A Historic Biennial

By Bruce Lilly

One hundred years. Everyone associated with Union Board appreciates the unprecedented significance of this year’s biennial reunion.

A century has passed since John Whittenberger realized his dream of establishing a unifying body for students at IU. When one of the oldest, most prestigious and renowned university student unions in the country reaches such a major milestone, the celebration must go above and beyond the customary routine.

And so it shall when UB alumni and their families gather in Bloomington over the weekend of Oct. 30 – Nov. 1. An impressive array of events begins Friday evening and runs through midday on Sunday, and more people will come than ever before. Mike Gosman (UB’99, ‘00), BA’01, chair of the 100th Programming Committee expects “an enormous turnout,” and says “This is the year more than any other when people are making it a priority.”

THE MAIN EVENTS

In 1937, those coming to the “Second Bi-Annual Union Board Reunion” could choose between two Friday night activities, an “informal smoker in the Bryan Room” or the dance put on jointly by the Union (still all male at that time) and the Association of Women Students.

This year, reunion activities will provide a full slate of programs for both alumni and their children throughout the weekend. Friday night activities include a series of events, beginning at 5 p.m. with a presentation on “Union Board through the Ages” in the Whittenberger Auditorium. Former IMU Assistant Director Don Luse will moderate and UB alums will serve as panelists. At 6 p.m., come to the Tudor Room for the Scholarship Award Presentation, which will feature remarks by Provost Karen Hanson along with the recognition of scholarship recipients. Then relax and catch up with old friends at Nick’s English Hut beginning at 9 p.m.

On Saturday, after the informal continental breakfast in the Charter Room, come to Swain Hall at 11 a.m. for a lecture on the history of The Beatles by IU professor of music Glenn Gass, whose course on the history of rock ‘n roll has gained legendary status.

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both in Bloomington and far beyond. Union Board has always been IU’s key to bringing some of the biggest names in music to campus.

From noon to 2 p.m. enjoy a barbecue lunch in Dunn Meadow. The casual setting provides a wonderful opportunity for former and present directors to visit with each other and discuss the past, the present, and the future. If the weather fails to cooperate, the lunch will take place in the Frangipani Room. Also, the entire group will participate in a photo to celebrate the Centennial, by forming the number 100.

Saturday evening’s activities begin with a silent auction and cocktail reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Union Board Biennial Dinner will take place in Alumni Hall from 7 p.m. until 9:15 p.m. Former IMU director Winston Shindell will serve as master of ceremonies, several alumni will offer brief remarks, and IU President Michael McRobbie will deliver the keynote address.

The evening will close with an exciting live auction in Alumni Hall. No one should miss this. Auctioneer Scott Kolb knows how to work the room in ways that will make the auction entertaining for everyone.

The Biennial weekend closes with the State of the Union Board Brunch from 10 a.m. to noon. Current Union Board directors will discuss events planned by the current board, speak about their policy aims, and take questions from the audience.

**THE KIDS WILL LOVE IT**

“Our goal is for the kids to have some Halloween fun and a wonderful Union Board experience of their own,” says alumni program committee member Susan Paulin Nussbaum (UB’82, ’84), BAJ’84. “We want them to enjoy the weekend as much as their parents.”

Organized children’s activities will begin Friday with their own pizza party and a Kids’ Movie Night featuring age-appropriate films. Saturday’s outdoor lunch will include Halloween crafts and games for kids and families. While parents attend the banquet Saturday evening, kids will enjoy their own special event, complete with a kid-friendly dinner plus bowling and a tantalizing array of Halloween activities.

Older kids and teens may want to play some of the video games or join in the great Union tradition of a game of billiards. Younger children should bring along their costumes for a festive Halloween party that will include fun activities and terrific treats.

For more information, contact Anne M. Kostyo (UB’08) or Jennifer Parks at (812) 855-4682 or via e-mail at ub100@indiana.edu. Visit www.jws.indiana.edu for more information.
Join in on the Auction Fun

Both the Silent and Live Auctions promise to provide great opportunities to have a good time while helping a good cause, say Christina Wilkinson Sheley (UB’95,’96), BA’00, MLS’05 and Kelly Foy Kijovsky (UB’94,’95), BA’96 coordinators of the event. “We’re very excited about the auctions,” Sheley says, “and we really appreciate the irresistible gifts people have offered.” Kijovsky stresses that every item sold helps “a great cause,” and wants to remind everyone that one of the best ways to join in on the fun is to volunteer.

