

## **Student Stories Project: Barb Hall**

Audio version available at: <http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/hall.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 at IU Kokomo speaking with Barb Hall of Phi Sigma Sigma.**

HALL: My name is Barb Hall and I am at the end of my junior year. My major is communications with a minor in international studies. I'm from Peru, Indiana, and I am the archon, which is the president, of Phi Sigma Sigma. Some of my interests are – mainly, only traveling.

**Why did you choose to attend IU Kokomo?**

I chose IU Kokomo because Peru High School is a very small school, and this was a small school, and I kind of felt – I felt a connection with it, because I felt like if I had gone to a bigger school, I just would have been a small fish in a big pond.

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

Well, one of them is upcoming. I am going to be going to Italy with my Rhetoric in Society class on Monday – we're going to be spending nine days there. Which, I'm really excited that IU Kokomo is giving students the opportunity to travel to different countries to learn about different cultures.

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

I would have to say to get involved and to just basically know the professors, because each one has a different aspect on their own class. I mean, we come from the high school where everybody – where you have your teachers saying, “You need to be here at this time, you need to do this, and you need to do this,” and when you come here you don’t really have that. So you just have to, you know, keep on task just to be successful.

**Tell me a little about Phi Sigma Sigma at IU Kokomo.**

Well, we are the only Greek on campus, which at times is hard, and at times it’s good. The bad part is we have to separate ourselves from the stereotypical sorority girls, because we are definitely not that whatsoever. We do a lot of philanthropy, a lot of service. We do a lot of things with people in the community and within our own school.

**How did you find out about Phi Sigma Sigma, and why did you decide to become a member?**

I found out through fliers. They had fliers up on the wall. And at first I was kind of hesitant, but after thinking about it a little bit, I went to one of their recruitments and I saw what an amazing group of girls they were. And I just felt like I needed to be a part of it.

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

It was my first year – I got into Phi Sig in 2005. I was elected on the executive board and we went to a conference in Chicago. And they had given a presentation about the U.S. Transplant Games. Our philanthropy is the National Kidney Foundation, and the National Kidney Foundation sponsors these games every two years. In 2006, in the summer, it was going to be held in Louisville. So the people from nationals had asked who would want to go down and volunteer, and my chapter raised their hand. So we went down there in June of 2006, and we volunteered for three days and got to meet just an amazing group of people. They were so strong, and just to see their love and their heart and their will to survive was just amazing.

**What challenges have you faced during your participation in Phi Sigma Sigma?**

Um, I would have to say time management. It’s hard because I love the group so much and I just – I want to volunteer for everything and I want to do everything. So with that and with other organizations that I’m in, it’s kind of just, it’s hard to manage my time because I want to do that so much.

**How have your leadership skills developed over the course of your participation in Phi Sigma Sigma?**

When I started, I – it was kind of new to me, so I was kind of hesitant on most things. My leadership grew kind of quickly. It was in the spring of 2006 when I ran for sister development chairman, and then after that I just started to take a more active role in the sorority. This past spring I was elected president. I mean, it's kind of taken on a whole new life of itself, just because I love doing it so much and I just want to get as involved in everything and I want to have my hand in everything – it's pretty amazing.

**What have you gained through your interactions with IU alumni?**

My sister is an IU alumni, and for Phi Sigma Sigma we take part in Take Back the Night here at IU Kokomo, and we sell hands that say "These Hands Don't Hurt." We've done this for the past two years, and for the past two years I've had my sister's sixth-grade middle school class at Central Middle School help us with these hands, to sell them. I think that that has been a great interaction, not only for doing IU alumni, but also in the community. We both were really proud that it made the front page of the paper. It was a huge news story.

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

I am also part of Student Athletic Board and the Student Union Board. We don't actually have different, like, teams that go against other schools, but we have, like, our own – like, we do bowling and softball and stuff, and they go against other city teams and stuff.

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

Well, I'd really like to be in public relations, and I have one professor, Donna McLean, who is amazing. I mean, she's so helpful and she's so understanding, and she's that way with all of her students. So I think that she has really helped me to prepare for my goal, just because she's always willing to look at a paper that I'm writing, even if it's not her class, or if I'm writing something for the school paper, she will say that she'll look at it. I mean, she's just so willing to help everyone.

**What will you miss the most when you graduate?**

I think I'm going to miss my friends. I'm going to miss the girls in Phi Sig, and I'm just going to miss the interactions with the different professors, just because they know you by name, they start to know your family life, your work life, they're just so interested in you, and I think I'm really going to miss that.

**We've been talking with Barb Hall of IU Kokomo's Phi Sigma Sigma.**

**[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]**