

# Kelly Gaines

Executive Director



Kelly grew up in Burlington, NC and played junior tennis in NC, along with having a wonderful high school tennis experience. She was fortunate enough to play college tennis at Peace College in Raleigh at a point in time when tennis scholarships or playing opportunities for women were not plentiful. After Peace, Kelly attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her Bachelor's Degree. It was during that point that she began teaching tennis at various clubs and camps around North Carolina. In 1985, Kelly was named Head Tennis Professional at North Hills Club in Raleigh. She was there for three years and then at that time was offered the assistant tennis coach position for both the Men and the Women at NC State University. In 1989 she was named the Head Women's Coach at NC State. Her teams' rankings rose to the top 40 in the ITA. She led the first NC State player to a bid to compete for the NCAA Singles Championship. Kelly had two players who were on the ACC 50th Anniversary Women's Tennis Team.

In 1995, Kelly was hired as the Executive Director of USTA North Carolina. She has seen her staff grow from two to twelve and membership has tripled during her tenure.

Kelly has served on the Peace College Alumnae Board (serving as board chair in 2006.) She also served on the Peace College Board of Visitors. She is currently serving on the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission, Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Foundation, Greensboro Sports Commission Board and is on the Greensboro Sports Council. In the fall of 2019, Gaines was named to the William Peace University (formerly Peace College) Board of Trustees. She and her husband, Greg, live in Greensboro.

## GET TO KNOW KELLY

**Who is your favorite professional tennis player?**

John Isner and Roger Federer

**What is your favorite part of your job?**

I've been so fortunate to be part of the USTA for Working with the many volunteers, tennis colleagues and players all over the country.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

Most of my free time is spent running around and work, family, reading and playing with my dog Sutton!

**What is your dream vacation?**

IMy husband and I both love history. We had a dream vacation in 2016 when we went to Wimbledon! Next stop Normandy and then on to Paris!

**What actor would play you in a movie about your life?**

Meryl Streep. She makes everyone she plays better!

