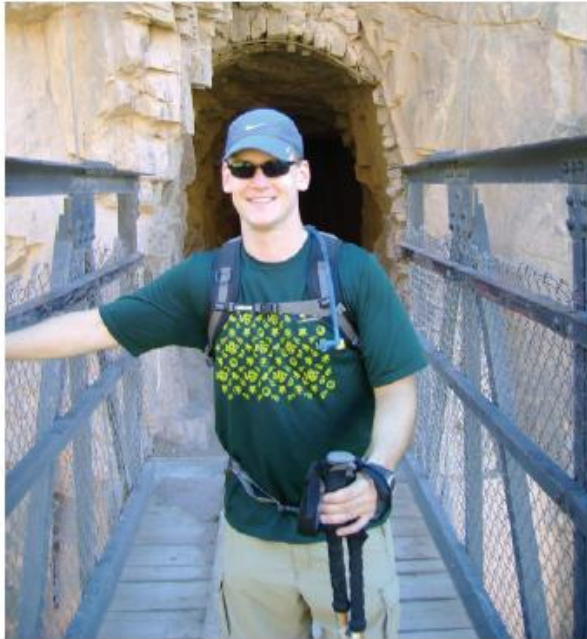


SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

Seasoned Professional of the Season



Art Munin
DePaul University

Title: Assistant Dean of Students

Hello CASCHA! My name is Art Munin and I am Assistant Dean of Students at DePaul University and I own a diversity education consulting business - Art Munin Consulting (www.artmunin.com). At DePaul I work primarily with the academic colleges and residence halls on the Lincoln Park Campus. My job entails advocating for students who experience adverse life situations that affect their ability to be academically successful. I also adjudicate the Code of Student Responsibility.

As for my future aspirations, I do not have a definitive career path planned out. I plan to stay in my current position for several more years and then look for other opportunities. Wherever I go, I will look for a job that balances the implementation of systemic change in a university with the ability to create personal relationships with students.

ART MUNIN

to even attend college, but then begrudgingly applied to Eastern Illinois University. Receiving my rejection letter from EIU was a pivotal fork in road in my life. I ended up having to take the ACT three times and the SAT once in order to get accepted on probationary status. In my first semester at EIU I was required take remedial coursework that did not even count towards graduation.

I was a Psychology major and in my sophomore year I talked to my academic advisor about applying to graduate school. He told me that people with my ACT score (my highest score was a 22) did not go to graduate school. He went on to say that even if I managed to be admitted, I most likely "would not be able to handle the work." That made me angry and burned the conversation into my mind. I could not believe that this advisor had decided the limitations to a 19 year olds future based on one test. Since then I have graduated from EIU with a B.A., Loyola University Chicago with a M.Ed. in Community Counseling, DePaul University with a M.A. in Multicultural Communication, and I am close to finishing my dissertation to earn my Ph.D. in Higher Education from Loyola.

I often apply this story to my work in higher education. Too often we place limits on what people can achieve. It is impossible to know where someone's path may lead and it is never our job to tell someone what they cannot do. It is our duty to open doors, not close them.

Thank you for this opportunity to be in the CASCHA newsletter. As a CASCHA alum, this organization will always hold a special place in my heart. I can still remember attending my first meeting in 1999. Take advantage of all it can offer to residence life professionals!

Side Note: This picture is from hiking across the Grand Canyon in October 2007. Right here I am crossing a bridge over the Colorado River, halfway to home. Trust me, 6 hours later when I reached the top of the other side, I was NOT smiling!