

# DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS HUNTER YURACHEK



Entering his second full year as vice chancellor and director of athletics at the University of Arkansas, Hunter Yurachek has made the most of his time since Chancellor Joseph Steinmetz announced him as vice chancellor and director of athletics on Dec. 4, 2017.

Shortly after his arrival in Fayetteville, Yurachek introduced a program-wide strategic plan that focused on fostering student-athlete success and centered on achieving the program's mission of building Razorbacks and Champions for Life. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Razorback student-athletes, coaches, administrators, Razorback Foundation members and fans, results are already being realized on and off the field.

In 2018-19, Arkansas finished No. 23 in the Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup, which was first among programs with 19 or fewer teams. Arkansas captured two NCAA team championships (women's indoor and outdoor track and field), four SEC team championships (women's cross country, women's indoor and outdoor track and field, men's golf) and four SEC team runner-up finishes (soccer, men's cross country, men's indoor track and field and women's basketball).

In addition, the Razorback baseball team won a share of the SEC Western Division title and advanced to its second-straight College World Series. A total of 14 programs were nationally ranked during 2018-19, including five in the top 10. Arkansas had four NCAA individual and 22 SEC individual champions.

Razorback student-athletes continue to achieve at a high level in the classroom, posting a cumulative GPA of 3.24. Arkansas earned a program record six APR public recognition awards and saw 101 student-athletes qualify for graduation. The program graduated 95% of student-athletes who exhausted their athletic eligibility.

In 2018-19, Arkansas hosted its first NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships at Blessings Golf Club. In addition, Arkansas was home to the 2019 SEC Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships as well as both an NCAA Baseball Regional and Super Regional at Baum-Walker Stadium.

Yurachek launched several initiatives to further engage Arkansas and Razorback fans around the world. In August 2018, as part of the One Razorback

campaign, the inaugural One Hog Call event was held in Fayetteville, Little Rock and around the globe. Razorback fans from more than 16 countries and 40 states participated in a simultaneous Hog Call. For the first time in more than a half century, Arkansas scheduled in-state non-conference opponents, when it initiated games with University of Arkansas system schools in multiple sports.

Yurachek's first full year in Fayetteville saw tremendous success. Arkansas tied a program record with a No. 16 finish in the 2017-18 Learfield Sports Directors Cup, a program that ranks the nation's most successful intercollegiate athletics programs. Arkansas finished first in the nation in the rankings among schools with 19 or fewer sports.

In 2017-18, Arkansas captured four SEC championships (men's and women's cross country, women's indoor track, women's golf), including the school's first SEC crown in women's golf. The Razorbacks earned three top-five national finishes including national championship runner-up finishes at the 2018 NCAA Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships and the 2018 College World Series. Four Arkansas student-athletes earned individual national championships in 2017-18.

In the 2018 spring semester, Razorback student-athletes earned a record-tying 3.25 GPA and 282 student-athletes secured a spot on the department honor roll. In addition, nearly 125 Razorback student-athletes added their name to Senior Walk as graduates of the University of Arkansas.

Yurachek came to Arkansas from the University of Houston where he served as the vice president for athletics. Prior to Houston, Yurachek served as Director of Athletics at Coastal Carolina University, where Coastal won 29 Big South Conference championships. Yurachek was named Under Armor FCS Athletic Director of the Year in 2014. He has also worked at the University of Akron, the University of Virginia, Western Carolina University, Vanderbilt University and Wake Forest University.

In Yurachek's first two years at Houston, the Cougars' sport programs eclipsed 225 points in the Learfield Directors' Cup in back-to-back years for the first time in department history, securing top-three finishes in The American Athletic Conference both years. The Cougars improved to second in 2016-17 after finishing third in 2015-16. The feat was bolstered in 2016-17 by 11 of 17 programs qualifying for NCAA postseason competition. Houston's programs combined for a league-leading five American Conference team championships and 22 American Conference individual titles.

