

Board Meeting  
June 9, 2011

## APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE ATHLETIC BOARD, URBANA

**Action:** Appoint Members to the Athletic Board

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

On recommendation of the Interim Vice President, University of Illinois, and Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ms. Chelcie Abajian (student), Ms. Carrie Casper (Alumna), Professor Cleo D'Arcy (Department of Crop Sciences), Ms. Jenna Sansing (student), Mr. Sam Shriner (student), and Professor Christopher Span (Education Policy, Organization and Leadership) have been nominated for appointment to the Athletic Board of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The appointments will be effective August 2011, and continue for the term designated or until a successor has been appointed. Mr. Gavin Sontag (Alumnus) has also been nominated to complete the term of Mr. Nick Piazza which will expire in 2014. (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 Vice

President/Chancellor and the Athletic Director on the financial management, personnel, and other operational aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program.

The board consists of nineteen members: two faculty representatives to the Big Ten; seven other faculty members; four alumni of the Urbana-Champaign campus; three students; and three *ex officio* members without a vote: a designee of the Vice President/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 Vice President/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 Campus Alumni Advisory Board. The Vice President/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.

**Chelcie Abajian** – Student, College of Applied Health Sciences, for a term ending in 2012

Chelcie will be a senior majoring in Recreation and Tourism. She graduated from Commack High School in Commack, New York, and participated in tennis. As a freshman in high school she was named all-state, all section, and all-conference in No. 1 singles tennis. In 2006, she became the G16 Supernational Clay Court Doubles champion and earned a No. 1 doubles ranking. She is an outstanding member of our varsity women's tennis team and has secured two straight 20-win seasons and was an Academic All-Big Ten honoree. Chelcie plans on coaching tennis after college.

**Carrie Casper** – Alumna, for a term ending 2015

Carrie Casper is the Manager of Events at the Illinois Institute of Technology where she oversees the planning of events for alumni, high level donors, the President's Office, and the Board of Trustees. She is an active member of the Chicago Illini Club and is the Event Committee Director and Co-chair of the club. Carrie was a four year member of the Marching Illini Band and spent two years in a leadership role. She also spent two years in the Basketball Band and one summer in the "Orange and Blue Band" which travels and performs at regional alumni clubs.

**Cleo D'Arcy** – Professor, Crop Sciences, for a term ending 2015

Professor D'Arcy has been a faculty member at the University of Illinois since 1978 and has served as Assistant Dean of Academic Programs in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. She has taught over 1,000 undergraduate students in her career. In 2008, she received the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Her research interests are pathogens and people which have attracted students from across the country. This is a reappointment for Cleo. She currently serves on the Athletic Board where she has been a member of several committees including Student Services Committee, Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (as chair), the Assembly Hall Advisory Committee, and is currently the Chair of the Athletic Advisory Board. Cleo has also had extensive leadership roles in both on campus committees and for her national organization the American Phytopathological Society.

**Jenna Sansing** – Student, College of Business, for a term ending in 2012

Jenna will be a junior majoring in Marketing. She graduated from James Bowie High School in Austin, Texas. In high school, Jenna was captain of both the soccer and volleyball teams. She is Vice President of Operations for Alpha Phi Sorority here at the University of Illinois. Her academic accomplishments at Illinois include recognition as a James Scholar and Chancellor's scholar. Jenna hopes to go into marketing as a profession and hopes to get an MBA.

**Sam Shiner** – Student, College of Business, for a term ending 2012

Sam will be a junior majoring in Accounting/Finance. Sam graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, where he played both basketball and golf. Sam serves as the chairman of the Orange Krush Foundation and helps decide where \$180,000 of charitable funds will be distributed by the Krush Foundation. He also manages the Orange Krush volunteers who help run game day operations. Sam plans on pursuing a career in banking.

**Gavin Sontag** – Alumnus, for a term ending 2014

Gavin Sontag is the Director of Business Development for Innovative Medical Device Solutions. He works to generate and cultivate corporate development partnerships across all aspects of the orthopedic market segment. Gavin was a four year letter winner on the University of Illinois tennis team from 1995-99. He was the first All-American in Illinois history in 1998. Gavin played on three Big Ten Championship teams and won the Big Ten Singles Title in 1997. Gavin was instrumental in helping solidify funds for the completion of the Kahn Outdoor Tennis Center.

**Chris Span** – Associate Professor, Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, for a term ending 2015

Professor Span is a leading scholar in African American education. His book, *From the Cotton Field to Schoolhouse: African American Education in Mississippi, 1862-1875* makes a significant contribution to educational history. Chris currently is supervising the work of 10 doctoral students and is a key member for the doctoral research program in History Education. This is a reappointment for Chris. He has served as a faculty representative to the Athletic Board and has chaired the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee. He has also served on the Provost's Working Group on Aligning Academic Support for Impact. Chris has provided service to the local community by teaching workshops on the history and achievement of minority students for public school teachers.