

MARK DiDONATO

EDUCATION

- Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL August 2016
Doctor of Philosophy: Sport Management
Supervisor: Newman, J.I.
- Towson University**, Towson, MD May 2011
Master of Arts – Professional Studies
Concentration: Management and Leadership
- Towson University**, Towson, MD January 2008
Bachelor of Science: Sport Management
Minor: Business Administration

RESEARCH INTERESTS.

Public Policy in Sport
Facility and Event Management
Community Sport and Access
Organizational Behavior & Human Resource Management
Sport Management Pedagogy and Curriculum

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- McKendree University**, Lebanon, IL Fall 2017
School of Business
SPM 320 Principles of Sport Management
3 credits, Departmental Core Class, Face-to-Face
• Fall 2017, 1 section, 20 students
ECO 320 Economics of Sport
3 credits, Departmental Core Class, Face-to-Face
• Fall 2017, 1 section, 23 students
MGT 204 Principles of Management
3 credits, Departmental Core Class, Face-to-Face
• Fall 2017, 3 sections, 65 students
- Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL Spring 2014 – Summer 2017
Department of Sport Management
SPM 4104 Facility and Event Management
3 credits, Departmental Core Class, Face-to-Face
• Summer 2017, 1 section, 16 students
• Spring 2016, 1 section, 43 students
• Fall 2015, 1 section, 44 students
• Fall 2014, 1 section, 40 students
• Spring 2014, 1 section, 44 students
SPM 4004 Issues in Sport Management
3 credits, Departmental Core Class, Face-to-Face
• Spring 2017, 1 section, 40 students
• Fall 2016, 1 section, 45 students

- SPM 5106 Facility Management in Sport (Graduate Level)
 3 credits, Departmental Elective, Face-to-Face, 1 section, 24 students
 • Fall 2016, 1 section, 24 students
- SPM 4154 Introduction to Sport Management
 3 credits, Departmental Core Class, Face-to-Face, 3 sections, 65 students
 • Spring 2017, 1 section, 40 students
- SPM 4124 Human Resource Management in Sport
 3 credits, Departmental Core Class, Face-to-Face, 3 sections, 65 students
 • Spring 2015, 1 section, 40 students
- SPM 4021 Sport in Society, Teaching Assistant
 3 credits; Departmental Core Class, Online (Blackboard)
 • Summer 2014 – 93 students
 • Summer 2013 – 55 students
- SPM 4015 Sport and Film, Teaching Assistant
 3 credits; Departmental/University Elective, Online (Blackboard)
 • Summer 2015 – 91 students
 • Summer 2014 – 96 students
- SPM 4013 Cross Culture Sport, Teaching Assistant
 3 credits; Departmental/University Elective, Online (Blackboard)
 • Spring 2016 – 45 students
 • Fall 2015 – 83 students
 • Spring 2015 – 88 students
 • Fall 2014 – 110 students

Towson University, Towson, MD

Fall 2011

Department of Sport Management

KNES 357 Sport in Film

- 3 credits; Departmental/University Elective, Face-to-Face
 • Fall 2011 – 22 students

KNES 251 History of Sport in America

- 3 credits; Departmental Elective, Face-to-Face
 • Fall 2011 – 40 students

PUBLICATIONS

- McLeod, C.M., Horner, M.I., Hawzen, M.G., **DiDonato, M.** (2017). City sterilization and poverty management: Examining a mobility hub in the “redevelopment and enhancement” of Downtown Tallahassee, *Transfers*, 7(3), 94-111.
- DiDonato, M.** (2016). If we build it, we will play: Collaborative governance and the development of disc golf in the United States, *Dissertation*, Florida State University

PRESENTATIONS

- DiDonato, M.** (2017). *An Ace in the Hole: Collaborative Governance and the Management of Disc Golf in the United States*. Paper Presentation at North American Society of Sport Management. Denver, Colorado.
- DiDonato, M. & McMorro, T.** (2016). *The Use of Experiential Learning in Sport Facility and Event Management courses in Sport Management Curricula*. Paper Presentation at Applied Sport Management Conference. Baton Rouge, LA.

