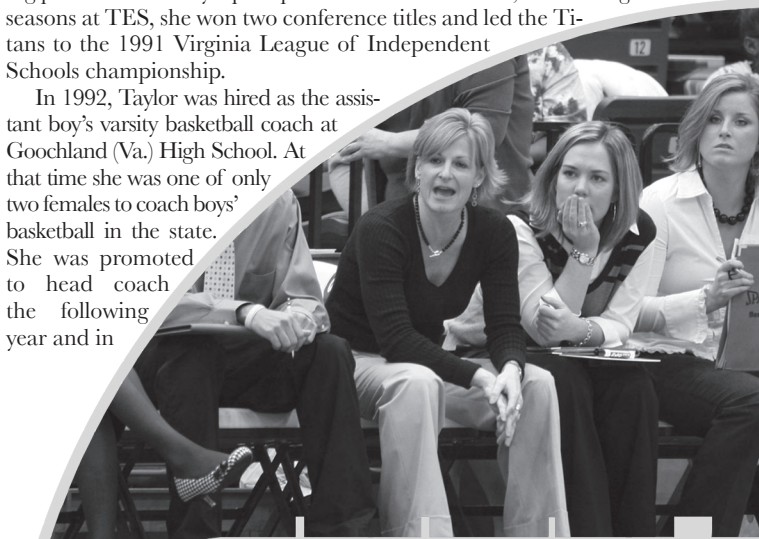
A former Tribe letterwinner in both basketball and lacrosse, Taylor arrived in Williamsburg on June 1, 1999 after a two-year stint in the Southeastern Conference as an assistant coach at the University of South Carolina. While in Columbia, she organized and coordinated the Gamecocks recruiting efforts and worked with the Gamecock guards.

In 1998, under her direction, South Carolina signed the seventh-best recruiting class in the country according to the *All-Star Girls Report*, which included guard Shaunzinski Gortman, who was a first-round draft pick of the WNBA's Charlotte Sting in 2002. Gortman, one of the toughest man-to-man defenders in the country during her career, was the first SEC player selected in the draft that year.

That 1998 recruiting class led the Gamecocks to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament as seniors in 2001-02 en route to posting a school-best 25-7 record and final ranking of sixth in the national polls. Taylor joined the South Carolina staff in April of 1997 after spending two years as an assistant coach at West Virginia University.

Upon graduation from William and Mary, Taylor accepted her first coaching position at Trinity Episcopal School in Richmond, Va. During her six seasons at TES, she won two conference titles and led the Titans to the 1991 Virginia League of Independent Schools championship.

In 1992, Taylor was hired as the assistant boy's varsity basketball coach at Goochland (Va.) High School. At that time she was one of only two females to coach boys' basketball in the state. She was promoted to head coach the following year and in



**One of only two coaches in the CAA to coach players to win Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, and the Dean Ehlers Leadership Award.**

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 1 - CAA COACH OF THE YEAR
- 1 - CAA PLAYER OF THE YEAR
- 1 - CAA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
- 1 - DEAN EHLERS AWARD WINNER
- 8 - CAA ALL-ROOKIE SELECTIONS
- 24 - TOTAL ALL-CAA SELECTIONS

**2002-03 recruiting class ranked No. 30 in the nation.**

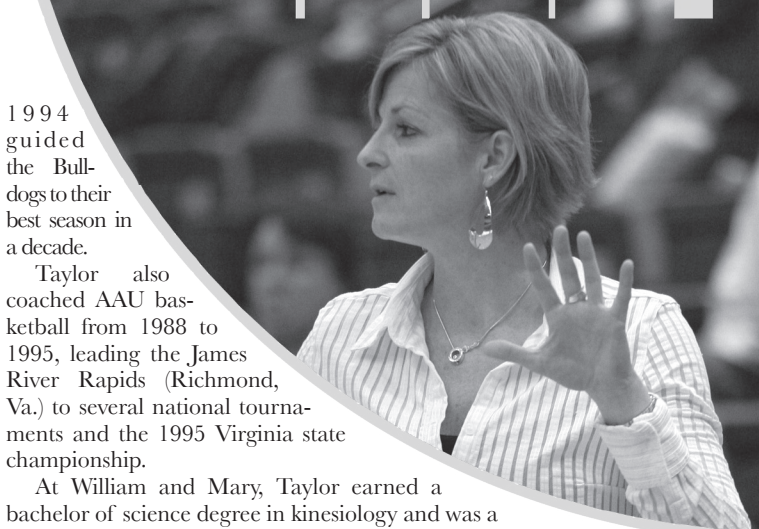
**Coached eight CAA All-Rookie selections in nine years.**

1994 guided the Bulldogs to their best season in a decade.

