



## **UDC TO JOIN EAST COAST CONFERENCE AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS**

**Central Islip, N.Y.** - East Coast Conference commissioner, Robert Dranoff has announced the addition of the University of the District of Columbia as an Associate Member in the sports of men's and women's tennis as voted on by the league's presidents. The Firebirds will commence conference play this fall.

"We are very excited to have University of District of Columbia join the East Coast Conference as associate members in men's and women's tennis," ECC Commissioner Bob Dranoff said. "This addition helps strengthen these sports in our conference, expand our presence into a new area and assist UDC with the opportunity to gain conference affiliation and post season play. We look forward to working with Pat Thomas and the UDC tennis teams."

East Coast Conference institutions have been a presence on the regional and national landscape in tennis. Last year three men's tennis teams and two women's tennis teams advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

"The mission of the East Coast Conference is consistent with the mission of the University of the District of Columbia," commented Athletic Director, Patricia Ann Thomas. "The East Coast Conference provides a competitive opportunity among outstanding academic institutions. Our affiliation with the ECC enhances the university's ability to provide a positive experience for our student-athletes."

Tennis has been an integral part of the University of the District of athletics program for 32 years.

### **About the ECC**

Founded as the New York Collegiate Athletic Conference in 1989 and rechristened the East Coast Conference in July 2006, the ECC was formed to enhance intercollegiate athletic competition among member institutions and to assist them in integrating athletics into their academic program in a fiscally sound way. The ECC is committed to the highest standards of scholarship, sportsmanship, teamwork, and citizenship. Its mission is to promote the total person concept in its student-athletes, which stresses the abilities to excel in academic achievement, athletic competition, and positive character traits. East Coast Conference ([www.eccsports.org](http://www.eccsports.org)) members for 2008-2009 include: University of Bridgeport (CT); C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University (Brookville, NY); Dowling College (Oakdale, NY); Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY); Molloy College (Rockville Centre, NY); New York Institute of Technology (Old Westbury, N.Y); Queens College (Flushing, NY); and St. Thomas Aquinas College (Sparkill, NY).

The ECC sponsors the following championship sports: baseball; men's and women's basketball; men's and women's cross country; men's and women's lacrosse; softball; men's and women's tennis; men's and women's soccer; and women's volleyball.

The East Coast Conference is a proud member of the NCAA and Division II. Division II is a dynamic and engaging group of colleges, institutions and conferences of varying sizes and educational missions.

Division II members encourage and support diversity; value sportsmanship, fairness and equity; and place the highest priority on the overall educational excellence of the student-athlete.