The Southern Conference, which began its 86th season of intercollegiate competition in 2006, is a national leader in emphasizing the development of the student-athlete and defining the league's role in helping to build lifelong leaders and role models.

The Southern Conference is the nation's fifth-oldest NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association. Only the Big Ten (1896), the Missouri Valley (1907), the Pacific 10 (1915) and the Southwestern Athletic (1920) conferences are older in terms of origination.

The Southern Conference has also excelled as the premier Division I-AA football conference since earning that classification in 1981. The Conference currently consists of 11 members in four states throughout the Southeast and sponsors 19 varsity sports and championships that produce participants for NCAA Division I Championships.

Academic excellence has been a major part of the Southern Conference’s tradition. League athletes have been recognized countless times on Verizon/CoSIDA Academic All-America and district teams. A total of 19 Rhodes-Scholarship winners have been selected from the conference.

The Southern Conference office is located in the Beaumont Mill in Spartanburg, S.C. A textile mill that was in operation from 1880 until 1999, the Beaumont Mill was renovated in 2004 and today offers the SoCon a first class meeting area as well as a spacious library for storage of the conference's historical documents.

Membership History
The Southern Conference was formed on February 25, 1921 at a meeting in Atlanta, Ga. As 14 institutions from the 30-member Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) reorganized as the Southern Conference. Those charter members included Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi State, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Tennessee, Virginia, Virginia Tech and Washington & Lee. Athletic competition began in the fall of 1921.

In 1922, six more schools - Florida, LSU, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tulane and Vanderbilt - joined the fold. A year later, the University of the South joined the ranks. VMI became a member in 1925 and Duke came into the fold in 1929. Since then, conference membership has experienced a series of membership changes with 42 institutions having been affiliated with the league. The league has undergone two major transitions during its history.

The first occurred in December 1932 when the Southeastern Conference was formed from the 23-school Southern Conference. The league's 13 members west and south of the Appalachian Mountains reorganized to help reduce the extensive travel demands that were present in the league at the time. In 1936, the Southern Conference invited The Citadel, William & Mary, Davidson, Furman, Richmond and Wake Forest to join the membership.

The second major shift happened in 1953 when Clemson, Duke, Maryland, North Carolina, North Carolina State, South Carolina and Wake Forest officially withdrew from the league to form the Atlantic Coast Conference. This change was brought about due to the desire of many of those schools to schedule a greater number of regular season basketball games against their local rivals.

Today, the league continues to thrive with a membership that spans four Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Current league members are Appalachian State, College of Charleston, The Citadel, Davidson, Elon, Furman, Georgia Southern, UNC Greensboro, Chattanooga, Western Carolina and Wofford. The most recent addition, Elon, joined the Southern Conference on July 1, 2003.

Leadership
John Iamarino was officially named commissioner of the conference on January 2, 2006. Previously, Iamarino served as commissioner of the Northeast Conference. In nine years with the New Jersey-based league, Iamarino promoted the conference through an ambitious agenda which improved competition, upgraded compliance-related matters and increased the marketing and brand awareness of the conference and its member institutions.

The Southern Conference named its first commissioner in December 1950. Duke head football coach Wallace Wade made the transition from Blue Devil football coach to athletics administration as the first person at the helm of the conference.

Lloyd Jordan replaced Wade as the commissioner in 1960 and served a 14-year term until Ken Germann became the league commissioner in 1974 and served a 14-year term until Ken Germann became the league commissioner in 1974 and served until 1988. The current commissioner is John Iamarino.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Conference Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama (1921-1932)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian State (1971-present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auburn (1921-1932)</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Charleston (1998-present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chattanooga (1976-present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Citadel (1936-present)</td>
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<td>Clemson (1921-1953)</td>
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<td>Davidson (1936-1988, 1991-present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duke (1928-1953)</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Carolina (1964-1976)</td>
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<td>Elon (2003-present)</td>
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<td>Florida (1922-1932)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furman (1936-present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Washington (1936-1970)</td>
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<td>Georgia (1921-1932)</td>
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<td>Georgia Southern (1991-present)</td>
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<td>Georgia Tech (1921-1932)</td>
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<td>Kentucky (1921-1932)</td>
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<td>Louisiana State (1922-1932)</td>
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<td>Maryland (1921-1953)</td>
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<td>Mississippi (1922-1932)</td>
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<td>Mississippi State (1921-1932)</td>
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<td>North Carolina (1921-1953)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNC Greensboro (1997-present)</td>
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<td>North Carolina State (1921-1953)</td>
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<td>Richmond (1936-1976)</td>
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<td>South Carolina (1922-1953)</td>
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<td>Tennessee (1921-1932)</td>
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<td>Tulane (1922-1932)</td>
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<td>University of the South (1922-1932)</td>
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<td>Vanderbilt (1922-1932)</td>
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<td>Virginia (1921-1937)</td>
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<td>VMI (1924-2003)</td>
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<td>Virginia Tech (1921-1965)</td>
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<td>Wake Forest (1936-1953)</td>
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<td>Washington &amp; Lee (1921-1958)</td>
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<td>West Virginia (1950-1968)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Carolina (1976-present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William &amp; Mary (1936-1977)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wofford (1997-present)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Bold indicates current conference member
head in 1974. Germann was the commissioner for 13 years and orchestrated the league's expansion to include women's athletics. In 1987, he was succeeded by Dave Hart who spearheaded the transfer of the league office from Charlotte, N.C. to Asheville, N.C.

