



John Whittenberger Society

UNION BOARD ALUMNI NEWS | FALL 2019

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS. THIS PUBLICATION IS PAID FOR BY THE JOHN WHITTENBERGER SOCIETY



A Message from the **JWS PRESIDENT**

Greetings JWS Family,

I hope this fall season brings you joy and reflection. Fall is my favorite time of year for three reasons. One, Thanksgiving is my kind of holiday—food and loved ones—all I need to celebrate. Two, the reflective lessons of change Mother Nature provides us annually through her colorful display of loss and the hope of new growth. Three, the fact that every other year, these things come together at Biennial—a chance to gather with loved ones, eat your favorite IMU or B-town food, and reflect on all the changes our individual and collective community has experienced.

I am so grateful to each and every one of you who were able to join us this year. And I am sending love to each of who were unable to attend—know that you were missed.

I believe the success of this year's Biennial was defined by the collaborative work of the amazing current Union Board directors, assistant directors, and committee members; the talented IMU staff; and the incredible JWS Board Members alongside whom I am proud to work. As we celebrate this collaboration, it is fitting to celebrate the expansion of the JWS family. While we have all felt, known, and experienced the meaningful contribution and powerful impact of assistant directors and committee members within Union Board, it has taken us too long as a JWS Society to welcome them into our alumni family. This is now a reality. As we move forward in welcoming new members, please help us identify past assistant directors and committee members who we can reach out to and welcome. Imagine having a reunion committee meeting at the next Biennial in 2021!

In light of our growth, our focus for 2020 as a JWS Board is you. Connecting with each generation of Union Board alumni to listen and learn. In strengthening the bonds of our community, we seek to best serve you, reinforce or revive your connection to IU, IMU, and Union Board, and stand at the ready to support and celebrate the current students leading and living Union Board's mission.

2020 *JWS Board of Directors*



FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Kathy Cook, Patricia Cornejo, Cathy Deal, Susan Burns, Adele Kaplan, Julie Singer

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Megan Ditton, Winston Shindell, Kerry Maller, Laura Osteen, Jerald Harkness, Anne Kostyo, Christian Carroll, Lydia Roll, Hank Walter

I am overwhelmed by the amazing individuals within our community and on the JWS Board. Board members have made a choice to spend their time and talents to develop, support, and celebrate our JWS community. In the picture above, you will see the beautiful faces of your board. In future newsletters I will invite them to say hello and share their unique Union Board and JWS stories.

For now, I close with gratitude to and for you, and with hope for the new growth we will create together.

Love,

Laura Osteen (UB 1989–90, 1990, 1991)

President

The John Whittenberger Society

jws1909@indiana.edu

JERALD HARKNESS

Union Board 1990

First it was a friendly nudge about five years ago from fellow past Indiana Memorial Union Board member Christian Carroll. Carroll, a member of the John Whittenberger Society Board, urged Jerald Harkness to get back into supporting Union Board through involvement in JWS. Later there was a breakfast in Indianapolis with Indiana Memorial Union Executive Director Hank Walter. Finally, a meeting with IMU Assistant Director of Administrative Services Bob Musumeci in 2017.

What connected those events? A collective recognition that Harkness was the perfect choice, as an experienced, award-winning maker of documentaries, to capture the history of IMU in the visual format of this place Harkness calls home. It didn't hurt that Harkness got his start in filmmaking volunteering on Union Board's Video Concepts group and making videos for Union Board TV.

"Christian reached out and said I needed to get back involved with Union Board, and on a side note, that with IU's Bicentennial coming up, he'd love to see a documentary come out on the Union," Harkness recalled. "Then later I had breakfast with Hank and saw right away he was the perfect leader for IMU and Union Board. Then he brought up the idea of a documentary, and I said, 'I'm all-in.'"

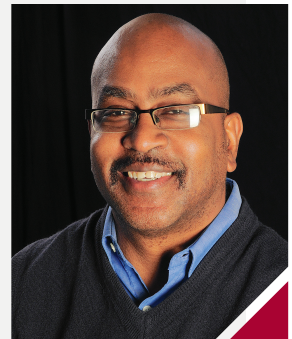
When Musumeci informed Harkness that IU Bicentennial special grants were available, and that IMU and Union Board could match those funds, the production whistles started going off in Harkness' head, and in November 2018 work began on "The Indiana Memorial Union Story: The Heart of the Campus."

"I saw this project as a home movie and knew that anyone who was or had been associated with Union Board, well this was really going to be for them," said the 1991 IU graduate. "I didn't see this as a 'get it out to the masses' kind of project. And for me, it was a chance to get back involved with Union Board and, while it sounds corny, a great way for me to say thank you."

Harkness loved film before he ever arrived at IU in the late 1980s. He describes his parents, Jerry Harkness and Judy Harkness, both of Indianapolis, as his first film professors. He still remembers the weather on the day his father took him to see "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" at Lafayette Square in Indianapolis.

