

Student Stories Project: Adam Pozza

Audio version available at: <http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/pozza.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 speaking with Adam Pozza of IU's Residence Halls Association.

POZZA: Hi, I'm Adam Pozza. I am a junior majoring in business finance and accounting from Ann Arbor, Michigan. I am currently the president of RHA, with numerous interests ranging from business activities to sports and things along those lines.

Why did you choose to attend IU?

I actually applied to five small colleges and was waitlisted everywhere. And kind of in the process of waiting, I decided to apply to IU and Michigan State, and IU happened to get me the information quicker and faster. So I sent in my check and I came down the next weekend to visit, and I loved the campus.

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

By far the most enjoyable experiences I've had are interacting with students in the sporting events like basketball and football – mainly basketball. With Duke coming my freshman year, I felt the building shaking. Feeling concrete shake when you're in the highest row possible in the entire building is kind of a fun experience, because you can feel the energy of everybody that's involved and kind of the atmosphere of the school.

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

I would say that the best piece of advice I can give is kind of find out what you like, and by doing that, kind of explore your areas of interest. If you've never tried something, go out and try it. Go to the multicultural events, the CultureFest, go to club meetings even if you don't know people – because you'll meet more people, you'll find out what you do like, and you'll see that there's something that you've never experienced that might become something that's a passion for the rest of your life.

What is RHA?

RHA is the Residence Halls Association, which is the student government of the residence halls. We govern the students living within the residence halls – not as RAs, but as kind of the voice of students to the administration.

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

I became a member my freshman year. There was a meeting in the dorm. The lowest level is the dorm level, and then it moves up from there – so each dorm has their own student government, which then reports to the RHA General Assembly. And so there were call-out meetings in all of the dorms, and I happened to attend mine. And a few other friends went, and we decided to get involved and meet a few more people, kind of see what we could do to become involved that first couple weeks of class.

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

Events and programs – there's a lot, and it's tough to choose. But I think the biggest thing and maybe the most noticeable thing that I was involved in was the creation of the Foster-Gresham social space, which is now called the Hoosier Den. I think a group of about four or five students worked with the RPS staff and administration to kind of create a new social space for students to hang out instead of going out to the frat parties and drinking – you know, as an alternative solution to kind of a fun place to be for students. One of my big things was, instead of getting small TVs and putting them up, get a big, huge projection screen – and there's now a projection screen which they show movies on, I think, once a week – they show the basketball games during the playoffs. And then, you know, sports, ticker symbols, pool tables... So that was really the biggest accomplishment we had last year, and that was something I was involved in which was pretty fun when you kind of work through the details and you can actually see what your work has come to.

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

My leadership skills have actually developed a lot. I've become a more competent speaker. I'm more comfortable in public settings, where maybe in high school I wouldn't have been so

comfortable standing up in front of 50, 60 people, and kind of mingling, talking, having to maybe give a speech. I wasn't able to speak on my feet as well – where, you know, if you're asked a question and you have to come up with an answer even if you don't know what you're talking about. So kind of in that sense, I've become a better speaker and been more presentable in public in that sense. Also kind of, you know, dealing with people and the different personalities, when you're working on a project, you know, like the social space, and there's people with differing opinions. You have the administrators who are like, "No, this isn't what we think is a good idea," and you say, "Wait a minute. This is what the students like. This is what we feel is necessary if you do want to be an alternative social space to the drinking scene – then you really need to have something that's going to attract people, such as projection screens, the HDTV, satellite TV." You know, things like that, and kind of standing up for what you see as the correct perspective against people who might disagree, has been another major leadership skill that I've developed.

What have you gained through your interactions with IU alumni?

I've really just gained a better perspective of kind of career opportunities. I'm a business major, and so over the summer – a couple of IU alumni actually live in Ann Arbor, Michigan, now, despite the University of Michigan being there, and so I spoke with a few of them who graduated back, you know, in the '70s and '80s and are now living and working in the southeast Michigan area. Just kind of to see what they're doing and what potential paths I might take in the coming years – you know, what their suggestions are from the point that they're going to be the people most likely hiring in the future, so to see what a student should do now so that they're more capable in the future.

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

I'm a part of the Undergraduate Finance Club and the Toastmasters International club through the Kelley School of Business. Toastmasters is a speaking club. You get up and – about once a week they have meetings – and it's a national organization, and there's actually one that the Kelley School of Business has – and you get up and you give speeches. You have a typical agenda, and then within it there's different speaking points where someone presents the news, someone presents, you know, kind of a joke and they have to give, you know, a three-minute joke, so it really develops your speaking abilities. Undergraduate Finance Club has actually been pretty fun, too. It's a developing club. It was pretty big a couple of years ago, but then the popularity died down. Actually this year, 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, kind of being the head of organizing everything, which was a lot of fun.

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

I just hope to be successful in what I do in life. I'm really not sure what path I want to take with my major quite yet – I'm still trying to figure out that – but I think IU has allowed me to do the searching that I needed to do so that when I graduate I am able to select a career path that is most suitable for me. You know, the number of clubs, the people here, the different perspectives that

everyone brings to the table, is kind of an important thing. At a smaller school, that might not have been the case, where people might be more generic, it's smaller, you don't meet as many people, there's not as many groups.

What will you miss the most when you graduate?

Probably the basketball games, if I'm not around here. I've been a big basketball fan, and I wasn't in high school. I came to IU and I went to almost all of the games my freshman year, and it's just the energy in Assembly Hall, and the environment, everyone going crazy. Now with the Sampsonite following and the shirts and ties, everything like that – it's just a lot of fun. Probably one of the greatest experiences you can have.

We've been talking with Adam Pozza of IU's Residence Halls Association.

[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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