

Student Stories Project: Jeff Astrove

Audio version available at:

<http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/astrove.shtml>

[IU fight song]

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

“When we did a Katrina event, people – a group of people that pulled together an organization that could benefit something so great – it was amazing to see.”

– to the hard work –

“... Pushing me a lot more, it's – my initiative's gone way up, especially with so much on my plate right now.”

– to the memories that will last a lifetime.

“I was in a photo op with coach Hep...”

“... ten-year reunion was just, it was a lot of fun. It was great to see 30-plus guys come back for the show.”

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

[IU fight song]

SALATA: Today we're speaking with Jeff Astrove of the IU Student Foundation.

ASTROVE: My name is Jeff, I'm a junior, my major is informatics, my minor is environmental management, and I'm from Potomac, Maryland. My position with IUSF is I'm the current webmaster of the IU Student Foundation. I love being involved with my fraternity, Delta Tau Delta.

Why did you choose to attend IU?

Well, I was choosing between here, Ohio State, and Virginia Tech, and I just loved IU the most when I came to visit here. It was a nice, bright, sunny day, everything just looked so beautiful on campus – and then when I went to OSU it was dark and gloomy and rainy, so I figured it was a little sign from somebody upstairs telling me – pointing me in the right direction. I felt at home here when I visited.

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

An enjoyable experience I have had was definitely joining the Greek system because it has led me to all my closest friends at IU, a great network of people, and definitely a great social life at IU, and I feel like I'm getting the full college experience.

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

I would say don't be afraid about not knowing what you're going to do, because that's the best part of IU. IU offers every sort of major under the sun with amazing top-10 programs of all different kinds, so there's no need to worry about what you're going to study. And also, I personally advise everybody to go Greek because I've had the time of my life doing it and I know tons of people who have regretted not doing it; and there's always just a story every single day from being in the Greek community.

How did you find out about IUSF, and why did you decide to become a member?

I found out about IUSF from a member in my house, and I decided to become a member because I wanted to be more involved on campus than just within my Greek community and IUSF seemed like a worthwhile organization to be a part of, and it has been.

Tell me about an IUSF event or program that you were involved in that you are particularly proud of.

Currently I'm involved with creating the program for IU Sing, and it's the 75th anniversary, so it's a pretty big event to be putting on this year, and it's probably one of the biggest events that I've been a part of. It's a huge fundraiser for scholarships for the school.

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

IUSF led me to the LeaderShape Institute program, which was a week-long leadership improvement retreat, and it definitely helped improve my leadership skills by learning how to interact with different types of people and creating relationships and learning a lot about yourself – about my own leadership skills and what needs to be improved on.

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

My future goals would be to come out of school and just get a job, and IU has definitely prepared me for it because they've helped improve my résumé-writing skills, they've helped show me how to do a job search, how to act in interviews, job-hunting skills that one would need to know – IU has definitely helped me improve on them.

What will you miss the most when you graduate?

I'm going to miss just being able to be a college kid – go out any night of the week and still be able to get my work done during the day and be able to have no real responsibility yet.

We've been talking with Jeff Astrove of the IU Student Foundation.

[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.

[IU fight song]