John Whittenberger Society
Union Board Alumni News Spring 2014

Membership Matters. This publication is paid for by the John Whittenberger Society.

Feature Article: The History of the Lecture Series • 2014 Union Board • Alumni Spotlight
Mara Dahlgren is the new Program Advisor in the Office of Activities and Events. Mara is a familiar face at the IMU. She was formerly the IMU Building Manager from 2011-13 and was a graduate practicum advisor in the Office of Activities and Events in the 2012-13 academic year. Mara received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois, served on the Illini Union Board for two years and was President in 2010. She has a Master’s degree in Higher Education from IU. She is currently training for the Indianapolis Mini Marathon with Thom Simmons and Lexy Parrill, the Union Board President!

IMU Back Alley staff won the Indiana award from the Kids Bowl Free program, which encourages bowling centers to give back to the community while providing a safe, secure and fun way for kids to spend time during the summer. Bowling centers, schools and other organizations make it possible for kids to register for two free games each day during the summer. The Back Alley signed up 2,969 kids last summer, which IMU Games Center manager Ryan Clemons considers a huge success. Many families have continued to use the Back Alley during the school year and the Back Alley looks forward to sponsoring the program again this summer.

Shaun Harper, former UB graduate advisor (PhD '03, MS '00) is Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Harper recently published a new report, *Succeeding in the City*, on Black and Latino male student success in urban education. Dr. Harper interviewed 425 public high school students for the report, which focuses on their success both in and out of school, their college aspirations and navigation to postsecondary education.

Colleen Rice is a first year Masters student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program at IU, who is completing her assistantship with the Indiana Memorial Union Board. She graduated from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC in May of 2013 with a dual degree in Music and Political Science. She has lived all over the United States, but is excited to experience the Midwestern life- yes, even the winter! She chose to attend IU for the welcoming community, opportunity to experience the Jacobs School of Music with the few free moments allotted each semester, and the chance to learn about yet another region of the country. She most enjoys watching the student directors learn more and more of what it means to be servant leaders as they develop strong, well-planned events for IU. In her free time, she is a self-proclaimed nerd who adores Broadway, Harry Potter, and her two cats, Pumpkin and Bella.

Thom Simmons, Associate Director of the IMU since 1989 will be retiring in May of 2014. Bruce Jacobs, Executive Director of the IMU and IU Auditorium, has announced his retirement in December of 2014. Both Thom and Bruce have been tremendous leaders during their tenure at the IMU. Congratulations to both on their retirement and many thanks for all their great work at the IMU.
First of all, I am honored to have been elected President of The John Whittenberger Society, and to serve our 750 living alumni. Additionally, I would like to welcome the new members of the JWS Advisory Board. I am proud to say that more than half of the board is now women.

A lot of fun and exciting things have been happening. First, last fall was our 38th biennial reunion, which was a huge success. New elements we enjoyed included a Taste of Bloomington walk and a demonstration of the new Opus 91 pipe organ, donated by Former IU President Tom Ehrlich and his wife Ellen. During the festivities, those students who received a JWS scholarship in 2013 were honored. I am proud to say that JWS awarded over $26,000 in scholarships.

In the fall, JWS approved and launched a pilot mentoring program to help ten students partner with Union Board and the Whittenberger Society alumni for internships, career mentoring and potentially future employment. This program, part of a partnership with the Kirkwood Group started by former Union Board President Wade Gerard, is in the process of matching students with alumni and maintaining those relationships. Success of this program could lead to a future program funded by the John Whittenberger Society to help 30 Union Board Directors and Committee members per school year. This is one of the new ways JWS is working to add value to the Union Board experience.

I, and members of the JWS Board, had the honor of attending the 2014 Installation dinner in the Tudor Room in January. We welcomed the Directors of the 104th Union Board into the John Whittenberger Society and congratulated the 105th Union Board on their election / selection to the Board. This board is motivated and excited to produce at least 105 programs in 2014. In addition, I am honored to announce that Cathy Deal (UB ’69-’70) has joined the 105th Union Board as the Alumni Representative, replacing outgoing Ken House. Ken accepted a position at Belmont University in Nashville, TN as an accounting professor. He and his wife, Jenny, are both working on their dissertations and are expecting their first child in August, 2014.

