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2009, 20th Annual JWP Conference

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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*

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Poster Presentation P39

**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.