

May 2017

Dear Dolphin Fans,

First and foremost, please join me in congratulating both our baseball and softball teams on their CUNYAC Tournament Championships! Our baseball team repeated as champions for the third year in a row and our softball team defended their conference crown for an unprecedented fifth consecutive championship and won a game at the NCAA Regional for the second year in a row! It was great to see our stands jam-packed with our loyal alumni, parents, and friends cheering on our Dolphins as we hosted both championships on campus at the CSI Baseball and Softball Complexes. Both programs continue to be the conference standard and I look forward to our continued success on the diamond.

Perhaps my proudest moment of the year came at the 31st Annual Michael Steuerman Scholar-Athlete Dinner held at Queens College. Senior swimmer Timothy Sweeney was named the CUNYAC Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year which is the highest academic honor that the conference can bestow on one of its student-athletes. As a mathematics major and Macaulay Honors College student, Sweeney earned a 3.86 GPA and is a role model for all student-athletes here at the College of Staten Island. Sweeney was one of four Dolphins recognized with Chris Pinto (men's swimming & men's tennis), Jacqueline Cautela (softball), and Naomi Gaggi (women's swimming) all earning Honorable Mention status. Please join me in congratulating their remarkable academic achievements!

Earlier this month, we honored the incredible accomplishments of our student-athletes at the Annual Awards Banquet held at The Vanderbilt at South Beach in Staten Island, New York. This is by far my favorite night of the year. It allows our student-athletes and their friends and family to gather together with our alumni and administration to celebrate the best moments of the year. Our student-athletes work tirelessly both on and off the field and I was very proud to showcase our banner year.

Senior Frank Schettino won the Male Athlete of the Year Award after being named the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association (MBWA) Co-Player of the Year, ECAC Metro Player of the Year, CUNYAC Player of the Year, First Team NCAA Division III All-America by Hero Sports, and Third Team All-America and First Team All-District by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). Junior Christina Pasaturo was named the Female Athlete of the Year after being named MBWA First Team All-Star, ECAC Metro Player of the Year, and CUNYAC Player of the Year. Both our men's and women's basketball teams won the CUNYAC Tournament championship and earned automatic NCAA Division III Tournament berths! It was the first time since 1983 that both of our basketball programs won CUNYAC Tournament titles in the same season and the first time ever that both teams advanced to the NCAA Tournament in the same year. In addition to her CUNYAC Sportsmanship Player of the Year Award, senior swimmer Naomi Gaggi was named the CSI Scholar-Athlete of the Year as an exemplary model of perseverance and excellence in the classroom and in athletics. Provost Dr. Gary Reichard presented Gaggi with her individual award and honored the women's swimming and diving team for earning top honors among their compatriots with an overall 3.38 team GPA. An outstanding four other programs posted overall team GPAs above a 3.0, including men's and women's tennis, women's soccer, and softball. For a complete list of our award winners, please visit <u>here</u>.

The College of Staten Island hosted the Barnes & Noble College Booksellers CSI Athletics Golf Outing on Monday, May 15, at the Richmond County Country Club in Staten Island, New York. The success of our signature fundraising events and your support of the Dolphin Fund allow our athletic department to move forward and maintain a growing operating budget to provide the best opportunities for our student-athletes. I am proud to report that our golf outing continues to grow with over 125 golfers participating this year and has raised nearly \$150,000 since its inception four years ago.

As always, thank you for your continued support of CSI Athletics and Go Dolphins!

Charles Gomes Director of Athletics, College of Staten Island

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Bobby Drake Sport: Baseball Positions: Outfielder Class: 2017 Major: Communications Hometown: Staten Island, New York Senior outfielder Bobby Drake was a valuable veteran during another historic season for CSI baseball. The Dolphins captured a third consecutive CUNYAC championship, adding to their conference record 19 overall titles. The Staten Island native joined the program after his freshman year, transferring from The College of Mount Saint Vincent.

"I chose to transfer to CSI because of how involved the staff was in creating a family atmosphere," said Drake. "In addition to quality facilities, I knew that I would get the opportunity to play for an exceptional program and I am proud to be a part of our three consecutive championships."

A communications major, Drake credits not only the athletic administration for the culture of success, but also his academic advisors and professors in preparing him to launch his career after graduation. The strength of the academic programs, as well as the opportunities to

give back to the Staten Island community, have been critical in his personal and professional development.

"I am proud of our team's annual tradition of delivering hundreds of meals to needy organizations and families as part of the Doctor Theodore A. Atlas Foundation's Turkey Give-Away," Drake said. "The annual initiative provides Thanksgiving dinners to nearly 1,000 Staten Island families in need."

With his collegiate playing career coming to an end, Drake has had the opportunity to see the importance and impact that the support of the CSI community can have on the student-athlete experience.

"I know first hand that any contribution to the Dolphin Fund will certainly help," said Drake. "To any alumni, family, or friends of CSI, I would encourage you to support the positive endeavors of CSI Athletics – your support will not go unnoticed."



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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