I would like to personally thank those of you who have made and continue to make financial gifts to the John Whittenberger Society. Your donations help us provide scholarships, financial assistance to send students to ACUI and NACA conferences, and to fund our new mentoring program which will help even more students. For a small $38/month gift, we are able to help a Union Board director or committee member be paired up and mentored by one of you, our wonderful alumni. We appreciate it, and the students get an invaluable experience.

We have a lot of goals for JWS to help add value to the Union Board experience. We know you have ideas and many of you have asked how you can help JWS. You can email us at jws1909@indiana.edu and tell us what you are up to and how you might want to help. The mentoring program is a great way to build a bond between alumni and students.

Please keep in touch with your ideas and let us know what you are up to via email, our Facebook page or at jws1909.indiana.edu.

Warm Regards,

Christian Carroll
President
The John Whittenberger Society
jws1909@indiana.edu
I am excited to inform you that on January 25, 2014, the 105th Union Board of Directors was officially installed into office. Installation was beautiful and a great time was had by all! Keeping students’ interests and requests in mind, we have already started programing for the upcoming year.

As the board transitions, I often reflect upon the great legacy that has come before us. I want to congratulate the 104th board on an amazing term. The 105th board hopes to continue on their dedication to fiscal responsibility, community building, and high standard of programing.

From the start of our term the board has dedicated ourselves to being servant leaders. While choosing positions and committees, the board was very conscientious about taking students’ requests and past program data into consideration. I also want to thank all of the alumni who answered the numerous emails and phone calls providing valuable feedback regarding how to best organize the 105th board.

Apart from programing, our board has already taken steps to make Union Board a welcoming place for students. We have reorganized our office to be a more inviting place for students by removing the desk hoods, adding a whiteboard wall, and adding a new seating area. This new space is ideal for larger committee meetings, internal events, and just a fun place for all students to hangout!

While on the Malkin Spring Retreat, our board set goals that we have dedicated ourselves to achieving in the coming year. In an attempt to increase campus unity and reach a variety of student interest groups, we have committed ourselves to planning 105 programs to celebrate our 105th year of Union Board. Fifteen of these will be dedicated to service. As servant leaders we hope to work closely with IMU staff to continue fostering unity and promoting the Union as the center of campus life.

I could not be more proud of this board! Each director’s dedication and energy is truly inspiring. I cannot wait to see what we will accomplish in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Lexy Parrill
105th Union Board President

Our Purpose

To promote the interest of Indiana University and its students; to bring about a greater spirit of unity and cooperation among all students; to encourage in students the development of leadership skills through active participation in the Union and its management; to provide Indiana University and the community of Bloomington with the best possible Union facilities and programs and to retain its position as a respected contributor to the establishment and maintenance of a higher educational, recreational, social and cultural standard for the University community.
Dear Alumni,

2014 Union Board Directors

Lexy Parrill – President
Hometown: Naperville, IL
Class: Junior
Major: History

Jackie Gauthier – VP Finance
Hometown: Sandwich, IL
Class: Junior
Major: Accounting & Finance

Jackie Bales – VP Internal Affairs
Hometown: West Lafayette, IN
Class: Sophomore
Major: Nonprofit Management

Paul Yoon – VP Marketing
Hometown: West Lafayette, IN
Class: Freshman
Major: Finance & Accounting

Brett Bassock – Live Entertainment
Hometown: Wilton, CT
Class: Junior
Major: Communication & Culture

Kellie Boberek – Games & Electronic Entertainment
Hometown: Inverness, IL
Class: Sophomore
Major: Sports Marketing & Management

Adam Fialkowski – Late Night
Hometown: Grayslake, IL
Class: Freshman
Major: Finance

Connor Foy – Live From Bloomington
Hometown: Fort Lauderdale, FL
Class: Junior
Major: Communication & Culture