Wright Waters succeeded Hart upon his retirement in 1991. Under Waters' leadership, the Southern Conference expanded to 12 members, added three women's sports and posted record revenue from the basketball Tournament. Waters, who is currently the commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference, was followed by Alfred B. White in 1998. White, a veteran member of the NCAA office, introduced the current SoCon logo and elevated the conference's commitment to marketing and development of corporate partners. He became the president of the Asheville franchise of the National Basketball Development League in 2001.

Danny Morrison headed the conference from 2001-2005 and orchestrated the league's move from Asheville, N.C. to historic Beaumont Mill in Spartanburg, S.C. Under Morrison's leadership, the conference increased its marketing and promotional efforts.

Championship History

The first Southern Conference Championship was the league basketball tournament held in Atlanta in 1922. The North Carolina Tar Heels won the tournament to become the first recognized league champion in any sport. The Southern Conference Tournament remains the oldest of its kind in college basketball.

The Southern Conference began sponsoring women's sports during the 1983-84 season. That year, volleyball, basketball and tennis championships were held in the league. Cross country joined the mix in 1985 and the league began holding indoor and outdoor track championships in 1988. Most recently, the conference instituted golf and softball championships in the spring of 1994 and added soccer in the fall of 1994.

The Southern Conference currently declares champions in 10 men's sports - football, soccer, cross country, basketball, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, wrestling, baseball, tennis and golf - and nine women's sports - soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, indoor track and field, outdoor track & field, tennis, golf and softball.

Football

The Southern Conference has the most prolific history among Division I-AA football conferences. The league boasts the best winning percentage in the history of the I-AA Playoffs (.617). League players have garnered more than 200 All-America selections and numerous national player or coach of the year awards. The conference has had at least one team in the Top 10 of the final I-AA poll for 21 consecutive years with at least two teams finishing in the Top 20 in every season since 1982.

The conference has placed multiple representatives in the I-AA Playoffs in 19-of-23 seasons, with 13 Championship Game appearances and five national titles. Georgia Southern won back-to-back national championships in 1999 and 2000. The SoCon has had at least one team reach the semifinals in six of the last seven years and in 11 of the last 13 seasons.

Prior to the conference's reclassification, Southern Conference football teams appeared in a total of 34 bowl games, posting a record of 16-17-2. There are nearly 40 former Southern Conference players in the College Football Hall of Fame. One of the most recognizable of these names is former North Carolina running back Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice. Justice helped guide North Carolina to three bowl appearances. He was a first team All-America selection in 1948 and 1949. In 1949, Justice earned first team all-conference honors for the fourth consecutive season, becoming the first player in league history to achieve that feat.

Another of the league's football products that made it to the College Football Hall of Fame is Sam Huff of West Virginia. Huff was a three-year starter on both the offensive and defensive lines for the Mountaineers. In 1955, Huff earned first team All-America honors on the field and was a first team Academic All-America for his work in the classroom. He played 12 seasons in the National Football League for the New York Giants and the Washington Redskins. He was a five-time All-Pro defensive lineman and is also a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In recent years, the SoCon has continued to produce outstanding student-athletes. Georgia Southern's Adrian Peterson captured the Walter Payton Award presented annually to Division I-AA's most outstanding offensive player in 1999. Furman's Louis Ivory was awarded the honor in 2000. Appalachian State's Dexter Coakley was a three-time all-conference selection and consensus All-America in 1994, '95 and '96 before going on to stardom with the Dallas Cowboys. Coakley won a pair of Buck Buchanan Awards, given to I-AA's top defensive player each year. Terrell Owens went from catching passes at Chattanooga to a stellar NFL career. Western Carolina's David Patten and Appalachian State's Matt Stevens were both members of the New England Patriots Super Bowl Champion team in 2002 and Patten also earned Super Bowl rings with the Patriots in 2004 and '05.

Basketball

Men's basketball was the first sport in which the conference produced a championship. The league tournament is the nation's oldest, with the inaugural championship held in Atlanta in 1922.

