

WCU COACHES AND STAFF



**THE 2002-03 WESTERN CAROLINA
BASKETBALL COACHING STAFF**



STEVE SHURINA

WCU Head Basketball Coach

Third Season • St. John's '88

"Steve is an excellent basketball coach. He is a great tactician and technician. He has a good feel for the game; even as a player he was able to analyze and dissect the game. He is very good with people and he knows how to win. He studies the game and takes a very thorough approach to coaching the game. I wish my kids would have played for him. He knows how to teach the game and how to get the most out of his players. He's a coach; I can't say it any better."

— Lou Carnessecca

Former St. John's Head Coach and Basketball Hall of Fame Member

As Steve Shurina enters his third season as Western Carolina head basketball coach, it would be a tough task to ask him to repeat what he did in 2001-02. The program doubled its win total both overall and in the Southern Conference, had breakthrough wins at Florida State and Kansas State, proved it could play with the league's best with wins versus co-champions Davidson and UNC Greensboro and ended an 11-game losing streak to Appalachian State.

The task may be unreasonable, but certainly not unthinkable. And, like any competitor, Shurina will not back down from the challenge.

Shurina has taken some unpolished gems and developed them into rare jewels in his two years. First, then freshman and unknown to most, Rans Brempong burst onto the national scene, ending the season ranked 13th nationally in blocked shots and being one of only two freshman among the NCAA's top 15 in the category. The 6-8 center additionally tied a Southern Conference freshman record with 93 blocked shots, ended the season tied for second on the league's single-season blocked shots list and set a school record for blocks in a season. Brempong, who went on to represent his native Canada at the World University Games in 2001, tallied 66 blocked shots in his sophomore season to become Western's all-time leader in the category.

Prior to this past season, Shurina came across another unknown named Kevin Martin, who would finish the 2001-02 season 11th in the nation in scoring and earn Freshman All-American honors. Martin averaged over 22 points per game and was the only player in the SoCon to rank among the league leaders in field goal percentage, free throw percentage and 3-point percentage.

In his first season at the helm, Shurina made a favorable impression. Under his direction, Cory Largent went from obscurity to star, earning All-Southern Conference honors, which was WCU's first such honor since 1998. Largent, who only scored 497 points in his first two years combined, tallied 490 points in his junior season alone and ranked among the league leaders in scoring, rebounding and 3-point shooting.

When Shurina was hired prior the 2000-01 season, WCU athletics director Jeff Compher said, "After an exhaustive search, I have no doubt that we found the best man for the position. He possesses a great knowledge about the Southern Conference and has a burning desire to be here. I'm extremely pleased to have him as a part of the Western Carolina family."

The 36-year old Shurina brings a lot of experience, enthusiasm and energy to his position.

"I had the opportunity to observe his competitiveness, knowledge of the game and know how deeply he cares about student-athletes and

I'm happy that he has chosen to bring those qualities to Western Carolina," Compher said. "I couldn't be more excited about the future of Catamount basketball under his leadership."

Prior to arriving in Cullowhee, Shurina served as an assistant coach at Vanderbilt University. Shurina helped the Commodores to a 19-11 overall record and a National Invitational Tournament (NIT) appearance. He worked extensively with Southeastern Conference Player-of-the-Year Dan Langhi.

Shurina is well versed in the high-caliber of play the Southern Conference has to offer, serving as an assistant coach at Davidson College for seven years — the last three seasons as Associate Head Coach (1996-99). While at Davidson, the Wildcats captured the 1998 Southern Conference championship, made one NCAA and two NIT tournament appearances, while winning three consecutive North Division titles. Davidson won 129 games, an average of 18 games per season, during Shurina's tenure.