Jason Gross – IU Traditions
Hometown: Skokie, IL
Class: Sophomore
Major: Marketing

Juan-Jose Jaramillo – Campus Unity
Hometown: Indianapolis, IN
Class: Sophomore
Major: Economics

Laura Schulte – Current Topics
Hometown: Laporte, IN
Class: Sophomore
Major: Journalism

Greta Smith – Films
Hometown: Evansville, IN
Class: Sophomore
Major: International Studies, French

Victoria Stevens – Canvas Creative Arts
Hometown: Brownsburg, IN
Class: Junior
Major: Journalism

Mike Zak – Music
Hometown: Barrington, RI
Class: Sophomore
Major: Economics & Mathematics

Kevin Kenes – Fun & Adventure
Hometown: Whiting, IN
Class: Sophomore
Major: Supply Chain Management, Marketing

DeAnthony Nelson – Body & Mind
Hometown: Indianapolis, IN
Class: Freshman
Major: Dietetics
NOW, PLEASE WELCOME
A HISTORY OF LECTURES PRESENTED BY UB AND THE IMU
Union Board and the IMU have a long history of sponsoring and hosting lectures on campus. In fact, arranging for speakers to address students in some form or fashion has been part of UB’s mission from the very beginning. Consider this passage in the 1910 Arbutus about the Indiana Union that was formed a few months earlier in late 1909:

Four meetings a year are provided for by the constitution and everyone is expected to be made highly worthwhile. Either some big man will address each of these meetings or other amusement particularly adapted to man’s fancy will hold the boards.

It only makes sense that the new union would focus quickly on the activity of arranging to have a speaker at the meetings, given the genesis of the student union movement in the debating societies at Cambridge and Oxford universities in England. Lectures naturally flow into debates. Everyone who has ever participated in a UB meeting knows that debate among the students ensues around almost any topic. Questions, thoughts and opinions flow freely whenever new ideas are presented to the group.

Yet even though the idea of presenting a speaker has been there from the start, UB did not make lectures a programming staple in its first few decades. Look through the minutes of UB meetings from those times and it’s clear that other activities dominated. There were dances, smokers and pep rallies to be staged and managed.

The IMU opened its doors in 1932 and many “big” men and women have been “holding the boards” there ever since. A prime example is legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart, who spoke in Alumni Hall in November of 1936 and was jointly sponsored by the Association of Women Students and St. Margaret’s Guild, a local charity.

A Variety of Formats

One of the formats used for speakers in those days was called the Convocation, and it had one attribute that might be unusual today—talks were regularly scheduled to begin before 10:00 a.m. An IDS article from November 24, 1936: “Prof. Bernard Fay, internationally known French writer and lecturer, will discuss ‘The Balance Sheet of Dictatorship in 1936’ at the convocation program at 9:40 o’clock this morning at Alumni Hall.”

Although dances remained popular for many years, the appeal of lectures was ascending. A milestone was reached in 1939 when the numbers for a twelve-month period revealed that more people had attended convocations than dances. This comes from a January 6, 1939 IDS article:

Union Affairs Draw 253,000 In Attendance

Total Participating in Last Fiscal Year’s Activities Sets Record.

Total attendance at all the functions in the Indiana Union came to 253,006 during the last fiscal year ending July 1, according to J.E. Patrick, director of the Union. Included in the various activities are everything from breakfasts to book reviews, community sings to conventions, dances to debate, and style shows to smokers.

Attendance in the Men’s lounge was estimated at 75,720. Meetings accounted for 33,801 of the total while convocations and dances drew 29,600 and 28,217 respectively. Next came banquets and dinners, plays and grid-graphs. Total figures showed that the number using Union facilities has doubled since 1934; and for the first time, attendance at convocations eclipsed that for dances.