Not only was the Southern Conference Tournament the first of its kind, the league also helped change the face of college basketball in 1980 when, at the request of the NCAA Rules Committee, the league began a season-long experiment with a 22-foot three-point field goal. Ronnie Carr of Western Carolina made the first three-point field goal in college basketball history in a game against Middle Tennessee State.

Another college basketball tradition that originated in the SoCon is the traditional cutting of the nets by the winning team. According to USA Today, the practice of net cutting originated in 1947 with North Carolina State head coach Everett Case. As a first-year head coach, Case led the Wolfpack to the SoCon Tournament title. To commemorate the event, Case celebrated by claiming the nets as a souvenir of the win.

Basketball coaching legend Red Auerbach gives credit to former George Washington coach Bill Reinhardt, who coached in the SoCon for nearly 30 years, as one of the originators of the modern fast-break.

West Virginia's 10 tournament championships are still the most in league history. The Mountaineers were led by the incomparable Jerry West from 1958 through '60. West, a two-time All-America selection, spurred West Virginia to the Final Four in
1959. The Mountaineers lost in the championship game that season to California, 71-70, but West earned Final Four Most Valuable Player honors. West was a three-time Southern Conference tournament MVP, a two-time league regular season MVP, and was twice named the conference’s Athlete of the Year. He went on to a spectacular career with the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1979. He was a 14-time NBA All-Star while with the Lakers. It is West’s silhouette that comprises the NBA’s globally recognized logo.

Frank Selvy set the NCAA record for points in a game while at Furman. As a Paladin senior in 1954, Selvy lit up Newberry for 100 points, a record that still stands. Selvy was the Southern Conference Most Valuable Player in 1953 and 1954 and the league’s Athlete of the Year in 1954. He went on to a 10-year career in the NBA.

Rod Hundley was another West Virginia star during the 1950s. “Hot Rod” made a name for himself as one of the most spectacular players to tour the league during his era. Hundley averaged 24.5 points per game in his three seasons as a Mountaineer and was an all-conference and all-tournament performer in each of those three years. He was the Southern Conference Most Valuable Player and Athlete-of-the-Year as a senior in 1957. He was the first player selected in the 1957 NBA draft and enjoyed a six-year career in that league.

East Tennessee State’s Keith “Mister” Jennings made his mark on the college basketball world in the early 1990s. Despite standing less than six feet tall, Jennings was a two-time all-conference choice and the league’s Player of the Year and Athlete-of-the-Year in 1991. Jennings played with the Golden State Warriors of the NBA.

Most recently, Western Carolina’s Kevin Martin was a first round pick of the Sacramento Kings in 2004. Martin was second in the nation in scoring as a junior at 24.9 points per game before leaving a year early for the NBA.

Besides West Virginia’s team in 1959, the Southern Conference has been represented in the Final Four on two other occasions. North Carolina advanced to the NCAA championship game in 1943 before falling 43-40 to Oklahoma State. North Carolina State finished third in the tournament in 1950.

Women’s basketball competition began in the Southern Conference in 1983-84 with seven teams. In the sport’s history, seven schools have won the league’s tournament at least once with Chattanooga winning nine and Appalachian State owning six titles. UNC Greensboro won the 1998 tournament as head coach Lynne Agee became the first coach to take a team to the NCAA Tournament in all three Divisions - I, II and III. In 2001, Chattanooga head coach Wes Moore became the first coach in NCAA history to take three different teams to the NCAA Tournament in all three Divisions.

Since 1984, seven different teams have claimed at least a share of the regular season crown. Chattanooga has the most overall titles with 11, five of them shared. Chattanooga owns the most outright championships with six. Only three players have won the conference Player of the Year award twice: East Tennessee State’s DeShawne Blocker in 1992-93 and 1994-95; Furman’s Jackie Smith, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and most recently Chattanooga’s Damita Bullock, who won the award in 2000 and 2001.

Other Sports

In baseball, Wake Forest advanced to the championship game of the NCAA College World Series in 1949. Demon Deacon second baseman Charles Teague was named the CWS Most Valuable Player. The Citadel made history in 1990 by becoming the first military school to make an appearance at the College World Series. The Bulldogs were joined that season at the CWS by current conference member Georgia Southern.

One of the Southern Conference’s more famous baseball alums is Duke’s Dick Groat. The Blue Devil shortstop, who was also a basketball standout, was the conference’s Athlete-of-the-Year in 1951 and 1952. He went on to a 14-year career in the major leagues. In 1960, he was named the National League MVP after he led the league in batting with a .325 average for the World Champion Pittsburgh Pirates.

