Dear Alumni:

It is with great interest and enthusiasm that I once again take an opportunity to communicate with you about the life of our School! I hope that you feel a rebirth of pride in our unit. In recent months, our School has been singled out twice by university leadership as the “signature” and “exemplar” department on campus. This excellence is the outcome of the high standards regarding teaching, scholarship, service, and professionalism embodied in our faculty, students, and alumni. You may find it of interest that we developed a set of core professional behaviors for all majors in our School and now require and evaluate these skills in all our students. As part of the recently approved College of Health, we have an opportunity to create a new identity and brand. We choose to lead the movement that promotes and advances health and quality of life for all people through teaching, discovery, and engagement related to physical activity and movement on all levels, including sport and the sport enterprise.

The School of Kinesiology (renamed in July, 2015) completed a recent, successful self-study and external review. Laboratory facilities received high praises and were considered excellent. In this mix is our new Integrative Exercise Physiology Lab (IEPL) on the third floor. Dr. Paul Nagelkirk, Director of the IEPL, explains that our lab supports a multidisciplinary approach to research questions related to human physiology, health/disease, and athletic performance. This laboratory has facilitated collaborative efforts among our exercise scientists who have expertise in neuromuscular, cardiovascular, neurocognitive, thermoregulation, hematology, and biomechanics. This interdisciplinary philosophy is providing students and faculty in the IEPL with unique research opportunities that would otherwise not be possible. We welcome Dr. Andrew Del Pozzi, new faculty member in the exercise science major, who is playing an important role in this new laboratory. One of the newer focuses in the undergraduate exercise science major is pre-professional preparation (i.e., pre-PT/pre-OT), nicely aligning with the future College of Health. A student professional development fund for the exercise science major, “Class of 1959,” supported 14 students to attend Midwest ACSM this past fall. Updates/refresh of the exercise science curriculum are well on their way to implementation. Look for more experiential/service learning to engage the community in health and fitness activities.

Likewise, in the undergraduate Sport Administration program, students learn by doing and graduate with experience. Faculty coordinate experiential learning opportunities as part of the curriculum in order to prepare students for the sport industry. Look for the Chase Charlie Races each fall (www.chasecharlie.com) and the Sport Administration Fund for Excellence Alumni.
Golf Tournament each spring (www.bsusportadgolf.com). Students in “Sport Administration Event and Facility Management” courses produce both events. The undergraduate program professional development fund, the “Sport Administration Fund for Excellence”, has funded over 40 students to attend various networking conferences such as the Mount Union Sport Sales Combine, Pacers Networking Event, and the United States Olympic Committee Internship fair in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Faculty and students raise money for the fund through student-produced events, contractual partnerships with sport organizations, and alumni donations. In addition to these hands-on opportunities, the Sport Administration program incorporates alumni into the advising process as alumni mentors. Students can explore careers with alumni and graduate with a network of contacts for potential employment. If you’d like to be included in our list of alumni mentors, email new program advisor Eric Klosterman (elklosterman@bsu.edu).
Each semester, Sport Administration students volunteer more than 2,500 hours for Ball State University Athletics and Muncie community sport organizations. Student leaders in the program co-curricular club, the Sport Administration Association, coordinate field experience opportunities for students as well as recruit sport industry speakers to campus. Recent curriculum changes include adding an “International and Comparative Administration of Sport” course as well as incorporating website design into the pre-existing computer applications course. An upcoming curriculum change will allow an analytics minor option for Sport Administration students.

We hope that you are highly interested in the new direction for your School and the two highlighted programs, and will want to stay abreast of their forward momentum! We anticipate being a centerpiece unit in the new College of Health. If you have not already done so, please visit our SOK web site at www.bsu.edu/kinesiology, and subscribe to our social network pages (Facebook: www.facebook.com/BSUKINESIOLOGY; and Twitter: @BSUKINESIOLOGY). We know that proud alumni may be interested in financially contributing to the life of our School. Please visit www.bsu.edu/kinesiology/funds-and-scholarships for general and specific opportunities.

I look forward to corresponding with you in the future. Please send me a note (tweidner@bsu.edu) if you have any questions or comments. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Weidner, PhD, ATC, FNATA
George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor and Chair
School of Kinesiology

*Kinesiology: The study of the impact of physical activity on health, society, and quality of life*