

Student Stories Project: Amy Knepp

Audio version available at: <http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/knepp.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 –

“The Alumni Association here at South Bend had selected me to go to IU Bloomington’s annual LeaderShape training program for a week.”

– to the hard work –

“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.”

– to the memories that will last a lifetime.

“I’ve met so many people that have touched my life in so many ways.”

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

[IU fight song]

SALATA: Today we’re at Indiana University–Purdue University Columbus speaking with Amy Knepp of the Student Council.

KNEPP: My name is Amy Knepp, and I’m a junior; I’ll be a senior in the fall. My major is elementary education and I’m getting a dual license in reading specialty. My hometown is Rushville. My position on Student Council this past year was as secretary, and some of my interests that go along with my major is just spending time with kids, and I’ve done a literacy initiative in Columbus. I collaborated with Kidscommons here in Columbus and we put together a literacy initiative program for local elementary schools. So I enjoy doing anything education-related for kids.

Why did you choose to attend IUPUC?

Primarily because of the small campus. I tend to be a little shy and so I didn’t feel like I could be very successful on a bigger campus, and I really enjoy the professor-student interaction and getting to have that one-on-one time with instructors and kind of getting to know everyone and being more involved in campus life.

Tell me about a meaningful or enjoyable experience you have had at IUPUC.

I've had so many; it's hard to really just choose one. Some of my most meaningful experiences here have been as a Student Council member and getting to know faculty and staff on campus and getting to know other students and putting events together as Student Council. Also, I'm president of the National Science Teachers' Association chapter on campus, so we've gotten to do some really exciting events and attend some conferences through that organization, and I've really enjoyed being able to do that.

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

I would say that definitely as a freshman, something that I wish people had told me is that your first year you really just need to concentrate on academics and getting acclimated to university life. Especially, I felt like I didn't really understand how important it was to develop my own study habits. I don't know. It took me a long time to really figure out what worked for me and how time management is essential – especially, you know, if you have other activities, if you're a part of organizations, time management is crucial to being successful.

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

I had known about it before, but especially when I started working in this, in the Office of Gift Development and Alumni Relations, they are kind of in charge of all student organizations so far as student organizations updating their membership information, and so I really got more acquainted and went to a couple Student Council meetings as a member of this office or an employee. I really got excited about it and kind of got to see – it was my sophomore year – I got to see what all Student Council was involved in and decided that I wanted to be a part of it.

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

Since we're a small campus and our Student Council is fairly young – I think it's, like, three years old – and so we're kind of, it's almost still like a pilot program, and so we've really, this past year we've gotten to do a lot of things to kind of make Student Council better and more effective as a student organization. One event in particular that we were really proud of is that we hosted a student movie night where we had students could come and see a movie. We had wonderful participation for our campus and so we were really excited about that and we got the IUPUC Student Council some exposure on campus and had a lot of fun.

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

I know that I've definitely learned to be more aggressive. I know that when I was a freshman here I was shy and timid and didn't really want to talk to anyone, and I've learned more just to, you know – it's ok for everyone to express their ideas, it's ok to disagree and, you know, brainstorm and figure out different strategies for making an event happen and for building a stronger organization like Student Council.

What have you gained through your interactions with IU alumni?

Since I work with the Office of Gift Development and Alumni Relations, I've gotten to attend most of the IU alumni events that we host on campus, and so I've gotten to work with alumni board members and have gotten to discuss with them their careers and kind of, you know, their student careers and, you know, different strategies they had and have also just gotten to network with a lot of them so far as getting to know community members and just feeling more at home.

What other organizations are you a part of here at IUPUC?

I am president of NSTA, the chapter of NSTA on campus, which is the National Science Teachers' Association; and I am a member of ISEA which is the Indiana State Educators' Association. I'm an active member of both of those organizations, and then I'm a member of Kappa Delta Pi which is a national educational honors society, and I've just become inducted into that society as a junior and so I'm excited about that and excited about getting more involved in that organization. I was a student ambassador for a year and I really enjoyed that and I felt very involved, you know, with recruitment and admissions and kind of got to know that a little bit. A student ambassador is mostly – Susie Blizzard, who is the director of admissions, it's kind of like you're her employee, except you're not, it's like a student organization. But she does all admissions events like having the local high schools come and tour the campus and we do student panels for them and we do financial aid. Just kind of educating them about college life as a whole, not just IUPUC, and so student ambassadors volunteer at those events.

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

One of my biggest future goals is definitely to be an elementary teacher, and I would like to be in administration in elementary schools, and I'll definitely get my master's degree and possibly a doctorate sometime in the future, but that will be very far in the future. But certainly being a student here and being a part of all the different organizations has helped me to feel more confident about myself and more confident of my future and know that I can make it happen and I can achieve my goals.

What will you miss the most when you graduate?

I will just miss being on campus. Since I work here and I'm a part of so many different organizations, I know so many people on campus and I'm here every day, and so I'll, you know, certainly miss everyone and I'm sure I'll miss the academics also because I, you

know, it gets tiring and you get tired of studying, but as a whole I enjoy it, so I'll really miss that part of it.

We've been talking with Amy Knepp of IUPUC's Student Council.

[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.

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