

Nominations for Athletic Board

FACULTY:

Cleo D'Arcy

Cleo D'Arcy would be an ideal candidate for re-appointment to the University of Illinois Athletic Board as, for over 25 years, she has been a strong supporter of both students and athletics on this campus. Cleo has been a faculty member since 1978, first in the Department of Plant Pathology and now the Department of Crop Sciences. In addition to her graduate level teaching, she developed and continues to teach an undergraduate course, Plant Pathogens and People, which fulfills both science and writing requirements and draws students from across the campus. She has served as her department's Undergraduate Teaching and Advising Coordinator and as an Assistant Dean of Academic Programs in the College of ACES, positions that provided her the opportunity to work closely with a variety of students. She has taught over 1000 undergraduate students, and advised over 100 at the University of Illinois. Her outstanding and innovative teaching has been recognized by numerous awards, most recently the 2008 Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Cleo is also an active fan for 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, which she has attended most games for over 20 years, and women's soccer, for which she has endowed a scholarship to help support this sport.

Cleo has extensive leadership experience. In addition to her leadership roles here on campus, she developed and taught the leadership development seminar for her national organization, the American Phytopathological Society. She also served on the national governing board and as president of this 5000-member organization.

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. Cleo has served the Athletic Board on several committees including the Student Services Committee, the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (as Chair), the Assembly Hall Advisory Committee and currently as the Chair of the Athletic Advisory Board (2010-2011). Cleo's leadership has been exceptional and the Board would surely benefit from her re-appointment.

~~~~~ Scott Paluska

Scott Paluska joined OAK Orthopedics in 2003 to serve as the medical director of the Champaign-Urbana office. After completing a degree in neuroscience at Amherst College in Amherst, MA, he received a medical degree with honors from the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, MI. He finished a residency in Family Medicine at the University of Michigan and a fellowship in faculty development at the Michigan Faculty Development Institute. He subsequently pursued a sports medicine fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Next, he served on the faculty of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill while seeing patients in his private practice in Cary, NC. He then took a position in Seattle as a core residency faculty member at the University of Washington before moving to Champaign-Urbana for his current practice with OAK Orthopedics.

He is currently a clinical associate professor in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois and directs the History, Physical Examination and Diagnosis course for the second year medical students. He enjoys the process of introducing the medical students to clinical medicine and helping them understand the importance of listening to patients in order to obtain accurate, thorough histories. His humorous, engaging teaching style promotes active participation from his students. One of his other medical school responsibilities is to direct the white coat ceremony in which the students receive their white coats at the beginning of the clinical rotations. This event recognizes the students' achievements and emphasizes the humanism essential to compassionate medical care. He also serves on several medical school committees and acts as a faculty advisor for the students. He helps coordinate the Continuing Medical Education (CME) program for the Provena Covenant Medical Center in Urbana.

Dr Paluska holds specialty certifications in Family Medicine and Sports Medicine and has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). This highly respected international organization is composed of over 20,000 sports medicine clinicians, educators and researchers dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of sports-related injuries and the advancement of exercise science. He is active in the ACSM nationally on committees and regularly presents at their annual meetings around the country. Dr Paluska's medical coverage has included several high schools and the University of Washington Division I athletes. He has also served as a team physician for the Carolina Cobras in the Arena Football League and the Carolina Hurricanes in the National Hockey League.

Dr. Paluska has received several academic awards and has published many articles on musculoskeletal and sports medicine topics in peer-reviewed national and international journals. He serves as a reviewer for several journals and has edited and written several book chapters on sports medicine issues. He continues to promote an evidence-based practice model that utilizes the most recent literature and data to guide his medical decision making.

Dr Paluska maintains an active interest in sports participation himself. An avid runner, he recently qualified for the Boston Marathon. He has found success in triathlons as well and often wins his age group. His patients know that he commutes by bicycle year round, and he encourages them to find creative ways to get their own 20-to-30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity daily.