“We definitely need some help from alums during the events,” she says, “and it doesn’t have to be for the whole evening.” Volunteers can help beforehand, during the live auction, or after the bidding is over. Kijovsky also wants to share her enthusiasm for the talents of auctioneer Scott Kolb. She urges people to stay whether or not they plan to make bids, just to witness the excitement that Kolb generates as he conducts the auction.

A UB alumni gathering of this magnitude has never happened before and it may not happen again for quite some time. The indescribable aura of 100 years of Union tradition will envelop all who attend this Centennial Celebration. We look forward to seeing you there!
Hundreds of thousands of students have come to Bloomington to attend Indiana University in the past 100 years and every one of them owes a debt of gratitude to John Whittenberger.

When he succeeded in establishing the Student Union in 1909, he laid the foundation for what has become one of IU’s greatest institutions. The Indiana Student Union, now known as the Indiana Memorial Union, has played an indispensable role in enriching student life for every class of students that has followed since his day.

Through its programming, its support of student groups and activities, and its wide range of opportunities for direct participation, the Union touches the lives of students all across the campus. The Union perfectly exemplifies how the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.

The Union is both a home where everyone is welcome and a unifying force that permeates the campus. The Union fosters a climate that encourages students, faculty, staff, and guests to participate jointly in the life of the university. The Union bridges gaps between all sorts of people, and as a result, the community grows stronger.

The idea of a student union did not come to John Whittenberger out of nowhere. By the beginning of the twentieth century, student unions already existed at several prominent American universities, such as Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. Whittenberger was aware that student unions had begun to spring up at some of the major universities in the Midwest, and he was familiar with the one at the University of Michigan.

He was also motivated by the ethos of campus. Divisions among IU students prevented a sense of unity on campus and this motivated Whittenberger to push for a Union. The entire enrollment at the university at that time was just over 1,000 students, most of whom were men. The division between fraternity members and independents fostered ill will, and traditions had arisen where class identity played a prominent role. Freshman and sophomore men felt a keen sense of rivalry and frequently attempted
to harass each other. If a group of sophomores could find a freshman alone, they might well give him an unsolicited and very short haircut. Then the victim’s classmates would retaliate and the animosity between the two classes would grow.

Some saw these pranks as customary behavior for young college men, but others felt that what had started out as fun and games had gone too far and become detrimental to healthy campus life.

Whittenberger saw the student union as a solution. In fact, student unions had been performing this function in England since the early part of the 19th century. Historians trace the origin of student unions to debating societies at British universities. One such group was established at Cambridge in 1815 and another at Oxford in 1823. The goal of these early debating societies was to offer students from every college within the university a single student body where every voice could be heard.

Whittenberger may have known this history. During his time in high school in Peru, IN, he participated in debate and was editor of the year book. He entered IU in 1904 to pursue a degree in history, and he quickly became popular with his classmates, which translated into his election as president of the freshman class.

Although circumstances forced him to return to his hometown to serve as principal of a ward school on more than one occasion, thus interrupting the pursuit of his degree, he returned in the spring term of 1909 and held junior standing that fall.

It was during the fall semester of 1909 that Whittenberger finally saw his dream realized. On Dec. 6, 1909, the Constitution of the Indiana Union was approved, 115 men were admitted as members, John Whittenberger was elected president of the first Union Board, and the east wing of the Student Building was made available for the Union’s needs.

William Lowe Bryan, then IU’s president, gave his full support, saying, “In a University such as ours, there are many tendencies making toward diversity. The Union should be a great force making toward unity of University spirit and life.” The first milestone in 100 years of history was achieved.

THE EARLY YEARS

The Union grew immediately. By Feb. 2, 1910, more than 360 men had paid the $1.00 fee. No other student organization could boast numbers even close to that. Faculty members donated magazine subscriptions. Billiard tables were acquired; the first in a long line of pool tables to be part of union activities, and the Union’s rooms in the Student Building became one of the most popular places around, according to The Indiana Daily Student.

The 1910 Arbutus included a spread on the Union, explaining that the group owed its start to Whittenberger, who “after being out of school for a year, returned last spring term and started an agitation for such an organization.” Along with photos of the Union’s rooms in the Student Building, the Arbutus informed its readers that the “front room on the first floor is fitted up as a loafing room.” Describing the Union’s plans, the yearbook said, “Four meetings a year are provided by the constitution and every one is expected to be made highly worth while. Either some big man will address each of these meetings or other amusement particularly adapted to man’s fancy will hold the boards.”

Then in the midst of all this growth and success, a tragedy struck. After attending the first half of the summer term, Whittenberger left on a Friday to return home, expecting to be back on campus the following Monday. He became ill over the weekend and never made it back, finally dying of typhoid fever on Sept. 26, 1910.

