The AVCA History Commission was formed as a subgroup to the AVCA Diversity Development Team on December 1, 2020. The History Commission’s purpose is to recognize, amplify, and celebrate the rich and diverse history of the sport of volleyball. The first phase of the Commission’s work will explore the contributions of Black Americans to the sport of volleyball. Phase 1 is timed to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

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SONYA LOCKE HOPKINS
Sonya Locke Hopkins was promoted to Associate Athletic Director of Academics at Butler University on November 25, 2020. She oversees academic services and support for more than 500 student-athletes in the university’s athletics department. As a member of the department’s senior leadership team, Hopkins has also taken on the role of overseeing Butler’s #BUnited initiative as well as serving as a representative on the Big East Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. In the spring 2020 semester the combined cumulative GPA for Butler Athletics was 3.563.

Sonya joined Butler’s academic support staff in August of 2006 after serving as Coordinator of Academic Services for the student-athletes at Southern Illinois University.

With all the successes mentoring student-athletes in academic support, a large portion of Hopkins’ professional background is linked to women’s volleyball and Southern Illinois University.

Locke was a four-year starter and volleyball standout for Saluki women’s volleyball from 1979-82. Her list of accomplishments include leading the program to an average of 23 wins per season during her time in Carbondale. She is SIU’s only (AIAW, 1981) volleyball All-American, she was named the 1982 Gateway Tournament MVP, Conference Player of the Year, and SIU Female Athlete of the Year. Locke would be named the Gateway Conference Player of the Decade for the 1980s, was inducted into the SIU Hall of Fame in 1988, and in 2005, her #7 jersey was retired by the school.

Locke received her degree in Communications from Southern Illinois in 1983. After graduation, she would serve as an assistant volleyball coach from 1983-1989 at SIU. In 1989, she became the head coach at Kankakee Community College, where she compiled a 35-5 record in her lone season at Kankakee.

In 1990, Sonya was hired to be the head coach at her alma mater and would go on to lead the program for the next 14 seasons. During her tenure as head coach, Saluki volleyball won 188 matches, had 17 first- or second-team All Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) players, 22 MVC Scholar-Athletes, and three academic All-Americans. Locke was also named the 2002 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year as well as being named the Black Coaches Association (BCA) Female Coach of the Year in 2003.

“Sonya is so dedicated to the program,” said Britten Follett, a member of the 2002 team and the SIU single season assist leader. “She just eats, sleeps, lives and breathes SIU volleyball, and that in itself is an inspiration.”
AVCA DDT HISTORY COMMISSION

DEITRE COLLINS-PARKER, CHAIR
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
2008 AVCA HALL OF FAMER

RAY GOODEN
HEAD WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COACH
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

MAGGIE COUTURE
HEAD WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COACH
JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY

SARAH GRAVES

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