

Board Meeting  
July 30, 2007

APPROVE APPOINTMENTS 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 Blaiszik (student), Mr. Jeffrey Brown (student), Ms. Lindsay Carstens (student), Professor C. L. Cole (Faculty - Communications), Professor Cleo D'Arcy (Faculty - ACES), and Mr. Robert Falato (Alumnus) have been nominated for appointment to the Athletic Board of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The appointment will be effective August 2007, 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 2008.

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 life. While attending Elmhurst College, he competed on the men's tennis team and was honored as a Verizon Academic All-American. In high school at St. Bede Academy, he was a three-time state qualifier in tennis, a cross-country team captain, and a varsity basketball player. He has also worked closely with coaches in the past to ensure the academic integrity of the teams he has been a part of. As a former student-athlete, he would like to give back to the university using his personal experience. Mr. Blaiszik is currently serving on the board.

**Jeffrey G. Brown**, Undergraduate Student, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for a term ending in 2008.

Jeff Brown is a senior from Morris, Illinois. The most significant of the many positions he held in high school were: president of his class from freshmen to junior year, student council executive board and business editor for the newspaper and yearbook his senior year. Beyond just starting structured cheering sections, his work ethic is evident in his academic accomplishments such as: National Honor Society, Illinois State Scholar, and National Honor Roll to name a few. His character is evident in the fact that he was chosen for Who's Who Among America's High School Students on two separate occasions. At the University of Illinois he has held 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's majoring in business administration and plans to attend law school after graduation. Mr. Brown is currently serving on the board.

**Lindsay Carstens**, Undergraduate Student, College of Applied Health Sciences for a term ending in 2008.

Ms. Carstens is from Cincinnati, Ohio, where she played varsity soccer for four years. She is a senior majoring in Kinesiology and plans to continue her education after graduating next spring. She intends to pursue a graduate degree in physical therapy. She is currently goalkeeper and a leader for the women's soccer team both on and off the field. She is active in several student groups such as the Fellowship of Christian Student Athletes. As a member of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Ms. Carstens will represent student athletes on the Athletic Board.

**C. L. Cole**, Professor, College of Communications, for a term ending in 2011.

Dr. Cole is currently Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, Advertising, and the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, and is an Affiliate Faculty member in the African American Studies and Research Program, Cultural Studies and Interpretive Research, East Asian Studies, and Kinesiology.

Dr. Cole has played a key role in retooling the Urbana campus' curriculum related to sport studies. She has taught freshman discovery seminars focused on sport and globalization, general education undergraduate courses on sport and U.S. culture, and graduate courses on a wide range of sport-related topics. She also co-organized "Capitalizing on Sport," the inaugural conference for the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society and Documenting Sport/Documenting Globalization, a year-long symposium sponsored by the Globalization in the Humanities Initiative. She is currently working with the Department of Advertising and the College of Communications to establish a Center for Advertising, Sport, and Consumer Culture.

Her research focuses on sport culture and includes work on sport celebrity, masculinity and sport, media representations of mega-sport events, visual sport culture, university sport culture, Nike and women's sport, Title IX, and sport and public policy. She has edited three books about sports and culture and is currently completing a book manuscript entitled: *Good Sports? The Boundaries of American Democracy*. She has been editor of the *Journal of Sport & Social Issues* since 2000, and, for the last 15 years, has served as the co-editor of SUNY's book series: *Sport, Culture & Social Relations*. As a graduate student at the University of Southern California, Dr. Cole worked in marketing and promotions of USC's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and was the first woman in the United States to serve on a Men's Division I water polo team coaching staff. Dr. Cole will be an outstanding member of this Board.

**Cleo D'Arcy**, Professor, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), for a term ending in 2011.

Cleo D'Arcy would be an ideal candidate for the University of Illinois Athletic Board as, for more than 25 years she has been a strong supporter of both students and athletics on this campus. Professor D'Arcy has been a faculty member since 1978, first in the Department of Plant Pathology and now the Department of Crop Sciences.

Professor D'Arcy is also an active fan of Illini athletics. Like many others, she is a season ticket holder for both major sports, football and men's basketball. However, she has also been a long time supporter for many other sports, including baseball and women's basketball. She has attended most games for more than 20 years, and has endowed a scholarship to help support women's soccer.

Athletics is an important part of many students' lives on campus, whether as athletes or as spectators, and the way our athletic program is conducted impacts the reputation of our university far beyond athletics. Thus, having such a dedicated and concerned faculty member serve on the Athletic Board would be an important way to ensure our future success.

**Robert A. Falato**, Alumnus for a term ending in 2011.

Robert Falato graduated *magna cum laude* in 1983 from the University of Illinois, with a degree from the College of Business, majoring in Business Administration and Marketing. He is a successful businessman from Palatine, Illinois, and is currently Senior Vice President of Northern Trust Corporation in Chicago. He is a recognized expert in the area of fixed-income securities. He has an outstanding record of involvement with civic and charitable organizations.

Mr. Falato is a member of the Loyalty Circle, President's Council, is a life member of the Alumni Association and has been a strong supporter and ambassador for the University.