Brianne Russo (CSI), Allyshia West (Hunter), Miguelina Reyes (Lehman) Earn Major Awards; Hunter’s Paula Petrocelli Named Coach of the Year

Bronx, NY - - - Brianne Russo (Moore Catholic/Staten Island, NY), a junior second baseman from the College of Staten Island, was named the 2006 CUNYAC Women’s Softball Player of the Year. Hunter sophomore Allyshia West (West Hills Secondary/Ontario, Canada) was tabbed the Pitcher of the Year and Lehman freshman shortstop Miguelina Reyes (Santiago Guzman (D.R.)/Bronx, NY) was named the Rookie of the Year. Hunter’s Paula Petrocelli was selected as the Coach of the Year.

Russo helped lead the Dolphins to the 2006 CUNYAC Championship game and was among the leaders in many categories. She finished second in doubles (10) and triples (6), fourth in the league in batting (.385), slugging percentage (.655), total bases (78), and fifth in RBI’s (25). “Brianne has a lot of confidence at the plate and on the field,” said Staten Island head coach Stella Porto. “She’s poised regardless of the situation and is one of the most versatile players on the team.”

West was the anchor of a terrific Hawks’ pitching staff that won the CUNYAC Championship and earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. She went 10-9 with a sparkling 2.10 ERA (2nd in the league). In addition, the native of Canada recorded 18 complete-games, four shutouts and fanned 111 batters in 130.0 innings.

Reyes leads the nation in batting with a .603 average and finished among the CUNYAC leaders in a variety of categories. She led the league in total bases (89) and on base percentage (.663), and finished second in RBI’s (38), runs (36) and slugging percentage (1.141). “Miguelina is a great athlete and brings out the best in all of her teammates,” said Lehman head coach Kim Santoiemma. “It’s an honor to have a player of her caliber on my team and I look forward to coaching her in the years to come.”

Petrocelli, in her first season in the Hunter dugout, led the squad to their first CUNYAC Championship since 2003 and a 20-18 record. The Hawks also won the West Division with a perfect 11-0 record.