

TOM KRIEGLSTEIN '01

GENERAL STUDIES



Tom Krieglstein came to COD last fall to be a keynote speaker, business plan judge, and to compete as the world's fastest hugger. With help from 110 students, faculty, and staff, Krieglstein attempted to break the Guinness World Record for most number of hugs by one person in one minute. The entrepreneur and internationally-known keynote speaker and facilitator feels at home at COD, where his parents were both professors and where Krieglstein was honored as a Phi Theta Kappa All-USA First Team Member, an Illinois Centennial Scholar, and an Outstanding Graduate. He was also valedictorian at Aurora University, where he earned his

bachelor's degree in business management.

In his first business venture as a college student, Krieglstein sold old edition textbooks and electronics online, netting \$1.5 million in sales annually by the time he graduated. Through his current company Swift Kick, Krieglstein trains college and corporate leaders on how to build a Culture of Connection within their organization and team.

He is the co-author of the Amazon.com award-winning book *First Year Student to First Year Success*. He also created the Student Affairs Collective website and podcast which he sold to NASPA (National Association of Student Affairs Professionals) in 2017.

science, earning her nursing and advanced practice nursing degrees as well as two master's degrees in nursing and business administration from Northern Illinois University.