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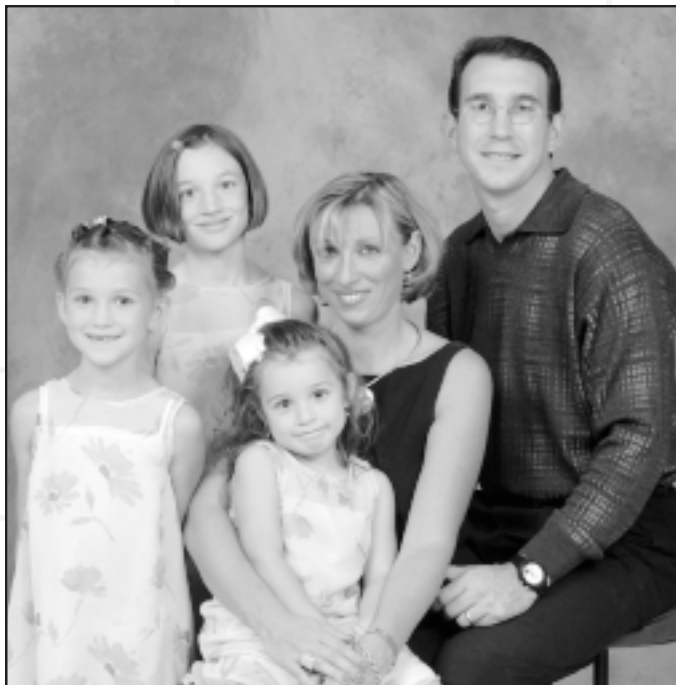
He began his coaching career at Brooklyn College, where he received a master's degree in physical education and sports management in 1992.

As a player at St. John's during the mid-1980s, Shurina went to four NCAA tournaments, including the 1985 Final Four, as the Chris Mullin led Redmen lost to Georgetown in the national semifinal. He also was a member of St. John's 1986 Big East championship team and was captain of the 1988 squad as a senior.

A 1988 graduate of St. John's with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice, Shurina was selected to the All-Big East Basketball Academic team in 1987 and '88. He also received the St. John's University McSwiney Award, which is presented annually to the senior male student-athlete that best typifies a St. John's man.

Following graduation, he played professionally for two years in the United States Basketball League (USBL), World Basketball League (WBL) and Continental Basketball Association (CBA). Shurina played under current Milwaukee Bucks head coach George Karl with the Albany Patroons in 1989.

Shurina and his wife, Mary-Kim, have three daughters, Alessandra (9), Gabriella (7) and Marianna Grace (4).



THE SHURINA FAMILY
(Clockwise): Steve, Mary-Kim, Marianna Grace, Gabriella and Alessandra

THE SHURINA PEDIGREE

In addition to his own style, Coach Shurina has the luxury of being around and associated with the best coaches in the game.

- Shurina was on the staff at Vanderbilt with **KEVIN STALLINGS**
- Stallings was on the staff at Kansas with **ROY WILLIAMS**
- Williams was on staff at North Carolina with **DEAN SMITH**
- Smith played at Kansas under **PHOG ALLEN**
- Allen played at Kansas under **DR. JAMES NAISMITH**

Shurina also had the privilege to play his collegiate basketball at St. John's under Hall of Fame coach **LOU CARNESSECCA**, who additionally ranks as one of the Big East's all-time winningest coaches. After his collegiate career, he played for the CBA's Albany Patroons under current Milwaukee Buck coach **GEORGE KARL**.

HEAD COACHING RECORD (2 YRS)

Year	School	Overall	SoCon
2000-01	WCU	6-25	3-13
2001-02	WCU	12-16	6-10
TOTALS		18-41	9-23

THE SHURINA FILE:

Full Name:
Stephen John Shurina III

Born:
April 12, 1966 in New York City

Hometown:
Woodside (Queens), New York

Education:
St. John's University '88, BS in criminal justice
Brooklyn College '92, MS in physical education

Playing Experience:
College: St. John's University (1984-88)
USBL: Long Island Knights (1988)
CBA: Albany Patroons (1988-90)
WBL: Youngstown Pride (1989)

Coaching Experience:
Brooklyn College, Assistant Coach (1990-92)
Davidson College, Assistant Coach (1992-96)
Davidson College, Associate Head Coach (1996-99)
Vanderbilt University, Assistant Coach (1999-2000)
Western Carolina University, Head Coach (2000-pres.)

Family:
Wife: Mary-Kim
Daughters: Alessandra (9), Gabriella (7) and Marianna Grace (4).



