

WIN.
BUILD.
SEND.



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

ATHLETES
IN ACTION[®]

A Cru Ministry



MISSION

TO MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE
DISCIPLES.

VISION

TO SEE A DAY WHEN THERE ARE
CHRIST- FOLLOWERS ON EVERY TEAM
IN THE GEORGIA SOUTHERN ATHLETIC
DEPARTMENT WHO ARE MULTIPLIERS.

HOW DOES AIA INFLUENCE LIVES?

1

We help athletes and coaches find freedom
in the perspective of sport as worship to God.

**AUDIENCE
OF ONE**

2

We want to see an athlete develop in all three areas:
Mentally, Physically, and Spiritually.

**Total
ATHLETE**

3

We encourage athletes to live with eternity in mind as they
grow in Christ and multiply their lives into others.

**VICTORY BEYOND
COMPETITION**

STAFF



IN 2009, MATT LISTENED TO GOD'S CALL TO VOCATIONAL MINISTRY AND HAS HAD A HEART TO WORK WITH ATHLETES IN ACTION EVER SINCE. HE IS MARRIED TO HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE, COLLEEN, AND TOGETHER THEY HAVE 4 PRECIOUS DAUGHTERS: HOPE, KENNEDY, BERKLEY, AND CAMRYN. MATT IS SKILLED AT PURSUING AND CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO GO OUTSIDE THEIR COMFORT ZONE IN ORDER TO SERVE THE LORD WELL. HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO SEE AIA GROW IN IMMENSE WAYS AND IS EXCITED TO SEE WHERE THE LORD TAKES AIA IN THE FUTURE.

MATT WISE

CAMPUS DIRECTOR

HOLLAND IS FROM NORCROSS, GA AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE SWIM & DIVE TEAM AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN FROM 2019-2022. AFTER HER INVOLVEMENT AS AN ATHLETE AND EXPERIENCE WORKING AS STUDENT-STAFF FOR 2 YEARS, SHE FELT THE LORD CALLING HER TO MINISTRY. ONCE SHE GRADUATED IN MAY 2023, SHE JOINED STAFF WITH AIA AT GSU. HOLLAND ENJOYS DEVELOPING LEADERS BY WALKING ALONGSIDE THEM IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO SHARE THEIR LIVES WITH OTHERS. SHE IS VERY EXCITED TO SEE THE STUDENT LEADERS EMBRACE THEIR CALLING AND SEE HOW GOD MOVES WITHIN THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN.



HOLLAND DANSKIN

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY
LEADER**



GABBY MORROW

INTERN

ETHAN DIRRIM IS FROM CANTON, GA AND PLAYED ON THE FOOTBALL TEAM AT GSU FOR 2 SEASONS. HE IS WORKING ON GRADUATING IN THE FALL OF 2024 WITH A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY. DURING HIS JUNIOR SEASON HE STARTED GETTING INVOLVED WITH AIA AS A STUDENT LEADER, HE FELT THE CALLING OF GOD LEADING HIM TO WORKING IN MINISTRY AND IS NOW WORKING WITH AIA AS A PART-TIME STAFF MEMBER UNTIL HE GRADUATES. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO BUILDING UP THE BODY OF BELIEVERS AT GSU AND BEING BOLD WITH HIS FAITH FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD!



ETHAN DIRRIM

PART-TIME FIELD STAFF



JEREMY GAY

PART-TIME FIELD STAFF

JEREMY IS FROM MILLEN, GA AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA SOUTHERN BASEBALL TEAM FROM 2020-22. HE WAS INVOLVED WITH ATHLETES IN ACTION DURING HIS TIME AT GSU, BUT GOD MOVED HIM TO GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE AFTER HIS SOPHOMORE SEASON. WHILE THERE, HE BEGAN TO HOLD WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES AND DISCIPLESHIP. DURING HIS JUNIOR YEAR, JEREMY SUSTAINED A CAREER-ENDING INJURY. JEREMY FOUND HIMSELF BACK ON CAMPUS AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN. HE VOLUNTEERED WITH GS AIA DURING THE FALL OF 2023 AND IS NOW PART TIME STAFF, WITH THE INTENTION OF JOINING FULL-TIME STAFF UPON GRADUATION. HE IS MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STUDENT-ATHLETES IN ORDER TO HELP THEM GROW IN THEIR CHARACTER AND RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