Among Southern Conference alums to grace Major League Baseball fields have been Atlee Hammaker (East Tennessee State), Jeff Montgomery (Marshall) and Mike Ramsey (Appalachian State). Other SoCon players to go on to a career in the major leagues include Angels third baseman Dallas McPherson (The Citadel), and pitchers Britt Reames (The Citadel) and Ryan Glynn.
Arnold Palmer, perhaps the most famous golfer to have ever lived, competed under the Southern Conference banner as a collegiate at Wake Forest. He took medalist honors at the Southern Conference Tournament in 1948 and 1949 and was the tournament's runner-up in 1950. Palmer was the medalist at the NCAA Golf Championships in 1949 and 1950. He went on to become one of the most accomplished golfers to play on the professional tour. Palmer won 60 tournaments while competing on the PGA Tour and has added 10 more victories as a member of the Senior PGA Tour. He has also won eight major championships - four Masters, two British Opens, one U.S. Open and one U.S. Amateur.

Women's sports are relatively young in the league's history. In 1992-93, the Southern Conference celebrated its 10th Anniversary of women's athletics. Furman golfer Dottie Pepper was named the Southern Conference Women's Athlete of the Decade in conjunction with that event. Appalachian State's Mary Jayne Harrelson won the NCAA Outdoor title at 1500 meters in 1999 and 2001. Most recently, Furman's Brandi Jackson won the NCAA Women's Golf East Regional in the spring of 2003.

Coaches and Administrators
The Southern Conference has also been a breeding ground for some of college athletics' most recognized coaches and administrators.

Legendary basketball coaches Adolph Rupp of Kentucky and Everett Case of North Carolina State both worked the sidelines in the Southern Conference. Rupp guided the Wildcats to a 30-5 mark during the 1931 and 1932 seasons. Yet, for all his coaching accomplishments, Rupp never led Kentucky to a Southern Conference tournament championship. Case mentored the Wolfpack to six consecutive Southern Conference Tournament championships from 1947 through 1952.

Lefty Driesell coached Davidson to three Southern Conference Tournament championships in 1966, 1968 and 1969. Driesell also won the league's Coach of the Year award four straight times from 1963 through 1966. Former Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins earned league Coach of the Year honors three times in the late '70s and early '80s while at Appalachian State and is in his first season as head coach at the College of Charleston.

Terry Holland saw his basketball coaching career take off at Davidson when he returned to his alma mater in 1970. Holland was honored as the Southern Conference Coach of the Year for three consecutive seasons from 1970-72 and led the Wildcats to the conference tournament title and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 1970. J. Dallas Shirley, a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, spent 21 years as the assistant to the commissioner and supervisor of officials in the Southern Conference. He also served as president of the International Association Basketball Officials and the United States Olympic Basketball Committee.

Even the legendary Paul “Bear” Bryant got his coaching start in the Southern Conference as he guided the Maryland Terrapins in 1945. A legendary Southern Conference football coach is the late Frank Howard of Clemson, who guided the Tigers as a league member from 1940-52. The incomparable Howard won 69 Southern Conference games which still ranks tied for fourth on the league's all-time coaching victories list.

The Southern Conference has been represented on the sidelines at five Super Bowls in recent years. Bobby Ross, who piloted the San Diego Chargers to the 1996 Super Bowl, was the head coach at The Citadel from 1973-77. Former Buffalo Bills head coach Marv Levy directed William & Mary from 1964-68. He was succeeded at William & Mary by Lou Holtz. William & Mary competed in the Southern Conference from 1936-77.

Significant Dates in League History

- Feb. 25-26, 1921: Representatives of Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi State, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Tennessee, Virginia, Virginia Tech and Washington & Lee meet in Atlanta, Ga. to form the Southern Intercollegiate Conference.

- Dec. 7-8, 1922: At the league's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., the name of the organization is officially changed to the Southern Conference. S.V. Sanford of Georgia is selected as the conference's first president.

- Dec. 8-10, 1932: At the annual meeting in Knoxville, Tenn., Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Louisiana State, Mississippi, Mississippi State, University of the South, Tennessee, Tulane and Vanderbilt withdraw to form the Southeastern Conference.

- Dec. 8, 1950: Wallace Wade, who just completed a 16-year term as Duke's head football coach, is named the first commissioner of the Southern Conference. The commissioner's office is opened in Durham, N.C. on Jan. 1, 1951.

- May 8, 1953: Seven members – Clemson, Duke, Maryland, North Carolina, North Carolina State, South Carolina and Wake Forest – withdraw to form the Atlantic Coast Conference.

- Nov. 29, 1980: At the request of the NCAA Basketball Rules Committee, the Southern Conference begins a season-long experiment with a 22-foot, three-point field goal, thus becoming the first conference to employ that rule. Ronnie Carr of Western Carolina makes the first three-point field goal in college basketball history in a game against Middle Tennessee State.

- Dec. 3-4, 1981: The NCAA, at its fourth special convention in St. Louis, Mo., restructures I-A football. As a result, the Southern Conference's eight Division I-A football playing members are reclassified to Division I-AA.

