Returning this season as an assistant coach is Lesa Bickley, who will work primarily with the Bulldogs’ pitching corps. She served as a volunteer assistant during the 2002 campaign.

Bickley is certainly no stranger to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference after having served as head coach at the University of Findlay (Ohio) for three years (1998-00). While at UF, Bickley compiled a 64-64-1 coaching mark and guided the Oilers to a 21-16-0 overall record in her final season. In 1999, she coached Findlay to the NAIA independent Great Lakes Region sectional tournament title as the Oilers went on to make a regional tourney appearance.

Prior to Findlay, Bickley was head softball coach at New Riegel (Ohio) High School (1995-97) where her teams won three sectional championships along with a district and regional title in 1996.

A four-year letterwinner in softball at Ashland (Ohio) University, Bickley earned All-Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) honors and was recognized as an Academic All-American. Bickley, who graduated from Ashland in 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in education, is currently working towards completing her Masters of Education degree.

Following a two-year absence, Chad Haberland will be assisting the Ferris State softball program this season. Haberland, who spent two years (1999-00) as an assistant under Keri Becker and one season (1998) as a volunteer, will instruct the position players. In 1999, the Bulldogs captured their second consecutive NCAA Great Lakes Regional title after winning the GLIAC Tournament. As a result, Ferris made its second straight NCAA National Championship Tourney appearance.

Prior to FSU, Haberland spent three seasons (1996-98) as an assistant varsity softball coach at Midland (Mich.) Bullock Creek High School. From 1988-95, Haberland was an assistant varsity softball coach at Sanford (Mich.)-Meridian High School. During his tenure, he helped the Mustangs to four Jackpine Conference titles, one district and one regional championship.

Haberland has participated in four softball national championships as a player. In 1998, he traveled to Nashville, Tenn., to participate in the Class E Slowpitch National Championships. For three straight years (1992-94), Haberland played in the Class A Modified National Championships.

A 1986 graduate of Sanford-Meridian High, Haberland was a two-time all-conference selection in baseball, basketball and football. He set a school record for batting average as a senior and was named the team’s Most Valuable Player.