



**Olivia Sandusky**  
**NBC Palm Spring News Anchor & Reporter**

Olivia Sandusky graduated from the University of San Diego in 2017. During her four years at USD she majored in English and played centerfield for the softball team. She earned First Team all WCC in 2017, USD Offensive Player of the Year in 2016 and was the Torero Rookie of the Year in 2014. After graduating from USD she received a M.S. in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Southern California. She is currently the evening anchor for NBC Palm Springs and delivers the local news weeknights to the Coachella Valley.



**Tracy Davies**

**National Managing Director of Recreational Competition - United States Tennis Association (USTA)**

Tracy Davies is the USTA National Managing Director of Recreational Competition, with a focus on participation and retention of junior, collegiate, and adult competition throughout the United States. In her various roles with the USTA, Tracy has been instrumental in major initiatives such as developing the USTA Competitive Pathway supporting the American Development Model; implementing the new digital structure, Serve Tennis, within the USTA Competitive Pathway; and overseeing the integration of the ITF World Tennis Number within the United States. Prior to coming to her current role, Tracy served as the Executive Director for USTA Tennessee for 5 years. Tracy's experience in tennis also spans the globe, with previous roles in coaching including Player Development Director for USTA Florida, National Coach for USTA Player Development in Key Biscayne, Development Coach for the South Africa Tennis Performance Center, and Traveling Coach for the International Tennis Federation. As a former collegiate player at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville and a certified teaching professional herself, Tracy's knowledge and experience in all aspects of the game of tennis help provide the USTA with valuable insight and information that will ultimately help grow the sport from the ground up.



**Danielle McNamara**

**Director of Coach Education - Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA)**

Danielle McNamara enters her first year as Director of Coach Education with the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). She is an extremely accomplished student-athlete, coach and administrator that has positively impacted all of college tennis and beyond.

Prior to joining the ITA, Danielle was the Head Women's Tennis Coach at Yale University. As a Bulldog she led Yale to four NCAA Tournament appearances, captured 4 ECAC Indoor Team Championships, coached 27 All-Ivy singles players, 12 All-Ivy doubles teams, 2 Ivy League Rookies of the Year and the first Yale women's tennis Ivy League Player of the Year. Danielle is a two-time Wilson/ITA Northeast Region Coach of the Year. Before heading to New England, Danielle was the Head Tennis Coach of the University of Texas Longhorns.

As a student-athlete, Danielle was a standout player for the University of Michigan Wolverines. She was the first player in tennis program history to compete in all three national championships; ITA All-Americans, ITA National Indoors and the NCAA Championships. Danielle was named Team Captain and earned the recognition for Big Ten Sportswomen of the Year.

Danielle holds a B.A. in Economics and Organizational Studies from the University of Michigan. Danielle is a native of Leominster, Massachusetts.

excerpted from [wearecollegetennis.com](http://wearecollegetennis.com)



**Erica Perkins Jasper**  
**Director - Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athletics**

Erica Perkins Jasper enters her third year as the Director of Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athletics. She is a legendary force within intercollegiate athletics and the sport of tennis.

Prior to arriving in the Athenas/Stags Athletic Department, Erica served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), which is the governing body of college tennis. Erica oversaw men's and women's tennis at all levels; NCAA Divisions I, II, III as well as NAIA, Junior College and Community College.

Before transitioning into athletic administration responsibilities, Erica was an accomplished Division I tennis coach and student-athlete. She was named the Assistant Women's Coach at the College of William and Mary, and then moved to the Head Coach position at Georgia Southern University, Michigan State University, and the University of New Mexico. As the Head Coach of the Lobos, Erica won the Mountain West Conference Championship.

As a student-athlete, Erica was named Team Captain of the Cougars, Academic All-American and received a Pac-10 conference medal. Her accomplishments were the first in WSU tennis history; competed in the NCAA singles championships 3 times, competed in the NCAA doubles championships, played in 4 NCAA team championships and became the first tennis player inducted into the WSU Hall of Fame.

Erica holds a B.A. in History with a minor in French (Summa Cum Laude) from Washington State University and a M.Ed. from Washington State University. Erica is a native of Seattle, Washington.

excerpted from [cmsathletics.org](http://cmsathletics.org)



**Heather Hawkes**

**International Tennis Federation/Speaker**

Heather has been working in the technology and digital strategy industry for 18 years. She started her relationship with USTA 15 years ago, and through the years her roles included customer support management and product management with a special emphasis in ratings. In 2018 Heather began consulting with the International Tennis Federation on the development of the World Tennis Number. Heather's background also includes a degree in psychology and several life coaching training programs and certifications. Today Heather works as an independent contractor serving the ITF and running her own coaching programs. She has extensive public speaking experience including USTA Annual Meetings, National and Section workshops, ITF Conferences, ITA and similar conferences, podcasts, and an NTRP training series. Heather is passionate about the growth of tennis and supporting the industry through innovation, digitalization, and collaboration.



