

Valorie Kondos Field



Head Coach
18th Year
UCLA '87

Career Highlights

- 2004, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1997 NCAA Championships
- 2001, 2000, 1997, 1996 National Coach of the Year
- 2003, 2000, 1995 Pac-10 Coach of the Year
- 13 Pac-10 Championships as head coach and assistant coach
- 17 Regional Championships
- Coached 13 athletes to 26 NCAA Individual Championships

Year by Year Results

Year	Record	Pac-10	Reg'l	NCAA
1991	19-5	2nd	4th	—
1992	14-5	3rd	2nd	9th
1993	19-3	1st	1st	4th
1994	25-3	2nd	1st	5th
1995	26-5	1st	1st	4th
1996	15-6	4th	1st	2nd
1997	23-2	1st	1st	1st
1998	16-6	4th	2nd	5th
1999	20-5	1st	1st	5th
2000	25-5	1st	1st	1st
2001	23-2	2nd	1st	1st
2002	22-5	1st	1st	3rd
2003	19-2-1	1st	1st	1st
2004	15-5	2nd	1st	1st
2005	20-3	1st	1st	4th
2006	21-6	2nd	3rd	—
2007	15-6	1st	1st	4th
Total: 337-74-1 (.819)				

UCLA head coach Valorie Kondos Field has positioned her Bruins as one of the premier programs in collegiate gymnastics. Not only has she consistently recruited and coached some of the top talent in the world, but she has produced the results.

The Bruins won their first NCAA championship in 1997 under Kondos Field and won again in back-to-back seasons in both 2000-2001 and 2003-2004. UCLA has remained the Leader of the Pac under her tenure, winning nine Pac-10 Conference titles, to go along with 13 NCAA Regional titles.

Kondos Field emphasizes a team concept, but her student-athletes have also found individual success, winning 20 NCAA individual titles during her years as head coach, including 19 in the last 10 years.

But even with all of her successes on the court, what gives Kondos Field most satisfaction is seeing her student-athletes succeed in all facets of their lives. Academics is a big part of that equation, and Kondos Field's teams regularly place members on the Pac-10 All-Academic teams and Scholastic All-American squads and annually contend for the school's team GPA award.

With legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden as her role model and cherished friend, Kondos Field's coaching philosophy stresses balance and integrity.

"Growing up in the classical dance world, I spent the majority of my youth in a very disciplined environment," she said. "The reward was the self-satisfaction that came from the culmination of months of hard work in preparation for our performances and knowing I did my best to become the best I was capable of becoming. The reward wasn't monetary or about 'winning'; instead, it was being able to have pride in a job well done."

"In a sport as subjective as gymnastics, it's important to have an honest internal voice that knows when you've done your best even if your 'score' says you didn't 'win', and conversely knowing when you can push harder even if your 'score' says you are the 'champion'," she continued. "That inner voice, known as integrity, is vital in living life to its fullest and enjoying the journey in every aspect of life."

Kondos Field's professional journey has been a unique one. A former professional ballet dancer with the Sacramento Ballet, Capital City Ballet and Washington, D.C. Ballet, she initially got her start in gymnastics at Agilites in Carmichael, Calif. by playing the piano for floor exercise music. From there, she became a dance coach, and under the guidance of current University of Minnesota co-head coach Jim Stephenson, learned the fundamentals of the sport. In 1983, she was hired to be UCLA's assistant coach and choreographer. While working under head coach Jerry Tomlinson, Kondos Field helped put UCLA Gymnastics on the map with their distinctive choreography and flair. The Bruins earned NCAA runner-up finishes in 1984 and 1989 and won six NCAA individual titles from 1987-89.



Kondos Field was appointed head coach of the Bruins in 1991 and brought in Scott Bull as her co-head coach. The duo earned West Region Co-Coach of the Year honors in 1993 and in 1994. As the sole head coach in 1995, she earned Pac-10 and West Region coaching honors and guided her team to first-place finishes at the Pac-10 and Regional Championships. Just one year later, she led the Bruins to a runner-up finish at the NCAA Championships, and in 1997 she became just the fourth coach in NCAA history to win a national title.