Despite this blow, and in honor of his memory, the Union continued to thrive. Over the next few years, the Union began what has become a stunning legacy of stellar programming. Students were treated to dance bands and theatre groups. The Cincinnati Symphony was brought to campus. The Union Revue, an annual production created by the students that offered up a hilarious recap of the year’s events, began in 1912.

At this time, there was no radio and no television, so sports fans simply had to wait for the next day’s newspaper in order to learn about sports events afar. The Union had an answer.
In 1914, ongoing reports were telegraphed from someone at the IU’s baseball games that were played away, and later a similar method was used so that students could follow football games in the same manner. That year also marks the beginning of the country’s longest running college film series. The cost of a ticket to see one of the moving pictures? Five cents.

**THE MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN**

The need for a building that the Union could call its own was apparent from the start. The 1910 *Arbutus* featured spread on the Union reports that a “new building is a reality, not a dream, say officials of the Union and within a couple of years the Indiana Union building will be one of the real attractions on the campus.” Although the vision was there from the start, the reality took a bit longer than initially expected.

World War I had taken its toll. After the United States entered the war in April of 1917, young men all over the country enlisted. For the fall semester of 1917 the student body for the first time in its history had more women than men, because there were almost 350 fewer male students than the year before.

In an effort to honor those students who had died in the war, a memorial campaign was started in 1920. The plan was to use the funds to build a stadium, a dormitory for women, and a union building.

The University of Michigan had opened a student union building in 1919, and on June 8, 1925, a committee that was charged with developing plans for an Indiana Memorial Union met at the Michigan Union building. Minutes from that meeting explain that after a tour of the Michigan Union, the committee agreed that their design should incorporate many of the same components.

The minutes read:

*It is recommended that our building be devoted to Men’s activities with the exception of the University Commons, the Main Dining Room, the Assembly Room, or Memorial Hall, and one section of the Dormitories. A separate Women’s entrance should be provided with proper rest room facilities, similar to provisions in the Michigan Union. In short our Union...*
Building should include all of the facilities of a modern men’s club House.

The committee also recommended that women should gain exclusive use of the Student Building and that “every man student” should be required to join the Union and to pay a fee that would be collected with tuition.

Many years of efforts to raise funds followed and when the goals were finally achieved, a portion of the Memorial Fund was used to create the Indiana Memorial Union. On Oct. 31, 1931, President Bryan laid the cornerstone for the new building.

All through these years, Union Board continued to provide programs that students loved, including a steady stream of popular bands. The Union also started organizing pep rallies, which further cemented the organization’s reputation as a unifying body on campus. It was during the 1920s that the Union acquired paintings by T.C. Steele, the famous landscape painter from neighboring Brown County. Eventually a vast collection of art would grace the walls of the IMU.

THE 30s, 40s, AND 50s

With Union Board in its impressive new building, new possibilities arose. In the early 30s the Union began cosponsoring dances with the Association of Women Students, and this continued into the 50s. In 1935 the first Union Board reunion occurred, and there has been one every two years since.

Union Board has a long history of bringing famous people to speak at the university and part of this history was made in 1936 when Amelia Earhart came.

During World War II, the number of male students dropped precipitously from over three thousand in 1942 to only about eleven hundred in 1943 and 1944. Needless to say, the Union was hampered by the reduced number of men on campus, but it found ways to continue to serve the student body as it had in the past. After the war, union membership soared as enrollment of men jumped to more than 7,000.

By 1950 Union Board was regularly presenting a wide variety of programs. A student newspaper article from May 10, 1950 notes that the “rule under which the Board operates” is “Something for everyone, regardless of taste.” The article goes on to say that the Union’s list of functions “includes nearly every type of entertainment service imaginable,” and gives these examples: “the dance which annually opens the fall semester, the fall carnival, Christmas Eve on campus, the senior barbecue, the freshman smoker, the Union Concert Series, and the pep sessions.”

Then in 1953, one of the most significant changes in Union history occurred – women became members. After careful negotiations concerning the structure of the new board, an agreement was reached between the Union and the Association of Women Students. With this step one of the most serious divisions on campus was finally bridged.

FROM THE 50s TO TODAY

A major construction project at the IMU in 1957 added a west wing containing bowling alleys, craft areas, the solarium, and an outdoor terrace. Then another addition came in 1960 to the east end of the building. The Biddle Continuation Center brought 186 guest rooms and 50,000 square feet of meeting space to the building. Today the IMU is one of the largest student union buildings in the world.

