



MAKE A GIFT NOW!

AD NEWSLETTER

with Charles Gomes



February 2017

Dear Dolphin Fans,

Our men's and women's basketball teams have their eyes set on making history tomorrow night at CCNY and bringing two CUNYAC Tournament titles back to campus! The championship doubleheader tips off at 6 PM when our women's team challenges #1 Brooklyn for the title. Our men's team will play #2 CCNY at 8:30 PM.

On the men's side, we won the regular season title outright with an undefeated 16-0 conference record and earned first and second round byes in the CUNYAC Tournament. Our Dolphins defeated #4 Baruch 71-54 in the semifinals last night. On the women's side, we finished the regular season in third place with a 13-3 conference record and hosted the second round of the conference tournament on campus at the CSI Sports & Recreation Center. Our Dolphins cruised past #6 John Jay 90-37 in the second round and #2 Lehman 69-43 in the semifinals. Our men's team last won the title during the 2012-2013 season when they repeated as champions and our women's last championship season was 2004-2005.

Our men's swimming and diving team successfully defended their conference crown again and the four-peat is complete! Senior Tim Sweeney led the way and was named the meet's Most Valuable Player for an unprecedented fourth time. The margin of victory was the smallest in CUNYAC history. Our men's program is gaining regional and national attention and I credit head coach Michael Ackalitis for recruiting top student-athletes. I could not be more proud of what his program has accomplished over the last four years. After a third place finish of their own, Senior Naomi Gaggi was named the CUNYAC Sportsmanship Performer of the Year and Coach Ackalitis earned CUNYAC Coach of the Year honors for our women's swimming and diving team. The standard has been established and I continue to have very high expectations for the future of both swimming and diving programs.

In the classroom, I am truly proud to report that our student-athletes continue to excel. An impressive 93 of our student-athletes completed the fall semester with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) above 3.0. Furthermore, 78 of our fall student-athletes were named to the CUNYAC All-Academic Team for earning a 3.2 GPA or higher. These academic honors would not be possible without the support of the faculty and staff here at the College of Staten Island and I am grateful for their dedication. I also credit our exceptional coaches for emphasizing the importance of academics. Please join me in congratulating all of our student-athletes on their exceptional academic achievements.

On January 28, our athletics department hosted the 7th Annual Matty White Men's Basketball Alumni Game. The game is named in the memory of the late assistant coach and generates necessary funds for our men's basketball program each season. Over 30 men's basketball alumni competed in a full game before watching both our men's and women's basketball teams emerge victorious in a CUNYAC doubleheader vs. York. All alumni received complimentary game jerseys, alumni t-shirts, and official men's basketball Nike dry-fit polos and were provided a full luncheon.

As always, thank you for your continued support of CSI Athletics and I hope to see all of you in the stands tomorrow night at CCNY! Go Dolphins!

Charles Gomes

Director of Athletics, College of Staten Island

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Naomi Gaggi

Sport: *Women's Swimming*

Class: *2017*

Major: *Psychology*

Hometown: *Brooklyn, New York*

Senior swimming and diving captain Naomi Gaggi, a psychology major with concentrations in neuroscience and autism spectrum disorder, is a role model for all student-athletes at the College of Staten Island. Gaggi has been recognized for her incredible work in the classroom and was named Honorable Mention for the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship during her junior year.

“I chose to attend CSI because we have very unique undergraduate research opportunities in neuroscience and autism spectrum disorders,” said Gaggi. “I am extremely grateful for both my academic and athletic experiences as a CSI student-athlete.”

Gaggi is most proud of her work helping children and adults with autism and strives to be a research leader in the field of neuropsychology and neuroscience. She is a research assistant at the College of Staten Island, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital, and Yale University School of Medicine and volunteers at an orphanage for children with special needs in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

“CSI provided me with so many opportunities and prepared me to pursue a doctorate in neuroscience,” Gaggi said. “I plan on attending graduate school next year and ultimately becoming a professor of neurobiology and autism spectrum disorders and hope to make a difference in the field.”

Gaggi recognizes that alumni, parents, and friends of the College of Staten Island played a major role throughout her collegiate career.

“I truly appreciate the opportunity to represent our institution both on and off the field,” said Gaggi. “These opportunities are made possible by donations to the Dolphin Fund and help student-athletes like me achieve our career aspirations.”



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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