Kondos Field's accomplishments did not go unnoticed. She was selected by her peers as the NACGC/W National Coach of the Year in 1996, 1997, 2000 and 2001. She was also named the Pac-10 Coach of the Year in 1995, 2000 and 2003.

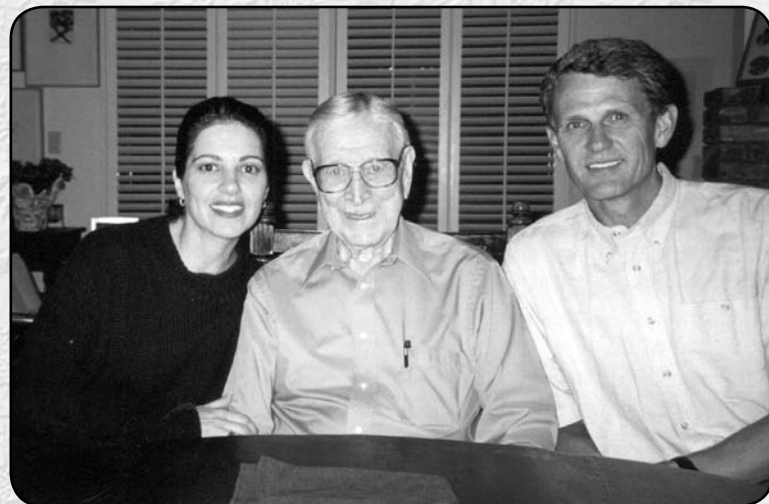
She is recognized as one of the top beam and floor choreographers in the sport. Under her guidance, UCLA has formed a reputation of having the most unique and artistic routines in the nation. Kondos Field has choreographed 14 NCAA championship routines on beam and floor, including an unprecedented three consecutive on floor from Kim Hamilton from 1987-89. She also earned the Choreography of the Year Award at the 2004 Canadian National Championships for Kate Richardson's floor exercise routine.

Kondos Field has also come to be recognized for her recruiting ability. Since becoming head coach, she has attracted to UCLA some of the top talent in the U.S. and abroad, including Olympians Mohini Bhardwaj, Kate Richardson, Tasha Schwikert, Kristen Maloney, Jamie Dantzcher, Yvonne Tousek, Stella Umeh and Luisa Portocarrero; and World Championships competitors Lena Degteva, Doni Thompson, Leah Homma, Jeanette Antolin, Holly Murdock, Ashley Peckett and Marci Bernholtz.

More impressively, however, under Kondos Field's tutelage, many of these top recruits went on to compete at the elite level both during and after their collegiate careers. In 2004, Kate Richardson became only the second female gymnast to compete at the Olympic Games as a collegiate athlete. She was joined in Athens by another Bruin, Mohini Bhardwaj, who captained the U.S. team to a team silver medal three years after her senior season at UCLA. Both Richardson and Bhardwaj qualified for the floor exercise finals, with Bhardwaj placing sixth and Richardson placing seventh with her Kondos Field-choreographed routine. In 1999, Kondos Field coached then-UCLA junior Heidi MoneyMaker at her first USA Championships, and MoneyMaker, Bhardwaj and Lena Degteva all represented UCLA at the 1999 World University Games.

A 1987 UCLA graduate in history, Kondos Field is also a freelance choreographer with extensive experience in the entertainment and gymnastics fields. She has helped to create, direct and choreograph Sea World's Summer Nights shows for the past 16 years, and her Riptide show won a national award for Best Overall Production: \$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000 or More at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) 2007 Big "E" Awards. In the summer of 1991, Kondos Field choreographed a summer acrobatic festival held in Lennestadt, Germany.

Kondos Field is married to UCLA Associate Athletic Director Bobby Field.