Taylor also coached AAU basketball from 1988 to 1995, leading the James River Rapids (Richmond, Va.) to several national tournaments and the 1995 Virginia state championship.

At William and Mary, Taylor earned a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology and was a two-year team captain for the basketball team. She graduated as the College's all-time leader in career assists and steals.

Taylor, who resides in Williamsburg, enjoys boating, reading, playing the piano, and visiting with her family in her spare time. She has four sisters: Laurie, Kathy, Pam and Jennifer; four nieces: Kaitlyn (21), Olivia (8), Alexis (5) and Eden (3); and two nephews: Kenny (18) and Roman (8). She is the daughter of Ed and Ruth Taylor of Fredericksburg, Virginia.



# MEG BARBER

Having helped guide William and Mary to the best three-year stretch in school history, Meg Barber enters her fourth year on Debbie Taylor's staff and second as the top assistant. Barber serves as the recruiting coordinator and is responsible for scouting, working with the post players, scheduling, assisting with conditioning, and practice planning.

Prior to joining the Tribe staff, she spent three seasons at Utica College in New York as an assistant coach. At Utica, Barber was responsible for film breakdown and scouting, as well as coordinating recruiting visits. Additionally, Barber monitored Pioneer student-athletes in their academic progress, while assisting in game scheduling. She was also responsible for a variety of communications activities and was the co-director for the Utica College Girls

**MEG BARBER**  
**Assistant Coach**  
**B.A. Economics**  
**NYU '02**



Basketball Camp from 2002 to 2004.

Barber is a 2002 graduate of NYU with a bachelor of arts degree in economics. A four-year member of the Violets women's basketball squad, she helped lead the team to NCAA Elite Eight appearances in 1999 and 2001, as well as two ECAC Metro Championships. She was named the ECAC Metro Most Outstanding Player in the 2000 and 2002 seasons. Barber's coaching experience is complimented by her standout playing career at New York University. Barber played in every game during her four-year career, starting in all but two of those games. She is ranked seventh on the Violets' career scoring list with 1,228 points.

A native of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., and a fan of the New York Giants and New York Mets, Barber resides in Williamsburg.

# LIZZIE SCHIEL



After a successful playing career at the College from 2002-06, Lizzie Schiel returned to William and Mary in 2007 and now begins her second year assisting Taylor on the sidelines.

While Schiel is instrumental in all aspects of the Tribe program, her primary responsibilities include assisting with the development of the guards, scouting opponents, and recruiting. Additionally, she oversees the strength and conditioning program, and assists with the coordination of marketing efforts.

A four-year letterwinner with the Tribe, Schiel established herself as one of the top guards in the program's history and finished her career ranked among W&M's top 10 in seven categories. An outstanding long-range shooter, she ranked fourth all-time in three-



**LIZZIE SCHIEL**  
**Assistant Coach**  
**B.B.A. Marketing**  
**B.A. Art**  
*William & Mary '06*

point field goals made (154) and in three-point shooting percentage (.333). Her best season came as a senior when she averaged 9.8 ppg and 4.0 rpg. Her 60 three-pointers that year nearly set a single-season school record, while she connected on 39.7 percent of her attempts from beyond the arc.

Following her graduation from the College in 2006, Schiel worked in marketing for Oppenheimer Funds in Manhattan. A native of Wayne, Pennsylvania, she graduated from the College in 2006 with degrees in marketing and art.

Schiel's older brother, Andrew, played basketball at Amherst College and was a first-team All-American for the Lord Jeffs.

Jewonda Bright joins the Tribe this year as an assistant coach after spending the previous three years in the same capacity at Monmouth University. Her duties with the Tribe include helping to develop the post players, recruitment, publications, and coordinating the TEAM TRIBE program.

Bright spent three years on the staff for Monmouth, and was responsible for such duties as film exchange, running Monmouth's summer camps, liaising with the academic advising office, and alumnae relations. Also primarily responsible for the Hawks' frontcourt, her charges in 2006-07 led the Northeast Conference with a +6.1 rebounding margin and averaged 41.0 rebounds per game en route to an 18-13 record.

A standout player for three years at Monmouth, Bright started every year at center. As a sophomore, she led the NEC with a .579 shooting percentage, the seventh-best mark in conference history. As a senior, Bright earned second-team all-conference honors while leading

## JEWONDA BRIGHT

**Assistant Coach**

**B.S. Biology**

**Monmouth '04**



Monmouth to the league championship game. Scoring 10 points and pulling in six rebounds in what ultimately proved to be a losing effort, Bright was named to the all-tournament team after averaging 14 points and 6.3 rebounds in three tournament games.

