

## **Student Stories Project: Dashiell Voorhees**

Audio version available at:

<http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/voorhees.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 –**

*“... 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 Dashiell Voorhees of IU Bloomington's Union Board.**

Hello, my name is Dashiell Voorhees. I'm a junior in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs with a major in public management. I'm from Culver, Indiana, and I'm the Union Board films director.

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

Growing up, I always used to watch the IU basketball games, and upon a visit in high school I was sold and I knew where I wanted to be.

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

Union Board has been one of the most meaningful experiences at IU. I've got to meet a lot of people through it and gained a lot of experience programming and working with a budget.

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

Have fun meeting as many people as you can. Learn your teachers' office hours. Plan out your schedule and go to as many classes – go to all your classes.

**Tell me a little about Union Board.**

Union Board is the largest programming body on campus. We're student-funded and student-run. We program for the students, with the students. We meet in a boardroom setting and we manage a large budget to put on the best programming we can for IU students, which includes large concerts, large lectures, the film series, which I'm in charge of, which is every weekend. We also do various performances, dance competitions, dance programs, and Miss IU.

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

In high school I looked up various events that I wanted to go to. For instance, Union Board brought Dave Chappell when I was in high school and I saw that, I wanted to go to that. Then I also saw that Union Board also brought the Red Hot Chili Peppers in the past, the Foo Fighters, Incubus, and I really wanted to get involved with the student organization that helped to bring those incredible shows to IU.

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

I've had the opportunity to serve Union Board for two terms as the Union Board films director and I've been able to really bring a lot of sneak previews – movies before they come out in theatres – and that's been a great experience to have that, have the Whittenberger Auditorium in the IMU totally full to capacity with people just extremely anxious to see a movie before it comes out in theaters. Actually, we screened *Disturbia*; *Knocked Up*; we screened *Breach*, that was really great; *Smokin' Aces*; *Jarhead* was a huge crowd; and that was a lot of practice with crowd management and planning and keeping all the different functions going to do an event.

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

Well, through Union Board I've been able to manage a committee of 13 of my fellow peers. We come up with a creative idea together, we figure out how much it's going to cost, we figure out how to get the money to do the program to make it the best we can. It's just really fun learning how to motivate people and how to help stay on budget and keep on track and then to actually see, you know, have the feedback, you know, of an IDS article or seeing a lot of people saying "great program" or talking about it in class. It's just really great for me and my committee members to kind of be a part of, you know,

just fun local stuff on campus. Oh, and LeaderShape was a great opportunity to meet so many different people on campus that are involved in so many different things. We were able to make friendships that we are still using today as we kind of meet up to work on different things. It's great meeting people from all the other great student organizations such as the Student Alumni Association, the IU Student Foundation, and the many, many others.

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

As a Union Board films director, we pretty much ... harass, I guess ... anybody we can that is an IU alum in Hollywood. We've brought back Derek Hoffman, who was a producer on the film *16 Blocks*. We brought him back and did a sneak preview and a Q and A. Angelo Pizzo – the writer of *Rudy* and *Hoosiers* – we were able to bring him back and show his film and do a Q and A. My committee members were even able to have dinner with him and ask him questions about making *Rudy* and *Hoosiers* and talk about being from Indiana. Indiana has great cultural value, even though some people don't even know.

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

I've been a part of several different student organizations. Unfortunately Union Board takes up so much of my time. To stay up with my academics I've had to kind of pull out of other student organizations I worked with. But I used to host a radio show on WIUX, the student radio station, which was a lot of fun. I used to do a folk radio show and I used to do that every Sunday for the last four semesters – but you got to do a little more homework on Sundays.

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

My future goals: I really want to be a public manager in the federal government. SPEA has really given me great opportunities. I went on a SPEA spring break trip where I was able to go and meet with professionals in various federal departments, which actually landed me an internship this summer working for the Department of Labor. And there is just a great alumni base of Speons in D.C., and it was really great to kind of meet different people and see how the federal government works and how SPEA is preparing me to work in the federal government.

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

I think I'm going to miss just walking through campus and kind of feeling all the, you know, just all the activity of everybody kind of moving around – that great atmosphere. It's just really great just being around so many different young people and, you know, it's such a free place to share ideas and kind of meet up with people and it's just a right-sized town where you can, you know, really meet people and really get to know people but still kind of have a big-city feel.

**We've been talking with Dashiell Voorhees of IU Bloomington's Union 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]**