

# Sports with Walter Moore



Walter Moore

## SSU Ready For MEAC Visit

As Savannah State University gears up for a visit from officials from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), this writer sat down with Dr. Earl Yarbrough (SSU president), Dr. Claud Flythe (SSU vice president of administration) and Bart Bellairs (SSU athletics director) last week to ask questions about SSU's preparation for the upcoming visit.

**1- What will conference affiliation do for SSU?** YARBROUGH- "Rivalries will be developed and teams will have a chance to compete for conference championships. It also gives SSU a chance to support the program. It's hard to get motivated with no title to play for." FLYTHE- "It helps level the student playing field. It gives students the opportunity to compete with peer institutions. Being independent does not offer the same opportunity. It also helps the alumni base connect with their peers. Many SSU alumni work with and socialize with alumni from FAMU, Bethune and SC State. It will also help with the traveling costs and will allow our students to stay close to home." BELLAIRS- "It puts you in line with great academic institutions." **2- Are there any concerns on your end as SSU prepares for the upcoming MEAC site visit?** YARBROUGH- "No, I don't have any concerns." FLYTHE- "This is the end of the 4th quarter. We

can't afford to relax now. We will have some concern until they leave but we believe things will be positive." BELLAIRS- "The groundwork has been done. The administration did a great job in preparing. I'm proud of what the coaches have done. Volleyball and softball set school records for most wins in a season and the men's basketball team had their first winning season in over 20 years." **3- Why does SSU want to join the MEAC?** BELLAIRS- "If they (MEAC) went to divisional play, it would be perfect for SSU." **4- If SSU does not join the MEAC are there other options that might be pursued for conference affiliation?** FLYTHE- "We need to be in a conference. When we arrived, SSU was already committed to staying in Division I and joining the MEAC. There is no option to go back to Division II." YARBROUGH- "It will be a group decision. We will sit down with those involved in athletics and decide what is best for the university. We will decide as a group." **5- What is the current athletics deficit?** FLYTHE- "I refer the question to Mr. (Edward) Jolley, the university vice president for fiscal affairs." When asked about the deficit, Jolley replied "the current operating deficit is \$270,000. That number could decrease since we have another session of summer school to go and an increase in enrollment may bring down that number." **6- SSU's athletic budget is about \$2.5 million. What type of activities are being planned to increase support of athletics in terms of scholarships, marketing and attendance?** FLYTHE- "The budget is more than 2.5m, although we won't say how much more. We need the support of everyone. This cannot be done by the administration alone. We will need continued support from the alumni, community, students and businesses." YARBROUGH- "We will

beat the bushes and talk to everyone we can, to raise money. The guarantee games will also help out. Once you join the MEAC, the scheduling problems will go away and we will play teams our fans are familiar with." BELLAIRS- "We have got to be creative because of the economy." **7- What is the university's position and perception of Gender Equity as it relates to Title IX?** FLYTHE- "Title IX is mandated by state and federal law." BELLAIRS- "We have made giant strides. We have dedicated a big portion of our enrollment increase and student fee increase to help Title IX. We surveyed the students in the spring to get a feel of what type sports they want. If you have three assistant men's basketball coaches you must have three assistants for the women's basketball team, no matter if they are male or female."

# Bradley Selected to Attend Congressional Leadership Conference

Lawrence Bradley, Jr. a student at A.E. Beach High School, has been selected to attend the 2009 Congressional Student Leadership Conference (CSLC) on Engineering and Robotics sponsored by LeadAmerica. The CSLC is a college-accredited invitational leadership program for academically talented and promising young leaders from across the United States and internationally.

Lawrence will join other exceptional high school students with records of academic achievement who are invited to participate.

The Conference is a 10-day leadership program in which students will explore the potentials and challenges in some of the most dynamic

technologies. The conference will take place on the campus of John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

"In going to this conference, I plan to increase my knowledge in the

Engineering field and use this experience to help me prepare for college and my future", Bradley said.

Lawrence Bradley, Jr. is the son of Lawrence K. Bradley, Sr. (A.E. Beach '84), and Patricia A. Bradley.

**SOLID** **MAKES IT** **POSSIBLE**



**Manage your finances like you manage your life: effortlessly.**

Everyday solutions are beautiful in their simplicity. They don't add steps — they just make things happen in the least complicated way possible. Which is why SunTrust helps streamline your finances. Manage your money in less time with fewer fees and without the fear of identity theft. To switch to a SunTrust checking account, call 800.SUNTRUST, visit suntrust.com/solid or stop by a branch near you.

## National HIV Testing Day

Saturday, June 27 is National HIV Testing Day.

Free, confidential testing, with anonymous results will be held here in Savannah.

Testing begins at 9am until the last consumer exits.

Testing will take place at My Brothaz HOME, Inc. 2111 Price Street Savannah, GA 31401-

Free giveaways including food, drinks and other door prizes.

HIV Testing and Counseling enables people with HIV to take steps to protect their own health and that of their partners, and helps people who test negative get information they need to stay uninfected.

Additional information about the Take Charge,

Get Tested events in Savannah can be found by calling My Brothaz HOME, Inc. at 912-231-8727.

In your area, visit www.hivtest.org to locate the nearest testing site or available community resources.

Program funded in part by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, HIV Essential Services, Public Welfare Foundation and the City of Savannah.

My Brothaz HOME, Inc. (MBH) is a grassroots community-based organization located in Savannah, Georgia.

The organization was founded in April 2000 in direct response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Savannah.

## AWOL....continued from page 9

This year we are so lucky to have on board the Chatham County Youth Commission as a lead sponsor for this event.

The Chatham County Youth Commission's mission is to provide the youth of Chatham County with a vehicle to learn about government, participate in the process and to represent and articulate the needs of youth in the County.

The event features food, live music and more.

Copies of the PRO-JECTS album will be available for sale at the event.

AWOL's sound design program and the Lake Bash are possible thanks to support from the Chatham County Youth Commission, The City of Savannah, Cricket Wireless and The Governor's Office for Children and Families.



One Equifax Credit Watch™ Silver for one person per account with Signature Advantage Checking or Solid Choice Checking. Additional Equifax Credit Watch products available at a discount for all checking account holders.

SunTrust Bank, Member FDIC. ©2009 SunTrust Banks, Inc. SunTrust is a federally registered service mark of SunTrust Banks, Inc. Live Solid. Bank Solid. is a service mark of SunTrust Banks, Inc.