

Board Meeting
July 13, 2006

APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE ATHLETIC BOARD, URBANA

Action: Approve Appointments to the Athletic Board, Urbana

Funding: No Funding Required

On recommendation of the Chancellor at Urbana, Mr. Benjamin J. Blaiszik (student), Mr. Jeffrey G. Brown (student), Mr. Thomas A. DiSanto (Alumnus), Professor John W. Erdman (Faculty--ACES), Ms. Meghan Naik (student), and Professor Christopher Span (Faculty--Education) have been nominated for appointment to the Athletic Board of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The appointment will be effective August 2006, and continue for the term designated or until a successor has been appointed. (Biographical sketches for the nominees are attached.)

The Athletic Board is a committee concerned with intercollegiate athletics at the Urbana-Champaign campus. In its oversight of the academic and educational aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program, it is a committee of the Urbana-Champaign Senate. The board also serves as an advisory committee to the chancellor and the athletic director on the financial management, personnel, and other operational aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program.

The board consists of twenty members: two faculty representatives to the Big Ten; seven other faculty members; four alumni of the Urbana-Champaign campus;

the Chair of the Board of Trustees' Athletics Committee; three students; and three *ex officio* members without vote: a designee of the chancellor, the University comptroller or designee, and the athletic director. A slate of faculty nominees is provided to the chancellor by the Urbana-Champaign Senate. The slate of student nominees is provided to the chancellor by the Urbana-Champaign Senate, the Illinois Student Government, and the Student Athletic Advisory Board to fill one student position each. The slate of alumni is provided by the Urbana-Champaign Council of the Alumni Association. The chancellor reviews the lists of nominees and forwards recommendations to the President of the University for action by the Board of Trustees.

The board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and Federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs.

Benjamin J. Blaiszik, Graduate Student, Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering for a term ending in 2007.

Ben Blaiszik graduated *summa cum laude* from Elmhurst College in 2003 with a B.S. degree in Physics and Mathematics. He recently received his M.S. from the Department of Theoretical and Applied Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. for his work in self-healing materials.

Sports have always been an integral part of his academic work. While attending Elmhurst College, he competed on the men's tennis team and was honored as a Verizon Academic All-American. In high school he was a three-time state qualifier in tennis, a cross-country team captain, and a varsity basketball player.

Jeffrey G. Brown, Undergraduate Student, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for a term ending in 2007.

Jeff Brown is from Morris, Illinois, and will be a junior this fall. In high school, he was president of his freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, and a member of the student council executive board. He was business editor for the student newspaper and yearbook during his senior year. He participated in football, baseball, and wrestling while in high school.

At Illinois he holds the positions of wrestling and soccer chairs on the Illini Pride Executive Board, I-Guide Football Blockhead, and Orange Krush helper. He is also involved with nearly every cheering section on campus. He plans on attending law school after he graduates.

Thomas A. DiSanto, Alumnus, for a term ending in 2010.

Thomas DiSanto holds a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a successful businessman in Chicago, as a commodity trader on the Chicago Board of Trade, and he also has other business interests. He has an outstanding record of involvement with civic and charitable organizations, being associated with fundraising for the March of Dimes, Cystic Fibrosis, Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, and many other worthy causes.

He is a member of the Presidents Council, the Loyalty Circle, a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, contributor to the Colleges of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and Business, and sponsors many IFUND and Chicago Illini Club events.

John W. Erdman, Professor, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), for a term ending in 2010.

John Erdman is Professor and Nutrition Research Chair in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. He holds appointments in the College of Medicine and the Division of Nutritional Sciences where he was previously director. Professor Erdman also was Assistant Dean in the Office of Research, College of ACES, and has received a number of national teaching and research awards, and is former President of the

American Nutrition Association. He is Fellow of two organizations including the American Heart Association. In 2003, Professor Erdman was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences and has served on many committees, most recently the Chair of the College of ACES Promotion and Tenure Committee. He and his wife are long-time season ticket holders for football, men's basketball, and women's basketball. He and his colleagues have previously provided nutrition advice for men's football and basketball and women's track.

Meghan Naik, Undergraduate Student, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for a term ending in 2007.

Meghan Naik will be a senior this fall majoring in Speech Communications and Spanish. She is a member of the Women's Golf Team and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. She participated in golf and POMs in high school and was selected for an internship last summer with the PGA tour and wrote press releases, attended tournaments, and some board meetings. Meghan is planning to pursue a career in public relations, hopefully related to sports.

Christopher Span, Assistant Professor, College of Education, for a term ending in 2010.

Christopher Span has been an Assistant Professor in Educational Policy Studies since 2003. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Since his return to the Urbana campus, Professor Span has been actively involved in campus and community affairs. He has served on the Graduate Awards and Technology Committee for the College of Education, and is the immediate past president of the regional chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. Professor Span is the departmental representative for the college and campus Distinguished Scholar's Award, and has repeatedly lectured on equity and social justice issues in Urbana public schools. In 2004, he received the Center for Democracy in a Multiracial Society Fellowship and since fall 2003 has consecutively made the "Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students." He is currently finalizing a book manuscript on the educational history of black Mississippians between 1862 and 1875.