Bright originally attended Delaware State, earning all-rookie honors from the MEAC after leading the Hornets with 10.3 points and seven rebounds per game. Her prep career was spent just down I-64 at Norview High School in Norfolk, where she led the team to back-to-back district titles and a 35-11 record her junior and senior years. As a senior, Bright earned first-team all-district and second-team all-state honors after averaging 19 points, 12 rebounds, and four blocks per game.

Bright graduated from Monmouth in 2004 with a bachelors degree in biology. She is also pursuing a Master's degree in criminal justice from Monmouth, and is on-pace to graduate in May of 2009. Bright is also the proud and loving aunt of three; Da'Jah (11), Aysia (6), and Indiya (5).

Will Ingersoll begins his first year as the Tribe's Director of Basketball Operations in 2008-09, after spending three years as a student assistant on Taylor's staff. His responsibilities include helping run the film exchange and assisting with travel coordination.

As an undergraduate, Ingersoll served a practice player for the Tribe and assisted the team with various drills. He also organized the scout team for W&M. Outside of his time with the team, Ingersoll was a four-year starter on the W&M club basketball team. Prior to attending the College, he played basketball for four years at Standley Lake High School in Denver, Colorado.

A 2008 graduate with a major in finance and concentration in accounting, Ingersoll is enrolled in the MBA program at the Mason School of Business.



**WILL INGERSOLL**  
**Director of Basketball Operations**  
**B.B.A. Finance**  
*William & Mary '08*

Claudette Canady, a former all-district basketball player and MVP at West Point High School in Virginia, has been the administrative assist for Tribe basketball for 20 years. She is a 1976 graduate of Rappahannock Community College.

Canady comes from an athletic family, where both parents played basketball and her father, Charles, also played football at Huntington High School and in the U.S. Army. Her brother "Duke" Thorpe played pro basketball overseas after an outstanding career at Virginia Tech. Her sister, Lisa, also had a fine basketball career at West Point High. The tradition continued as Canady's daughter, Leslie, and nephew, Andre, graduates of the University of Richmond and Bridgewater College, respectively, both played basketball, while Andre also played football and ran track.

Claudette has traveled in the past with the Tribe to Hawaii (1991 and 1999), New Orleans, Kansas, Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico.

Outside of basketball, she enjoys cooking, sewing, is the clerk and secretary of her church and sings in the church choir.



**CLAUDETTE CANADY**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
*A.A. Rappahannock Community College '76*

Jacob Skipper '05, now in his eighth year at the College, was promoted to Associate Sports Information Director during the summer of 2008.

A student worker in the Sports Information Department through all four years of his undergraduate study at W&M, Skipper had spent the previous three years as the Intern, with responsibility for the Tribe's nationally-prominent track and field and cross country programs, as well as the swimming and diving programs and the golf programs.

In his current position, Skipper handles statistical and media duties for the volleyball, baseball, and women's soccer teams in addition to women's basketball.

A 2005 graduate with a BBA in Operations and Information Systems, Skipper's interests include reading, especially histories and topics in education and business, web and database development, and rummaging through the Tribe archives.



**JACOB SKIPPER**  
**Associate Sports Information Director**  
**B.B.A. Operations & Information Systems**  
*William & Mary '05*



**STEVE COLE**

**Associate AD, Internal Operations**  
**M.Ed. Sports Medicine**  
*Virginia '78*

Steve Cole enters his 26th year at the College of William and Mary, with the previous 25 at the helm of the W&M Sports Medicine program. This summer, Cole assumed the role as the Associate Athletics Director for Internal Operations, overseeing nearly every facet of the department's daily operation. His administrative responsibilities include monitoring financial matters, coordinating the scheduling of athletic events and facilities, and supervision of coaches and staff.

A certified athletic trainer (BOC) and strength and conditioning specialist (NSCA), Cole graduated from West Virginia University in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and athletic training. He subsequently earned a master's degree in sports medicine in 1978 from the University of Virginia.

In the summer of 2006, the National Athletic Trainers Association recognized Cole as the College/University National Athletic Trainer of the Year. In 1997, Cole received his 25-year membership pin from NATA. He was also recognized for his service to the profession, receiving the Athletic Trainer Service Award, one of only three recipients from the Mid-Atlantic

Region. In 2000, Cole was honored by the College for his many years of service to William and Mary with the recognition as an honorary alumnus.