"It was snowing and I was probably in third grade. I saw that movie and it was love at first sight," he said. But it wasn't just science fiction and action films that Harkness was treated to. "They'd take me to 'Chariots of Fire,' 'The Verdict,' all kinds of films. I think that's what really got me interested in storytelling."

Harkness said he actually felt some pressure to deliver on this project because of its personal importance. The feedback he got during filming from local historians from a preservation standpoint left an impression on him, and central to the project was capturing the essence of the Union Board experience: "That it doesn't matter when you were part of Union Board because you'll always be able to make a connection with that person."



Jerald Harkness

View the IMU documentary online now!
bit.ly/imudocumentary



41ST *Union Board Biennial Reunion*

Over 120 Union Board alumni, current student directors, and guests attended the 41st Union Board Biennial Reunion October 18-20, 2019. Attendees enjoyed a myriad of events, receptions, tours, and more at year's Biennial, which was the highest-attended Reunion since 2009's Centennial celebration.

In addition to the premiere screening of the IMU documentary (see page 5 for more), there was a balanced mix of looking back and moving forward. Multiple tours were offered: behind the scenes of the IMU, an in-depth look at the artwork in the Union, and a bus tour to see the many changes and additions to campus.

There was no shortage of stories this October weekend. A career panel geared toward current students and recent alumni featured Beth Loeb Davies, Lisa Kohnke, Kerry Maller, and Kristopher Minter. A Panel of the Decades held after the documentary featured UB alums Angela Huffman, Lisa Browar, Trena Depel, Jerald Harkness, and Kate Milliman. Kelly Kish, the Director of IU's Office of the Bicentennial, was Saturday night's keynote speaker. Kelly shared fascinating and humorous anecdotes and an interactive quiz to showcase IU's 200-year history.

From the opening reception in the Union Board office Friday night to brunch in the Tudor Room Sunday morning, the energy level was high. Attendees enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends, talk with the current Union Board, and reminisce about special places and experiences. So many valued connections were made and continue to grow among our strong alumni base and we look forward to seeing even more alumni in 2021!

Learn more about Biennial, Union Board, UB Alumni, and JWS at blogs.iu.edu/ubalumni.





IMU Film Reflects History of Success

It might seem impossible to seamlessly weave together, in less than one hour, the reflections of more than 20 people, a historically accurate capsule in time, and an homage to people and place without making the viewer anxious or distracted, but director Jerald Harkness and his production house Studio Auteur do just that with “The Indiana Memorial Union Story: The Heart of Campus.”

From Union Board alum Anne Kostyo’s opening recollection of a student’s heartfelt gratitude for a unique Union Board program—“He says thank you for doing this for me. He’d spent four years on this campus and had never really felt like he’d belonged.”—to historical nuggets mined by university historians, and the personal insights of Union Board alumni, the documentary succeeds at entertaining, informing, and for the uninitiated, communicating the richness of the “union” experience.

It gives deserved reference to Union Board alumni association namesake John Whittenberger, who as a student created the first Indiana University union in 1909, only to pass away from typhoid fever a year later. The film recognizes professionals like the late IU Chancellor Herman B Wells who empowered students through union activities, and it gives a voice to a long line of IU alumni who benefitted from their experiences on Union Board.

“It gives you the freedom to think outside the box.” “It’s a real laboratory for learning.” “It helps you find your voice.” “There’s something here they can connect to.” “Making students feel like this experience matters, and that they have a place here.” These reflections help recognize the film as a wonderfully sourced memoir and a perfect marketing piece for future Union Board volunteers.

View the IMU Documentary now at bit.ly/imudocumentary.

John Whittenberger Society Board

Board Members

Laura Osteen (UB 1989–90, 1990, 1991), president
 Anne Kostyo (UB 2008), vice president of fundraising
 Lydia Shanklin Roll (UB 2003), vice president of alumni relations
 Susan Burns (UB 1971-72)
 Kathy Cook (UB 2008)
 Cathy Deal (UB 1969-70, Alumni Rep. 2014-17)
 Megan Ditton (UB 1996, 1997)
 Martín Gimenez (UB 2001)
 Jerald Harkness (UB 1990)
 Adele Kaplan (UB 1985-86, 1986-87)
 Kerry Maller (UB 1996, 1997)
 Julie Singer (UB 2009)

Ex-Officio Members

Mara Dahlgren
 Director, Student Involvement and Leadership Center
 Atticus Westerfeld (UB 2005)
 Union Board Alumni Representative
 Connie Billett
 Assistant Director of Alumni Communities, IU Alumni Association
 Patricia Cornejo (UB 2018 & '19)
 Union Board President
 Winston Shindell
 Former IMU Executive Director
 David Spencer
 Director of Development, Division of Student Affairs
 Hank Walter
 IMU Executive Director