Milwaukee Bucks head coach George Karl with Coach Shurina.

"Coaching is leadership and Steve is a leader both on and off the court. I think he'll emerge as a leader in the community as well. Steve is a very talented and passionate about coaching and those things will bring him a lot of success. I've always been impressed with his level of confidence, I know he's confident he can win at Western Carolina."

- George Karl
Milwaukee Bucks Head Coach



DUGGAR BAUCOM

WCU Assistant Basketball Coach

Third Season • UNC Charlotte '95

"Duggar has been consistently excellent in all facets of coaching. He has done a fabulous job recruiting as evidenced by the number of young, talented players we now have. We are lucky he is still here with his recruiting success and coaching knowledge. He is destined to be a head coach before long because he is rapidly building a reputation as one of the top assistants around."

— Steve Shurina

Duggar Baucom enters his third season as an assistant coach at Western Carolina. In addition to his work on the court, Baucom heads the Catamounts' recruiting effort, which has yielded two of the premier talents in the SoCon with the likes of Rans Brempong and Kevin Martin.

While Baucom's time at WCU has been short, his relationship with Shurina is a long one as the two served as assistant coaches on the same staff at Davidson during the 1995-96 season, which ironically enough saw Western Carolina defeat Davidson in the finals of the Southern Conference Tournament. While falling to the Cats in the tournament, Davidson experienced one of its best seasons ever, posting a 25-5 mark overall, a perfect 14-0 record in conference play and ranking among the NCAA's top offenses, ranking fourth in the nation with a +15.0 scoring margin. The Wildcats went on to face South Carolina in the NIT and are the last SoCon team to finish the regular-season undefeated.

After his one-year stint at Davidson, Baucom moved on to become an assistant coach at Mars Hill for two seasons. He was responsible for scouting, film exchange, recruiting coordination and developing the strength and conditioning program for the Lions.

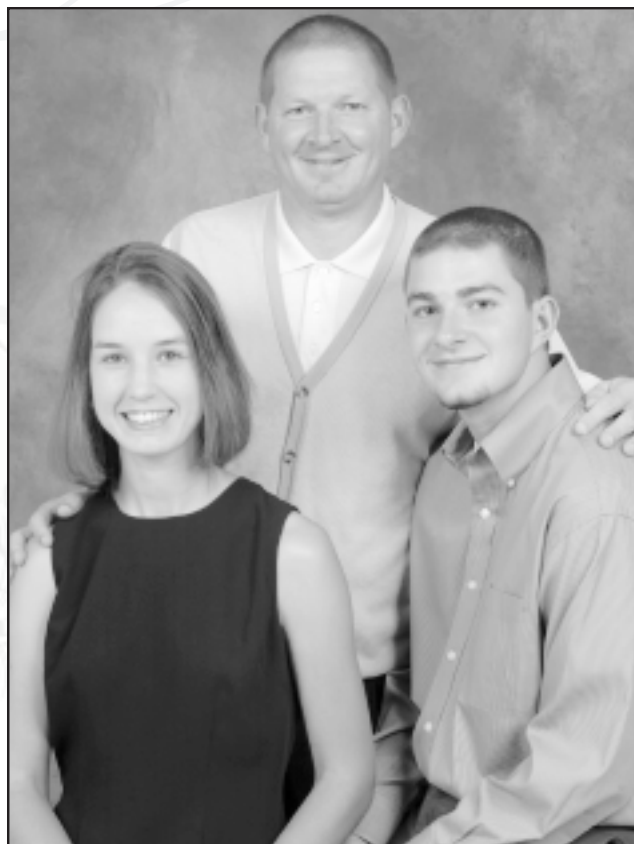
He left Mars Hill after two seasons to take a similar position at Northwestern State in Louisiana during the 1998-99 season. His responsibilities included implementing skill development for perimeter players, scouting and coordinating all recruiting visits.

Baucom has been involved coaching basketball on either the high school or collegiate since 1987, where he got his start as the junior varsity coach at North Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte.

Baucom was promoted to the varsity coaching staff in 1991. He served as an assistant until 1995, when he left the high school ranks for the collegiate level.

