

# **Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation**

## **Summary Statement**

The 2003–2004 academic year was one of dynamic forward movement for the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER). As the year neared its conclusion, the Institute's biannual Visiting Committee unanimously praised the department for its leadership, achievements, dedication, and commitment. Singled out as one of DAPER's key accomplishments was the remarkable work by the Strategic Plan Implementation Team on the continued implementation of the department's strategic plan. In addition, the department was applauded for and asked to continue the progress on friend- and fundraising initiatives. DAPER's deepened partnerships with the Office of Major Giving, the Alumni Association, and the Office of Resource Development were both appreciated and encouraged. Other DAPER highlights are discussed herein.

## **Highlights of the Year**

Our teams and coaches saw unprecedented successes and achievements this year. While six students were added to MIT's Academic All-America contingency in Division III, the Engineers also claimed two national champions: Evan Tindall in Men's Tennis and Uzomo Orji in Men's Track and Field. MIT continues to lead the nation in the production of Academic All Americas and this year finished the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics' Director's Cup Competition based on achievements in academics and prowess in athletic competition. MIT finished 38th of 438 Division III institutions vying for these honors. The Men's Soccer Team finished the year in the Elite Eight in the nation, garnering Regional Coach of the Year honors for Walter Alessi, associate professor and coach, and All-American First Team honors for co-captain, Nick Nestle '04. Women's Fencing posted its fifth consecutive New England regional championship, and Women's Gymnastics finished sixth in the country in the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association's Division III gymnastics championships hosted in April at MIT.

In support of the long tradition of rowing with Division I peers in the sport of men's and women's rowing, MIT successfully completed the two-year probation for the reclassification of its Women's Rowing Program to Division I status.

In the area of Physical Education, DAPER developed a new registration system. This system will allow students and members of the campus community to register for classes in real time, without the need for the Physical Education (PE) Lottery. In addition, this technology will create efficiencies in the compliance and eligibility process for student athletes and will serve as a valuable tool for administrators, student athletes, and coaches.

The Zesiger Center was successfully integrated, and strategic units were operated without fund reserve spending. DAPER conducted an analysis of financial operations

under the shared services model within Division of Student Life for improved quality of service, cost reduction, and increased efficiency. Performance metrics qualifiers were developed to measure achievement of goals, and standards were derived from the Strategic Operating Plan.

The DAPER Facilities Team was honored with a DSL Infinite Mile Award. Revenue goals were exceeded in Zesiger Center and DAPER facilities by approximately \$200,000. Security was improved for buildings with card access systems, which lowered thefts and, in turn, increased revenue. Patrons purchased a web-based scheduling system for online reservations. Punj Juice Bar opened in the Zesiger Center. The Alumni Pool and the new Wang Fitness Center reopened. The Lincoln Lab Fitness Center was renovated and expanded. Finally, the *Athletic Business Association Magazine*, with its Facility of Merit Award for excellence in design, recognized the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center.

Gift opportunities were identified, and DAPER hosted multiple friend- and fundraising events. One result was that a 32 percent increase in expendable funds was received (mostly due to the increased emphasis on crew fundraising).

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) institutional self-study requirement was met. In an effort to improve financial accountability, the financial management plan for MIT rowing programs was reworked, and a new Equipment Management Procedures Guide was developed.

Club Sports held elections for council members by a general-body meeting of Club Sports representatives. The Club Sports Handbook was created to be used as a reference by the student leadership of each club. The Club Sports Council Constitution was completed and ratified. Club Sports redesigned its annual activation forms to emphasize student leadership, and to require the following:

- Information on qualifications of instructors/coaches
- Information on club membership (i.e., criteria for membership) and club purpose
- Budget information with funding broken down into seven categories: league fees, instructors/coaches, officials/referees fees, tournament fees, short-term capital, long-term capital, and other expenses

A funding system was devised to allocate money to clubs. The system emphasizes allocating funds in such a manner as to allow competitive clubs to compete and instructional clubs to receive appropriate instruction. Furthermore, Club Sports partnered with the Alumni Office on a letter to friend- and fundraise for Club Sports.

