

Student Stories Project: Katie Carr

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

[IUPUI 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 –

“... opportunities to take additional training and do things that I probably wouldn't get to do if I were not part of JagCorps ...”

– to the hard work –

“... It's kind of a complicated thing to put that on ... making community decisions, just making sure to cooperate.”

– to the memories that will last a lifetime.

“When I was nominated as a Top Ten female of 2006 for IUPUI ...”

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

[IUPUI fight song]

SALATA: Today we're at IUPUI speaking with Katie Carr of the Student Organization for Alumni Relations.

CARR: Hi, my name is Katie Carr; I am a biology major at IUPUI. I am a senior. I am from just a little bit north of Indianapolis. Some of the student organizations that I am involved with on campus are SOAR, which is the Student Organization for Alumni Relations, and the undergraduate student government Supreme Court, and the School of Science Student Council. My interest with school – I guess, career interest – would be medicine and/or health law. Other than school, I like to run and study and just be with my friends and just help out with all the different activities we have for our organizations.

Why did you choose to attend IUPUI?

When I was a senior in college I looked at several universities, and IUPUI was actually my last choice. I considered Butler and DePauw – even Purdue – I looked at Bloomington and a Christian college in Ohio, but after visiting all of them, they were so far away. And just by chance I visited IUPUI and I really enjoyed it because it was close to home and I really liked the city atmosphere. And I don't regret it – I think now,

looking back on it, that I made the right decision in coming to IUPUI and that I would not have been as happy anywhere else.

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

I guess as a senior looking back, the whole four years has been just a huge learning experience with different, you know, obstacles along the way. Being involved with the student organizations really made a difference, though, because I got to know more people, and being a commuter campus, it's really hard to find a good group of friends that you can hang out with on a regular basis. I think the most meaningful experience that I had was when I was nominated as a Top Ten female of 2006 for IUPUI. That was a huge honor.

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

I would say to first focus on your grades, keep up with your classes, and don't get behind. But find an organization or maybe two organizations that you're really interested in and that kind of motivate you. Being involved with IUPUI, other than classes, is the way to make the experience better.

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

Well, actually, I found out about SOAR my freshman year, and it was as soon as I – it was, like, September my freshman year, so it was really soon. My boyfriend at that time just said, you know, we're having a call-out meeting, why don't you come see what it's like. At the time it was really small, and the purpose of the organization was to pair students with alumni mentors that share a career that they have an interest in in the future. That's why I joined: just to find an alumni mentor who could help me along.

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

We help at the Top 100 dinner and we help at events the chancellor hosts at his house. I think the most recent event that we're really proud of is our "Mocktail" event that we held this past Wednesday where we had a small reception for the alumni to meet their new student mentors. So that's an ongoing thing that we're continuing to evolve and improve upon. Any new members, they just state whether or not they're interested in having an alumni mentor, and we create this event where they get to know them and then keep in contact with them.

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

Huge. Very huge. I would say that SOAR, being involved in SOAR since my freshman year, has taught me the importance of communication – how to be professional with

different people. I would just say that communication is really key to leadership. And proper communication – knowing how to talk to people in certain circumstances and how to work things out when there's a problem and being cordial with everybody and keeping everybody on the same level. And not only SOAR – it's been everything else that I've been involved in that's really taught me leadership skills.

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

Well, I plan to go into medicine or into health law. One thing that IUPUI has really helped to prepare me for a career in medicine or health law is the fact that it's so close to the med school and all of the hospitals, and the law school's right across the street, and so it's always available.

What will you miss the most when you graduate?

I'll miss SOAR. And I'll miss – that'll be the one organization that I will miss. A few of the others – I'm kind of ready to graduate just so I can give up my responsibility to those. I enjoy them, but it's a lot of work. But SOAR is the one that I will miss the most.

We've been talking with Katie Carr of IUPUI's Student Organization for Alumni Relations.

(IUPUI fight song)

This series was produced by the Indiana University Alumni Association. I'm Alana Salata.