During his high school coaching career, Baucom also served as the head coach of the Amateur Athletic Union's Charlotte Royals from 1992-95, leading his team to the AAU National Tournament.

Baucom is a 1995 graduate of UNC Charlotte. He is married to the former Sherry Brown of Hayesville and has a 17-year old son Travis.



THE BAUCOM FILE:

Full Name:

Robert Franklin "Duggar" Baucom

Born:

September 21, 1960

Education:

UNC Charlotte '95, BA in history.

Coaching Experience:

North Mecklenburg High, Head Junior Varsity Coach and Assistant Varsity Coach (1991-94, 1987-88)

AAU Charlotte Royals (1992-94)

Davidson College, Assistant Coach (1995-96)

Mars Hill College, Assistant Coach (1996-98)

Northwestern Louisiana Univ., Assistant Coach (1998-99)

Western Carolina University, Assistant Coach (2000-pres.)

Family:

Wife: Sherry. Son: Travis (17).

MIKE CRAFT

WCU Assistant Basketball Coach
Third Season • Wingate '90



"Mike has been terrific in overseeing everything on campus and has added recruiting to his resume. Mike is the best I've been around in making players better through individual instruction."

— Steve Shurina

Mike Craft begins his third season as an assistant basketball coach at Western Carolina.

For the Catamounts, Craft will assist in the off campus recruiting effort, head up the "Junior Catamounts" program, coordinate the alumni basketball game, assist in scouting, make travel arrangements and coordinate community relations. On the court, Craft works with guards and oversees individual instruction.

Craft was a four-year letterman at Wingate and graduated from the University in 1990. Upon graduation, Craft immediately became involved in coaching at the collegiate level.

He obtained his first coaching position as a graduate assistant at Appalachian State in 1990. He served in that capacity for two seasons before being promoted to restricted earnings coach in 1992.

As restricted earnings coach his responsibilities included scouting, film exchange, travel and overseeing the ASU Mountaineer Basketball Camp.

In all, Craft worked on the basketball staff at Appalachian State for four years (1990-94) before returning to his alma mater as an assistant coach for six seasons from 1994-2000.

Craft helped Wingate record its best season in school history during 1999-2000. Wingate finished the season ranked seventh nationally in Division II, posting a 26-4 overall record, claiming the South Atlantic Conference tournament championship and advancing to the NCAA Tournament. In his last two seasons at Wingate, the team compiled a record of 49-10, made two NCAA Tournament appearances and won a pair of regular-season conference titles. Craft also helped bring Lorinza Harrington to Wingate, who now plays for the Denver Nuggets.

Craft played his high school ball for his father, the late David W. Craft, who coached basketball at Hickory High for 13 years. During his high school career, Craft was a three-sport letterman and set the North Carolina state high school single-season free throw record, shooting 91%. His brother David now serves as Hickory's baseball coach.

Craft is single and resides in Sylva.



THE CRAFT FILE:

Full Name:

Michael Warren Craft

Born:

October 29, 1967

Education:

Wingate University '90, BS in social science education
Appalachian State Univ. '91, MA in social science education.

Playing Experience:

Wingate University, 1986-90.

Coaching Experience:

Appalachian State Univ., Graduate Assistant (1990-92)
Appalachian State Univ., Assistant Coach (1992-94)
Wingate University, Assistant Coach (1994-2000)
Western Carolina University, Assistant Coach (2000-pres.)





ALPHONZA KEE

WCU Assistant Basketball Coach
First Season • Fayetteville State '98

"We are extremely lucky to have Al. In the short time he has been with us, he has demonstrated that he will be a great coach. He picked up where (former assistant) Stacey (Palmore) left off. He has added a new dimension to our staff and team with his energy and intensity."

— Steve Shurina

Alphonza Kee is in his first season at Western Carolina, coming to the Cullowhee campus this past July.

Kee will work with the post players as well as assist in the recruiting process as he hails from Eastern North Carolina and has four years of recruiting in the state from his previous stints. Kee additionally oversees the team's academic needs.