STAFF

GABBY IS FROM LOCUST GROVE, GA AND COMPETED ON THE RIFLE TEAM AT GSU FOR 4 YEARS. SHE GRADUATED FROM GEORGIA SOUTHERN IN 2023 WITH A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY. DURING HER SENIOR SEASON, AFTER A YEAR OF BEING INVOLVED WITH AIA, SHE FELT GOD CALLING HER TO TRY WORKING FOR MINISTRY! SHE HAS COMMITTED TO A 2 YEAR INTERNSHIP WITH AIA AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN. GABBY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ATHLETES LEARN HOW TO APPLY FAITH IN THEIR SPORT.

VOLUNTEER STAFF



THERESA WAS TOLD THAT THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT THINGS TO LOVE IN ORDER TO BE ON STAFF WITH AIA: ONE IS A LOVE FOR THE LORD, THE OTHER IS A LOVE FOR GEORGIA SOUTHERN. FOR HER, SHE HAD A GREAT LOVE FOR BOTH, WHICH MADE HER INVOLVEMENT COME NATURALLY! THERESA HAS WORKED ON THE ADVISORY TEAM WITH HER HUSBAND, ALLAN, SINCE 2010. AROUND 2019, THERESA JOINED VOLUNTEER STAFF. SHE ENJOYS SEEING THE COACHES COME TOGETHER FOR BIBLE STUDY AND SHE ADMIRES THE COURAGE THE STUDENT-ATHLETES HAVE TO PROCLAIM THEIR FAITH WHETHER ON THE FIELD PRAYING OR LEADING DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS.

THERESA HACKLE

VOLUNTEER

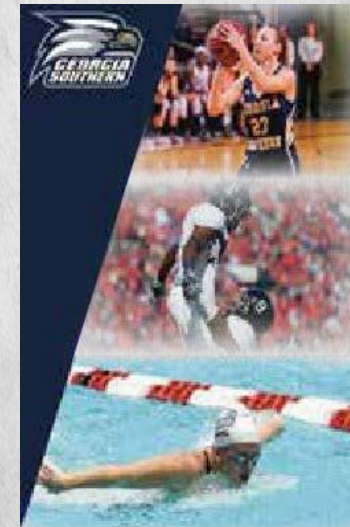


JJ HAS BEEN MARRIED TO HIS WIFE ALICE FOR 23 YEARS AND IS A PROUD FATHER TO HIS 22-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER KAYLEE. HE HAS BEEN A STATE FARM AGENCY OWNER FOR 10 YEARS. OUTSIDE OF WORK, HE FINDS FULFILLMENT IN SERVING IN HIS CHURCH AS WELL AS WITH AIA, WHERE HE BELIEVES IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CHANGING LIVES THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. JJ LOVES SERVING WITH AIA AND LEADING DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS, BECAUSE HE CAN ACTIVELY SEE THE GOSPEL TRANSFORM LIVES RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES. HE HAS A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS, WHICH IS FULFILLED THROUGH HIS CAREER AND HIS SERVICE TO HIS CHURCH AND AIA.

JJ PUCCIO

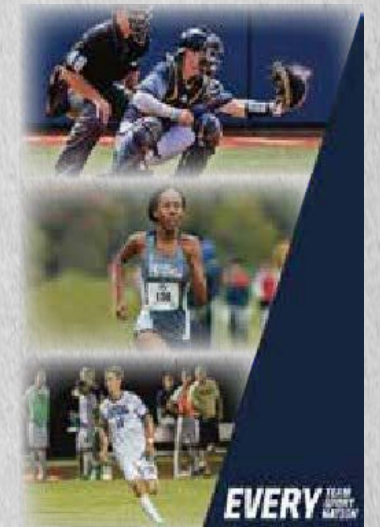
VOLUNTEER

WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?



