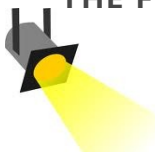




Origins

THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



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Instructor Spotlight:

Matt Ragas

Time flies when you're having fun. This past Immersion Week marked the third year in a row I have taught a Discover Chicago class. My course, "Chicago Business & Society" explores the multiculturalism and diversity that is Chicago through the role that business—from large corporations to small mom-and-pop shops—plays in the city's neighborhoods and institutions.

Companies have a profound impact—both positive and negative—on the communities in which they operate. My course introduces students to the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR); that is, that companies have an obligation to behave ethically and make decisions that are in the best interests of all stakeholders and the environment, and not simply shareholders and managers. My students learned that Chicago institutions like Easter Seals, The



Oriental Institute at UChicago and the Chinese American Service League (CASL) all rely upon corporate support.

Of course, the history of Chicago business is not all roses. Even today, in an era of heightened transparency, corporate misdeeds (and inaction) still happen too often. Through analyzing the CSR reports of Illinois-based

FORTUNE 500 firms, I challenge my students on whether corporate America is doing enough. I ask my students what *they* would do if placed at the helm of a major local company or a small neighborhood business? Would they be responsible stewards?

Seeing Chicago through the eyes of new freshmen is rewarding. It is a reminder of how fortunate we are to teach, live, and play in this great city. Further, I take solace in the fact that my students have high expectations for the companies they choose to support. This generation seems less tolerant of bad actors and has more of a community mindset. We should all bottle up this spirit.

Explore the class blog:
chicagobusinessandsociety.com

— Matt Ragas
*Asst. Professor of Public Relations
College of Communication*

From the Director

We're off and running! Chicago Quarter 2013 is underway. A total of 58 Discover Chicago classes began Immersion Week on Tuesday, Sept. 3 – the day *after* Labor Day this year – and completed it on Monday, Sept. 9, with New Student Service Day the following day. As always, the classes traversed the city all week, studying it through myriad topics and excursions. When Autumn Quarter began on Sept. 11, the 49 Explore Chicago classes joined them in studying Chicago as a text and as an extended classroom.

Just a 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.

On the second page we are featuring some photos from the quarter so far. If you have some good shots from your Chicago Quarter class, please send them my way. Have a great quarter.

— Doug Long

New topics being taught this quarter include:

- "Arab and Jewish Chicago" (Discover), Daniel Kamin (INT)
- "Chicago Dancing" (Explore), Lin Kahn (THE)
- "Ethnolinguistics of Latinos in Chicago" (Discover), Clara Burgo (MOL)
- "France and the French-Speaking World in Chicago" (Explore), Andrew Suozzo (MOL)
- "Irish and Irish Catholics in Chicago" (Discover), Mary McCain (CTH)
- "Polish Immigrants in Chicago: Then and Now" (Explore), Jason Schneider (WRD)
- "Windy City Mad Men (& Women!)" (Discover), Ken Krimstein (CMN)

Important Dates!

- November 15th, 11:00am - 2:30pm: Focal Point Seminar Best Practices, 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



Above & below: Students from Daniel Hanichak's "Justice and the City" class engage in service learning projects with Precious Blood Ministries.

Upper left: A student in Daniela Cavallero's "Italian American Chicago" class helps clean a pew in Assumption Catholic Church.

Left: Bill Cavanaugh's "Global Catholicism in Story and Stone" class visits Holy Name Cathedral, where they met with Cardinal George.

Lower left: A student in Margaret Workman's "Chicago: City on the Lake" class canoes along the Chicago River.

