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**CSI
DOLPHINS**

AD NEWSLETTER

with Charles Gomes

Charles Gomes



December 2016

Dear Dolphin Fans,

At the College of Staten Island, we believe that giving back to the community is very important and contributes to a well-rounded collegiate experience for our student-athletes. CSI Athletics strives to be a leader in community service and is recognized as an institution that demonstrates a high dedication to making an impact in the Staten Island Area. Our student-athletes combined for 532 hours of community service so far this academic year and we plan to build on that figure this upcoming semester.

During this holiday season, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our student-athletes so far this academic year and share the impact that they have made in the Staten Island community by highlighting a few initiatives. Our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is led by President Victoria Wong (women's volleyball), Vice President Ruben Diaz (men's soccer), Secretary Naomi Gaggi (women's swimming), and Treasurer Derek Villa (men's swimming).

In October, our softball team volunteered at the Matthew Sapolin Memorial Wheelchair Basketball Tournament at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn. The two-day tournament features the nation's best wheelchair basketball teams and is one of the premier events for the National Wheelchair Basketball Association. Our student-athletes helped escort the athletes and their equipment as well as kept statistics throughout the weekend.

During Thanksgiving, our baseball program continued their annual tradition and delivered hundreds of meals to needy organizations and families as part of the Doctor Theodore A. Atlas Foundation's Turkey Give-Away. The annual initiative provides Thanksgiving dinners to nearly 1,000 Staten Island families in need. The foundation is a Staten Island-based community service organization that provides financial, legal, and emotional support to individuals and organizations in need and focuses particularly on the needs of children.

Earlier this month, our men's and women's swimming and diving teams participated in the Staten Island Polar Plunge and raised over \$4,000 for Special Olympics New York. The "Freezin' For A Reason" event raised nearly \$80,000 this year. Special Olympics New York, which has over 67,000 athletes training in 22 Olympic-style events, provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and the opportunity to experience the joy of being an athlete.

I am truly proud of our continued presence in the Staten Island community and look forward to our upcoming spring initiatives highlighted by baseball's 14th Annual Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night. Over the past 13 years, the event has raised over \$68,000 for cancer research.

On the hardwood, our men's basketball team is in first place with a 4-0 CUNYAC record and will battle our cross-town NCAA Division I counterpart, Wagner College, in their next game on December 22 at the Spiro Center. The 16th Annual Tournament of Heroes will be held on December 29-30. The tournament honors the memory of three former players who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center – Terrance Aiken, Scott Davidson, and Tom Hannafin – and is an important event for our community. I hope that we can count on you to come out and support our Dolphins this month.

On behalf of our student-athletes, coaches, and administrators here at the College of Staten Island, we wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! As always, thank you for your continued support of CSI Athletics and Go Dolphins!

Charles Gomes

Charles Gomes
Director of Athletics, College of Staten Island

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Victoria Crea

Sports: Women's Basketball,

Women's Swimming

Class: 2018

Major: Psychology

Hometown: Staten Island,
New York

For Victoria Crea, a two-sport student-athlete, the College of Staten Island was always a familiar place. Growing up, Crea attended CSI men's and women's basketball games often and her older sister, Patricia Crea, was a member of the CSI women's swimming and diving team. Although Crea began her collegiate career at NYIT, she quickly realized that she missed Staten Island.

"Transferring home to CSI was one of the best decisions that I have ever made and I have met so many new friends and role models that will be in my life forever," said Crea. "CSI truly is my second home and family."

Last year, Crea was forced to sit out due to a knee injury. However, her time spent on the sidelines prepared her for her future career aspirations of becoming a physical therapist.

"I did physical therapy every day to strengthen my knee and it gave me the opportunity to learn and observe so much," Crea said. "It also made me realize that I need to cherish every time that I step on the basketball court and jump in the pool."

Crea is most proud of being a part of the CSI Athletics community and notes that there is a family atmosphere throughout campus. Additionally, Crea notes that there have been dramatic changes to the facilities and overall student-athlete experience throughout her career.

"There is so much to be proud of with how hard our student-athletes work on and off the field and how engaged we are with our community," said Crea. "All of these experiences make us better student-athletes and better people and I will always be thankful to anyone who donated to the Dolphin Fund for giving me the best college experience possible."



Your generous support of The Dolphin Fund plays an integral role in our efforts to provide an elite student-athlete experience.



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