**ATHLETES
IN ACTION**
A Cru Ministry

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



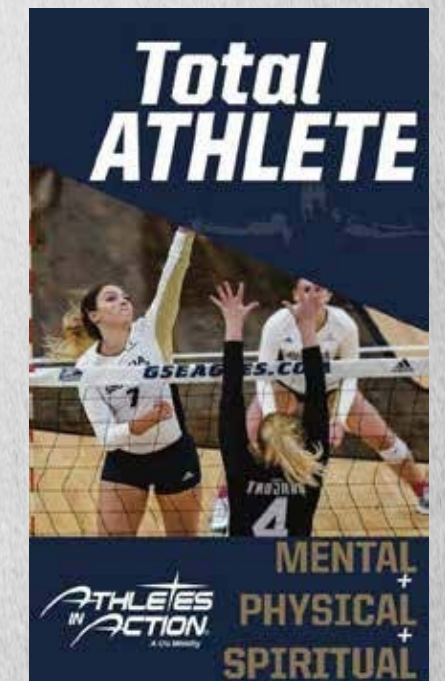
EVERY TEAM
SPORT
MOTION

WE ARE ABOUT MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES.

WE EMPHASIZE LIFE ON LIFE DISCIPLESHIP.

WE CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR ATHLETES TO SERVE TOGETHER, GROW IN COMMUNITY, AND BE IN THE WORD TOGETHER.

WE ENCOURAGE OUR ATHLETES TO JOIN A LOCAL CHURCH IN COLLEGE SO THEY WILL BE LIFELONG LABORERS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST!



SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP



During Spring Break of 2023, we took over 30 athletes and coaches to Costa Rica on a Filter of Hope mission trip. Access to clean water is limited in Costa Rica, so we distributed water filters to provide clean drinking water to their communities. Using the filters, we shared the gospel with people as well, providing not only a physical need, but a **spiritual need!**

Another special thing about AIA on mission is that we get to share the gift of sport across cultures. On this trip, we were able to bond with kids and locals by playing sports! At the end of each day, a couple athletes would share their testimonies with the kids with the help of our translators. Through this, we could truly experience how sport can be used as a platform to share how God has transformed our lives through His Gospel.

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP



WHAT DID GOING TO COSTA RICA MEAN TO YOU?

"Being able to go to Costa Rica and spread the love of Jesus to a whole new culture was truly a blessing. The people's faith was so true and real and really opened my eyes to how I should be living in my faith. An experience that I will absolutely cherish forever."

Jenna Maloy
Georgia Southern Swim & Dive

Jenna Maloy

Jenna Maloy - Swim & Dive



HOW HAVE SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS IMPACTED YOU?

"After going to the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica, my perspective of God has changed immensely. I saw His character in the people we met, in learning about their cultures and hearing their stories. You can truly see the joy they find in God regardless of the circumstances of their lives, which contrasted mine so greatly. It made me desire to see the joy of the Lord in all things!"

Holland Danskin
Former Georgia Southern Swim & Dive
Women's Ministry Leader

Holland Danskin

Holland Danskin - Women's Ministry Leader

WINTER MISSION TRIP BASEBALL IN CUBA

December 2022

The purpose of the Winter Cuba Mission Trip was to allow baseball players a chance to go and serve, evangelize, and play baseball overseas.



17 total people went to Cuba including 2 GS baseball players and 2 GS AIA staff. While they were there, they scrimmaged against Cuban players in the area, equipped pastors to understand how they can use sport as a platform for discipleship, handed out water filters, and helped the US players grow in their own walks with the Lord through the AIA principles.