- Horner, M., McLeod, C., Hawzen, M., & **DiDonato, M.** (2016) *Uncertain Mobility: Adaptive Sport Programming for Participants Living with Homelessness*. Paper presentation at North American Society of Sport Management. Orlando, Florida.
- Harwood, J. & **DiDonato, M.** (2016) *Reconceptualizing the Sport Management Ph.D. – For Sport Management Doctoral Students*. Poster presentation at North American Society of Sport Management. Orlando, Florida.
- DiDonato, M.**, Bunds, K., & Newman, J.I. (2015) *Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Techniques for Enhanced Sport Management Research*. Paper presentation at North American Society of Sport Management. Ottawa, Canada.
- DiDonato, M.** (2013). *“Race” Day at Preakness: Politics and Respatialization of Northern Baltimore*. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Champaign, Illinois
- DiDonato, M.** & Newman, J. I. (2013). *Respatialization of play in the neoliberal city*. Paper presentation at North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Annual Conference, North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Quebec City, Canada.
- DiDonato, M.** & Newman, J. I. (2012). *Racing Old Hilltop: In Rhythms of Abjection and Belonging at the Neoliberal Racecourse*. Paper presentation at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FUNDED PROJECTS AND GRANT ACTIVITY

Playways: A Network Analysis of Sport for Youth Development, Researcher

2013-Present; Principal Investigator: J.I. Newman

A multi-disciplinary and multi-method study of disparities of youth access to spaces of play (parks, gymnasias, ball fields, community centers, playgrounds, etc.). The study employs public participatory GIS, photovoice, participatory action research, and population statistical techniques to map the effects safety, transportation, socio-economic and community factors play in youth sport participation across the Big Bend region. Total Funding: \$76,000

Funding Agencies:

- FSU College of Education Multidisciplinary Research Fund - \$5,000
- FSU CRC Multidisciplinary Grant - \$25,000

ACT! An Interdisciplinary Social Justice Symposium, Organizer

March 2014, Tallahassee, FL

Act! Symposium was intended to provide researchers, students, artists, activists, and community members working on social justice issues an opportunity to come together, learn from one another, and collaborate on social justice projects. Total Funding: \$4,150

Funding Agencies:

- FSU Graduate School - \$2,000
- FSU Department of Geography - \$200
- FSU School of Theater - \$200
- FSU Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences - \$500
- Big Bend Chapter of the AFLCIO - \$500
- FSU United Faculty of Florida - \$750

FSU Sport Management Graduate Student Travel Grant, Conference Presentation

(2015) - North American Society of Sport Management, Ottawa, Canada

(2013) - North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Quebec City, Canada

(2012) - North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, New Orleans, Louisiana

FSU College of Education Council on Research in Education Travel Grant, Conference Presentation

(2016) – Applied Sport Management Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

(2015) – North American Society of Sport Management, Ottawa, Canada

(2013) - International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Champaign, Illinois

FSU Congress of Graduate Students Travel Grant, Conference Presentation

(2015) - North American Society of Sport Management, Ottawa, Canada

(2013) - North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Quebec City, Canada

(2012) - North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, New Orleans, Louisiana

REFEREED REVIEWS

DiDonato, M. & Newman, J. I. (2013). Review of *Inventing Tradition: Cowboy Sports in a Postmodern Age* by Michael J. Hightower. *Sport in Society*, 6.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Student Affairs Committee, McKendree University, Fall 2017-Spring 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lifetime Activities Program Coordinator

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Jan. 2012 -

May 2014

Personnel Management and Development:

- Supervised 30 graduate-student instructors from a variety of international backgrounds including: the United States, United Kingdom, South Korea, Canada, China, New Zealand, and Ethiopia
- Conducted training and development of instructors
- Evaluated instructors in and out of the classroom

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Managed LAP course schedule master including
- Created an instructor teaching schedule by matching instructor skills, abilities, and experiences with appropriate course subject
- Ordered and managed instructor and course evaluations
- Oversight of LAP budget
- Maintained equipment inventory and order supplies
- Coordinated and schedule the usage of classroom and gymnasium space

Collaborative Partnerships:

- Collaborated with FSU Athletics and Campus Recreation to provide optimal space usage in gymnasium and student fitness center
- Communicated closely with Director of Bowling Alley and Golf Course regarding space usage and billing

Initiatives:

- Expanded the LAP course offerings to meet student demands including fencing, billiards, and sand volleyball
- Created and developed new activity classes including fencing, billiards, sand volleyball, indoor gym games, outdoor field games, and individual fitness

