

Student Stories Project: A.D. King

Audio version available at: <http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/adking.shtml>

[IU fight song]

Welcome to the Indiana University Student Stories Project, a production of the IU Alumni Association. I'm your host, Alana Salata. In this series, you'll get an insight into what it takes to be a student leader here at IU, from the perks –

“One of the members of the club brought the Mad Money show to campus. Now, that was a big step for both the school and the club.”

– to the hard work –

“Graduate school takes up more time and energy than you can anticipate.”

– to the memories that will last a lifetime.

“I traveled to India in the fall of 2006 with 60 students from the Kelley School of Business.”

Join me on this journey through the lives of IU student leaders.

[IU fight song]

SALATA: Today we're speaking with A.D. King of IU's Board of Aeons.

KING: My name's A.D. King. I'm a sophomore majoring in finance and accounting and also pursuing a minor in classical studies. I'm from Columbus, Indiana, and I'm currently the president of the Board of Aeons. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my friends and fraternity brothers, keeping up with world events and politics, and watching college football.

Why did you choose to attend IU?

As inferred in my interests, I've been watching football games at Memorial Stadium since I've been in a stroller. I have strong family ties to IU – I have grandparents, parents, and siblings who attended here – and I guess firsthand I got to hear the stories and experiences they had and also see the benefits that they reaped from coming to Bloomington. Initially I was looking outside of the state of Indiana, at other schools, but as it came time to make my college decision, it became increasingly clear that IU is a world-class university. It offered everything that I wanted.

Tell me about a meaningful or enjoyable experience you have had at IU.

IU has provided me with a multitude of experiences that I'd classify as meaningful or enjoyable, both academically and athletically. Academically, I'd say – I traveled to India in the fall of 2006

with 60 students from the Kelley School of Business. Being able to witness firsthand their emerging economy and see how their culture, the political structure, and how their economy plays into that development, was an experience I don't think I could have at any other university. Athletically, I got to participate in the now 57th annual Little 500. Being able to represent my fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta, as one of their bike riders was something that I'll never forget.

What advice would you give to incoming freshmen and other students just starting out at IU?

Be bold – in a good way. Taking initiative when they first come to campus and joining a student organization – I know at first it would seem scary or there'd be a natural level of uncertainty, joining a campus community with almost 30,000 students, but taking advantage of the diverse group of students that IU attracts, as well as the programming and events that we offer on a year-to-year basis, is something that I would encourage an incoming freshman to do.

Can you explain what the Board of Aeons is?

This is a question I get a lot, because we don't have a Web site and it's typically a group that's classified as "clandestine" or something, that people don't generally talk about, but that's not the case at all. The Board of Aeons was created in 1921 by [IU] President William Bryan. It's a group of 12 students that directly served him and provided a link to the IU president and the students of the university. Every year we face and address issues that affect the student life, specifically in Bloomington. It's a group that addresses some of the more macro levels facing the students through research, contacting faculty and administrators, and comparing peer institutions.

How did you find out about the Board of Aeons, and why did you decide to become involved?

When I came to campus almost two years ago, I was looking for a student organization that positively impacts the student life here at IU. I was involved heavily in high school, being student body president, and this interest and desire to serve my students and peers carried over here at IU. After speaking with other students and faculty, it became clear that the Board of Aeons would be this group that I could channel some of my time and energies into and be able to positively impact the students at IU.

Tell me about a project or issue you worked on with the Board of Aeons that you're especially proud of.

At the beginning of each year, the Board of Aeons sits down with the president of IU, as well as, this year, the university chancellor, and we identify three to four issues that affect the student life at IU. This year we identified transportation, textbook pricing and alternatives, and student involvement as the three issues we would look to research. Through our research, comparing peer institutions, interviewing faculty that have studied in the area, as well as drawing some conclusions, we realized that students' opinion was being underutilized in the making of decisions affecting the university as a whole. We made a number of recommendations to Dr.

McRobbie in early April, and we look forward to working with him in the future to implement these solutions.

Tell me about your interactions with campus administrators through the Board of Aeons.

Certainly the goal that President Bryan made 86 years ago, to directly advise the president of IU, is obviously a way that we've been in contact with campus administrators at a very high level. Earlier this year, we met with Trustee Talbot to express some of our concerns, and we also deal regularly with the university chancellor. So we have the unique opportunity to meet with these campus administrators to express some of the issues that students face.

How have your leadership skills developed over the course of your participation in the Board of Aeons?

Leadership at any level is definitely a learning experience. I can see myself growing the most as I deal with administrators and faculty, as I try to effectively communicate issues that students face. Also, being able to kind of shepherd the discussions of the Aeons and some of the different points of view that a group that consists of different academic focuses, backgrounds, and nationalities, is another area where I think I've grown.

What have you gained through your interactions with IU alumni?

I would say friendship and mentorship. For instance, tomorrow I'm meeting with an alumnus who is a former Aeon and also a former member of my fraternity, who will be giving me insight for my travels to China this summer. He not only has been to Shanghai, which is where I'll be interning, but has also worked in the industry which I will be working in, and will be providing me with invaluable advice as to how to best utilize my time while I'm in China, and also providing a great perspective. This type of attitude that I've noticed in different IU alumni transcends different experiences I've had in meeting with alumni, and these type of networking opportunities are ones that I think would be hard to match at any other university.

What other organizations are you a part of here at IU?

This year I also assumed the role of CEO of the Global Sales Leadership Society in the Kelley School of Business. It's a group of 50 students with an interest in sales and marketing that help develop personal and professional skills in dealing in the business world – ultimately to hopefully become better community and corporate citizens as we go through life.

What are your future goals, and how do you think IU has helped prepare you to meet those goals?

I'd be interested in pursuing a career that would allow me to deal with business on a very international level. The outstanding faculty and reputation of the Kelley School of Business, already within the first two years, has provided me with opportunities at an international level – given a great training ground for me to have, probably, a lifetime of success dealing internationally in the business world.

What will you miss the most when you graduate?

That's kind of hard to tell, because it's two years away. Definitely the university environment. There isn't another college campus in the world that is prettier in the fall, or in the springtime near Little 500. It's unlike any other. Of course, I'll also miss the lifelong friendships which I've made and hope to continue.

We've been talking with A.D. King of IU's Board of Acons.

[IU fight song]

This series was produced by the Indiana University Alumni Association, with special thanks to the IU Marching Hundred and director Dave Woodley. I'm Alana Salata.

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