Approximately 6,320 members of the MIT community enrolled in PE classes, and 3,626 undergraduate students received credit toward the MIT General Institute Requirement. PE successfully implemented the Collegiate Athletic Technologies web-based, real-time registration system in the fall of 2004.

The volume of award winners, record setters, and outstanding achievements by our student athletes is far too great to comprehensively mention in this document. However,

in addition to the aforementioned accomplishments, we would like to add these highlights of the 2003–2004 academic year:

- Water Polo became the first MIT team to be ranked number one in the nation by national media. Jeff Ma was named Division III National Coach of the Year after the season.
- Men's Cross Country claimed its sixth consecutive New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Cross Country Championship. Halston Taylor earned conference Coach of the Year honors for the sixth consecutive fall.
- Men's Tennis did not drop a single set during the entire conference tournament en route to its sixth consecutive NEWMAC championship. MIT swept all-conference honors at every singles position.
- Kathryn Duffy was named NEWMAC Women's Swimmer of the Year after setting four individual MIT records and three NEWMAC championship and open records.
- Freshman Craig Edwards earned All-America honors in two events at the NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving Championships following his selection as NEWMAC Swimmer of the Year.
- Women's Volleyball won the 2003 ECAC Championship, while recording its eighth straight postseason appearance.
- MIT hosted the 2004 National Collegiate Gymnastics Championships, finishing sixth overall.

Health Fitness Corporation (HFC) memberships increased by 13 percent; daily, weekly, and monthly pass sales increased by 47 percent, and program revenue increased by 94 percent, with exponential growth in all areas of aquatic programming and personal training. HFC hosted the following in AY2004:

- 2004 NEWMAC Women's Swimming and Diving Championships
- Two all-collegiate dual swim and dive meets and invitational events
- Two Water Polo multischool events
- National Remotely Operated Vehicle Championship
- Four youth-age group national swimming and diving championships
- Indoor triathlon
- Two bench press competitions
- National Employee Health and Fitness Week events
- Second annual Z-Throw Contest

HFC developed and implemented the Recreation Advisory Committee to improve member communication and feedback. Furthermore, HFC continued collaboration with committees and organizations for Campus Preview Weekend, Commencement, and MIT Orientation. Collaborative efforts included working with the following offices and organizations:

- MIT Sloan School of Management, the Center for Sports Innovation
- iCampus Grants
- Boston Alumni Club

- Campus Police
- MIT Safety Office
- MIT Medical
- Department of Ocean Engineering
- Hotel @ MIT
- Bluefin Corporation

HFC received the highest rating among all student services in an independent study of undergraduate satisfaction (on a 4-point scale, the rating for athletic facilities increased from 2.4 in 2002 to 3.5 in 2003). Efforts to devise systems to collect and compile data to develop business metrics continue, including revenue and expense actuals and forecast models, access and activity area-use models, program vitality measures, and member retention statistics. Budget reductions of \$275,000 in the FY2004 expense budget were implemented successfully.

## **New Initiatives**

### **Athletic Branding Project**

A new athletic logo will be developed through a branding and licensing process that will serve to enhance the department's image and appeal.

### **NCAA Women and Minority Sports Intern Grant**

The Ethnic Minority and Women's Internship Grant Program is an important initiative that supports Division III's stated mission of Division III institutions and conferences supporting ethnic and gender diversity for all constituents. These \$21,000 (formerly \$15,000) grants are designated for Division III institutions and conference offices to hire a full-time intern in administration/coaching beginning in the fall of 2004.

### **Student Athlete Support Triad**

DAPER established the Student Athlete Support Triad as part of our reclassification efforts for our Women's Rowing Program, and to address the academic, health and safety, and life skills needs of all our student athletes at MIT. The partnerships include the Academic Resource Center, MIT Medical, Campus Police, MIT Safety Office, and Student Life Programs. Each area or leg of the triad has an advisory board comprised of students, faculty, and staff.