A true fitness buff, Cole is an exemplary model for all the athletes. He is an avid competitor who has participated in a variety of triathlons since 1980, spending countless hours of his spare time in training. Cole resides in Williamsburg with his wife Lonna, 10-year old daughter Sydney Janae, and five-year-old daughter Jahnessa Yaxin.



**PAMELA MASON**

**SWA/Asst. AD, Comp. & Ed. Svces**  
**M.B.A., J.D.**  
*William & Mary '00*

Pamela Mason took over full time duties of the College's compliance office on April 1, 2006, and she was promoted to Assistant AD for Compliance and Educational Services in July 2008. Previously, she served as the Associate Director of Development for two years.

Under Mason, the compliance office works with the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine initial eligibility of all incoming freshmen and continues to monitor student-athlete eligibility throughout their college careers. Mason is also responsible for educating all student-athletes, coaches and staff to the NCAA rules.

Mason graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1994 as a marketing major, with a minor in psychology. She continued her education at the College and earned a law degree and an MBA in four years (1996-2000). She is a member of the Bar in both Virginia and North Carolina.

A native of Marion, Ohio, Mason brings a diverse range of athletic administrative experience to the posi-

tion. Prior to arriving in Williamsburg, Mason worked as the Assistant Director of Compliance at James Madison University from 2003-04, where she assisted in many facets of the department's day-to-day operations. Mason served as the primary Compliance Officer and Sports Information Director for the University of North Carolina, Pembroke during the 2001 and 2002 athletic seasons.

Her first position out of college came with the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, as she served as the Marketing and Media Relations Assistant with the team's nationally acclaimed cheerleading squad from 1993-96. A varsity cheerleader at SMU, Mason also served a three-year stint as William and Mary's cheerleading coach while she was pursuing her graduate degrees.

Mason and her husband, Monty, a 1989 graduate of the College and chairman of the Tribe Club, reside in Williamsburg with their daughter, Taylor Anne.



**JASON SIMMS**

**Dir. of Academic Support Svces**  
**M.Ed. Guidance and Counseling**  
*Md.-Eastern Shore '02*

As Coordinator of Academic Support, Jason Simms acts as an academic advisor to the College's varsity athletes and is currently in his second year at William and Mary. Simms assists student-athletes in maintaining excellence in the classroom, scheduling classes, and assisting in future planning.

Simms brought a diverse background to the William and Mary Athletic Department from his work at Salisbury University. He acted as the Associate Dean of Admissions as well as the Director of Minority Recruitment. In regards to athletics, Simms worked as the Admissions Athletics Liaison and an Assistant Men's Basketball Coach for the SU Sea Gulls.

As an assistant basketball coach for Salisbury University, Simms advised and scheduled classes for athletes during registration periods, monitored mandatory study hall sessions, and provided academic guidance throughout the semester for athletes. During his work as the admissions-athletic liaison, he coordinated relationships between teams, coaching staff, and the enrollment management, as well as assisted the Director of Athletics with NCAA compliance and eligibility requirements.

Simms was also a member of the Board of Directors for Kids of Honor in Cambridge, Md., providing guidance to elementary and middle school-aged first generation college-bound students.

Simms attended Frostburg State University, graduating in 1994 with a B.S. in Business Administration. An excellent student athlete himself, he was a member of both the basketball and baseball teams at FSU from 1990-1994. He acted as team captain of the basketball team during the 1993-1994 season and received the team MVP award. Simms also captained the baseball team during the 1994 season while earning the baseball team MVP award in 1993 and 1994.

He earned his Masters of Education in Guidance and Counseling in 2002 from the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore. Since then Simms has been a member and college delegate representative for the Potomac and Chesapeake Association of College Admission Counseling as well as an active member of the National Association of Athletic Academic Advisors (N4A).

Simms resides in Williamsburg and enjoys working out and playing golf in his spare time.



**J.C. POUTSMA**

**Margaret Hamilton Prof. of Chemistry**  
**Ph.D. Physical Chemistry**  
*Purdue '97*

J.C. Poutsma grew up in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and attended Furman University, where he received a B.S. in Chemistry in 1991. He obtained a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Purdue University in 1997.

After a two year post-doctoral research appointment at Stanford University, he joined the faculty of William and Mary in 1999 as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2005.

He teaches general, analytical, physical, and computational chemistry classes and his research interests include energetics of amino acids and fragmentation studies of small peptides.

J.C. began serving as women's basketball faculty liaison during the 2006-2007 academic year. He has been a fan of women's basketball dating back to his high school days in Tennessee, where he went to high school with former WNBA star and U.S. Olympian Jennifer Azzi.