Prior to his current appointment, Kee spent the past season as an assistant at Winston-Salem State, where he helped the Rams to a 22-7 record and a berth into the Division II NCAA Tournament. In addition to his coaching duties, he was the WSSU recruiting coordinator as well as the team's academic advisor.

Kee spent the 2000-01 season at Chowan College as assistant varsity coach and head junior varsity coach. He began his coaching career at his alma mater, Fayetteville State, working as an assistant from 1997-98. From there, he moved on to be head boy's coach at Fayetteville's Max Abbott Middle School from 1998-2000.

As a player, Kee started his career at Lamar (Colo.) Community College. In his two seasons at Lamar (1993-95), the New Bern native set several school records, including one which still stands for draining 10 3-pointers in a single game.

Kee finished his career at Fayetteville State, serving as team captain once and receiving a B.A. in sociology in 1998.

In the summer of 1997, he played basketball in the professional division in Australia and New Zealand with Athletes in Action.

Kee is married to the former Angela Pryor. The couple has a four-year old son, Alphonza Ray.



THE KEE FILE:

Full Name:

Alphonza Kee II

Born:

January 2, 1974

Education:

Fayetteville State '98, BA in sociology

Playing Experience:

Lamar (Colo.) Community College, 1993-95

Fayetteville State University, 1995-97

Athletes in Action, Summer 1997

Coaching Experience:

Fayetteville State University, Assistant Coach (1997-98)

Max Abbott Middle School, Head Boys Coach (1998-2000)

Chowan College, Asst. Coach & Head JV Coach (2000-2001)

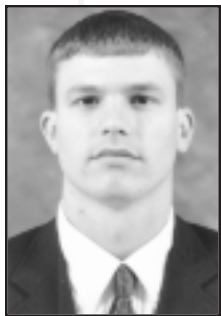
Winston-Salem State University, Assistant Coach (2001-02)

Western Carolina University, Assistant Coach (2002-pres.)

Family:

Wife: Angela. Son: Alphonza Ray (4)

WCU COACHES AND STAFF



DANIEL WILLIS
WCU Graduate Manager
Second Season • Lenoir-Rhyne '01

Daniel Willis is in his second season with the Western Carolina men's basketball team, serving as a graduate manager. He is pursuing a graduate degree in physical education, while teaching activity classes at WCU. Willis took on an additional role with the team for this season as the coordinator for video and film exchange.

Willis came to Cullowhee after a standout career at Lenoir-Rhyne, where he received a B.A. in sports management with a minor in business administration in 2001. During his four-year career with the Bears, he became the South Atlantic Conference's all-time leading scorer with 1,980 points, which ranks second in LRC history, and was a second team NABC Division II All-American. Willis finished third in NCAA II with his scoring average of 24.5 points in 2001 and was tabbed the South Atlantic Conference Athlete of the Year.

Willis hails from Hickory, N.C., where he played for current WCU assistant Mike Craft's late father and brother. In addition to leading Hickory to a pair of 3A state title games (1996 and 1997), he led his football team to a 16-0 record and a state championship in 1996 as the team's quarterback.



CLETE FORTWENDEL
WCU Administrative Assistant
Fifth Season • South Florida '93

Clete Fortwendel is entering his fifth year as administrative assistant for the men's basketball program at WCU. The Troy, Ind., native also regularly teaches three courses in the university's history department as a visiting lecturer.

Fortwendel handles various day-to-day operations of the basketball office, including team travel, office paperwork and keeping bench statistics during games. He has also assisted with WCU's summer basketball camp in the past.

Fortwendel is a 1967 graduate of Tell City (Ind.) High School, where he lettered in cross country, baseball and basketball.

Upon graduating from high school, he attended Purdue University for two-and-one-half years. After working in the private business sector for over 20 years, he returned to the classroom and received his bachelor's degree in political science at the University of South Florida in 1993. He attained his master's degree in history at Western Carolina in 1996.

Clete and his wife, the former Sarah Aldridge of Tell City, have been married for 11 years and currently reside in Cullowhee.



THOMAS MALLETTE
Head Athletics Trainer
First Season • San Diego State '94

Thomas Mallette is in his first season with Western Carolina, joining the Catamount staff this past February as the head athletics trainer.