- June 6, 1983: At a special meeting of the Southern Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C., the league formalizes women's varsity competition in basketball and volleyball beginning with the 1983-84 season. The executive committee also approves pilot women's championships in tennis and golf for 1983-84.

- Dec. 18-19, 1995: The conference announces that the College of Charleston, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Wofford College have accepted invitations to join the league.

- July 1, 2003: Elon University officially joins the league. VMI departs to join the Big South.
Iamarino has emphasized a strategic plan that calls for greater emphasis on the student-athlete in Southern Conference championships, increased television and video-streaming coverage, an aggressive policy toward conference and nonconference scheduling, and a commitment to rules compliance.

Iamarino, 51, has spent the past 22 years at the conference level, working at both the Sun Belt Conference and the Northeast Conference. Prior to joining the SoCon, he served as Commissioner of the NEC for nine years. During that time, the conference launched its first web-site, increased television coverage from 12 to 30 basketball games, worked to implement 30 grants-in-aid for the previously non-scholarship football programs, and initiated the league’s aggressive marketing and merchandising efforts.

Under his leadership, the NEC added new championships in the women’s sports of lacrosse, swimming & diving and field hockey. More recently, he was instrumental in the formation of the Gridiron Classic, a new post-season game between the champions of the NEC and Pioneer Football League.

At the Sun Belt, he spent 13 years (1984-97) in a variety of publicity, compliance and administrative positions, rising to the level of Associate Commissioner. When the original Sun Belt merged with the then-American South Conference in 1991, Iamarino was the lone staffer from the original organization to move to the new Sun Belt, heading the transition team for the unprecedented merger of two Division I leagues.

He entered the field of intercollegiate athletics as Assistant Sports Information Director at Georgetown in 1979, working two years there before moving on to become Sports Information Director at Jacksonville.

He is active nationally with experience as a member of the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee, the Division I-AA Football Governance Committee and a special sub-committee of the Collegiate Commissioners’ Association studying the I-AA football playoffs. He recently served as Vice President of the CCA representing Division I-AA and served a term on the NCAA’s Special Events Committee.

Iamarino is a 1977 graduate of St. Bonaventure, where he earned magna cum laude honors majoring in journalism. A native of Monsey, N.Y., he resides in Spartanburg, S.C. with his wife, Mary Ann, and son P.J. (10).

Former Commissioners:

Wallace Wade 1951-60
Lloyd Jordan 1960-73
Ken Germann 1974-86
Dave Hart, Sr. 1986-91
Wright Waters 1991-98
Alfred White 1998-2001
Danny Morrison 2001-05

Cabe was named an associate commissioner in 1999 and senior assistant commissioner in 2002. In his most recent role he has been responsible for managing the conference’s championships, public affairs, awards, marketing, promotions, merchandising, licensing, and electronic media efforts.

He has served as the interim commissioner on two occasions in his tenure. He was appointed to the position on June 15, 2005 following the resignation of former commissioner Danny Morrison, who became the director of athletics at TCU. Cabe had previously served a stint as interim commissioner in 2001.

When the Southern Conference hosted the first and second rounds of the 2001 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship in Greenville, S.C., Cabe served as tournament director of the highly-successful event. For the last 10 years, Cabe has been the tournament director of the Southern Conference Men’s Basketball Championship.

Born July 15, 1966 at Highlands, N.C., Cabe graduated from Highlands High in 1984. At Highlands High School, he lettered in four sports and was an All-Western North Carolina honorable mention selection in basketball. He graduated from UNC Asheville in 1988 with a bachelor’s degree in mass communications.

Cabe was married to the former Amy Hinson on June 12, 2004. The couple has one daughter, Alicen Carol, born on August 16, 2006, and a stepson, Austin (12).
Sue Arakas
Associate Commissioner

In her 13th year as a member of the Southern Conference staff, Sue Arakas oversees the conference’s budget, financial resources, office operations, and meeting planning. She manages daily business operations and administers all policies and procedures of the conference and the internship program.

In addition, Arakas serves as the league’s Senior Woman Administrator, overseeing the management of its nine women’s sports, as well as being responsible for the coordination of Championship events for women’s soccer, volleyball, women’s basketball and softball. She also serves as the staff liaison for various league sport and standing committees.

While with the SoCon, Arakas has been involved in national organizations such as NACWAA, most recently as a 2004 graduate of NACWAA/HERS East, a professional leadership development institute. She currently serves as the chair of the Conference Women Administrators, whose membership includes women administrators from conferences in DI, II and III and junior college levels.

Arakas joined the league office on June 1, 1994 as an administrative assistant and was promoted to Assistant Commissioner for Internal Operations in January, 1997. She was named Associate Commissioner for Internal Affairs in July, 1999.

