

Student Stories Project: Lynn Watthanapha

Audio version available at: <http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/watthanapha.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 Northwest speaking with Lynn Watthanapha from the Student Alumni Association.

WATTHANAPHA: Hi, my name is Lynn Watthanapha, and I’m a senior here at IUN. My major is chemistry; I’m a pre-pharmacy major. My hometown is Merrillville, Indiana. I’m currently the president of Student Alumni Association. I like to dance, and I like to travel, too.

Why did you choose to attend IU Northwest?

First of all, it was close to home, and also that I got a scholarship to go here.

Tell me about a meaningful or enjoyable experience you’ve had at IU Northwest.

Well, I’m part of the Asian Club here at IU Northwest, which was started about three years ago. I’m the vice president for that. We held a little organization during the fall. It was just, pretty much had Asian food and Asian dancing, and it’s a cultural experience that IU Northwest had never experienced before. It was huge. It was thousands of people.

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

I'm going to say the freshman year is the most important year to get your GPA going – so study hard, don't party too much. Start joining clubs and volunteering, job shadowing. Start early.

Tell me a little about the Student Alumni Association at IU Northwest.

Well, SAA here is a transition from Student Guides, and we just started Student Alumni Association about two years ago. So it's a transition from Student Guides to Student Alumni Association. Student Guides was – pretty much we helped incoming freshmen, we help with open houses and orientations; it's just helping out the school, pretty much.

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

I think it developed a lot. I don't get as nervous when I talk in public anymore, which is a good leadership role to have.

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

I am part of the Asian-American Association, and I'm part of Biology Club and Pre-Professional Club.

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

I would like to go into pharmacy school and become a pharmacist, and I think that IU has a really good science core that just helps prepare me for what I want to do.

What will you miss the most when you graduate?

Definitely my friends. Pretty much just the area, being around here. Just the environment.

We've been talking with Lynn Watthanapha of IU Northwest's Student Alumni 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.

[IU fight song]