WINTER MISSION TRIP

HOW DID THE CUBA BASEBALL MISSION TRIP IMPACT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST?

"Going on the mission trip to Cuba opened my eyes to what it truly looks like to live life in Christ. Working with the staff there, I saw true servants of the Lord. This both convicted and encouraged me in my personal life. It led me to a new passion to grow in my relationship with the Lord and allow Christ to fully take the lead in my steps. There has been nothing more fulfilling than abiding and growing in my love for Christ."

Jarrett Jenkins
Georgia Southern Baseball



Jarrett Jenkins - Baseball #3

HOW DID THE CUBA BASEBALL MISSION TRIP IMPACT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST?

"Before Cuba, a staff member told me, 'don't be surprised if the Gospel impacts you just as much, if not more, than the people you are seeking to impact.' This statement held so much truth throughout the entirety of my experience during the trip. Through other AIA staff and baseball players around the country, I experienced an authentic encounter with the living God that opened my eyes to what it truly looks like to follow Jesus. I am forever in debt to God's grace and provisions that paved the way for me to encounter Him in such a special way."

Jeremy Gay
Former Georgia Southern Baseball
Part-Time Field Staff



Jeremy Gay - Part-Time Field Staff

ULTIMATE TRAINING CAMP



UTC is a high intensity sport camp experience designed for college & pro athletes across the globe. We tackle the issues of how to blend faith and sport together in every aspect. Athletes learn five core Biblical principles that impact their faith and sport. Then, they get to experience the ultimate test in an unforgettable 20-hour sports competition, known as "The S.P.E.C.I.A.L."

Our goal is to help every athlete understand how the gospel impacts their sport and life. Athletes will learn what it means to play *with* God & not *for* God, and to live a life for an Audience of One!



UTC EXPERIENCE

In May 2023, GS had over 15 athletes and staff attend the Ultimate Training Camp in Colorado. This camp played a major role in launching our ministry for the 2023-2024 school year as the athletes grew in community and learned how to use their sport for God's glory.

WHAT IMPACT DID ATTENDING UTC HAVE ON YOU?

"I am so thankful for AIA for allowing me the amazing opportunity to attend UTC was one of the most memorable weeks of my life. Being able to grow spiritually, mentally, and physically with other college athletes was truly life changing and something I will cherish forever!"

Ainsley Clifford
Georgia Southern Volleyball

Ainsley Clifford - Volleyball #8

WHAT IMPACT DID ATTENDING UTC HAVE ON YOU?

"UTC had such a pivotal impact on my relationship with Jesus. My experience in Colorado is something I'll always look back on and remember the importance of placing my identity in Christ rather than how I perform on a football field. The ability to apply what I learned that week is like nothing I've ever been apart of before!"

David Dallas
Georgia Southern Football

David Dallas - Football #10

WHAT IMPACT DID ATTENDING UTC HAVE ON YOU?

"UTC completely changed my heart posture in every day of life. Every day I ask myself who or what do I worship? UTC taught me how to put christ in His rightful place in every situation and how to live with an Audience of One mentality. Colossians 3:23"

Izzy Ptacek
Georgia Southern T&F/Cross Country

Izzy Ptacek - T&F/Cross Country

WHAT IMPACT DID ATTENDING UTC HAVE ON YOU?

"Going to Ultimate Training Camp was a huge blessing and unforgettable experience. To share God's word and connect with other likeminded athletes was amazing and I will cherish the experience I had as an intern at UTC forever!"