Beginning in the 1960s, Lycea Dinners offered the traditional pairing of a talk with dinner. An IDS article on September 13, 1967 explains:

Pearl Buck, author; Dick Gregory, politician and comedian; Ferenc Nagy, former Prime Minister of Hungary; and Otto Preminger, motion picture producer, will speak at this year’s Lycea Dinners in the IMU. The series, in the Union Solarium, gives students a chance to meet faculty members and hear outstanding personalities. The program of dinners, sponsored by the Union, began in 1961. Originally, only invited students and faculty members attended but as interest in the speakers grew, the dinners were open to the public. The I.U. program was inspired by the “lyceum movement” in the early 1800’s. Josiah Holbrook of Derby, Conn., planned a worldwide organization for educators. The name, lyceum, was adopted from the ancient Greek school founded by Plato.

The larger events that featured nationally-known and world-famous speakers were offset by talks given in smaller venues. Lecture series, such as Fireside Chats and Time Out Thursdays, offered students
the opportunity for more intimate encounters with the speakers. The lectures were given in places such as the IMU’s Sassafras and Dogwood Rooms, and in many cases, the speakers were IU professors. A Fireside Chat in February of 1977 by political science professor John Gillespie examined the first days of the Carter presidency. In 1990, the Time Out Thursday lecture on September 13 by political science professor Doris Burton was titled, “Why Can’t a Woman Eat Like a Man,” and the following week philosophy professor Milton Fisk spoke on “Politics and Drugs in Colombia.”

The Challenges of Planning

For UB directors, the work of planning lectures presents an assortment of challenges, not the least of which is choosing the speaker in the first place. Is this speaker relevant to students today? Will that speaker provoke heated objections? Does the line-up of speakers reflect the diversity of interests across the student body? Will anyone show up?

Don Luse, former assistant director of activities and events at the IMU, recalled a tactic for getting informal feedback from students that was used by Lectures director Howard Weiner (UB ’75-’78).

“Howard had a process he called ‘name-dropping,’” Luse said. “At the UB meeting each week, a few names would be mentioned as potential lecturers. Directors would go out and try to find out more about these people and bring the information they gathered back to the meeting the next week.”

One advantage to this technique was that it helped UB avoid falling into the pattern of bringing people to campus that were simply on the lecture circuit at that time and giving canned speeches at every stop. “If you went to a lectures agency, you would get agents calling you frequently trying to sell you someone who had a book coming out or movie coming,” Luse said. “The result was a speaker who
gave you the same speech that everyone got. You might as well be watching a video.”
UB was pushing for something better than that. “I was always amazed at this process,” Luse said. “It casts a much wider net. If all you care about is fads and trends, you can do that, but we tried to take it to a deeper level and found some excellent folks. Buckminster Fuller is a perfect example. He wasn’t promoting a book or doing anything else. He was just a very fascinating person that UB decided to bring to campus. Margaret Mead is another. I remember vividly how wonderful her lecture was.”

Lecture planning also includes the effort to schedule extra events before or after a lecture, but these can pose a separate set of difficulties. Smaller gatherings offer a chance for a select group of students to engage with guest speakers in more depth, but who chooses this select group? When UB brought journalist Bob Woodward to speak in October of 1976, plans were initially announced for a reception that was restricted to UB directors, Lectures committee members and members of the group chosen by UB to co-sponsor the reception. This plan did not sit well with some students. According to a column in the IDS, the rationale coming from UB was that directors and committee members earn this special benefit from the hard work done all year long to bring events to campus. The counter argument focused on the fact that the funding for bringing speakers to campus comes from fees contributed by every student, and this ultimately is the trump card. Opposition to restricted access was voiced loudly, and the plans were changed to make the reception open to all students.

Opportunities for Close Contact

The work of managing events always brings opportunities for direct encounters with visiting speakers. Michael Littenberg (UB ‘85-’87) offered a couple of examples. “I remember having dinner with John Ehrlichman who spoke in January of 1987,” he said. “He talked about the Watergate break-in and he recounted to us what he went through and what it was like in the White House. We got a different perspective from what you read in the press.”

Littenberg also worked on events with lower profiles. “For one of the small lectures I programmed we brought in one of the speakers from the leadership of the African National Congress,” he said. “This was during the apartheid era, when there were shanty towns at IU and other universities. I remember getting time to spend with him one-on-one, and we also had a spirited program.”

