

## **Student Stories Project: Lauren Hargesheimer**

Audio version available at:

<http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/hargesheimer.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 at IU, from the perks –**

*“...driving around the Mexican National Youth Soccer Team in white minivans...”*

– to the hard work –

*“I was challenged during LeaderShape to come out of my shell a little bit more.”*

– to the memories that will last a lifetime.

*“This year we won Big Tens. ...In college sports, winning a conference is, like, everything.”*

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

[IU fight song]

**SALATA: Today we're speaking with Lauren Hargesheimer from IU's Student Athletic Board.**

HARGESHEIMER: Hi, my name is Lauren Hargesheimer. I'm a junior at IU Bloomington. I'm from Arlington Heights, Illinois. On campus I'm involved in Student Athletic Board, where I am the president this year. The past years I've been a director of volleyball. I'm also involved in Phi Mu, one of the sororities on campus, where I've been a chair for certain committees. Basically my interests are my family. I love going home and being with my family. Just being involved on campus and getting to know new people and athletics are pretty much my biggest interests.

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

I came from Chicago, so I wanted to go to a big school. I knew I wanted to go Big Ten for sports, but I did not want to go to the University of Illinois because my whole high school went there and I didn't want to relive high school. I mean, high school was great, but I needed to move on, do something different. So I decided to go to IU because I came to campus, took a tour, and loved it, and decided that I wanted to blaze my own trail, I guess, and go somewhere new, so that's why I came here.

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

I think one of the most enjoyable experiences I've had at IU was doing Dance Marathon – just because it's an incredible experience and it's probably one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life. Physically and emotionally, it was exhausting, but once you finish it you just feel – it's such an amazing accomplishment. You feel like you've helped people and actually done something by raising money. Staying up for 36 hours and not sitting down – it's hard, but it was probably one of the most meaningful things I've ever done.

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

I think my best advice would be just to put yourself out there and not be afraid to join different organizations and meet new people. If you stay with people that you knew in high school and kind of stay in those groups, then you'll never really branch out and learn things about yourself. I think if you put yourself out there and decide to do something that you've never done before – like, just try something out once, it can't hurt you – you might find out that it's something that you love and you find a new passion and meet new people.

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

I found out about Student Athletic Board by another girl that was in my sorority. She was a director at the time and made an announcement at one of our chapters and I thought it sounded interesting, and then I saw, like, chalkings on the sidewalk when I was going to class and everything. So I just went to the callout meeting and I just loved it. Like the people there – athletic people like myself, and people that love sports, and I didn't feel like an idiot for knowing so much about sports like I do. So that's how I found out about it and decided to become a member.

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

I think the most interesting thing I've ever done with SAB is driving around the Mexican National Youth Soccer Team in white minivans. It was quite an experience. There were four directors, including myself, who drove these rental cars around and drove the Mexican team from the game to, like, restaurants, from the restaurants to hotel, from hotel to game, things like that. And it was interesting because I don't speak a word of Spanish, so trying to, like, tell them where they were going and interacting with them – it was something that most students wouldn't usually get to do, most people wouldn't usually get to do, but I did and I enjoyed it a lot.

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

SAB has definitely taught me a lot of leadership skills. I've always gone to, like, leadership camps and seminars and stuff, like, all through high school, but I feel like you can't really learn leadership – you have to kind of experience it and see. Like, you can't take a class about leadership. I mean, there are classes about it, but I think watching someone ahead of you lead and like, “Wow, they did something really great and I want to do that,” or “This they were maybe kind of weak at and I would like to improve upon that.” Just watching people do it and experiencing it and, like, jumping in and trying it for yourself, I think, is how your skills develop, and I think that's how mine did – just getting more and more involved, slowly – that's how I learned more leadership skills, I guess.

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

Basically my biggest goal in life is to have a job that I enjoy doing. I don't want to be one of those people who dreads going to work in the morning. Like, I've had those jobs, summer jobs, where I would just rather die than get up for work in the morning. And I think it's just most important to me to enjoy what I'm doing and feel like I'm actually helping out, like I'm actually making a difference instead of just filling out paperwork or things like that. I'm just not good with monotonous jobs. I like to get my hands dirty and be creative and interact with people. Just being at IU and working in the sororities helped me with my creative side, I guess. Being in SAB helped me learn leadership skills and how to get involved and how to talk to people. I think that will help me in my future goals.

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

I think I'll miss sleeping in until one o'clock every day and having, like, things be optional. Like if you want to do things. You can't really decide to not go to work one day if you're having a bad day or whatever. But I'll also miss meeting new people all the time. I think it'll be hard to meet new people when I'm doing the same thing every day with the same people. But when you're on campus you never know who you're going to run into or who you're going to talk to, and so I think I'll miss, probably, the social aspect of it.

**We've been talking with Lauren Hargesheimer from the IU Student Athletic Board.**

**[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]**

