



Origins

THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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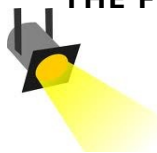
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Instructor Spotlight:

Kate O'Brien



In the Socioeconomic Impact of Sport in Chicago class, Jill Hollembeak and I hope to introduce students to the impact sport has had, and continues to have, on the City of Chicago from multiple perspectives. We challenge students to look at sport beyond its entertainment value and their own participation. Our goal is for students to reflect upon their view of sport throughout the quarter and monitor how it changes based on class activities and excursions. Our course was designed to help Athletic Academic Advising meet the goals of the NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills Program while affording student-athletes the opportunity to earn academic credit via the First-Year Program. After teaching this class for several years, we have reaped the benefits of developing deeper relationships with our incoming student-athletes from day one. They feel

comfortable seeking our advice and look to us to connect them to University resources. The best outcome has been that student-athletes develop cross-team friendships that will last a lifetime. Our favorite part of teaching the class has been watching students from completely different backgrounds connect and form friendships. Even

though their worlds may not be very similar outside of DePaul, they all share a bond when it comes to balancing academics and sport. Two years ago, the president of our Captains' Council spoke at our end of the year banquet. He praised the excellent classes he had taken in his business major but then reminisced about Explore being his favorite. He said it was where he made friends, where other student-athletes became his family and where he developed community on campus. While we work hard to create an excellent academic experience in our class, hearing that made page length requirements, time limits and grades pale in comparison to the impact we are having on our students' transitions into DePaul.

—Kate O'Brien
Athletic Department

From the Director

We're trying something new this quarter for all Chicago Quarter instructors: "Faculty Chat," a chance to share ideas, concerns, questions and experiences with other Discover and Explore Chicago faculty. It will take place Friday, Oct. 18, from 1-2:30 in Lincoln Park Student Center, Room 316. It's BYOC (bring your own coffee) and we'll bring some treats. See you there!

As you wrap up your Discover Chicago classes (and Explore Chicago next month), please consider reviewing the Learning Outcomes and assessing as a group whether these were achieved. This could complement a Common Hour discussion about the growth the students have experienced during their first quarter at DePaul. You can also preview the Focal Point Seminars, which is the next Liberal Studies class most of them will be taking, either in the Winter or Spring Quarter.

One more reminder that for Discover Chicago classes, Staff Professionals should set up time in a computer lab for Online Teaching Evaluations during class time. Explore Chicago instructors should contact Maria Hernandez (mhernand@depaul.edu) with a requested day and time and she will set this up.

Also, a reminder that you need to submit your Chicago Quarter expenses soon if you haven't already. See info in the box below.

Focal Point Seminar instructors: Please plan to attend this year's Best Practices conference on Nov. 15. More news to come about this.

—Doug Long

Important Dates!

- October 18th, 1:00-2:30pm: Chicago Quarter Faculty Chat, LPC Student Center 316
- November 15th, 11:00am - 2:30pm: Focal Point Seminar Best Practices, LPC Student Center 314B
- Receipts for reimbursement are due within 60 days of the date of purchase or Nov. 27th, whichever is earlier
- December 15th: Chicago Quarter proposal deadline
- February 1st: Focal Point Seminar proposal deadline