

Physical Education Department Faculty and Staff History Brycie Millis

EVOKE

About the Ethnographer

My name is Brycie Millis, and I am a senior kinesiology major. My hometown is only 30 minutes east of Champaign, so I grew up bleeding orange and blue. I have been attending Illinois athletic events for as long as I can remember, and I thought it would be interesting to learn about the history of athletics at U of I. Being a member of the Greek system here, I am contemplating researching the sport and competition aspect of Greek Week.

EXPLORE

Ask

These articles were interesting, and they led me to look at history in a different light. In Nerone's article he states, "Knowledge of the past is generally referred to memory, and it is a truism that memory is mutable – opportunistic, convenient, selective (pg. 89)." This statement is very true. History is often learned in a one-sided fashion, leaving out many aspects that might make the party telling the history look bad. People then create their own renditions or thoughts about that history, and history becomes a very convoluted topic. All of the articles lead to the idea that history is not necessarily a hard, definite science.

One example of this is the 1986 World Series. A ground ball went between Bill Buckner's legs, and the Mets scored the winning run. Most people think Boston would have won the series if Buckner had caught that ball. However, the game was actually tied up when this happened. Even if he had caught the ball, the game still would have gone into extra innings. This last detail is often not remembered.

Investigate

1. The article by Sydnor and the article by Osmond, Phillips and O'Neill were very similar to each other in subject matter. Both articles were focused on specific sport related statue and its emphasis in society. However, the material is presented very differently in each article. The Osmond, et al. article presents a lot of information about Duke's life and everything he accomplished. This article is more about how popular sport at the moment shaped the statue. While one of Duke's greatest achievements was his swimming, the statue emphasizes his surfing skills. Without reading the plaque one would likely not even realize he was a swimmer. In my opinion, this article is written with a perspective of simply presenting information rather than thoroughly grasping the reader's attention and engaging them in the learning process. The Sydnor article focuses more on the intertwining of sport of popular culture. This article discusses more the impact that Jordan, as an athlete, had on society, and what the statue of him means to people who visit it. The first person narrative of the Sydnor article makes it easier and/or more interesting to read than the Osmond et al. article. Personally, I felt more involved reading this article because it read more like a conversation than a text book.

2. I found the Rosenbaum article to be particularly intriguing. First of all, I was amazed that researchers would do such a study at Ivy League schools and lie to students about what the naked photos were for. Secondly, I was shocked that students complied with this request so easily. This method of research would be incredibly difficult, likely impossible, to duplicate today. However, the actual research of somatotyping human figures does play a role in our study of kinesiology. Body image is frequently discussed in a variety of kinesiology courses, and often times the three somatotypes in Sheldon's theory are used to describe different body types. Also the idea that it was a research study related to kinesiology. There is a huge emphasis on research both in the kinesiology department here and the University overall. Many kinesiology students are encouraged to do research during their undergraduate study.

Plan

I have not done a lot of hard copy research yet. However, I plan to do my paper on Helga M. Deutsch. As discussed in class, there are many people in the area and on the faculty that I believe I can interview for this paper. I also plan to use the archives to see what kind of material I can find on Deutsch.