She and her husband, Tommy, have a son and daughter-in-law, Stamati and Cyndi Arakas, who are product managers in Baltimore, Md. for DeWalt Power Tools and Black & Decker. They also have a daughter and son-in-law, Katina and Scott Kenyon, who both work for Dell Computers in El Salvador, and granddaughter Nina. Sue and Tommy reside in Asheville, N.C.

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Doug King
Associate Commissioner

A veteran with 11 years experience in athletics dealing with compliance issues, Douglas King joined the Southern Conference staff in February, 2003 as Assistant Commissioner for Compliance. He was promoted to Associate Commissioner in 2005.

In his role with the league office, King assists each Southern Conference institution with its campus compliance program administering the conference’s NCAA Special Assistance Fund, NCAA Student-Athlete Opportunity Funds, Coaches Certification Exam and the National Letter of Intent Program. King serves as a liaison between the member institutions and NCAA Membership Services and Enforcement staffs while providing interpretations of NCAA and Conference legislation.

In addition to his compliance responsibilities, King is the conference administrator responsible for overseeing the wrestling, men’s and women’s cross country and men’s golf championships. He serves on the NCAA’s Progress Toward Degree Waiver committee.

King joined the conference after a five-year stint at Houston. He had served as a Compliance Coordinator for two years and Director of Football Operations for one season. As Houston’s Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance, he was responsible for certifying the initial and continuing eligibility of more than 350 Cougar student-athletes.

He served as a Compliance Assistant at New Mexico in 1997-98 before moving to Houston.

A 1991 graduate of Bentley where he earned a bachelor’s degree in management with a minor in pre-law, King was a member of the lacrosse team and served on the college’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

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Pete Moore
Assistant Commissioner

In his fifth year as a member of the Southern Conference staff, Pete Moore is responsible for the league’s corporate relations and sponsorship program. Moore joined the staff on July 1, 2002.

Moore joined the SoCon after three seasons as the director of ticket sales for the NBA’s Charlotte Hornets. From 1998-1999, he served as the Director of Business Operations for the Charlotte Sting of the WNBA. Prior to his stint the WNBA and NBA, Moore spent three seasons as the General Manager of the Charlotte Knights, the AAA affiliate of the Florida Marlins. He served as Assistant General Manager of the Knights from 1992-1995.

In his tenure with the Southern Conference, Moore has cultivated business relationships with corporate partners including: BB&T, TIAA-CREF, Geico, Food Lion, and the Carolina Ford Dealers.

In 2003, Moore was one of 22 persons from around the country selected to participate in the NCAA Leadership Institute for Ethnic Minority Males. Moore authored an editorial on leadership that was later selected for publication in the NCAA News. In January 2004, Moore was appointed to the NCAA Division I Management Council. In addition to his marketing duties, he serves as the staff liaison to the indoor track & field, outdoor track & field and women’s golf championships.

A 1986 graduate of Duke, Moore earned a bachelor’s degree in political science. A member of the Duke football team as a quarterback and defensive back, he was a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Honor Roll. Moore earned an MBA from the Duke Fuqua School of Business in 1992.

He is married to the former Jackie Benton.

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Mike Ballweg
Assistant Commissioner

With more than 30 years experience in intercollegiate athletics, Mike Ballweg was named assistant commissioner of the Southern Conference on August 16, 2006. He is responsible for the conference’s public relations efforts and the day-to-day operation of the league’s media relations operation.

A native of Blacksburg, Va., Ballweg is a 1975 graduate of Virginia Tech where he earned a degree in business administration.

During his undergraduate college days, he worked as an intern in the sports information office at Virginia Tech under Mr. Wendy Weisend (a member of the College Sports Information Directors Hall of Fame). He served as the assistant athletics director and sports information director at Hampton (1975-81); director of sports media relations at Ohio (1981-83); sports information director at West Virginia (1983-84) and Virginia Commonwealth (1984-92). He spent two years as the assistant executive director at the Blockbuster and Raycom in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (1992-94) before spending 11 years as assistant athletics director at Rhode Island.

Ballweg is a member of the College Sports Information Director’s of America (CoSIDA) Site Selection committee and has served as the national chair of the CoSIDA Publications Committee. His publications have earned a total of 38 CoSIDA citations for excellence.

Ballweg and his wife, Shari, reside in Boiling Springs, S.C. A native of Sarasota, Fla., she is assistant vice president and lead trainer for Citizens Bank.

Assistant Commissioner

Mandi Copeland
Director of Media Services

Mandi Copeland is in her seventh year with the Southern Conference and serves as the Director of Media Services, having joined the league on May 31, 2000.