The success was not limited to the field of play, however, as UH student-athletes opened the fall semester with a record 96 student-athletes on the Dean's List. That record was short lived as 109 student-athletes earned Dean's List honors in the spring semester. Houston student-athletes combined for the highest spring GPA (2.95), highest cumulative GPA following a spring semester (2.93) and the highest average hours passed in a spring semester (14.1) in department history.

The 2016-17 year also saw the continuation of an aggressive facilities plan as construction began on the \$60 million renovation of the Fertitta Center, the football indoor practice facility and a baseball player development center and clubhouse with more than \$85 million of projects all privately funded.

In his first year in the role, Houston recorded its highest finish in the Learfield Directors' Cup since 1999-2000 and its second-highest finish in school history with 296.5 points to finish 73rd nationally.

The 2015-16 academic year saw the Houston Football program capture The American Athletic Conference Championship and a Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl win over Florida State, the Houston Men's Track & Field program win The American Indoor and Outdoor Championships and the Houston Women's Golf program claim an American Championship in only its second year with a full team. In addition, the Men's Basketball program returned to the NCAA postseason for



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the 29th time in program history and the Men's Golf program advanced to the NCAA Championships for the third straight year.

All of the athletic achievements occurred while UH student-athletes recorded the second-best fall GPA, 2.91, and second-best spring GPA, 2.87, in athletic department history while placing a record 88 student-athletes on the University's Dean's Honor List in the spring.

Yurachek led the Houston Athletics fundraising charge with a record amount \$5.2 million in private donations to the Athletics general scholarship fund in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Focused on improving the student-athlete experience, Yurachek has also led a department that unveiled the completed Guy V. Lewis Development Center for the Houston Men's and Women's Basketball programs, Carolyn and Ron Yokubaitis Field at Carl Lewis International Track & Field Complex, one of the nation's largest collegiate baseball video boards, a renovated Houston Football locker room and a short game facility for the Houston Men's and Women's Golf programs.

Named by Chancellor Dr. Renu Khator as Chair for a campus-wide steering committee established to oversee the grand opening events for the \$128 million TDECU Stadium, Yurachek assisted in the cultivation, solicitation and securing of a 10-year, \$15 million-naming rights agreement for TDECU Stadium with the per year value ranking in the top ten nationally for collegiate venue naming rights agreements.

Yurachek was instrumental in the national search and hiring of football and men and women's basketball head coaches (Tom Herman, Kelvin Sampson, Ronald Hughey) while overseeing the development and implementation of a \$500,000 remodeling project to the men and women's basketball locker rooms.

He served as liaison with an architectural design firm on the plans for the \$25-million Guy V. Lewis Development Center as well as overseeing the development and implementation of a \$500,000 facility enhancement to the Athletics/Alumni Center, including the addition of Cougar Cafe, a student-athlete nutrition center.

Yurachek came to Houston after serving four years as Director of Athletics at Coastal Carolina University where he oversaw a department featuring 18 men's and women's NCAA Division I sport programs. A testament of his vision, Yurachek was named the 2014 Under Armour FCS Athletic Director of the Year in May of 2014.

Under Yurachek's leadership, the Chanticleers won a total of 29 Big South Championships (both regular season and tournament championships), made 30 NCAA appearances and finished a program-best 79th in the 2012-13 Learfield Director's Cup.

During Yurachek's time of leadership, Coastal hosted an NCAA Baseball Regional; NCAA Baseball Super Regional; NCAA Division I Football championship contests in 2010 and '13; and NCAA Men's Soccer Championship matches in 2011, '12 and '13, as well as winning a competitive bid to host the VisitMyrtleBeach.com Men's and Women's Big South Basketball Championships in 2013, 2014 and 2015, sponsored by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce.