Deborah Ruiz
Georgia Southern Soccer

Deborah Ruiz - Soccer #16



WOMEN'S STUDENT LEADERS

2023-2024



Bremen Butler
Rifle



Ansley Fullen
XC



Bailey Holland
Softball



Logan Jones
Volleyball



Jess Mazur
Softball



Jenna Maloy
Swim



Hannah Merrill
Swim



Izzy Wolfgram-Ptacek
XC/Track & Field



Ainsley Clifford
Volleyball



Deborah Ruiz
Soccer



Michaela Mikko
Soccer

MEN'S STUDENT LEADERS

2023-2024



Braxton Beal
Baseball



Daniel Haab
Baseball



Ben Johnson
Baseball



Will Robbins
Baseball



Jerrett Jenkins
Baseball



Davis Brin
Football



Alex Bowen
Football



David Dallas
Football



Josh Dallas
Football



Jalen Denton
Football



Elijah Hynes
Football



Michael Lanz
Football



Rasheed Miller
Football



Seth Robertson
Football



Marques Watson-Trent
Football



Judson Blair
Tennis



Luke Keller
Basketball



Pierce Shirk
Basketball

LEADERSHIP

HOW HAS AIA INFLUENCED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST?

"Coming into Georgia Southern I was excited to play baseball and get closer with new people. Little did I know, I was going to get closer with the most important person, Jesus. AIA helped me understand the true importance of eternal life and how to be a disciple for the people around me and continuing to pursue my dream while still being a light to God! Going to have AIA meets are the things I look forward to in my weeks and being able to learn more about Jesus. Pray for a friend today!"

Braxton Beal
Georgia Southern Baseball



Braxton Beal - Baseball #38

HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED IN DISCIPLESHIP IMPACTED YOU?

"Being involved in discipleship has been a really great way to celebrate accountability in my personal time with the Lord. It has been so much fun to find a community of girls with similar goals and lifestyles to just praise the Lord with. I'm really excited to grow my personal faith and knowledge over the next 4 years."

Bremen Butler
Georgia Southern Rifle



Bremen Butler - Rifle

LEADERSHIP

HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED IN DISCIPLESHIP IMPACTED YOU?

"Being in a discipleship group means a lot to me! It's special to be around athletes that love Jesus. It's really cool to build relationships with them and then use that to help tell other people as well!"

Pierce Shirk
Georgia Southern Basketball

Pierce Shirk



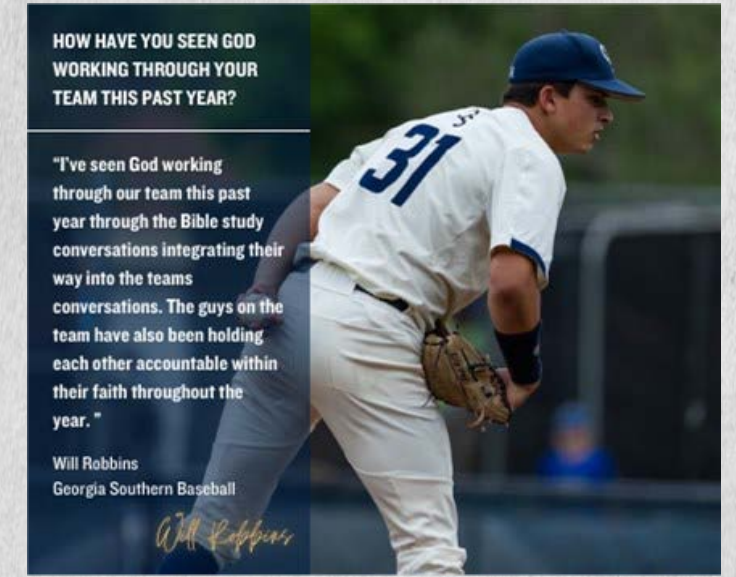
Pierce Shirk - Basketball #21

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD WORKING THROUGH YOUR TEAM THIS PAST YEAR?

"I've seen God working through our team this past year through the Bible study conversations integrating their way into the teams conversations. The guys on the team have also been holding each other accountable within their faith throughout the year."

Will Robbins
Georgia Southern Baseball

Will Robbins



Will Robbins - Baseball #31

HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED IN DISCIPLESHIP IMPACTED YOU?

"Being involved in Athletes In Action discipleship has equipped me to share the Gospel with others by building my confidence in who I am in Christ. It has also allowed me to build spiritual relationships with teammates who push me closer to the Lord every day."

