Student Spotlight: Jocelyn Browning

Who She Is:
Jocelyn Browning is a graduating senior double majoring in English and Public Affairs with a specialization in Non-Profit Management. She is also a Humanities Scholar. She will be trained as a Chicago Teaching Fellow in June in hopes of teaching Special Education in the Chicago public school system. Her hometown is Upper Arlington, so she has been a Rec Sports “Lifer,” reminiscing that her involvement with the RPAC/Rec Sports goes back to when it was Larkins Hall. Because her mother works for the University Medical Center, she took swimming lessons and dance lessons through Rec Sports as a child, and now she eats, works, and occasionally even sleeps at the RPAC. When she’s not at the RPAC, she enjoys reading, watching Netflix, online shopping, brunch, and eating green olives. Her favorite movie is The Shawshank Redemption, her favorite book is The Sound and the Fury by Faulkner, and of course, she enjoys Buckeye Donuts and OSU football. A few other interesting facts: she knows how to drive a tractor, and she was on the 2013 Ohio State Homecoming Court.

What She Does:
Browning is involved with various organizations at OSU. Given her history with Rec Sports, it is not entirely surprising that she is the Student Coordinator for Adapted Recreational Sports. She is also President of the Coalition of Students Advocating for Individuals with Disabilities. Other involvement includes Student Advocates for Down Syndrome, Alpha Phi Sorority, Humanities Scholar, and Buddy Up Tennis.

How She Got Involved with Clinton Global Initiative University:
The co-founder of Browning’s Commitment to Action, Becca Monteleone, attended last year and recommended that they both apply this year. Browning’s passion for disability advocacy comes from her experience working for Adapted Recreational Sports (ARS) at the RPAC since freshman year (she taught swimming lessons to people with disabilities and later became Student Coordinator) as well as from her involvement in OSU’s community of disability advocates. She has made friends with people in the disability community and through her conversations, she has become aware of the inequality and challenges they face. She notes that this community is grateful and loving; for instance, she adds that there is a statistic saying that 90% of individuals with Down Syndrome are happy with themselves and their lives. She admires their outlook and seeks to advocate for their well-being.

Her Commitment to Action:
She and Monteleone are organizing Columbus’s first ever Disability Pride Parade and Festival, which will take place on April 26, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Fred Beekman Park. She explains that the goal is for the “Columbus community to embrace and celebrate the diversity of its community and for all residents to feel included and impactful”. After the walk, individuals with disabilities will perform to show that disability can be embraced and should not be stigmatized. Finally, there will be a festival in which OSU student organizations committed to disability advocacy will have booths set up. At these booths, participants can learn more about what they do and how to get involved. Browning adds, “We hope for this to become a lasting tradition between the University and the Columbus community.”