Coastal Carolina student-athletes posted a 3.028 grade point average (GPA) for the fall 2013 semester and saw its overall GPA rise from 3.053 to 3.108. Of the 434 student-athletes, 253 – or 58.3 percent – posted a GPA between 4.0 and 3.0, including 28 who earned President's List (4.0 GPA for the semester) and an additional 117 who earned Dean's List recognition. Further breakdown shows that 125 of the 175 women student-athletes (71.4 percent) posted a GPA between 4.0 and 3.0, while 128 of the 259 men (49.4 percent) accomplished the feat.

In addition, during Yurachek's tenure Coastal Carolina student-athletes earned:

- 363 All-Big South honors
- 31 All-Big South Player of the Year honors along with 13 Big South Freshman of the Year honors
- 28 All-America honors
- 11 Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors in their respective sports



- 5 Academic All-America honors
- 4 national postgraduate scholarships
- 3 Big South Conference Christenberry Awards for Academic Excellence

With all the success, the Coastal Carolina department operated within a balanced budget during Yurachek's tenure, thanks to his zero-budget initiative and the unprecedented revenues generated since his arrival with his restructuring of the external relations department. In his first year, the department revenue was at \$560,000, including \$316,000 in ticket sales and sponsorships at \$250,000. After the 2012-13 year, revenue came in at \$1.4 million, thanks to \$549,000 in ticket sales and \$600,000 in sponsorships.

Since 2010, the Department of Athletics added women's lacrosse; launched Champions for Life, a life skills enhancement program for student-athletes; signed a five-year \$1.1 million contract with an athletic apparel provider; established the Letterwinners Association; successfully completed NCAA Cycle 3 Recertification; and has been featured on the front page of the sports section of USA Today with the headline reading "Coastal Carolina Piles up Sports Success."

Also during Yurachek's tenure, several major projects that supported intercollegiate athletics totaling more than \$250 million were included in the University's ongoing capital improvements across the campus.

The HTC Center opened in 2012 and is the home for Coastal Carolina's men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball programs – as well as the three-year home to the Big South Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. In addition, Adkins Field House, the Boni Belle Baseball/Softball Hitting & Practice Facility, the Will Garland Academic Enhancement Center and the Richard M. Ward MD Sports Performance Center were completed and dedicated while the \$10.2 million Baseball/Softball complex will be completed in 2014. Yurachek also secured a 12-court tennis facility and a student-athlete training table facility.

Prior to his appointment at Coastal Carolina University, Yurachek was executive senior associate athletics director at the University of Akron. He led and managed the Zips' external relations unit, which included marketing and promotions, media relations, ticket operations, development (Z-Fund), video operations and merchandising. In addition, he was the sport administrator for men's basketball, men's golf and women's golf and worked closely with the football program.

Yurachek has also held various athletics administration leadership positions at the University of Virginia, Western Carolina University, Vanderbilt University and Wake Forest University.

He earned his bachelor's degree in business management at Guilford College in 1990, where he was a four-year letter winner in basketball. He earned his master's degree in sports administration from the University of Richmond in 1994.

Born in Richmond, Va., and raised in Charlotte, N.C., Yurachek and his wife Jennifer have three sons; Ryan, Jake and Brooks. Ryan is a former football student-athlete at Marshall University and has been with both the Oakland Raiders and Dallas Cowboys in the NFL. Jake is a sophomore football student-athlete at the University of Arkansas.



# MEDIA INFORMATION



## ARKANSAS COMMUNICATIONS

The Arkansas Communications Office appreciates your interest in Razorback football and strives to assist you in your coverage. A list of our staff members, our address and our telephone and fax numbers follows:

Office: 479-575-2751

Fax: 479-575-7481

Fayetteville Press Box: (479) 575-6622

Little Rock Press Box: (501) 663-0514

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## FOOTBALL CONTACTS



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## COMMUNICATIONS STAFF



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**ELISHAH SANTIAGO**  
Communications  
Assistant



**WALT BEAZLEY**  
Photographer



**MARY LYNN GIBSON**  
Secretary

## INTERVIEWS

Interviews with our coaches and student-athletes are encouraged, but we require all interview arrangements be made via the Arkansas Communications Office. Coaches and student-athletes are instructed to decline any interviews not pre-arranged by the Communications Office. University of Arkansas football coaches and student-athletes are generally available for in-person interviews during a game week. All student-athlete and assistant coach interview requests must be made at least one day in advance to allow time to facilitate the notification process. Telephone interviews can be arranged, but student-athletes' telephone numbers will not be provided and student-athletes are instructed to politely decline interviews when contacted by telephone. Student housing, the training room, the weight room and locker rooms are off-limits to members of the media.

