

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



ECSU Sports Photo
EMORY: Elizabeth City State SID recognized by her peers for service and dedication to sports info industry.

RISING STAR

NEW ADS AT SHAW, ALCORN; NEW NCAA FORUM SEEKS TO IMPACT MINORITY HIRING

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

ATHLETIC SHAKE-UP AT SHAW:

Shaw University has announced two changes in its Athletic Department. **Jacques Curtis** has been named Athletic Director and **Sherri Fillingham** has been tabbed Sports Information Director.



Shaw Sports Photo

CURTIS: Successful women's basketball coach to take over AD duties.

Curtis had been women's basketball coach for nine years while Fillingham had been working at the University in another capacity for the past 18 months.

"Athletics has played an important role in developing disciplinary skills among our young men and women,

and we are excited about what Coach Curtis brings to the table," said Attorney **Willie E. Gary**, who serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Shaw. "We are making a shift in our athletic program which will position us to achieve our long-term goals of enrollment growth, improved student retention and graduation rates, and an overall better quality of our campus life at Shaw."

Curtis succeeds **Al Carter** who was reassigned to another position at Shaw.

During his tenure as a head coach, Curtis' teams accumulated a 194-82 record and won four consecutive CIAA titles (2003 to 2006), as well as the 2008 title.

Academically, the Lady Bears have had a cumulative GPA of over 3.00 and have consistently placed over half the team on the Shaw Honor Roll or on the conference all-academic team.

"The athletic program exists to create a rallying point for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community, while still enhancing educational values. It is my goal to make sure that Shaw University is able to successfully accomplish this by engaging our student athletes," said Curtis.

Curtis was named coach of the Lady Bears in 2000. Prior to that, he served as an assistant coach at Shaw, before being named the head men's basketball coach of his alma mater, **Savannah State University** in 1998, amassing a 20-34 record in two seasons. He graduated from Savannah State with a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering Technology, and went on to earn a master's degree in Information Science from **N. C. Central University**.

Fillingham holds a bachelor's degree in journalism with a concentration in public relations from Ohio University, where she also earned a master's degree in Sports Administration and Facilities Management.

FAMILIAR ROLE FOR SQUARE:

President **George E. Ross** has announced the appointment of **Brenda T. Square** as the Interim Director of Athletics at **Alcorn State University**, effective June 1, 2009. She previously served as Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant to the President, where she assisted in the management and coordination of Public Relations, Development and Fundraising, Governmental Relations, IHL Board affairs and any other duties assigned.



Alcorn Sports Photo

SQUARE: Previously served as AD at Clark Atlanta and Southern.

Square was the first woman Director of Athletics in the history of **Clark Atlanta University**. Prior to coming to Atlanta, she was recognized as the first woman Interim Director of Athletics at **Southern University**, where she simultaneously held positions as Assistant Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator (SWA).

She has been an educator for a number of years, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in health and physical education. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance from Southern, and a Master's of Arts in Education and Public Health from the University of Michigan, where she also did further study.

BCSP Notes

2009 John Merritt Classic to honor '82 Tennessee State team

The *John Merritt Classic* Committee has announced that the 1982 **Tennessee State University** football squad will be honored at the eleventh annual Classic in Nashville on September 5, 2009.



The 1982 team finished the regular season with an unbeaten 9-0-1 record, and advanced to the semi-final round of the NCAA I-AA playoffs.

The 2009 JMC will pit the Tennessee State Tigers against the **Alabama A&M** Bulldogs at LP Field, home of the Tennessee Titans. Kickoff is scheduled for 6:00p.m.

Seven of the 1982 "Big Blue" Tigers garnered All-American honors. Notable players from that team include defensive end **Richard Dent**, who went on to earn a Super Bowl title and was named Super Bowl XX MVP while starring with the Chicago Bears, wide receivers **Mike Jones** and **Golden Tate**, running back **Larry Kinnebrew** and quarterbacks **Kenneth Biggles** and **Brian Ransom**.

The John Merritt Classic, first played in 1999, honors the legendary TSU football coach who led the Tigers from 1963- 1983. During those twenty-one seasons, "Big John" won four undisputed national championships among historically black colleges ranked by the Sheridan Poll, compiled a lifetime record of 172-33-1, and built a powerful program that produced NFL stars like Dent (Chicago Bears), "Jefferson Street" **Joe Gilliam** (Pittsburgh Steelers), **Ed "Too Tall" Jones** (Dallas Cowboys), **Claude Humphrey** (Atlanta Falcons) and many others.

The JMC, the only football classic solely hosted by an NCAA institution, is intended to allow Tennessee State to raise funds for scholarships and other related needs for TSU student-athletes. The Classic also provides an opportunity for community outreach with its weekend of activities.

