



# News Release

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## **MEAC Announces Tennis All-Conference Honors**

*SCSU's Craciun and FAMU's Kante win Player of the Year Honors*

**NORFOLK, Va., April 18, 2013-** South Carolina State University's **Maria Craciun** and Florida A&M University's **C. Salif Kante** were named the 2013 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Men's and Women's Tennis Players of the Year, as voted by the conference's head tennis coaches and sports information directors.

North Carolina Central's **Aissa Muamba** was named Rookie of the Year for the women while NCCU's head coach **David Nass** was selected as the Women's Tennis Coach of the Year.

Norfolk State's **Dzmitry Zyhmantovich** earned the men's Rookie of the Year honor and NSU head coach **Nate Feldman** was selected as the Men's Tennis Coach of the Year.

**Craciun**, a four-time First-Team All-MEAC selection, posted a 14-3 record at the number one singles position including an unblemished 6-0 mark in southern divisional play. She teamed up with All-MEAC Second Team selection Klara Dohnalova to tally a 12-3 record at number one doubles. The senior finished the year winning 11 of her last twelve matches.

**Muamba** tallied a 16-1 overall record including a 13-1 mark at the number three singles position. In doubles action, Muamba finished 9-6, with a 5-1 record in southern divisional play. The rookie lost her first match of the season against Elon but then rattled off 16 straight wins with 14 coming in straight sets to close the season.

**Nass** earns his first Coach of the Year award for the women's tennis program. In his 12<sup>th</sup> year at the helm, the Lady Eagles recorded a 13-4 overall record and posted a 5-1 mark in conference play to earn the second seed in the south.

Joining Craciun and Muamba on the women's First-Team are Delaware State's Brittany Marshall, Morgan State's Ekaterina Iakovleva and Mi'kola Cooper, and Ekaterina Nekrasova of North Carolina Central.

**Kante**, who earned the 2012 MEAC Player of the Year honor, posted an unblemished 4-0 mark in conference play and an 18-2 overall record at the number one singles position. The senior finished with a 15-1 mark in doubles play to help the Rattlers win co-champion honors and the number one seed in the southern division.

**Zyhmantovich**, a four-time MEAC Rookie of the Week honoree, finished the regular season with a 12-5 record in singles, including eight victories coming at the number one position.

The 2013 Men's Coach of the Year honor is the first for the Spartans second year head coach. **Feldman** guided NSU to a 12-8 overall mark and 3-1 conference record to earn a share of the southern division title. The Spartans finished out the year winning seven of their last nine games.

Along with Kante and Zyhmantovich with First-Team Honors are Florida A&M's Chidi Gabriel, Duk Young-Park of Morgan State, Norfolk State's Robin Riethmueller, South Carolina State's Artemiy Nikitin and Park Wan-Young of Hampton.

The 2013 MEAC Men's and Women's Tennis Championships begin with women's play on Friday, April 19 at 8:30 a.m. The women's semi-final rounds start on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. followed by the men at Noon. The Championship concludes on Sunday with the women's final beginning at 9 a.m. followed by the men's title match at Noon.

**-Attached-**



## 2013 MEAC Men's and Women's Tennis All-MEAC Teams

*As Voted by the Conference's Head Tennis Coaches and Sports Information Directors*

### Women

**Player of the Year:** Maria Craciun, South Carolina State

**Rookie of the Year:** Aissa Muamba, North Carolina Central

**Coach of the Year:** David Nass, North Carolina Central

#### First Team

Name	School	Class	Hometown
Aissa Muamba	North Carolina Central	Fr.	Laval, Canada
Maria Craciun	South Carolina State	Sr.	Pitesti, Romania
Brittany Marshall	Delaware State	Sr.	Dagsboro, Del
Ekaterina Iakovleva	Morgan State	Jr.	Vladivostok, Russia
Mi'Kola Cooper	Morgan State	Fr.	North Charleston, S.C.
Ekaterina Nekrasova	North Carolina Central	So.	Severodvinsk, Russia

#### Second Team

Name	School	Class	Hometown
Gaby Chinchilla	Bethune-Cookman	So.	Skopje, Macadonia
Laura Bosneag	South Carolina State	Sr.	Pitesi, Romania
Chinatsu Kajiwara	Bethune-Cookman	So.	Fukuoka, Japan
Shereen Peterson-Paul	Bethune-Cookman	Sr.	Ontario, Canada
Victoria Williams	Florida A&M	Fr.	Miami, Fla.
Katelyn Stokes	Howard	Jr.	Lanham, Md.
Klara Dohnalova	South Carolina State	Fr.	Trinec, Czech Republic

### Men

**Player of the Year:** C. Salif Kante, Florida A&M

**Rookie of the Year:** Dzmitry Zhymentovich, Norfolk State

**Coach of the Year:** Nate Feldman, Norfolk State

#### First Team

Name	School	Class	Hometown
Chidi Gabriel	Florida A&M	Sr.	Piscataway, N.J.
Artemiy Nikitin	South Carolina State	Jr.	Omsk, Russia
C. Salif Kante	Florida A&M	Sr.	Dakar, Senegal
Duk Young-Park	Morgan State	So.	Silver Spring, Md.
Robin Riethmueller	Norfolk State	Fr.	Balingen, Germany
Dzmitry Zhymentovich	Norfolk State	Fr.	Minsk, Belarus
Park Wan-Young	Hampton	So.	Daeduk-Gu, Daejeon

#### Second Team

Name	School	Class	Hometown
Leonardo Lima	Bethune-Cookman	Jr.	San Paulo, Brazil
Takura Happy	Florida A&M	Sr.	Mutare, Zimbabwe
Marius Dragoi	South Carolina State	Fr.	Pitesti, Romania
Jiri Stiburek	South Carolina State	Fr.	Prici Nad Sazavou, Czech Republic
Peteris Vinogradous	South Carolina State	Sr.	Ligatne, Latvia
Zach Evenden	Florida A&M	Jr.	London, England
Santiago Lobelo	Bethune-Cookman	Jr.	Bogota, Columbia