**Sherri Stephens**

**Head Women's Tennis Coach (retired) - University of San Diego**

Sherri Stephens recently completed her 38th season as the Head Tennis Coach at the University of San Diego. She is top 50 in career wins in women's college tennis history and 19th among active head coaches. She has been an esteemed member of the USD community since the Athletic Department transitioned to NCAA Division I. It was this moment that Sherri built one of the most iconic tennis programs in history.

Sherri, now retired, led the Toreros to 428 wins, 13 NCAA Tournaments, 1 WCC Championship and 1 NCAA Singles Champion. The accolades continue as she has coached 13 All-Americans and led her team 8 times to the top 25 national rankings list. Sherri has been named West Coast Conference Coach of the Year 4 times.

Sherri, and her career, are well respected in the coaching industry. She has been featured as a speaker at the ITA Coaches' Convention, coached at the Olympic Sports Festival (winning gold), named Female Coach of the Year by USTA Southern California/San Diego. Sherri has administrative experience with the NCAA being named to the NCAA Rankings Committee, NCAA Rules Committee and Tournament Chair for the All-American National Championships.

Sherri will be awarded the Women Who Ace Achievement Award this evening, presented by the United States Tennis Association Southern California.

Sherri is a native of Phoenix, Arizona.

excerpted from usdtoreros.com



**Jennifer Petrie**

**Head Volleyball Coach - University of San Diego**

Jennifer Petrie enters her 24th season as the Head Volleyball Coach at the University of San Diego. She has established herself as one of the nation's most accomplished volleyball coaches in history. She ranks 10th among current active NCAA Division I coaches with 400+ wins.

Jennifer has coached her team to 21 of the last 23 NCAA Tournaments. The Toreros have advanced to the Sweet 16 four times and have been ranked in the nation's top 5 rankings. She has been named West Coast Conference Coach of the Year 6 times and 2 times named AVCA Pacific South Region Coach of the Year. The Toreros have been extremely successful in the postseason awards - 9 players of the year, 4 defenders of the year, 1 setter of the year, 9 freshman of the year and 55 All-WCC first team members.

Jennifer began her coaching career as an assistant coach at Indiana State University. She then became the assistant coach at UNC Chapel Hill before moving to the west coast. Along with her volleyball coaching accomplishments, one of her most prized titles being called 'mom'.

As a student-athlete, Jennifer was a standout volleyball player at the College of William and Mary and later inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Two times she was named Colonial Athletic Conference Player of the Year and two times named All-Southern Region. Concluding her time with the Tribe, Jennifer competed on the gold medal winning U.S. Olympic Festival North Region Team.

Jennifer holds a B.A. in Art History from the College of William and Mary, and a M.S. in Sports Administration from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Jennifer is a native of San Diego, California

excerpted from usdtoreros.com



**Sara MacKenzie**

**Director and Head Strength and Conditioning Coach - Cal Poly San Luis Obispo**

Sara MacKenzie is entering her eleventh year at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and fourth year as the Director and Head Strength and Conditioning Coach.

Sara joined the Cal Poly SLO Mustang athletic department as the Assistant Strength and Conditioning coach. She supervised baseball, volleyball, softball, men's & women's soccer, women's basketball, men's and women's tennis, beach volleyball, track & field, men's & women's swimming and men's & women's golf teams.

Sara began her rise in the strength and conditioning field by becoming a Sport Performance Graduate Assistant at Arizona State University. As a Sun Devil, she coached football, baseball, men's and women's basketball, water polo and swimming & diving.

Currently, Sara is responsible for all aspects of Sports Performance with the 21 Mustang teams. She has led men's tennis, women's basketball, volleyball and women's soccer to Big West Conference Championships.

Sara holds certifications with NSCA (certified strength and conditioning specialist), RKC and USA Weightlifting.

