

Director of Athletics, College of Staten Island

December 2015

Dear Dolphin Fans,

The 2015-16 academic year is in full swing and our student-athletes continue to work tirelessly on and off the playing fields. It has been an exciting fall semester and I would like to take a moment to share some of our early successes with you.

Our men's cross-country team successfully defended their CUNYAC Championship and repeated as champions for the third year in a row. Our team represented the conference at the NCAA Division III Men's Cross-Country Regional Championship and finished in 34th place. Head coach Robert Russo won his third straight CUNYAC Coach of the Year honor and six student-athletes were named to conference all-star teams. Our men's cross-country program is gaining regional and national attention and I credit Coach Russo for recruiting top student-athletes. I could not be more proud of what the program has accomplished over the last three years. The standard has been established and I continue to have very high expectations for the future of CSI men's cross-country.

This season, a new chapter was introduced to CSI women's soccer history. After winning the program's seventh CUNYAC Championship and first since 2011 in an overtime victory over top-seeded Lehman College, our women's soccer team clinched their first-ever berth to the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Tournament. Despite a first round loss to the overall No. 1 seed Messiah College, I am very proud of our student-athletes for garnering national attention. Freshman Lauren Smith was named CUNYAC Rookie of the Year and eight student-athletes were CUNYAC All-Star selections.

Our men's soccer team won the CUNYAC Regular Season Championship for a second consecutive season and came up one goal short in a double overtime loss to the City College of New York in the championship game. Head coach John Tardy won his second straight CUNYAC Coach of the Year award and junior Ruben Diaz and freshman Brayan Evo were named the conference's Defensive Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year, respectively.

Senior Sabrina Bragerton-Nasert earned CUNYAC Player of the Year honors and led our women's tennis program on their quest for a three-peat, which fell short in the conference semifinals. Junior Michelle Kushnir helped lead the way and was named the conference's Sportsmanship Player of the Year.

Our baseball program continued their annual tradition and delivered hundreds of turkeys 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.

This month, I challenge all of our alumni and friends to come to campus and support our men's basketball team on December 29-30 when they compete in the 14th Annual Tournament of Heroes. 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.

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 Director of Athletics, College of Staten Island





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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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