ECSU's April Emory named CoSIDA Rising Star

April Emory, who recently completed her eighth year as Sports Information Director at **Elizabeth City State University**, has been named the recipient of the 2009 College Division Rising Star Award by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

The award is presented to a College Division member with 10 years of service or less whose work at their institution and service, dedication; energy and enthusiasm to the profession make that individual a "rising star" in sports information.

Emory began her career with a two-year stint as Sports Information Director at **Saint Paul's College** prior to moving to ECSU in 2002. A member of the CoSIDA Board of Directors as the College Division representative, Emory also is a member of F.A.M.E. and the Black College Sports Information Directors' Association.

Emory's spirit, compassion and work ethic have served to make her a strong role model and mentor for younger SIDs. A consummate professional, she has promoted numerous All-Americans, successfully placing several of her athletes in Sports Illustrated's popular "Faces in the crowd" feature.

As a student at St. Paul's, her potential was so evident that Saint Paul's hired her as its SID upon graduation in the summer of 1999.

While at Saint Paul's she quickly learned the inner workings of the athletic department and was given day-to-day oversight for the game day management of all sports. As a freshman, she was handed the responsibility of the basketball media guide and got her first taste in the promoting of a student-athlete while working with three-time basketball All-American **Antwain Smith**, who was selected by the Vancouver Grizzlies in the second round of the 1999 NBA draft.

During her stint as the first female SID at ECSU, she has been responsible for the promotion of 15 intercollegiate sports. In 2005 she was instrumental in the launching of the school's first athletic website. While at ECSU, she has been responsible for the promotion of several All-Americans, including the 2008 Division II Women's National Player of the Year, **Celeste Trahan-Davis**.

Forum to tackle lack of minority football coaches

The NCAA has named 11 football coaches including two from HBCUs and a group of current athletics directors to a new program called the NCAA Champions Forum in an effort to bring minority football coaches closer to the mindset of athletics directors who ultimately hire head football coaches.

The NCAA Champions Forum will take place June 18-19 in Orlando in conjunction with the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Convention (NACDA).

"In the context of hiring minority head football coaches, it's often said that athletics directors are not familiar with all of the diverse talent within the coaching ranks," said Charlotte Westerhaus, NCAA vice president for Diversity and Inclusion. "The new NCAA Champions Forum will address this by bringing successful coaches from our Expert Academy face-to-face with key individuals who have the hiring power and professional connections with other athletics directors in the NCAA membership. The selected diverse coaches already have the requisite skill sets, we're just placing them in the presence of highly regarded athletics directors who have hiring power and professional connections with other athletics directors. If you compare the small number of minority head football coaches with the large number of minority student-athletes who compete in NCAA football, there is a big gap. The Champion Forum will be a component that helps to bridge that gap."

The goal of the NCAA Champions Forum is to link the coaches with athletics directors who can provide insight on their hiring philosophies and be a bridge to their colleagues who one day may have vacant coaching positions at their universities. The 11 football coaches selected for the Champions Forum have been identified as some of the most experienced football coaches in the NCAA who have completed the NCAA Expert

Coaches Academy and have expressed an interest in one day being a head coach at an NCAA college or university in Division I, II or III or being a head coach in a different NCAA division if already at the head coach level.

The coaches were selected by a committee of former NCAA athletics directors. The NCAA Champions Forum selection committee is Paul Dee (former AD at University of Miami); **Marino Casem** (former AD at **Southern University**); Andy Geiger (former AD at Ohio State University); C.M. Newton (former AD at University of Kentucky); and Todd Turner (former AD at University of Washington).

During the Forum, the football coaches and the athletics directors will have time to develop professional relationships in a one-on-one environment. There will be mock interview sessions, keynote speakers, and opportunities for both the coaches and athletics directors to discuss key aspects of becoming a head football coach in a more informal, private setting.

Through the NCAA Champions Forum, the football coaches will have an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the mindset of an athletics director and the intricacies of hiring football coaches for intercollegiate programs. In turn, the athletics directors will have opportunities to meet, interact and become better acquainted with the football coaches; become "champions" by assisting with the coaches' continued career growth; and broaden their outlook as athletics directors on potential minority head coaching prospects in the NCAA.

Of the current 119 Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) head football coaches, seven are African-American, one is Pacific Islander, and one is Latino. Out of a total of 582 football programs in Divisions I, II and III, only 3.9 percent are coaches of color, excluding the historically black coaches and universities.

Emory has been a trailblazer as the first female President of the CIAA-Sports Information Directors Association (2005-2009) and holds the distinction as the first African-American female to sit on the CoSIDA Board of Directors (2005-present). Additionally, she was recognized by her peers as the 2006-07 CIAA Sports Information Director of the Year.

She has previously been awarded a Citation for Excellence in Writing by CoSIDA and has served as the press room coordinator for the CIAA Basketball Tournament (third-largest tournament in the country) since 2000. Emory has already helped guide two of her former student assistants within the profession, one as a former head SID at her alma mater and the other as sports information graduate assistant.