Assistant Director of Administration

Towson University, Towson, MD

Sep. 2010 -

Dec. 2011

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Managed the budget for two residential halls (over \$3 million)
- Oversaw provision of regular reports including: monthly petty cash reconciliations, monthly budget variance, and monthly purchasing card reconciliations
- Assisted with management of operations budget including submitting invoices

- with the purchasing card and setting up new vendor setup forms
- Compiled research regarding the annual budget
- Attended the annual corporate budget meeting to prepare the budget
- Researched and updated the capital furnishings plan of the budget to be approved by the Director.
- Contact vendors and clients regarding payment of invoices and bills

Personnel Management and Staffing Operations:

- Responsible for all human resource related activity for new hires including: ensuring all new hires have background check, appropriate completion and submission of paperwork, and passwords for all systems
- Managed human resource functions related to benefits, open enrollment, and payroll
- Assist the Assistant Director of Operations and Facilities Director in regards to supervision of front desk, maintenance, and housekeeping staff

Facility Management Operations:

- Perform weekly building walkthroughs and submit work orders
- Oversaw the Room Condition Report process, work order system, and damage billing related to turnover.
- Reviewed and respond to appeals of charges related to damages, cleaning, and lost keys
- Coordinated move-in, move-out, turnover, and summer conference housing operations
- Served in the on-call rotation for residential halls and respond to emergency calls
- Provided oversight of the administrative student service functions related to the key management and swipe-card systems as well as security camera systems management

Collaborative Partnerships:

- Collaborated with Director, Facilities Director, and Assistant Director of Operations regarding daily management of residential halls
- Communicated with internal constituents including Towson University Facilities, Event and Conference Services, and Housing and Residential Life staff regarding daily management
- Continued and created relationships with external constituents and vendors

Event Operations Manager/Event Manager

Towson University, Towson, MD

March 2008 -
Sep. 2010

Personnel Management and Staffing Operations:

- Supervised four full time set-up employees, 50 student event staff, and 30 Summer Conference Housing Assistants.
- Responsible for quality customer service through selective recruitment and hiring of student staff
- Conducted formal performance evaluations for full-time staff, annually and informal student evaluations each semester
- Provided training for student staff including: new employee orientation, customer service satisfaction, crowd management techniques, safety, and emergency response plans

Event Operations:

- Oversaw and managed all event-related set-ups and break-downs scheduled through E&CS
- Reviewed and assigned set-up requests to ensure a timely and balanced workload
- Assessed set-ups to assure compliance with Environmental Health and Safety standards

- Interacted with clients regarding event needs and last-minute set-up details
- Coordinated, planned, and managed events at the sporting complex including Division 1 NCAA contests, commencements, festivals, and concerts
- Managed the Towson Center, Unitas Stadium, and events in the absence of the Towson Center Assistant Director

Summer Housing Operations:

- Worked with Assistant Director in overall management of summer operations
- Served as Manager on Duty to ensure safe environment for overnight guests
- Managed the Linen Crew and linen operations to include towels, bedding, cups, shampoo and soap, shower curtains, and pillows.
- Oversight of supply and key inventories
- Assisted with group check-in and departure
- Conducted walk-through of building and resident rooms

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Entered and approved timesheets and payroll for event staff and paramedics
- Completed and maintained new hire employee paperwork and files
- Provided staffing and set-up billing to Event Managers for each event
- Reconciled group master list and completed group resident hall departure forms to include usage, no shows, cancellations, lost keys, and areas of concern
- Assisted with budget and forecasts of departmental operations

Collaborative Partnerships

- Collaborated with Facilities Management, TU Police, and Catering to provide excellent event services and products
- Communicated closely with Environmental Health and Safety and Building Managers to ensure safety and event set-up compliance
- Worked directly with Housing and Residence Life in regards to building and key turnover between semester and summer operations
- Maintained relationships with external vendors including linen delivery, Baltimore County Paramedics, and SAFE Management

Super Bowl Game-day Manager

SAFE Management, Baltimore, MD

Jan. 2009 –
Jan. 2011

- Manage daily security operations of stadium preceding the Super Bowl
- Manage 20 Supervisors and over 150 staff members on game day
- Provide training for pat-downs, magnetometer, and wand procedures
- Serve as main point of contact for customer service

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- North American Society for Sport Management
- North American Society for the Sociology of Sport
- International Congress for Qualitative Inquiry