Apr 18th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Vault Naked: An Ethnographic Representation of Illinois Wesleyan University's Pole Vault Crew

Amanda Pilgrim  
Illinois Wesleyan University

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor  
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

Pilgrim, Amanda and Gearhart, Faculty Advisor, Rebecca, "Vault Naked: An Ethnographic Representation of Illinois Wesleyan University's Pole Vault Crew" (2009). John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. 20.

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
VAULT NAKED: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY’S POLE VAULT CREW

Amanda Pilgrim and Rebecca Gearhart*
Sociology and Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Using the visual media of photography and collaborative ethnographic research methods, this poster presentation aims to facilitate discussion about issues that are important to the Illinois Wesleyan University Track and Field Team’s Pole Vault Crew. The ethnographer used visual media to document the Pole Vault Crew during the course of her participant-observation at practices, competitions, and during social interaction. After reviewing these images, it was concluded that the Pole Vault Crew share an identity based on the intensity of work and amount of time necessary for success within their chosen event. A common sentiment portrayed by the students through the poster presentation is of the importance of a positive mental attitude despite the inconsistencies of the sport.