Mallette came to Cullowhee after three years as assistant athletic trainer at the University of Southern California. He worked with the football, track and men's basketball teams. Prior to his stint

at USC, Mallette was an assistant athletic trainer at Findlay University for two years, where he additionally was an instructor in athletic training at the school. Upon graduating from San Diego State in 1994 with a B.S. in athletic training and exercise science, Mallette spent three years in Michigan, working in several capacities. From 1994-96, he completed his Masters in athletic training and exercise science while working as a graduate assistant in Michigan State's athletics department. From 1995-97, Mallette worked as head athletic trainer and part-time faculty at Lansing Community College. From 1996-97, he additionally served as head athletic trainer at Lansing Eastern High School and Jamieson Total Health Care Center.

Mallette has served as an athletic training intern with the Cleveland Browns, head athletic trainer at Rancho Buena Vista (Calif.) High School and as a student assistant athletic trainer at San Diego State. He is certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association, California Athletic Trainers Association and the American Red Cross.



JENNIFER BROWN
Director of Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes

Jennifer M. Brown, a native of Eden, N.C., is in her second year as the director of student-athlete academic support services for student athletes. In addition to her service to the WCU department of athletics, Brown is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Educational Research, Leadership and Counselor Education at North Carolina State University. Brown received her Master of Arts in counselor education from North Carolina Central University in 1996. Her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology was completed at North Carolina State University in 1992.

Prior to coming to WCU, her previous work experience has been with the Academic Support Programs for Student Athletes at North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has also worked with the Center for the Prevention of School Violence as the program coordinator for the Youth Out of the Education Mainstream Project and with the North Carolina Association of Educators as the parent coordinator of the North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children. Her research interest includes identity development of student-athletes and cross-cultural issues in counseling.



MYLES CHRISTIAN
Basketball Strength Coach
First Season • Alabama '01

Myles Christian enters his first season as Western Carolina's Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach. Christian, a Cottondale, Ala., native, comes to WCU after having served as a teacher and assistant softball coach at Holy Spirit High School in Tuscaloosa, Ala. He has also worked as a football and strength coach at Tuscaloosa Christian School and as a trainer at a fitness club in Tuscaloosa.

Christian is currently working on his Master's in Education at Western Carolina. He completed his Bachelor's degree at the University of Alabama in the spring of 2001. While there, Christian was a walk-on for the Crimson Tide football team, which played in the Outback Bowl, Music City Bowl and Orange Bowl during his time there. He also played on the 1999 Southeastern Conference Championship team.



MIKE RAZDRH
WCU Academic Affairs

Mike Razdrh is in his third year working with Western Carolina student-athletes and academic affairs. Razdrh assists student-athletes with class registration and provides coaches with progress reports. He also advises student-athletes regarding classes, majors and career options.

Prior to coming to Western Carolina, Razdrh served as the program director at Smoky Mountain Center Opportunity House in Sylva, N.C. from 1989-99. He was responsible for the psychosocial rehabilitation program.

He first became associated with WCU in 1992 as a visiting associate professor teaching two psychology courses. He earned his bachelor's degree from The Difiance Colle in 1983 and his master's degree in psychology from Central Michigan in 1986.

WCU COACHES AND STAFF



2002-03 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY CATAMOUNTS

Seated (l-r): Manager Katie Padgett, Kori Hatcher, Assistant Coach Mike Craft, Assistant Coach Alphonza Kee, Head Coach Steve Shurina, Graduate Manager Daniel Willis, Assistant Coach Duggar Baucom, L.T. Lockett, Athletic Trainer Adrian Dewhurst.

Standing (l-r): Manager John Carpenter, James Johnson, Jared Outing, Rans Brempong, Alex Osipovitch, Taylor Yanchar, David Berghoefer, Terrence Woodyard, Kevin Martin, Corey Muirhead, Emre Atsur. Not Pictured: Bob Autry.



**ADRIAN
DEWHURST**
Athletics Trainer
Bryan '01



**BOB
AUTRY**
Manager



**KATIE
PADGETT**
Manager



**JOHN
CARPENTER**
Manager