In at least one instance, the work of bringing a speaker to campus brought the opportunity for close contact with a world leader. Mikhail Gorbachev was personally escorted from New York in October of 1997 by Winston Shindell (who was then IMU director) along with graduate advisor Tom Jelke and Lectures director Kerry Maller (UB ’96, ’97). Jelke had arranged the use of a private jet through the generosity of local businessman Bill Cook.
“Gorbachev was extremely gracious and remarkably easy to talk to,” Shindell said. “He loved to tell jokes. He would tell them in Russian and the interpreter would translate as he talked.” After arriving on campus, the entire Lectures committee and other UB staff attended a dinner in the State Room with Gorbachev and his daughter, who had accompanied him. “It was a once-in-a-life-time experience,” Shindell said.

These stories barely scratch the surface of the remarkable experiences that former directors can share and more memories are being created with each new board. As long as UB is planning events, lectures will be part of it. There’s no way to predict who will be coming in the years ahead, but if you go to hear someone speak, be prepared to encounter something fascinating, something outrageous, something revolutionary, or something that will touch your heart—courtesy of UB and the IMU.

(Left: Poster for Lecture given by Jenna Bush Hager in 2011.)

Here are just a few more of the many lecturers brought to IU by Union Board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title/Note</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Robert Mowar</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>British historian</td>
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<td>Hobart Creighton</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Republican nominee for Indiana Governor in 1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeannette Covert Nolan</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Well-known author of children’s books</td>
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<td>Merle Miller</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Writer, novelist, and best-selling author</td>
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<td>Dr. Michael Ginsburg</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>IU’s first professor of Russian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator William J. Fulbright</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Fulbright Program is named in his honor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee R. Norvelle</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>State director of the Federal Theatre Project in Indiana, author</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Wernher Von Braun</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Rocket engineer and space architect, “Father of Rocket Science”</td>
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<td>John Chancellor</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>American journalist with NBC News</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chet Huntley</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Co-anchor of NBC evening news popular program “The Huntley-Brinkley Report”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dick Gregory</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Comedian, social activist, and writer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muhammad Ali</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Professional boxer, considered among the greatest in history</td>
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<td>Julian Bond</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Social activist and leader in American civil rights movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Spock</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Famous pediatrician and author of books on babies and child care</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Lee Bailey</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Well-known criminal defense attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Truman Capote</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Author, screenwriter and playwright</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Frost</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>British journalist, writer and television host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Ashe</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Number 1 world professional tennis player winning three Grand Slam titles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Pauley</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Television anchor and journalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kurt Vonnegut</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>American writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Sheen</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>American actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlan Cohen</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Best-selling author, advice columnist and speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Nicklaus</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Professional golfer widely regarded as the most accomplished golfer of all time</td>
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Alumni Spotlight!

A Career in College Unions Becomes the Perfect Fit

Mark Guthier
Former IMU assistant director for programs and services and current director of the Wisconsin Union

In the spring of 1989, as he was completing his second year of law school in Bloomington, Mark Guthier, BS ’87, JD ’90, faced a choice for his summer break. He could return to a second summer clerkship with a law firm in his hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana or stay in Bloomington and explore other interests. He chose the latter and stumbled upon an opportunity that permanently altered his career path. As Guthier tells it, “Little did I know that I would end that summer interning at the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) central office—partly in an attempt to see if I might like student affairs work instead.”

In the end, student affairs and specifically the work involved in running college unions won the day. Guthier did complete his law degree in the spring of 1990 and sat for the bar exam that summer. By the end of August he was hard at work in his new position as the UB program advisor, serving under Don Luse, who at the time was IMU assistant director for program services.