In 1960 students watched the Kennedy-Nixon presidential campaign debates on a TV in the IMU. One of the television news journalists who asked question at those debates was Sander Vanocur, and Union Board brought him to IU in March of 1965. He spoke about the Vietnam War, telling the IU audience that it was “high time that the American people are talking about this.”

In the 70s, Union Board showed how bold it could be by bringing some of the biggest names in rock music to the campus, including the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Jefferson Airplane, and Elton John. Steve Martin, who had scored...
Across the campus, students come and go,
Like leaves that fall unnumbered on the lawn;
In summer’s shade they come, and winter’s snow,
And suddenly, without a trace, are gone.

But now and then one comes, we know not how,
Who dreams a dream about his fellow men,
And wills to make it true, and goes. But now
Our little world is not the same again.

Some give us mirth, and song, and leave us here
To make the world itself to sing and cry;
And some return to bring us friendly cheer;
And some return no more. They leave – to die.

Because of such a one this building rose,
A shrine for all who love their fellow men;
And in the regions of the blessed, who knows,
Perhaps he waits, to lead us once again.
A Life-Changing Experience That Runs in the Family

By Bruce Lilly

Serving on Union Board changes you. Speak to former and present directors and this theme appears repeatedly. Working as a director means facing challenges that you have never faced before. In response you learn from your mentors, you grow, you develop talents and abilities, and at some point along the way, you realize that you have to adjust your sense of self-identity.

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You have become someone who can speak before large audiences, who can negotiate with peers to reach a consensus, who can lead others and get expensive and elaborate projects completed on time and within the budget. You respond to pressure in a more measured way. You have more self-confidence, because you have taken on difficult assignments and succeeded. And in the process, you’ve joined a long line of Union Board directors who’ve had similar experiences.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

For some people this lineage includes family members. An older brother or sister serves on the board and a younger sibling begins to hear about the experience. Maybe the younger sibling visits campus while still in high school and even attends a UB event. The appeal of UB involvement becomes obvious and after becoming a student at IU, the younger sibling finds his or her way to one of the UB committees as a volunteer. The torch passes.

The following stories show just a few examples of what UB can mean to individuals and how the experience gets passed along within families:

SCOTT SLOVIN (UB’73, ’74), BS’74 AND RANDY SLOVIN (UB’78, ’79, ’80), BA’80

Scott got his start by joining the Lectures Committee and remembers helping to bring Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and investigative reporter Jack Anderson to IU. After getting elected to the board, he served as co-chair of the concerts committee, which allowed him to meet some of the famous entertainers brought to town, including Elton John, George Carlin, and Judy Collins.

While serving on the board, Scott learned the basics of managing a business. “UB is truly a board of directors,” he says, “I learned about reports and budgets and other things that I’d never been exposed to before.”

When Randy came to IU a few years later, Scott had some advice. “I told him he could be UB president. Just get involved early.” Randy did get involved early and served two years on the board, first leading the Lectures Committee and then, just as his brother predicted, as president.

As lectures committee director Randy had one experience he will never forget—introducing Abba Eban, Israel’s foreign secretary, at a time of heightened tensions between Israel and Egypt. “There were four thousand people in the Auditorium and there were protestors outside, the whole nine yards,” he recalls. “It was amazing and it helped me get over a lot of phobias about public speaking.”

VAUGHN ALLEN (UB’00, ’01), BS’02 AND BRADLEY ALLEN (UB’05, ’06), BS’07

Romance influenced Vaughn’s initial decision to get involved with UB. “I was dating Karen Biddle, a Lectures Committee member, and I wanted to impress her,” he says, “so I joined the marketing committee and dived headlong into it.” This headlong dive turned into one year as public relations director and a second year as president.

The memory of intense UB encounters has stayed with him. “I’ll never forget the late Thursday night debates in the DAR,” he says. “Marathons. The tradition and the importance of that meeting and the dedication of the staff members, who would grind it out with us into the wee hours... really made the whole UB experience feel special and important. It wore us out and kept us going.”

Ask Bradley why he got involved with UB and you may hear three answers: (1) He visited IU during Vaughn’s time there and got to look around the UB office, (2) Vaughn managed to get third-row seats for a Red Hot Chili Peppers concert at Assembly Hall, or (3) “I generally do all I can to prove I’m better than my brother.”