Ansley Fullen
Georgia Southern T&F/Cross Country

Ansley Fullen



Ansley Fullen - T&F/Cross Country

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN DISCIPLESHIP GROW WITHIN THE TEAM OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS?

"Being involved in a discipleship group has not only allowed me to share my faith and knowledge with others, it has allowed me to dive deeper into my own faith and grow in my passion for glorifying the Lord. Watching the team grow to know the Lord through fellowship and study has been one of the most rewarding parts of my college career."

Ben Johnson
Georgia Southern Baseball

Ben Johnson



Ben Johnson - Baseball #30

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE AND WHY?

"Jeremiah 29:11. 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future'. This is my favorite verse because it is a reminder that His plan and purpose for me and my life is far greater than mine. No matter my circumstances in life, I find hope in Jesus and God's plan for my future."

Logan Jones
Georgia Southern Volleyball

Logan Jones



Logan Jones - Volleyball #22

HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED IN DISCIPLESHIP IMPACTED YOU?

"Having a great group of guys around me has grown me in my faith and pushed me to get better everyday. Encouraging those around you gives the opportunity to spread the word and continue to grow."

Luke Keller
Georgia Southern Basketball

Luke Keller



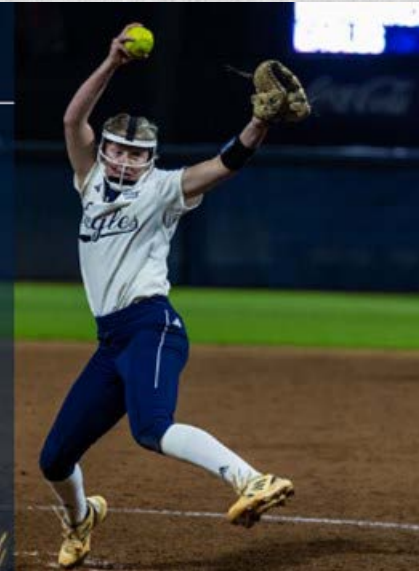
Luke Keller - Basketball #24

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE AND WHY?

"My favorite verse right now is 2 Corinthians 12:9. 'My grace is sufficient to you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'. I love this verse because it reminds me that Jesus is more than enough for me. It shows me I don't have to measure up because He is strong where I am weak! I can hope in all situations because He has power over it all."

Bailey Holland
Georgia Southern Softball

Bailey Holland



Bailey Holland - Softball #8

HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED WITH AIA IMPACTED YOUR VIEW ON HOW TO WORSHIP GOD IN YOUR SPORT?

"Being involved with AIA has shown me how being a Christian is so similar to being a baseball player. Both require practice, dedication, accountability, and teammates. AIA has given me the opportunity to build on my faith by working with others who have experienced similar challenges as myself."

Daniel Haab
Georgia Southern Baseball

Daniel Haab



Daniel Haab - Baseball #6

HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED IN DISCIPLESHIP IMPACTED YOU?

"Being part of a discipleship group has encouraged me to be in the Word more and have more in depth conversations with my peers. It has also been great to fellowship with people who share similar interests with me."