College union work has been the perfect fit for Guthier, whose career has consisted of extended stays at two of the most historic unions in the country. In 1992 after Luse left to become director of the student union at the University of North Carolina, Guthier became IMU assistant director for activities and events. He held that position at IU until 2001 when he took his current position as director of the Wisconsin Union at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Both IU and Wisconsin were part of the group of seven universities that founded ACUI in 1914 and both have long histories of active involvement and support of the organization. Guthier holds the position at Wisconsin once held for many years by Porter Butts, one of the most influential leaders of the college union movement in the 20th century.

College union work must be exhausting at times, because as Guthier tells it, he has fallen asleep on the job on at least one occasion. This story comes from a decision by UB to bring the Smashing Pumpkins rock band to perform at Assembly Hall. In an effort to learn how other venues were handling security for such an event, Guthier escorted a delegation of students to a Smashing Pumpkins concert in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

The group arrived early and met with the security team there for a consulting session, then stayed to see the show. After the performance had ended, the students had to awaken Guthier, who had fallen sound asleep by that time. This is part of the reason that he never gained a reputation for being acutely in tune with the music of the day. “The students were fond of saying, ‘If Mark knows the name of the band, then the concert won’t sell well,’” he said, “but if I had no idea who it was, then there was a chance that it would sell.”

For Guthier, one of the critical benefits of working at IU was the opportunity to learn from other college union professionals. “I had two really good mentors in Don Luse and Winston Shindell,” he said. “Don taught me that the role of the advisor is to be in the background and that although a little failure can be good for students, you don’t let them fail too much.”

The lessons from Shindell were “perspective and persistence,” Guthier said. “‘Don’t get mired down in the details,’ Winston would say. ‘See the big picture all of the time. Don’t let the student give up. You shouldn’t give up. There’s a way.’ I still rely on all of that kind of advice that I learned in the first couple of years at IU.”

Shindell was impressed by the bond that Guthier developed with the students and staff. “Mark was the role model and mentor that you want your students to have,” he said. “He was one of the most capable young professionals that I ever had the pleasure of being around. I always found him to be a voice of reason and wise beyond his years.”

At Wisconsin, Guthier has been highly focused on the union buildings. He has overseen the construction on the south side of the campus of a new union building that meets LEED Gold certifications for environmental sustainability. With that completed, his attention has turned to the renovation of Wisconsin’s historic original Memorial Union. A key role played by Guthier has been securing donations to a

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Alumni Spotlight!

A Passion for Community Service

Julio Alonso
Executive director and CEO of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank

“Alumni Spotlight! A Passion for Community Service

Julio Alonso
Executive director and CEO of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank

“I love Bloomington,” said Julio Alonso (UB ’80-’81, ’81-’82), BA ’91. While this sentiment may be shared by most former UB directors, in Alonso’s case the relationship is more intense, more intimate and clearly reciprocal. Look around town, talk to many of the residents and you’ll see plenty of reasons why Bloomington loves Julio. His hard work and dedication to the community have affected people in every walk of life here.

“The roles I’ve been involved in have enabled me and the organizations I’ve worked with to help other people,” Alonso said. “That’s the bottom line.” His roles include being elected to the Monroe County Council, managing the district office for the late U.S. Congressman Frank McCloskey, serving as community ombudsman under Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez and as director of public works under Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan and working four years as executive director of the Community Kitchen of Monroe County.

Since 2006, he has served as executive director and CEO of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Under his stewardship, the Food Bank has more than doubled the amount of food being distributed. In 2013, close to 3.7 million pounds of food were delivered to agencies across six counties in the area. “On one side of things, that’s not positive, because it means there’s a demand and there are more people in need,” said Alonso. “On the other side of things, that we’ve been able to garner the community support to meet that need and to be able to increase our food distribution at that rate is something I’m proud of and happy to have been a part of.”

How did a young man with Puerto Rican heritage, who was born in Manhattan and raised in the Bronx end up choosing to make a small Midwestern town the focus of his passion for community service? The answer to that involves a twist of fate that brought Alonso to the IU campus for a brief visit while he was still in high school.