Valorie Kondos Field with John Wooden and Bobby Field

What They're Saying ...

"The vibrant personality of Valorie carries over in her work with the young ladies under her supervision. It's no wonder that all of them are so enthusiastic about their sport."

- **John Wooden, Hall of Fame coach**

"I've known Val since she helped me on my floor exercise routine before the '84 Olympics. She has since become a good friend to me and my wife, Donna, a former Bruin gymnast. She represents UCLA with class and character both on and off the gym floor. Valorie is a great coach, but an even better person."

- **Peter Vidmar, UCLA '83, NCAA and Olympic champion**

"There were many reasons for why I chose to come to UCLA, but the most important one was Miss Val. From the moment I met her, I knew that she cared about me as a person and not just as an athlete. Throughout my four years of being on the UCLA Gymnastics team, Valorie emphasized qualities such as integrity, leadership and teamwork. What she cared about most was that we graduated far better people than we were starting out. What I realized was that by becoming the best person I can be, I also became the best athlete I can be. Valorie is the reason why UCLA Gymnastics has become the number one program in the nation."

- **Lena Degteva, UCLA '01, NCAA champion**

"Having known Valorie since the early '80s, I've been privileged to witness the evolution and maturation of a truly remarkable coach; from an unquestionably talented choreographer to a highly-respected and greatly admired head coach. Her ability to recruit the nation's most talented gymnasts year after year is not the key to her success. To the contrary, the 'advantage' of working with high-level talent often presents its own challenge. Elite athletes frequently come to college with 'baggage' (e.g., fatigue, nagging/chronic injuries, negative experiences), and Valorie's calm, nurturing, supportive approach - along with her foremost ambition to graduate self-sufficient, self-confident young women - allows these gymnasts to adjust to a collegiate environment and succeed anew within that arena. Valorie's ego never enters the mix. Her focus is always on the athletes, whose success she ultimately defines not by winning but by growth as well-rounded human beings."

- **Kathy Johnson Clarke, Olympic medalist**

"Coaching gymnastics is difficult, but it is extremely challenging at the collegiate level. Young gymnasts are suddenly faced with instant freedom and stringent academic demands. Valorie has been able to take gymnasts from diverse backgrounds and motivation levels and teach them to love the sport again. She is a passionate professional."

- **Dwight Normile, Editor, International Gymnast**

"I have a lot of respect for Valorie and her program. We enjoy competing against them because it always brings together two of the best teams in the country and is a positive experience for the athletes, the coaches and the fans."

- **Bev Plocki, University of Michigan Head Coach**

"Val has been extremely successful with so many athletes over the years. I am always impressed with her calmness and the connection she has with her team."

- **Mary Lee Tracy, Former U.S. National Team Coach**

"You have to give Valorie credit for the strong program that she has put together at UCLA. I feel fortunate that I was able to be a part of the team so that I could watch and learn from Valorie. She has built the program into a model that others in the nation want to emulate."

- **Rhonda Faehn, University of Florida Head Coach and former UCLA gymnast**

Chris Waller



Assistant Head Coach
6th Year
UCLA '91

Career Highlights

- 2004 NACGC/W National Assistant Coach of the Year
- Coach of 2004 U.S. Olympic team captain Mohini Bhardwaj
- Two NCAA team championships as UCLA Assistant Coach
 - 1992 U.S. Olympian
- 1991 U.S. all-around champion
- U.S. pommel horse champion from 1991-93
- Inducted into USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 2003
- 1989 NCAA pommel horse champion
- 1990 NCAA high bar champion
- Member of UCLA's NCAA Championship team in 1987

Former UCLA All-American, NCAA Champion and U.S. Olympian Chris Waller is in his sixth season on the UCLA women's gymnastics coaching staff and first as assistant head coach.