## DAILY PRACTICE

Following select practice sessions, select members of the coaching staff or student-athletes will be available for group interviews with the media. Video and still photographers from accredited media outlets wishing to shoot practices are asked to consult with the Arkansas Communications Office for current guidelines prior to arrival at the practice field.

## WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Please consult the Arkansas Communications Office for the schedule of weekly press opportunities for Coach Morris and student-athletes.

## SEC WEEKLY COACHES' TELECONFERENCE

In conjunction with the Southeastern Conference, head coach Chad Morris will participate each week in the league's teleconference of football coaches. The teleconferences will be conducted each Wednesday from Aug. 29 to Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. CT to 12:10 p.m. CT. Accredited media members only may access the broadcast-quality teleconference. Callers may participate in the question-and-answer session with an individual coach or all SEC coaches. For more information and the teleconference number, contact the SEC Media Relations Office at (205) 458-3000.

10:00 a.m.	Ed Orgeron, LSU	11:10 a.m.	Barry Odom, Missouri
10:10 a.m.	Kirby Smart, Georgia	11:20 a.m.	Matt Luke, Ole Miss
10:20 a.m.	Dan Mullen, Florida	11:30 a.m.	Jimbo Fisher, Texas A&M
10:30 a.m.	Derek Mason, Vanderbilt	11:40 a.m.	Mark Stoops, Kentucky
10:40 a.m.	Nick Saban, Alabama	11:50 a.m.	Joe Moorhead, Mississippi State
10:50 a.m.	Jeremy Pruitt, Tennessee	Noon	Will Muschamp, South Carolina
11:00 a.m.	Chad Morris, Arkansas	12:10 p.m.	Gus Malzahn, Auburn

## ARKANSAS FTP SITE

An FTP site is available for members of the media. For more information concerning the FTP site, contact Michelle Glover ([miglover@uark.edu](mailto:miglover@uark.edu)).

## GAME CREDENTIAL REQUESTS

All requests for media and/or photo credentials must be online at [SportsSystems.com/Arkansas](http://SportsSystems.com/Arkansas). Requests should be made at least 10 days in advance.

Credentials must be requested and will be granted on a game-by-game basis only. No multi-game or full season credentials will be issued.

Please see media credentialing guidelines online at [SportsSystems.com/Arkansas](http://SportsSystems.com/Arkansas). Space limitations prevent accommodation of weekly media representatives.

Only fully accredited personnel directly involved in the coverage of the game will be admitted. Credentials are non-transferable. The Arkansas Communications Office reserves the right to revoke any credential: (1) used by an individual other than the one for whom it was granted; (2) any individual who refuses to comply with press box and/or photographic area guidelines; (3) any individual who is not an accredited member of the media; (4) any individual under the age of 16.

Credentials will not be mailed. They may be picked up beginning three hours prior to kickoff at the media will call station at the base of the elevator at both Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville and War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock. Photo identification is required when picking up credentials.

## GAMEDAY PARKING

Limited parking is available in Fayetteville and Little Rock for media members. Those media members needing parking should make the request at least two weeks in advance to allow time for mailing.

## LIVE STATS

Live in-game stats will be provided for the media at [RazorbackStats.com](http://RazorbackStats.com).

## WIRELESS INTERNET

The Arkansas press box does have wireless access. Information on accessing the internet is available in the game day information packets in the press box.