As a student government leader in high school, Alonso was selected to attend a student leadership development conference. After failing to get him registered in time for the preferred conference on Long Island, school administrators sent him to a different one at IU. “I came out here the summer before my senior year of high school,” Alonso said, “and I just fell in love with the campus and the people here.” When he enrolled as a freshman in the fall of 1979 Alonso knew that he wanted his college life to extend beyond the classroom and it didn’t take long for UB to present some intriguing possibilities. A controversy erupted on campus that fall around UB’s plans to bring Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden to speak. “That was when I first heard about UB,” said Alonso, “and it got me thinking, ‘What is this organization?’”

He caught the UB bug while serving on both the Kiva and Public Relations committees his freshman year. He was selected as a director his sophomore year and served as secretary, then elected as a director his junior year and served as vice president.

In order to reduce the financial burden of paying tuition, Alonso took some time off after his junior year to establish residency in Indiana so that he could qualify for in-state fees. Supporting himself in various ways, including staff positions at the IMU, he took one or two courses at a time and finished his degree in 1991, with a double major in political science and history.

In the years since then, whether working in government or the non-profit sector, Alonso has drawn upon the lessons he learned while on UB. “I still consider my two years on the board as the most transformative experience of my life,” he said. “The things I learned there—leadership, budgeting, recruiting and managing volunteers, working as part of a board, persuading people to consider your perspective, consensus building—all have really been a substantial help to me in the careers I’ve laid out since then. And a couple of the people who served on UB with me are my best friends to this day. I really took a lot away from that experience.”

An added benefit of Alonso’s current job is the Food Bank’s connection with UB. UB has helped generate donations for the Food Bank in several ways, most prominently through the annual Live from Bloomington events from 1986 to 2011. “Having UB out there raising support for the Food Bank and being part of both of those worlds has been great for me,” Alonso said. He was thrilled to learn recently that current LFB director Connor Foy has plans to revive the tradition this spring.

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Mark Guthier continued

fund that supplements other funding for the construction projects, and they are well over halfway to the fund’s goal of $30 million.

Somehow he also has found the time to serve this year as ACUI’s president. In that role he’s helped plan for ACUI’s 100th Anniversary Celebration in April. Coming back to ACUI as president after working there as an intern over two decades earlier completes a circle for Guthier. That fateful decision to hang around Bloomington over the summer in 1989 changed his life. “Since then, I’ve never wanted to be anything besides a union director,” he said, “and I can’t see myself doing anything else.”

Julio Alonso continued

Bloomington’s current mayor, Mark Kruzan, BA ’82, was president of IUSA while Alonso was vice president of UB and the two became friends. Kruzan recalls meeting Alonso in person for the first time while waiting for an elevator at the IMU and asking about the correct way to pronounce “Julio.”

“I was a bit embarrassed not knowing,” said Kruzan. “When I asked, he said, “Either way!’ To this day, Julio is the kind of guy who puts you at ease, is only interested in what’s best for the collective good and has a great sense of humor.”

It looks like the transplanted New Yorker has made a full conversion to his adopted home. “This is just a phenomenal community,” Alonso said. “I really cannot imagine living anywhere else.”

Bloomingtonians are glad to hear it.

JWS Mentoring Program

The John Whittenberger Society began an exciting new mentoring program in 2013. This dynamic program works to place Union Board students in career enhancing experiences within companies and organizations led by Union Board (JWS) alumni. When Union Board alumni (JWS members) hire current Union Board students, they have access to great talent with shared experiences. Additionally, the alumni find it very rewarding to mentor a Union Board student. Alumni gain knowledge of the current board members and their ideas for enhancing the Union Board experience. Alumni and current Union Board students engage with each other by sharing their Union Board experiences. The program offers Union Board students an opportunity for leadership development, mentoring with alumni, and gaining valuable work experience in their future careers. For the John Whittenberger Society it’s an opportunity to cultivate relationships with future members in order to spread the Society’s message and positive energy.

The pilot program, named Upper Network, was developed by Wade Gerard (UB ’91, ’92), former Union Board President and an Indiana University alumnus, for his Indiana University fraternity chapter. Several of his fraternity brothers were inspired by the program and volunteered to help with finding internship opportunities for undergraduates in their chapter.