~~~~~ Chris Span

We are delighted to recommend Professor Christopher M. Span for the Athletic Board. In a very short time Dr. Span has achieved national recognition as a significant scholar in the history of African American in particular and American education in general. He ranks at the very top of his peers with respect to the quality, originality, and lasting impact of his scholarship. His book, *From Cotton Field to Schoolhouse: African American Education in Mississippi, 1862-1875* (2009) makes a significant new contribution to educational history and has implications that exceed the boundaries suggested in a case analysis. The quality and originality of his work, the prestigious places of publications and, above all

else, the high regard in which his work is held by the leading scholars in the field underscores his reputation as a sensitive and intellectually mature scholar of exceptional quality.

Dr. Span's achievement as a scholar is matched by his achievements as a teacher and mentor. His record of teaching is outstanding. Dr. Span's student evaluation scores have placed him in the high average or high category virtually every semester since he has joined our faculty in 2003. Indeed, students have ranked Dr. Span on the Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked Excellent for every class that he has taught here at Illinois. Currently he is supervising the work of 10 doctoral students and his peers in Educational Policy Studies rank the quality of his advising as excellent on a consistent basis. In summary, Dr. Span excels in all phases of the instructional process, serves as a key member of our doctoral research program in History of Education, and contributes significantly to masters and doctoral programs in Educational Policy Studies and throughout the College of Education.

Dr. Span's record of service is also extensive. He has served on numerous College of Education committees, served as president of the College's Phi Delta Kappa chapter, and is currently writing a history of the College of Education. At the campus level he serves as a faculty representative to the Athletic Board and has served as the Athletic Board as Chair in 2009-2010. Dr. Span also served as the Chair of the Academic Progress and Eligibility Committee (APEC), which is a Senate committee within the Athletic Board. His exceptional and thoughtful counsel of student-athletes as well as his commitment to integrity and academic achievement make him a valuable asset to the Athletic Board. He also has served as a member of the Provost's "Working Group on Aligning Academic Support for Impact." Within the Champaign-Urbana community he has taught workshops on the teaching of history and the achievement of minority students for public school teachers. His service in national scholarly societies has earned him the acclaim of leading scholars in the field. Dr. Span is truly exceptional as a scholar and teacher, as well as a mentor and public servant. Consequently, we are delighted to give him our highest recommendation for re-appointment to the Athletic Board.

STUDENTS:

Kaitlyn Hastings

I am qualified to represent the graduate/overall student body on the Athletic Board because I have spent multiple years at this University and will have graduated with two University of Illinois degrees, thus demonstrating my devotion and dedication to the institution. I have demonstrated this service to the University through sitting on various committees, and representing the student body on its senate for two years. I have demonstrated leadership in being the sole student at various meetings of the Senate Discipline Committee, where I argued on behalf of the student body for or against a particular disciplinary sentence for a peer. I also have held Graduate Town Halls, mixers, and meetings as the chair of the Graduate and Professional Affairs Committee.

I started my undergraduate career at Indiana State University where I started and lettered as a Division volleyball athlete. Although I do not have experience with Big Ten athletics (other than growing up as an Illini fan and season-ticketholder), I do feel that being a former D I athlete helps me to understand the manner in which an athletic program is conducted. Each sport is part of the larger picture, which has a mission and must be run efficiently and effectively. I know I could contribute to this mission and would greatly appreciate another opportunity to serve my fellow students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kaitlyn Hastings, Khatin2@law.illinois.edu

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Tommy Heiser

During my freshman winter break, I was one of thirty-five students to study abroad in Paris, France. Through qualities such as self-confidence and focus, I was able to excel in an unfamiliar environment. Despite the challenges of being abroad for the first time, I had risen to a level of leadership that involved directing and planning daily excursions outside of our academic schedule and coordinating with others to ensure we accomplished everything tasked to us academically. The interpersonal and leadership skills garnished from the incredible experience abroad have directly translated over to my participation with the Men's Tennis Team.