Copeland graduated from Florida State in 1998 with a bachelor’s degree in communications. She transferred to Florida State in 1995 after lettering in tennis at West Virginia as a freshman. She earned her master’s degree in physical education in 2000 from Florida State. She served as a graduate assistant with the Florida State sports information office serving as the primary contact for softball, women’s soccer and swimming & diving, as well as assisting with football and men’s and women’s basketball.

Born in Royal Oak, Mich., Copeland graduated from Riverside High in Greenville, S.C., in 1994. At Riverside High, Copeland was a five-year letter winner in tennis, receiving all-conference honors all five years and served as team captain for two seasons. She also served as an athletic trainer for football and baseball.

Callie Hammett
Assistant to the Commissioner

A member of the Southern Conference staff since October 8, 2003, Callie Hammett handles a variety of administrative tasks in her role as assistant to the commissioner.

She assists with the daily management of the conference’s business operations and financial endeavors and aids with the planning and execution of conference meetings. She serves as a liaison between the league office and Southern Conference member schools and coordinates the conference’s Graduate Scholarship program.

A 2003 graduate from Wofford where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Art History, Hammett was the recipient of the Henry Freeman Award and was crowned Homecoming queen in 2003.

A native of Spartanburg, S.C., she is a 1999 graduate from Spartanburg High. At Spartanburg High, she was a standout member of the cross-country and track & field teams, earning six letters. A three-time All-State cross-country standout, she helped lead the Lady Vikings to three state championships and three runner-up finishes.

She serves on the Board of Directors of the Spartanburg County Museum of Art and the Spartanburg Young Professionals. She is also a member of the Junior League of Spartanburg.

She and her husband, Rob, reside in Spartanburg.
Brandon Neff
External Affairs Assistant

Brandon Neff joined the Southern Conference in 2006 after serving as an athletic administrative intern at the Mid-Continent Conference. His primary responsibilities include assisting with the league’s media relations, game operations and championship administration.

At the Mid-Continent Conference, he assisted with the day-to-day operations of the office, including working with the compliance program, conference championships, media relations and event management.

Neff joined the Mid-Continent Conference after spending three years as assistant commissioner of the Iowa Community College Athletic Association. He also gained experience as a fan service representative for the Chicago Bears and as a production assistant with Championship Productions.

Neff earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise science with an emphasis in sports management from Iowa State in 2003. He earned a master’s in sport management from Northern Illinois where he was an assistant for intramurals and sport clubs in 2005-06.

A native of Alta, Iowa, Neff resides in Spartanburg, S.C.

Natalie Williams
External Affairs Assistant

Natalie Williams, who worked as a staff assistant in corporate communications for the American Junior Golf Association, joined the Southern Conference on Sept. 11, 2006 as a Media Relations Assistant.

The Ironton, Mo., native earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism at Mississippi in 2006. She gained experience in radio working at stations KTJJ/KREI as a programming intern and in television as a reporter for The Student Media Center.

As an intern in the Mississippi Athletic Media Relations Office, she assisted in a number of areas including working with the university’s football, men’s and women’s basketball teams. She gained experience writing features for the athletics department’s Web-site, OleMissSports.com. Williams also assisted at the Southeastern Conference Women’s Basketball Tournament in 2006.

She served as a staff assistant for the AJGA where she wrote features for the organization’s newsletter. In addition, she worked closely in corporate communications and interacted with the group’s sponsors.

Williams resides in Spartanburg, S.C.

Jim Burch
Coordinator of Officials

Jim Burch is in his 19th year as the Southern Conference’s coordinator of men’s basketball officials. Burch assumed his Southern Conference coordinator’s position in July of 1988 and announced his retirement as a game official.

His officiating experience includes 17 years as a high school referee and 29 years on the collegiate level. He coached the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) tournament for 20 years and the Southern Conference event for 15 years.

Born July 7, 1927 at Raleigh, N.C., Burch is a 1949 graduate of Fayetteville State with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. He earned a master’s degree in educational administration from Indiana and has done post-graduate work.


Burch also supervises men’s basketball officials for the South Atlantic Conference. He is a member of the Fayetteville State Athletic Hall of Fame, the CIAA Basketball Officials Hall of Fame, and the MEAC Basketball Hall of Fame.

