

Hello Fellow Bulldogs:

Although spring has arrived, we in Athletics still have a lot left to do. Our spring sports are in full swing and have begun to look toward their 2008 championships.

Both men and women's tennis teams continue to do well. Earlier this season, SC State junior Ivan Milivojevic was ranked 100th in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). Just this week, the men's tennis team defeated Winthrop University for the first time in the school's history. The women are three-time defending MEAC Champions (2005, 2006 and 2007), while the men's team captured titles in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Congratulations to Coach Judge and his teams and we wish them continued success

The Men's Golf team captured first place at the Winston-Salem State Invitational March 17-18 in Winston-Salem, NC, and was fifth in a strong field at the SC State-hosted Bulldog Classic Apr. 5-6.

Turning to men's basketball, let's congratulate freshman guard Carrio Bennett from Piedmont, SC for being named the MEAC Rookie of the Year, and also junior center Jason Johnson from Bronx, NY for being named to the All-MEAC second team.

The month of April will be filled with spring sports continuing to shower the campus with athletic events. Please mark your calendars if you haven't already done so for April 12 and April 19.

As a reminder, the SCSU Robert "Jet" Johnson Track and Field Invitational will be held this Saturday, April 12 on campus at the Lorry H. Dawkins Track facility. Both teams have been working extremely hard and deserve to have a large fan base at the invitational. The track program has taken a step in the right direction as they continue to improve with each outdoor meet. The men's team also continues to build for the future, signing five runners for the 2008-09 season.

Also on April 12, the SC State softball team will host Norfolk State in a double-header beginning at 1 p.m. The game will be played at the Lady Bulldog Field on campus.

Next Saturday, April 19, at 1 p.m. we will conclude spring football practice with our Annual Garnett and Blue Game. We would like to ask our Bulldog family to come out and support the football team. Gas up the RVs, connect those grills and head to Bulldog country.

The Soccer team is also in spring practice and is under new leadership with the recent selection of Coach Glad Bugariu who comes to us from Belmont Abney College where he guided the program to great success.

Not only will the soccer team have new leadership next season, as we are currently in the process of hiring a new women's basketball coach and have advertised for a new head women's softball coach.

On the academic side, almost 60 student athletes received Presidential Medallions at this season's Honors and Awards Program--*Kudos to them.*

There are a lot of good things going on in the world of Athletics at our "dear ole" alma mater. But, by no means are we without challenges. We will continue to face the challenges head-on and, where appropriate, look to you for help.

I apologize for being a bit lengthy but so much is happening and what I have talked about thus far is just the tip of the iceberg.

As I close this session, join me in congratulating Former Bulldog All-American Edwin Bailey (Savannah, GA) for being one of five persons inducted into the Mid Eastern Athletic Hall of Fame March 13 in Raleigh, NC.

Congratulations are also in order for former SC State Director of Athletics Dr. Willis Ham who is scheduled for induction into the National Association of College Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Hall of Fame June 12 in Dallas, TX and retired Head Football Coach Willie Jeffries, who is a finalist for the National Football Foundation's College Hall of Fame. The 2008 Class will be announced later this spring.

Please join me in wishing Coach Richard Arrington well as he retires this year as head men's Golf Coach.

I would like take to thank the National Alumni Association, the NY Alumni Chapter and our Board of Visitors who recently allowed me the opportunity to give an overview of Athletics.

We look forward to seeing you April 12 and 19 for the Track and Field Invitational, the softball game and the Garnet and Blue Game respectfully. Please check the website for competition dates for our other sports and I look forward to seeing you there as well.

Again, thanks for all you do and *GO BULLDOGS!*

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Johnson

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Director of Athletics