As volunteer manager of the Illinois Varsity Men's Tennis Team, I handle a small budget in which I can use towards marketing and promotions. My hardworking personality and determination have contributed to the success of changes I have implemented in order to increase match attendance. A major difference I put forth was transferring the Net Nuts student organization to one of the largest student organizations on campus, I Pride. My skills as a leader and the ability to work collaboratively with others have helped build invaluable relationships, which will ultimately increase the marketing power of Men's Tennis. I have also successfully directed and promoted two local tournaments hosted at Atkins Tennis Center, both with a draw size of 32 players. As an extremely motivated, dedicated, and hands-on individual, participating on the Athletic Board will provide me with the opportunity to utilize my past experiences and to provide new and productive insight, furthering my support for the University of Illinois Athletics.

Tommy Heiser, College of Business: Finance 2012

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Jenna Sansing

Although I grew up in Texas, Illinois athletics have always been a huge influence in my life. As the granddaughter of a former University of Illinois football player (1950-54) and the daughter of an Illinois High School State Basketball Champion (1980), I have been grounded in the rich traditions of a family who treasures the many benefits of participating in and supporting athletics. I grew up participating in tennis, dance, track and field, and swimming, but my primary passions were soccer and volleyball. In high school, I captained both my high school and club soccer teams, as well as my volleyball team. I continue to be an avid fan of both collegiate and professional football, basketball, and soccer. These experiences (especially my experience of playing soccer for two different clubs) have given me the opportunity to see well-run competitive sports programs, as well as poorly organized and executed programs, and have piqued my interest in the policy and management issues involved in athletic programs.

As a successful student-athlete in high school and Chancellor's Scholar at U of I, I have continually demonstrated my commitment to academic achievement and educational excellence. Both academic and athletic leadership among my peers has always come naturally to me. The leadership experience I gained as captain of my

various volleyball and soccer teams has been invaluable, preparing me for many of the leadership roles I currently hold. I currently serve as Vice President of Chapter Operations for the Alpha Phi Sorority. As a key leader of my chapter, I help run a house of 180 young women and I deal daily with financial, contractual and operational issues with the house. As a member of the executive board of Alpha Phi, I also have the opportunity to influence board decisions and ensure effective communication between the executive board and the chapter. Finally, as a student in the School of Business with a focus on Marketing, my accounting, economics and finance courses have given me the skills to deal with financial issues. My marketing coursework has strengthened my ability to understand the desires and needs of those around me and the proficiency to communicate these things to others. In short, my background, passion for athletics and academics, knowledge of athletic programs and my aptitude for business and marketing make me an excellent candidate for a position relating to the operational and academic aspects of the University athletic department. I am eager to serve as a valuable, contributing student member of the University Athletic Board.

Jenna Sansing, School of Business | Marketing, Alpha Phi Sorority | Vice President of Chapter Operations ;
Chancellor's Scholar, James Scholar, jsansing1@gmail.com

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Sam Shiner

Major: Accounting/Finance; Year: Sophomore

During the past year I have been lucky enough to be a chairman of the Orange Krush Foundation. While some perks—like having front row tickets to Illinois basketball games—have been great, I can tell you that the most rewarding part of my job has been helping out so many individuals. During my time on the board I have been involved in deciding where over \$180,000 in charitable funds should be given, organized a can food drive that donated thousands of dollars of food to the local food bank, as well as being in charge of the best basketball student section in the country. Through my experiences with Orange Krush I have been able to work on my leadership abilities. It can often be hard to please thirteen hundred members of an organization, so at times this year I have needed to diffuse angry students, find compromises, and do my best to make Krush the best experience for everyone. Another one of my duties had been managing volunteers who help run game day procedures. I make sure they know where to go, what to do, and when to do it to ensure that everything runs smoothly. There is no doubt that through working with the Orange Krush this year, I have vastly improved my leadership and service skills.

Through this experience, I have also gained some knowledge in policy and management issues surrounding Illinois' athletic program. I work frequently with the DIA and their sports marketing department, specifically with Elizabeth Klatt. I also have attended a mandatory meeting with the compliance office on what we can and cannot do as it pertains to the cheering section. While I haven't had the most experience with the specific areas of the department I would be working with in regards to this job, I feel that I have gained a general knowledge in how the athletic program at this University operates that could be an asset to this position. I feel that because of this past year, I have gained the leadership abilities and the knowledge necessary to be successful as the student appointee to the Athletic Board.

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