2006-07 Officials

Robbie Adams, Starr, S.C.
Roger Ayers, Jr., Roanoke, Va.
James Barker, Ellenwood, Ga.
Bruce Bell, Lithia Springs, Ga.
Carl Blair, Rocky Mount, N.C.
Curtis Blair, Mechanicsville, Va.
Frankie Bordeaux, Grimesland, N.C.
Haywood Bostic, Middletown, Va.
James Bridging, Louisville, Ky.
Chuck Bridwell, Travelers Rest, S.C.
William Bush, Washington, D.C.
Chad Carpenter, Roanoke, Va.
Sean Casady, Virginia Beach, Va.
Mark Chaifin, Forest, Va.
William Cheek, Raleigh, N.C.
Tim Clougherty, Raleigh, N.C.
Steve Coleman, Greenwood, S.C.
John Corlo, Pinebluff, N.C.
Brad Cornther, Salisbury, N.C.
Marc Couch, Loganville, Ga.
William Covington, High Point, N.C.
Mike Cowart, Rustburg, Va.
Dave Davis, Rockingham, N.C.
Michael Drummond, Rock Hill, S.C.
Billy Dunlop, Laurens, S.C.
Mike Eades, Princeton, W.Va.
Brad Ettre, Marietta, Ga.
Greg Fogleman, Durham, N.C.
Brian Forte, Smyrna, Ga.
Dwayne Gladden, New Carrollton, Md.
Donnie Gray, Brynure Road, Md.
Tony Greene, St. Marys, Ga.
Ron Groover,Newton, Ga.
Jeb HarRest, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Jerry Heater, Charlotte, N.C.
Karl Hess, Forest, Va.
Jerry Hill, Flat Rock, N.C.
Tyler Huffer, Roosevelt, Ga.
Scott Hull, Ellicott City, Md.
William Humes, Asheleve, N.C.
Robert James, Jr., Decatur, Ga.
Chuck Jones, Sharpeburg, Ga.

Chris King, Stone Mountain, Ga.
Lee Klutts, Mt. Pleasant, N.C.
Kevin Lanier, Fort Mill, S.C.
Jamie Luckie, Charlotte, N.C.
Barry Mathis, Marysville, Tenn.
Gary Maxwell, Cookeville, Tenn.
Keith Maxwell, Asheleve, N.C.
Xavier McCall, Raleigh, N.C.
Terry Moore, Spartanburg, S.C.
Quintin Murphy, Bedford, Va.
Mike Nance, Tucker, Ga.
Ray Natili, Summerville, N.C.
Timothy Nestor, Advance, N.C.
Roger Parramore, Pinehurst, N.C.
Rick Pate, Raleigh, N.C.
Bobby Pennington, Winterting, N.C.
Antonio Pett, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Steve Payt, Clinton, Tenn.
Nathan Quick, Charlotte, N.C.
Carlos Reyes, Raleigh, N.C.
Drew Ridenhour, Rockwell, N.C.
Mark Schmier, Charlotte, N.C.
Kevin Scott, Flovery Branch, Ga.
Curtis Shaw, Bradenton, Fla.
Dennis Sigler, Augusta, Ga.
Doug Simnins, Virginia Beach, Va.
Scott Smith, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Alan Sprague, Waynesboro, Va.
Zeltor Stred, Charlotte, N.C.
Dan Stroffken, Simpsonville, S.C.
Michael Stuart, Maryville, Tenn.
Raymond Styons, Jr., Greenville, N.C.
Everette Sumner, Columbia, S.C.
Glenn Tuitt, Decatur, Ga.
Ted Valentine, Charleston, S.C.
Jeff Wagner, Cornelius, N.C.
Gary Wall, Raleigh, N.C.
Tony Whisnant, Hildebran, N.C.
Justin Willis, Greensboro, N.C.
Mike Wood, Spartanburg, S.C.
Press Releases
The Southern Conference utilizes e-mail and the league’s web-site (www.socon.com) to distribute information, press releases, notes and statistics. If you wish to be added to the distribution list, please contact a member of the media relations staff.

SoCon TV
In July 2005, the Southern Conference launched SoCon.TV, a live video streaming network designed to bring SoCon sports to people around the world through the internet. The network will include not only Southern Conference Championship events but also regular season events from around the league.

Players of the Week
The Southern Conference selects a player of the week throughout the season. The honorees will be announced on Tuesdays and will be available on the conference’s web-site (www.socon.com) or by contacting the conference office.

Post-season Awards
Following the conclusion of the regular season, voting is conducted on the all-conference teams by the league’s coaches and members of the Southern Conference Sports Media Association (SCSMA). The coaches select a 10-member all-conference squad while the SCSMA chooses a five-player first-team, second-team and third-team. Both groups select a Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year and a Coach of the Year.

Southern Conference on the Web
Visit the Southern Conference’s official web-site at www.soconsports.com. Information related to men’s basketball and the conference’s other 18 sports can be found on the site include: up-to-date statistics, standings, weekly releases and game recaps. Video streaming of select championships and regular season contests is also available.

Public Relations Staff

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Responsibilities:  
Men’s cross country, women’s cross country, men’s indoor track & field, women’s indoor track & field, men’s outdoor track & field, women’s outdoor track & field

SoCon TV
Throughout the regular season the Southern Conference will offer live videostreaming of select SoCon games, including the entire 2007 tournament. For a complete listing visitwww.SoConSports.com.