Sharing Memories of the IMU and UB

What is your very first memory of the IMU or UB?

Share it with us for possible use in an upcoming article by emailing your recollections to jws1909@indiana.edu or send to

John Whittenberger Society
IMU
Attn: Cheryl Crouch
900 E. 7th St. Bloomington, Indiana 47405
Please include a recent photo with your memory.
Oh, yes, you know exactly what these are, don’t you?

Those of us who attended the Biennial Reunion last fall were able to enjoy a blast from the Sugar & Spice past, and a few of us wondered if we could make Special K Chewies at home. Well, the recipe is kept well guarded but our sources were able to find this original IMU recipe to share with you, dear JWS alumni readers…..if you’re serving a REALLY big crowd:

**IMU Special K Chewies**
*Makes 24 dozen (that’s 288 chewies for you non-math majors)*
- 12 quartz Karo syrup
- 16 lbs sugar
- 1 ½ lbs butter
- 20 lbs peanut butter
- 12 16 ounce bags Special K cereal

Teeth hurt yet? Not to worry. A much more practical and very simple recipe is here thanks to Cheryl Crouch, IMU Marketing Director, who’s used this trusty recipe since acquiring it from an IU friend in 1980. Lucky for all of us, it couldn’t be easier or more delicious if you’re a fan of these classic Union treats. Enjoy!

Don’t have time to make these or any of your other favorites from Sugar & Spice? You can now order online at [www.sugar-spice.catertrax.com](http://www.sugar-spice.catertrax.com).

**Cheryl’s Special K Chewies**
*Makes 24 large treats*
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup light Karo syrup
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 Tbs butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 5 cups Special K cereal

Melt syrup, sugar and peanut butter on medium heat in large pot until smooth. Remove from heat and stir in butter and vanilla, then stir in cereal. Immediately drop by tablespoon onto wax paper and cool. Store in an airtight container, if they can last for more than a day in your house.
1: Students visit the Activities Fair in Alumni Hall during the 2014 Winter Welcome sponsored by UB and the IMU.

2: IU ROTC students participate in the Veterans Day ceremony held near the IMU Memorial Room. The names of IU women who served in the military during WWI were read during the ceremony.

3: IU Art Museum staff member Eileen Rice adds the names of women who served during WWI to the Golden Book in the Memorial Room.

4: Snowfall was abundant this winter at IU but it didn’t stop students from coming to the IMU as noted by all the footprints leading to the Commons entrance.

5: More than 100 members of IU’s Zeta Beta Tau fraternity prepare for a live interview with the Today Show in the South Lounge. The fraternity was featured for their participation in a “No Shave November” fundraiser to support their fraternity brother who was diagnosed with cancer.

6: Students play “Just Dance” on the Wii system at one of the many UB 2014 Winter Welcome activities.
Dear Friends,

What have YOU been up to since leaving IU and Union Board? Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Updates are used in class notes or for Alumni Spotlights.

Email jws1909@indiana.edu or mail to:

John Whittenberger Society
IMU Union Board Office
900 E. 7th St.
Bloomington, IN 47405

2014 Contact Information

Name ................................................................. Date
Preferred Name .................................................................
Last Name while at IU .................................................................
IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) .................................................................
University ID # (People Soft) or last four SS # ..............................
Home Address .................................................................
Home Phone .................................................................
City ...........................................................................State............... Zip .........................
* Home Email .................................................................
Business Name .................................................................
Business Title .................................................................
Business Address .................................................................
City ...........................................................................State............... Zip .........................
* Business Email .................................................................
* Home Page URL .................................................................
* Please indicate upper and lower case.

Mailing Address Preference  .................Home  .................Business
Email Preference  .................Home  .................Business
Spouse Name .................................................................
IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) .................................................................
Your News .................................................................

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Designed by IMU Marketing with contributing writer Bruce Lilly.

For information about the John Whittenberger Society, e-mail jws1909@indiana.edu or visit www.jws.indiana.edu.

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