She is currently the President of the CIAA's Sports Information Directors Association, having served in that post since 2005.

SC State's Bill Hamilton to receive Arch Award for excellence in sports info

William "Bill" Hamilton, the Sports Information Director at **South Carolina State University**, has been named the Arch Ward Award winner by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The award is presented annually to a CoSIDA member who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of college sports information and who, by his or her activities, has brought dignity and prestige to the profession.



HAMILTON

Hamilton is in his 36th year as sports information director at South Carolina State, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1973 and a master's in 1979. He was named Staff Employee of the Year at SC State in 1999, inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002 and earned the NAFEO Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2006.

Hamilton, who served on the NCAA Men's Final Four Media Coordination Committee from 1999 to 2007, earned a CoSIDA Excellence in Writing citation in 1989, and received the Black College Sports Information Directors Association (BCSIDA) Cal Jacox-Champ Clark Award as the top SID at a historically black college.

A past president of BCSIDA who has served on various CoSIDA committees, Hamilton was a member of the CoSIDA Board of Directors from 1993-96 and has attended every CoSIDA workshop since 1974. A CoSIDA member for thirty-five years, he has earned multiple honors, including the CoSIDA Bob Kenworthy Community Service Award (1998) and the CoSIDA Trailblazer Award (2005). He has also received several CoSIDA publication and writing awards during his long tenure at his alma mater.

In 2005, Hamilton received the All-American Football Foundation's Scoop Hudgins Outstanding SID Award. Most recently, Hamilton was among five inductees into the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** Hall of Fame in a ceremony that took place on March 12, 2009.

Over more than three decades at SCSU, Hamilton has distinguished himself as an able and versatile administrator, as well as an excellent writer. He has provided feature articles and game stories for various newspapers and magazines in an effort to bring awareness to the achievements and accomplishments of SCSU's athletics program.

Hamilton has promoted numerous athletes who have gone on to distinguish themselves in the National Football League and other professions including Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker **Harry Carson** (New York Giants) and National Football League standouts **Robert Porcher** (Detroit Lions), **Donnie Shell** (Pittsburgh Steelers), **Charlie Brown** (Washington Redskins), **Edwin Bailey** (Seattle Seahawks), **Dwayne Harper** (Seattle Seahawks), **William Judson** (Miami Dolphins) and **Dexter Clinkscale** (Dallas Cowboys). Current NFL players **Chartric "Chuck" Darby** and **James Lee** also came thru SCSU on Hamilton's watch.

Hamilton has also mentored a number of SCSU students who have gone on to positions at other colleges and universities and in the professional ranks, including five currently - **Corey Bowdre** (Boston Red Sox), **Avis Roper** (New York Giants), **Ted Crews** (St. Louis Rams), **Damon White** (Urban Sports Marketing and Entertainment) and **Brad Gillens** (Florida Citrus Bowl).

In addition to being recognized for the Arch Ward Award, Hamilton will also be inducted at this year's CoSIDA convention into CoSIDA's Hall of Fame. Hamilton, a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., is involved in a number of civic and community endeavors.

The NCAA National Office does not have the authority to mandate hiring decisions at its member colleges and universities, but it provides coaches with opportunities to further enhance their skills and exposes them to key decision makers at NCAA colleges and universities. In addition to the Champions Forum, the NCAA Diversity and Inclusion group also directs the Future Coaches Academy for student-athletes, the Football Coaches Academy (less than eight years of experience) and the Expert Coaches Academy (eight years or more of experience).

The NCAA Football Academies are designed to assist football coaches with career advancement and networking and exposure opportunities. Since the NCAA created its Coaching Academies in 2004, five of the eight minority football coaches who have been hired in head coaching positions at NCAA colleges and universities participated in the NCAA coaching academy programs.

FOOTBALL COACHES SELECTED FOR THE NCAA CHAMPIONS FORUM ARE:

Garret Chachere, wide receivers coach, Arizona
Henry Frazier, head coach, **Prairie View A&M**
Jamie Hill, defensive coordinator, Brigham Young
Michael Hoyt, defensive coordinator, Albright
Brian Jones, running backs coach, Missouri
David Kelly, asst. head coach, Central Florida
Jeffrey McInerney, head coach, Central Conn. State
Don Pellum, running backs coach, Oregon
James Spady, off. coordinator, **Grambling State**
Larry Porter, asst. head coach, Louisiana State
Paul Winters, head coach, Wayne State

ATHLETICS DIRECTORS SELECTED FOR THE NCAA CHAMPIONS FORUM ARE:

Joe Castiglione, Oklahoma
Bubba Cunningham, Tulsa
Damon Evans, Georgia
Derrick Gragg, Eastern Michigan
Kirby Hocutt, Miami (Fla.)
Eric Hyman, South Carolina
Lee McElroy, Albany
Jim Phillips, Northwestern
Tim Selgo, Grand Valley State
Joy Solomen, Rowan