As it turns out, Bradley did a good job of matching his older brother, serving one year as marketing director and a second year as president. Putting sibling rivalry aside, he gives his brother credit for influencing his decision, admitting that he never would have joined UB if Vaughn had not done so first.
AMI HOLTHOUSE (UB’04,’05) BSED’06 AND BRIAN HOLTHOUSE (UB’08,’09)

When Ami attended a UB call-out meeting her freshman year, her enthusiasm and potential certainly must have impressed someone, because she left the meeting as assistant director for one of the committees. She didn’t stop there, going on to serve as vice president for membership in 2004 and public relations director in 2005.

To get some idea of her commitment to UB, consider that she attended her first Malkin Retreat just four hours after having her wisdom teeth pulled. “There are some pretty hilarious pictures of me with ice packed around my face trying to be as involved as I could,” she says. “I was so excited to be on the board that I wouldn’t miss retreat even though I had emergency oral surgery just hours before.”

Brian says that Ami’s involvement helped push him toward UB. “I had seen how much she enjoyed being on the board when I came to visit her,” he says. “Also, I hung out in the office a couple days and really liked the atmosphere and the people that were working there.”

In 2008 Brian served as spirits and traditions director, and this year he serves as vice president for programming. For him, UB is “the perfect mix between having fun and making meaningful things happen on campus.”

Every single director on UB over the last 100 years has brought a unique personality and a unique range of qualities to the table, so everyone has had a different experience. Yet a common thread runs through all of the stories told: The UB experience enriches you and stays with you forever!
The editors acknowledge the assistance of the Indiana University Alumni Association in compiling class notes. To submit information, write to IUAA at 1000 E. 17th St., Bloomington, IN 47408, or visit www.alumni.indiana.edu.

BEFORE 1960

CLAUDE “ED” HIXON (UB’36,’37), BS’38, is 92 years old. He retired in 1976 after 38 years working in personnel and sales and marketing positions for Eli Lilly & Co. An I-Man in baseball, Hixon served as a student director of Union Board in 1937. He lists collecting antique maps, clocks, and watches among his hobbies. Hixon lives in a retirement and health care facility in Indianapolis.

RICHARDS D. BARGER (UB’49,’50), BS’50, is the co-founder of the law firm Barger & Wolen in Los Angeles. He recently retired as chairman of the Lawyer’s Mutual Insurance Company after 14 years, and assumed chairman emeritus status. A former California Insurance Commissioner under Governor Ronald Reagan, Barger is a life member of the board of directors of the IU Foundation and a former Union Board student director. He lives in San Marino, Calif.

1960s

JULIO ALONSO (UB’80, ’81, & ’81,’82), BA’91, is the executive director of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank in Bloomington, where he lives. The food bank distributes over 2.4 million pounds of food annually in six south central Indiana counties. Alonso served as a Union Board student director in 1981 and 1982.

1990s

SARA LANE POPE MS’05, is the director of marketing and events for Inn by the Bandstand in Exeter, N.H. The inn is a historic home and lodging establishment that dates back to 1809. Pope and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first child, Jack Samuel, on Jan. 15, 2009. The family lives in Kingston, N.H.

PAUL BALDGER KING MS’02, was recently promoted to program manager for Arts and Sciences at Southwest Florida College in Fort Myers. She teaches mathematics and science and volunteers for the American Cancer Society. King celebrated her first wedding anniversary in May. She lives in Cape Coral, Fla.

2000s

PAMELA BALDGER KING MS’02, was recently promoted to program manager for Arts and Sciences at Southwest Florida College in Fort Myers. She teaches mathematics and science and volunteers for the American Cancer Society. King celebrated her first wedding anniversary in May. She lives in Cape Coral, Fla.

RACHEL E. TATE (UB’03,’04) BA’05, graduated with special recognition from Des Moines (Iowa) University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is pursuing an internal medicine residency program at Des Peres Hospital in St. Louis. Tate was associate director of Union Board in 2003. She also served as the Union Board president in 2004.

KATIE A. LY (UB’06), BA’07, is a project coordinator for the Association of American Publishers in New York City. She lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. Ly was a Union Board director of Union Board in 2006.

DANIELLE L. TRYNSKI (UB’07) BA’08, of Sugar Grove, Ill., plans to pursue a master of arts degree in medieval archaeology at the University of York, England, beginning in October. Trynoski served as a Union Board director in 2007. She can be reached at medievalnerd@yahoo.com.
Union Board Alumni: What’s new with you?

The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Its purpose, in addition to providing us with your class note, is to keep IU’s alumni records accurate and up to date. To verify and update your information online, visit our online alumni directory at www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory.

Name________________________ Date________________
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City __________________________ State______ Zip__________
Business title _____________________________________________
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Last name while at IU _________________________________________
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