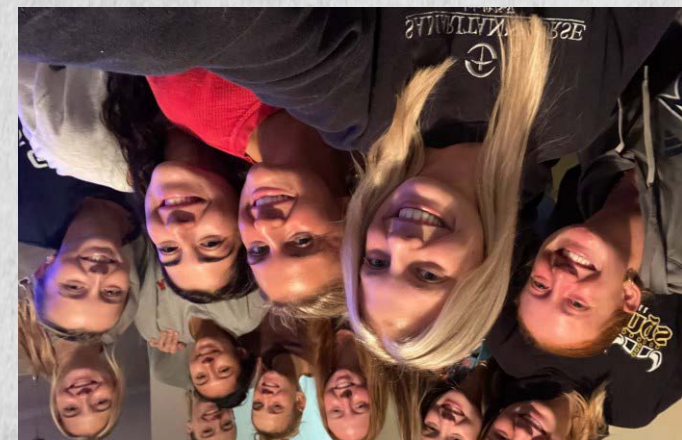
Judson Blair
Georgia Southern Tennis

Judson Blair



Judson Blair - Tennis

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS



Discipleship groups are the main focus of our ministry! The primary purpose of discipleship is to create a space where athletes can grow in their faith alongside fellow believers and teammates. This is where a lot of our life-on-life happens. The athletes pray together, encourage one another, and spend time reading God's Word.

We are committed to being led by the Holy Spirit as we **WIN** people to Christ, **BUILD** them in their knowledge and love for him, and then **SEND** them into the world to raise up other lovers of Christ.

COACHES BIBLE STUDY



Each week the coaches step away from their duties to spend time together in God's Word. It is an encouraging time to pour into coaches as they go out to lead our student-athletes and their own families.

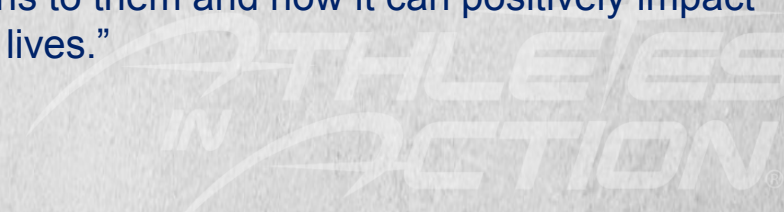
COACH SPOTLIGHT



JANA WEIS

**WOMEN'S TENNIS
ASSISTANT COACH**

"Having faith has really helped me feel more purposeful and satisfied in my life, which is reflected in both my coaching style and the way I interact with my players. My faith has shaped my principles, values, and goals in life. As a coach, I see it as my responsibility to create an environment for my players that fosters personal growth. I consider it a privilege to be able to support and guide the team through their journey of faith, helping them explore what faith means to them and how it can positively impact their lives."



ADVISORY TEAM

Our advisory team is up made of volunteers who love Jesus & love Georgia Southern Athletics. They give our ministry L.I.F.E. (Labor, Influence, Finance, & Expertise) and are the heart and soul of Georgia Southern AIA.



Billy & Jo Anne Hickman



Walt Higgins



Bill Stubbs



Anthony Tippins



Paul Newman



Paul Batten



David "Bucky" Wagner



Ross Euteneuer



Ken Brown



Allan Hackle



Dave Parker

AIA LIFESTYLE



WE STRIVE TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL ATHLETES TO FEEL VALUED, LOVED, AND CARED FOR. TOGETHER, WE GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WITH OTHER BELIEVERS, AND REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT KNOW HIM YET!

BAPTISM

COSTA RICA



In Costa Rica, we had the privilege to visit a Georgia Southern Alum's Home at the end of the week-long mission trip. They graciously opened their house to all 30+ athletes and coaches. A couple athletes felt called to be baptized to publicly proclaim their faith during this trip!

BELLA GAMEZ, MICHAELA MIKKO, KAMRYN NOBLES, AND LILLY HERRING WERE BAPTIZED IN COSTA RICA!

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



We end every semester with a celebration, which is normally hosted by local supporters of the ministry. At one of our celebrations, **ANDREI SAVRASOV**, after being discipled by staff and growing in his faith, decided he wanted to be baptized! We all got to not only celebrate the end of a wonderful semester, but also celebrate Andrei and his step of faith!

Thank you

We wholeheartedly believe that we are called to live out the Great Commission wherever our feet are planted. The Lord has called us to be missionaries to the student-athletes, coaches, and anyone involved in the GS Athletic department. With your faithfulness and trust, The Lord is using you in amazing ways as you send us to the front lines of the battle to win athletes' hearts for Christ. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. We could not be doing what we do without you!

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

Philippians 1:3-5



