

Student Stories Project: Kyle Goshert

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[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 Kyle Goshert of the Kelley Honors Academy.

GOSHERT: My name's Kyle Goshert. I'm a senior at the Kelley School of Business at IUPUI majoring in finance and international studies with a minor in economics. Born in Chicago, raised in Indiana, spent some time out in California, and came back here to go back to school. Some of the organizations I'm involved in are the Kelley Honors Academy, Finance Association, SOAR – Student Organization for Alumni Relations – and Phi Eta Sigma, a national honor society. Some of my interests include the Colts and a Super Bowl win tomorrow. I enjoy volunteering with children.

Why did you choose to attend IUPUI?

I came out to IUPUI to – well, I was living out in Oregon and I actually – I needed to get back into school. My first try at school out in California was an abject failure, and I had to get back into it. And I'd heard about IUPUI's campus being less of the college atmosphere – like in Bloomington, particularly – and I needed that to kind of avoid some of the situations I had gotten into previously in California. And so I chose IUPUI, and my

parents had moved back out here, so they actually offered to pay for my school and give me a second chance on it if I was willing to come back out and kind of settle down here as opposed to being out on my own. It's worked well for that, it really has. Spending last night in Bloomington kind of made me realize that even more – there's a lot less trouble you can get into. I do miss that college atmosphere, though – like when we were at LeaderShape and you guys were all talking about all of your organizations. It's kind of a different feel here, organization-wise. You guys [in Bloomington] take real pride in those organizations you're with, and I don't see a lot of that here, unfortunately, but the groups I'm in, we do – we try to get involved as much as we can, and that's one of the reasons I chose IUPUI. And the Kelley School of Business, that's another.

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

Just the people. I really enjoy the Midwest people, I think, and coming back here from the West Coast, there's a big change in the way people are and how you can interact with them. And I've enjoyed the groups I'm in, especially the Honors Academy. We've done an event for the past couple of years that I've really enjoyed doing: it's a golf outing. We'll talk about that a little bit later.

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

Get involved right away. I realize that I wasted, like, two years. I was making sure I could focus on school, so I didn't want to get too involved with some of the other stuff – get back into the swing of things and see how I could do – but I feel like now that I didn't take advantage of all the opportunities that were here. And now I only have a year left, and I want to get involved, but with a year left there's only so much you can do. So I would say take advantage of all the organizations. They're doing a much better job than when I got here a few years ago of promoting them and the school actually taking an interest and being involved and supporting the groups and supplying them with what they need financially. I would suggest definitely getting involved in that. Another thing would be start looking for internships and jobs immediately, because it couldn't hurt. That's another thing – I haven't been working lately, so I wish I would have been more focused on figuring out what I'm going to do for the future as opposed to worrying so much about school only.

How did you find out about Kelley Honors Academy, and why did you decide to become a member?

A friend of mine in class was the vice president, I believe, at the time. She had sent out an e-mail recruiting people, and I think the minimum GPA was, like, 3.2 or whatever. It really sounded interesting, and it was a new organization. And that was one of the things I really thought about – we have the opportunity in that organization to take it the way that we want to, and we don't really have set guidelines as to what we have to do every year, and if we find opportunities to help out with different volunteer programs or different events that we could put on, we have so much more leeway to do as we please.

We don't really have a person that is in charge, necessarily, like a faculty member that kind of tells us what to do, so it's completely student-organized and student-operated, and that's one of the reasons that I really took a liking to that club.

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

Well, last year for the Kelley Honors Academy, we hosted – or actually, last year was the second annual – Kelley Honors Recruiting and Networking Golf Scramble. We actually host our own golf tournament. About 100 people came – a lot of them were from the club, but we had about 45 business students come in. We got sponsors from the business community to send in golfers. It was a Monday morning right after school ends and before summer school begins, and we got about 15 or 16 companies to send a golfer. So we would put, like, an accounting person – some accounting person would come in and we would put them with accounting majors, and then they would golf together all day and get a chance to get a real-world feel of networking with people. And at the end they had a big barbecue and a prize giveaway and you meet up and give your résumés and do all that stuff.