### **Varsity Sport Health and Vitality Review**

In response to the DAPER Strategic Plan, DAPER has developed a varsity sport health and vitality review process. The process has been conceived and constructed to produce a report that begins to measure the quality of each of the intercollegiate programs. The committee will collect data for analysis that consists of factors such as participation over time, competitiveness, coach turnover, academic performance, and other appropriate data. To this end, a subcommittee of the DAPER Athletic Board has been appointed to

conduct interviews that will include meetings with the head coach of each varsity sport. The membership of the nine-member committee includes undergraduate and graduate students, coaches, faculty, staff, and DAPER senior athletic administration. Professor Tom Allen, who is the chair of the Athletic Board, will chair the committee. At the conclusion of the meetings a report will be produced for circulation to the president, the chancellor, the dean for student life, and the department head/director of Athletics.

### **Friends of DAPER Activity**

The Friends of DAPER is a group of alumni intercollegiate athletes, led by Don Shobry '75 and Michael Schoen '87, whose mission is to improve communications with alumni, enhance DAPER's visibility, nurture existing Friends programs, and actively support fundraising. The Friends of DAPER will support fundraising across all of DAPER's programs. The group will be instrumental in helping to create a fundraising plan that integrates DAPER's activities with other MIT offices concerned with fundraising, such as the Alumni Association and Resource Development. The Friends of DAPER will be central to creating the fundraising message and conveying it to our alumni.

### **Friends of MIT Crew Activity**

The Friends of MIT Crew is one of the largest, most organized, and active alumni groups in DAPER. A fundraising campaign to increase support and ultimately endow the crew program is under way. Friends of Crew have already recruited alumni to assist the 2005 Reunion Gift Campaign.

### **Pistol and Rifle Range Renovation**

The Committee for the Review of Space Planning has funded this project in two phases for FY2005–FY2006. Phase I is the remediation of lead contaminants in the rifle and pistol range in the summer of 2004. A new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system for the range will be installed in summer 2005.

An application for an Alcohol Education Grant to further implement the system for early identification of and assistance for students abusing alcohol is in development. This will be proposed in collaboration with the Office for Community Development and Substance Abuse.

A new, web-based registration system for Physical Education classes will replace the current lottery system. All MIT community members with MIT IDs/certificates will be able to register online. Implementation is scheduled for fall 2004.

### **Summary of Staffing Changes**

#### **Coaching Changes**

- Andy Barlow was named head coach, Baseball, replacing Mac Singleton.
- Buzz Congram was named head coach, Women's Lightweight Crew.

- Paul Dill was named head coach, Men's Volleyball, replacing Steve Lane.
- Dawn Gerken was named head coach, Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving, replacing Joe Kurtz.
- Marika Page was named head coach, Women's Novice Lightweight Crew.
- Dan Perkins was named head coach, Men's Novice Heavyweight Crew.
- Kristi Straub was named head coach, Women's Basketball and Women's Soccer, replacing Melissa Hart.

### **Staff Changes**

- Chiemeka Azubuine resigned from his position in Customer Service to take a new position in the Campus Activities Complex.
- Mindy Brauer was named assistant director of sports information.
- Richard Brewer was reassigned as DAPER project manager.
- Brian Callahan was named with Oliver Eslinger as codirectors of MIT Day Camp.
- Robert Funderburg was named to the DAPER Facilities Team.
- James Kramer accepted an appointment as interim director of sports information and DAPER communications.
- Aubrey Ramage Lay resigned from his position in Customer Service.
- Ralph Santoro retired after 26 years of service to MIT and the DAPER Facilities Team.
- Tim Smith completed a one-year internship in Athletic Administration.

**Candace L. Royer**

**Department Head and Director of Athletics**

*More information about the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/athletics/www/>.*