SU Athletics Hall Of Fame member and 1994 graduate Dan Quinn has reached the pinnacle of his profession as he was named the newest head coach of the Atlanta Falcons in the National Football League on February 3.

Since his graduation from then Salisbury State University, Quinn has climbed the coaching ranks to the upper echelon of the collegiate game, as a defensive coordinator at the University of Florida and spending the past two seasons in the same position with the Seattle Seahawks. With the Seahawks, Quinn went to the Super Bowl twice and won once, in 2014 as his defense put on an incredible show against Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos in a 43-8 victory.

The Falcons appeared set on Quinn as their next head coach, but due to NFL rules were forced to wait until the Seahawks’ season was complete in the Super Bowl on February 1 to officially offer the job.

Quinn’s time at Salisbury was not only meaningful on the field and in his development as a future coach, but also in his personal life. While at Salisbury, Dan met Stacey Michelle Keeney, whom he would later marry. Stacey graduated in 1991, with a liberal and professional studies degree. She worked as an athletic trainer while a student at Salisbury, and she continued to work as such following her graduation.

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Dan’s climb through the coaching ranks after leaving Salisbury helped to build the football program’s reputation of producing quality players and graduates, and Quinn’s hire in Atlanta will only further that status. "Dan Quinn being named head coach for the Atlanta Falcons is the most amazing accomplishment in the history of Salisbury University football. Dan is the true example of excellence," SU Head Football Coach Sherman Wood said.

“Dan’s achievements will help to raise the profile of SU football even more, as prospective student-athletes will know of us not only as an outstanding Division III program, but also the jumping off point to the career of an NFL head coach!”

"Dan was an outstanding leader and student-athlete in his time as a Sea Gull and we could not be happier for him on this day as he takes the next step in a great coaching career."

—SU Director of Athletics Dr. Michael Vienna