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.

PHASE 1 | VOL. 1.04

PENNY LUCAS-WHITE

DIVERSITY AWARDS

40 ANNIVERSARY

1981 - 2021

Live It, Love It, Coach It!
After a stellar collegiate playing career at Louisiana State University, where she garnered first-team All-SEC honors in her first season, Penny Lucas-White would embark on a professional career in the United States Volleyball League and internationally in Italy and Germany. While competing professionally, Penny began her coaching career as an assistant coach at Auburn University from 1987-89.

In 1991, White took over as head coach at Memphis, leading the program to back-to-back Great Midwest Conference titles in 1993 and 1994. For the team’s success, she earned back-to-back conference Coach of the Year honors.

In 1996, as the head coach at the Air Force Academy, Lucas-White ushered the Academy’s volleyball program into their first year of NCAA D-I competition in the highly competitive Western Athletic Conference. While at the AFA, the program had a total of 18 cadet-athletes earn conference all-academic honors, including one Scholar-Athlete of the Year honoree. This maintained Coach White’s hard fast stance and emphasis on excellence in the classroom and on the court.

Since 2011, Penny has been at the helm of Alabama State University women’s volleyball where she has made them a perennial college volleyball power. Lady Hornets volleyball has won six Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) including back-to-back 18-0 conference records in 2016 and 2017. With those six championships, Penny and Alabama State volleyball have made six trips to the NCAA D-I Women’s Volleyball Tournament since 2011 (2013, ’14, ’16, ’17, ’18, and ’19). With this amount of success, Penny and the program have garnered much deserved recognition with Coach Lucas-White being named conference coach of the year in 2014 and 2016. In 2018, three Lady Hornets were named all-SWAC first team – Bayle’ Bennett, Kori Kutsch, and Candace Martin. For her stellar play under the leadership of Coach White, Candace was named the 2018 SWAC Co-Player of the Year.

In addition to a highly decorated playing and a coaching career spanning 40 years, Penny has always demonstrated her dedication to the sport of volleyball and to the development of her student-athletes and colleagues in the sport. Penny has represented the United States as a member of the U.S. Women’s National volleyball team at the 1985 NORCECA Games, coached athletes that earned MIT, Rhodes, and Alberta Bart Holaday Scholarships, been featured as a speaker/clinician at the AVCA Convention and at clinics in the U.S and internationally and in 2003 played an integral role in helping the AVCA receive an NCAA minority grant for a program entitled “Volleyball: Live It! Love It! Coach It!”, the precursor to the AVCA’s current Diversity Awards program.

Click here to be inspired; UNPLUGGED with Coach Penny Lucas White (19:26)
AVCA DDT HISTORY COMMISSION

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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

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