We did that, and we're planning the third annual one right now – that's actually the top thing on my list of things to do. We're trying to make it better. Every year it's gotten better. It's kind of a complicated thing to put that on, and as we get the hang of it I think it's going to be a lot better. This year we're hoping to get more focused, more different kinds of companies there. We had a lot of accounting and some finance and banking people – this year we're looking to get more marketing, even some operations and supply-chain management companies, stuff like that. So we're just trying to improve it every year and hopefully it carries on into the future. I think we did a good – we got our name out there a little bit – it was real professionally done with sponsorships and we had to go recruit donations. It's something I've really enjoyed doing here.

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

I would say I had very few leadership skills before getting involved with these things, and working with people, and just having to have like a – you know, making community decisions, in a sense, just making sure to cooperate, I think, is the big thing. You're a fellow LeaderShaper, so: one of the big things that I learned at LeaderShape in January – which I wish I could have done, like, two years ago – I learned what it means to actually lead and what it means to lead with integrity and credibility. And I think credibility is so huge in leadership. It takes years to build up your credibility and seconds to destroy it, so ... I think working with these organizations has given me the opportunity to put all that into practice now, and like I said, I've become more involved since then. I think back every day to what we were told [at LeaderShape] and all the stuff we learned and how to incorporate that into these groups, and I think it's helping – just keeping me more focused.

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

My number one goal is I want to get into a portfolio management or wealth asset management type of thing. I still haven't figured out what the best path to accomplishing that goal is – where you have to start and what you need to be doing. I think that just in the education sense, the Kelley School has provided me with a lot – a good understanding of what I need to be competent at, I guess.

Well, my main goal is – and this goes back to LeaderShape a little bit, when we defined our visions – I actually sat down and thought about what my vision was for what I want to do with life, and that was kind of an enlightening little period there – and my vision ended up being financial education and credit education for the youth of America. I just think we do such a bad job of teaching kids and even teenagers and even our age – they don't teach you about money and about savings and about credit and what all that really means, and in a capitalist country like this, that's so important to have an understanding of all that. So I would like to finish my career early and be able to somehow give back in that way.

I've been volunteering with Junior Achievement at a thing called Finance Park, and you actually go in and you get six kids at a table and each volunteer has six kids they're in charge of all day. And you get a profile, like a family profile – how many kids they have, are they married, how much money they make – and they have to make all of these decisions about what kind of house they want, how much to pay off on their credit cards each month, setting up their house ... You know, when they come in, they have no real understanding of it, and by the time they leave – it's a six-hour day; it's a long day for watching over six kids that you don't know – you can see it in their eyes that it's like, "Wow, this is really what I have to be prepared for in life." And that needs to be taken care of on a more massive scale, because we just do such a terrible job of that in this country.

So I would like to be able to sort of give back somehow like that, and I think IUPUI has definitely helped me with that – you know, putting me in touch with places like Junior Achievement and things that I wouldn't have thought to do had I not been trying to be involved in the community in some sense. I think they've been doing a lot better job of trying to get the students here to interact with the community, in a sense. We have a phrase here called "PCP" – it's "parking, class, parking" – you find yourself, you know, you pull in, you go to class, and you leave, and you don't get that real feel of school, necessarily – and I think they're doing such a better job of that now.

What will you miss the most when you graduate?

I'll miss the informal interactions with people. I know I'm always, "Oh, I'm so ready to graduate, I'm ready to move on," but the second I graduate I know I'm going to be depressed about it, because, you know, that's when the real stuff starts and you don't have as much time to just enjoy things. I'm 25 – I'll be 26 when I graduate – so it's about

time for me to get on with my life, but at the same time it will be tough to graduate, to finish up and just know that you won't be going back to school, unless you go to grad school. I'll miss the people, the professors – I like my professors, they're real good at the Kelley School. Here they have a lot of real-world experience – you can talk to them if you want and they'll give you anything you want to know. I'll definitely miss it.

We've been talking with Kyle Goshert of IUPUI's Kelley Honors Academy.

(IUPUI fight song)

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