SCHOLARSHIP *Spotlight*



Seth Blunt,
Milton J. Fineberg
Scholarship



Patricia Cornejo,
Rosemary Tanner
Scholarship



Olivia Owens,
Rosemary Tanner
Scholarship



Sadia Habib,
IMU Director
Scholarship



Alaina Patterson,
IMU Director
Scholarship



Alexandra Ruschman,
Thomas Simmons
Indiana Memorial Union
Board Scholarship

2019-2020 Union Board Scholarship Awardees

Edward J. Pinto UB Scholarship:

Charley Connon, Sophomore, Assistant Director,
Interdisciplinary Connections

Milton J. Fineberg Endowed Scholarship

Seth Blunt, Junior, Director, Comedy
and Entertainment

Rosemary Tanner Scholarship

Patricia Cornejo, Senior, President
Olivia Owens, Junior, Director, Lectures

Indiana Memorial Union Board Scholarships

The Indiana Memorial Union Board Scholarship was established for Union Board directors and committee members and is based on need, academic record, and performance as a member of Union Board.

Director Scholarship recipients:

Sadia Habib, Sophomore, Director, Science
and Environment

Alaina Patterson, Senior, Director, Films

Committee Member Scholarship recipients:

Isabel Drumwright, Canvas Creative Arts Committee

Nicholas Faust, Assistant Director,
Concerts Committee

Nicole Strouts, Late Nite Marketing Lead,
Assistant Director, Films

Thomas Simmons Indiana Memorial Union Board Scholarship recipient:

Alexandra Ruschman, Junior, Director, Canvas
Creative Arts

200

IMU STORIES

in PROGRESS

Share yours!

Inspired by IU's Bicentennial, the IMU is sharing 200 stories throughout the 2019-20 school year. Follow along on the Indiana Memorial Union's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.

Share your story so we can convey it to the IMU community. What special story will you submit? Enter it today at go.iu.edu/imustory.

CHRISTIAN CARROLL

Union Board 1990

Christian Carroll recalls trying “a lot of different things at Indiana University” before he decided to walk into the Indiana Memorial Union Board offices in 1988. He was interested in politics, and he’d run for student senate his freshman year, losing by three votes. It was after he attended several Union Board-sponsored lectures and events that he was motivated to visit the office, his sights set on becoming lectures director for the group, and he ended up serving as Union Board president in 1990.

Carroll who leaves the John Whittenberger Society board this year after eight years of service—the last six as president; two as vice president.

Now a managing partner and senior vice president at Lienau Sales & Marketing in Seattle, Carroll said it was impressions Ken Gros Louis and Winston Shindell left with him that set him on a successful career path: “Seeing someone like them, with such stature, have faith in me and to treat me like an adult, really made an impact.”

Harboring aspirations of becoming a political media consultant, Carroll didn’t take any detours away from challenging issues related to Union Board and IMU during his tenure as president. Union Board banned the ROTC from recruiting in the union because of the ban on gays in the military, and when the idea was floated to create a meeting room out of

the union’s East Lounge, a popular spot for students to relax, and yes, sometimes take naps, Carroll led strategy to protect the space.

“We pulled together a coalition of student leaders and others, including the new student trustee on the Board of Trustees and the mayor of Bloomington at the time, to save the lounge,” Carroll recalled. “I even consulted Herman B Wells at the time. He would never give you his opinion, but would always help you to make a decision yourself.”

As every Whittenberger Society member can attest, the East Lounge remains virtually as it was nearly 30 years ago when the Union Board turned back the meeting room idea.

Today, Carroll makes his living in merchandising, but it was his experiences with Union Board that set him on that course, via an initial job in Los Angeles booking celebrities for college speaking tours. Recognizing his past empowered his future, he’s remained committed to supporting Union Board, IMU, and Indiana University. He has served as chair of Union Board’s Biennial reunion, provided financial support for scholarship funds, and this year he began a four-year term on the IU Alumni Association’s executive council.

For Carroll’s significant contributions on the John Whittenberger Society Advisory Board and more, he was awarded the 2019 Indiana Memorial Union Legacy Award at the 41st Union Board Biennial Reunion.



Christian Carroll



HIDDEN HOOSIERS

BICENTENNIAL PHONE BOOTH EXHIBIT

An interactive exhibit highlighting 10 of Indiana University’s “hidden” individuals, including IMU legend Gene Fletchall. This exhibit makes use of the IMU’s historic phone booths, allowing participants to connect with individuals who helped build Indiana University into the esteemed institution it is today.

John Whittenberger Society

IMU Union Board Office
900 E. 7th St.
Bloomington, IN 47405

SAVE *the* DATE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7 P.M.
LIGHT UP THE NIGHT:
IMU CANDLE LIGHTING COUNTDOWN

Candle Lighting Countdown

Ice Skating on Circle Drive

& Live Performances

John Whittenberger Society

www.imu.indiana.edu

Union Board Alumni News

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