Waller has brought nothing but success since returning to UCLA in 2003. In his first season on the Bruin staff, he helped guide the Bruins to the 2003 NCAA, Regional and Pac-10 Championships. He was also the acting head coach when UCLA snapped the longest home court winning streak in NCAA history for any sport, handing Utah its first home loss in 23 years. In 2004, he helped coach the Bruins to a repeat championship, won in record-setting fashion. He was also selected by his peers as the 2004 NACGC National Assistant Coach of the Year.

The success did not stop for Waller after the 2004 collegiate season. He coached former Bruin great Mohini Bhardwaj as she earned not only a spot on the U.S. Olympic team but the honor of team captain as well. Bhardwaj competed in the all-around for the USA in the team prelims and on three of four events at team finals, helping the USA win the silver medal. Bhardwaj had the eighth-highest all-around score in prelims and placed sixth in the floor exercise finals.

One of the United States' all-time gymnastics greats, Waller was a member of the National Team from 1989-97 and captured the U.S. all-around crown in 1991 and pommel horse titles from 1991-93. He was an all-around finalist at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona and took fifth on the pommel horse, just one-tenth of a point away from the gold medal. In addition, Waller placed in the Top 6 on the pommel horse at the 1993 World Championships and won three medals at the 1990 Goodwill Games and a team gold at the 1995 Pan American Games. He was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 2003.

At UCLA, Waller earned four All-America honors and helped the Bruins capture the NCAA title in 1987. He also won individual titles on the pommel horse in 1989 and the high bar in 1990. Every year from 1989-1993, Waller won either a U.S. or NCAA national title.

Waller, who graduated from UCLA in 1991, has 15 years of prior coaching experience and was selected the 2002 Southern California Level 7 Male Coach of the Year. Waller also served as a member of the USA Gymnastics Executive Committee and the 2000 Olympic team selection committee and chaired the Athlete's Council.

Waller and his wife Cindy have two daughters, Alexandra and Lilia. He and Cindy founded GymJam Summer Camp in 1997 and are owners of their own gym, Waller's GymJam Academy, in Santa Clarita.



Jim Foody



Assistant Coach
1st Year
UCLA '97

Former NCAA champion and U.S. National Team member Jim Foody returned to his alma mater for his first year on the UCLA women's gymnastics coaching staff.

Foody is the head coach of the women's program at the Josephson Academy of Gymnastics (JAG) in Culver City and previously coached at All Olympians Gymnastics Center from 2002-04. He was also the co-head coach for the men's program at Premier Gymnastics Academy in Illinois. He has coached state, regional and national champions and helped coach former UCLA star Mohini Bhardwaj during her Olympic run in 2004.

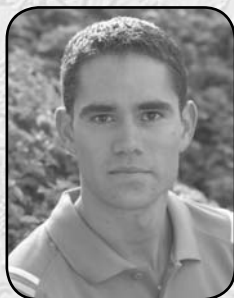
While at UCLA, Foody won the NCAA high bar championship and the MPSF parallel bars title as a sophomore in 1994. He was a two-time NCAA qualifier and an All-American on high bar. In 1994, he helped lead the Bruins to the MPSF team title, and in 1996, he was selected the USA Gymnastics Collegiate Athlete of the Year.

On the national level, he was a three-year senior national team member (1997-00) and a member of the 1997 USA World Championship team and 1999 World University Games team. He also competed at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials.

"It's exciting to think about the areas Jim will be able to complement the coaching staff of Chris Waller and myself," said UCLA head coach Valorie Kondos Field. "Jim has evolved into a respected and knowledgeable coach whose experience, combined with his love and passion for UCLA, will be a great combination for us."

Foody graduated from UCLA in 1997 with a degree in Political Science.

Marshall Nelson



Volunteer
Assistant Coach

Ashley Peckett



Undergraduate
Assistant Coach

Lindsey Vanden Eykel



Undergraduate
Assistant Coach

Alyssa Kitasoe



Team Manager
Junior

Ashley Martin



Team Manager
Senior

Lorita Granger



Staff Athletic
Trainer