**Dear MIT Varsity Athlete Alumni:**

In the history of MIT's Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER) there has never been a fall so filled with excitement! The grand opening of the new Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center in October has resonated across the entire campus community. The enthusiasm for this facility along with new programs we are offering has generated new interest in fitness pursuits and has brought our varsity sport programs to a new level of heightened awareness.

We must now continue our attention to enhancing the depth, as well as the breadth of the varsity sport programs. Student athletes continue to need superb coaching, training and equipment, and support for competitive schedules. These all come to us at increasing costs at a time when MIT must look at filling the gap between needs and limited resources.

It may interest you to know that DAPER has three major funding sources to support our programs:

1) MIT operating funds (General Institute Budget)
2) Revenue from the rental of facilities and sale of fitness memberships
3) Income from endowment accounts and annual gifts to DAPER from alumni and friends

Annual gifts to MIT's varsity sport funds have become increasingly important in funding our total sports budget. We have been fortunate indeed to have loyal and generous alumni whose support has enabled us to continue to offer our broad-based varsity programs.

As you think about the many ways your MIT varsity experience enhanced your life as a student and beyond, please consider making a gift that will enable other students to benefit similarly. You can be assured that your gift will be used to directly support the sport of your choice.

Your fellow alumni, Don Shobrys '75 and Mike Schoen '87, are working with us to keep alumni engaged in our programs. I have asked them to develop a Varsity Friends Committee that will work toward increasing alumni giving along with offering alumni new ways to become involved with our programs. If you are interested in joining their group, please send email to dshobrys@comcast.net.

We certainly appreciate your consideration of an annual gift. Our more than 800 varsity athletes are counting on your support!

Thanks in advance for your generosity,

Candace L. Royer  
Department Head/Director of Athletics