Sara graduated from the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Kinesiology and Health Promotion, and received her M.Ed. from Arizona State University in Secondary Education, Physical Education. Sara is a native of West Chester, Ohio.

excerpted from [gopoly.com](http://gopoly.com)



**Milena Stephens**

**Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) - Director of Education and Diversity**

Milena Stephens grew up on the courts of her parents' tennis club, where she started playing at age three; and as a junior player, Stephens reached #1 in her native Brazil. She earned a full athletic scholarship to play for Delta State University. Milena served as Director of Tennis at Cleveland Country Club in Mississippi. She also coached at Midtown Athletic Club in Weston, Florida, before joining the PTR team as Director of Education and Diversity where she is heavily involved in developing new educational courses for PTR members as well as spearheading the PTRW program with the goal of recruiting, certifying and empowering women coaches. Milena holds a B.S. degree in International Business and a M.S. degree in Sport Management from Delta State University.



**Linda Low**

**Professional Tennis Registry (PTR)**

Linda Low is a PTR consultant, and has built her professional career on helping people to get better as coaches and leaders. She has worked for National Governing bodies, Sporting federations and individual coaches. She has been involved in the development of female coaches and leaders across sports and continents, the most recent of which was the Women's Sport Leadership Academy High Performance Coaching programme with the aim of having more female coaches at future Olympic Games. Linda holds a Bachelor of Education degree in Physical Education from Heriot Watt University (Scotland)



**Cassidy Lichtman**  
**Professional Volleyball Player**  
**Non Profit Executive/Board Member**

Cassidy Lichtman is a Professional Volleyball Player, Chairperson of the Volleyball Player Executive Committee at Athlete's Unlimited. Additionally, Cassidy sits on the Board of Directors for Athletes Unlimited and USA Volleyball. As a child, Cassidy overcame chronic pain in her left leg, which did not stop her from becoming one of the most electric collegiate and professional volleyball players in our country.

Cassidy played college volleyball for the Stanford Cardinals. She competed on the court as a setter, outside hitter, opposite and defensive specialist. Cassidy earned 51 career double-doubles and 14 triple-doubles. She competed in 2 Final Fours, won 4 consecutive Pac 10 Championships, named 2 time AVAC First Team All-American, 3 time All-Pac 10 Conference honors and a 2 time All-American and 2 time Academic All-American. Now an alumna of the Cardinal, she still ranks in the top 10 in program history with 2,366 career assists and had 1,026 digs. Cassidy spent time as the Assistant Volleyball Coach, and ultimately led the Cardinal to a NCAA National Championship.

After her time on The Farm, Cassidy had an accomplished professional career, playing for the U.S. National Team. She has also spent time overseas playing in Poland, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, France and China. Cassidy previously worked at shift7 with former Chief Technology Officer of the United States, Megan Smith, on projects focusing on inclusion and economic inequality.

Cassidy is the founder of the non-profit, P/ATH, an organization that harnesses the power of professional athletes to teach the next generation skills around empathy, equity and empowerment.

Cassidy holds a B.A. degree in Political Science and a M.A. degree in History from Stanford University. Cassidy is a native of Poway, California, and a graduate of Francis Parker School in San Diego.



**Lorena Martin**

**Panelist**

B.A. - Psychology with Minors in Spanish & Leadership, University of Miami (Florida)

M.S. - Nova Southeastern University

Ph.D. - Doctor of Philosophy Exercise Physiology, University of Miami (Florida)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow - Preventative Medicine, University of California, San Diego

Lorena Martin is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Data Sciences and Operations at the University of Southern California. Her research is in leveraging machine learning to reduce disparities in the Hispanic/Latino population. Before returning to academia, she spent time working in the professional sports industry where she was the Director of High Performance for a Major League Baseball team and also formerly the Director of Sports Performance Analytics for the Los Angeles Lakers. Her academic training includes completing three years of postdoctoral fellowship in the field of analytics; GIS spatial analysis, biostatistics, and epidemiology from the University of California San Diego. She also was a Visiting Scientist at the prestigious Salk Institute. She earned her doctorate degree in Exercise Physiology from the University of Miami where she also obtained her bachelor's degree in Psychology. Her master's degree was attained in Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University.

Her academic background and industry experience is so rare and esteemed that she has been invited multiple times as a visiting researcher to NASA as they wanted to learn about machine learning models being implemented in pro sports as well as translating culture best practices in high performance situations to inform its lengthy space travel endeavors, such as expeditions to Mars.

In addition to publishing in peer-reviewed journals, she has been a contributing author in both the following books, Sports Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation 2nd edition, and Improving Exercise Adherence. She also sole-authored the book, Sports Performance Measurement and Analytics.



**Kaitlyn Verfueth**

**Panelist**

**Paralympic Athlete in Wheelchair Tennis and Outrigger Canoe**

Associate Degree - Language Arts Communication, Mt. San Antonio College

B.A. - Psychology, University of Arizona