

John Whittenberger Society

UNION BOARD ALUMNI NEWS | SPRING 2019



A Message from the **JWS PRESIDENT**

Dear JWS Members & Friends,



On the Cover

Top: On March 25, more than 50 IU alumni gathered for a reunion to coincide with the Association of College Unions International's Annual Conference in Indianapolis. Former Union Board members, IMU staff, and HESA program graduates mingled at Rock Bottom Brewery.

Bottom: The IMU staff celebrates IU Day on April 10. UB set a new record for its IU Day fundraising totals, increasing contribution amounts by more than 62% over 2018.

As I finish up my eight years on the JWS Advisory Board, two as your vice president and six as your president, I want to reflect and share with you the wonderful things we have accomplished.

We just celebrated our fourth IU Day, where JWS members not only connected with other alumni and celebrated our alma mater, but we also raised \$7,500 for Union Board scholarships. JWS awards about \$25,000 in scholarships annually to directors, assistant directors, and committee members on Union Board, and we could not do this without your generous financial support. On behalf of the student recipients, thank you so much for your gifts.

In addition to scholarships, JWS, through your giving, has been able to provide funding for students on Union Board to attend experiences that help enrich their education and help them better serve students. Those experiences include travel to ACUI conferences, the Sundance Film Festival, and Pollstar Live! Entertainment Conference. Students are able to collaborate with other programming boards, learn from professionals in specific industries, and bring back programming ideas.

The Board and the alumni group voted at the last Biennial Reunion to expand our membership eligibility to include assistant directors and committee members. Our goal is to enhance inclusion in our group, and we realized that not everyone who is passionate about Union Board and the IMU is a Union Board Director. This will grow our alumni base and allow us to have even bigger reunions and outreach. In addition, we have worked hard to focus our efforts to promote diversity, starting with the make-up of our Board, to include more women, people of color, and a broad perspective of ideas and experiences. These efforts will only make the John Whittenberger Society stronger, and they help foster greater alumni participation.

I am looking forward to our next Biennial Reunion, to be held October 18-20 at the IMU. We hope you can join us, as we will be participating in kick-off efforts celebrating the Bicentennial of Indiana University. Our programming will include a keynote from the Director of IU's Bicentennial Office, Kelly Kish; IMU and campus tours to witness recent updates and upgrades; as well as another special treat: After generous grants from Indiana University and JWS alumni, we will show the world premiere of a documentary on Union Board and the IMU produced and directed by an Emmy Award-winning documentarian and JWS Board member Jerald Harkness. This screening is not to be missed, so be sure and register for Biennial and be one of the first to see it.

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving all of you these past eight years. I encourage each of you who want to give back to Union Board and the Indiana Memorial Union to reach out to us. It can be through gifts to our scholarships or programming funds, mentoring students, speaking to Union Board committees, helping plan the Biennial Reunions, or serving on the advisory board. Please share your interest by staying in touch. Our email is JWS1909@indiana.edu. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to serve as your president, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Carroll".

Christian Carroll (UB 1990)

President

The John Whittenberger Society

jws1909@indiana.edu

John Whittenberger Society Board

President:

Christian Carroll (UB 1990)

Board Members

Susan Burns (UB 1971–72)

Kathy Cook (UB 2008)

Megan Ditton (UB 1996–97)

Martín Gímenez (UB 2001)

Jerald Harkness (UB 1990)

Anne Kostyo (UB 2008)

Michael Littenberg (UB 1985–87)

Margarette Minor (UB 1986–87)

Laura Osteen (UB 1989–90, 1990, 1991)

Lydia Shanklin Roll (UB 2003)

Ex Officio Members

Connie Billett

Patricia Cornejo (UB 2018, 2019)

Mara Dahlgren

Winston Shindell

David Spencer

Hank Walter

John Whittenberger Society

Union Board Alumni News

Spring 2019

Volume 40, No. 1

The John Whittenberger Society newsletter is published twice a year to encourage alumni interest and support of the Indiana Memorial Union and Union Board.

The newsletter is paid for by the John Whittenberger Society.

DAVID D. GIBSON

1963 Union Board President

It was through Sigma Chi fraternity that David D. Gibson got his first taste of what Indiana Memorial Union Board would be like. Fraternity brothers Ray Muston and Bob Hanning were both Union Board members, and they steered Gibson toward signing up as a volunteer committee member in 1960 for one of the campus's biggest events at the time, the Fall Carnival.

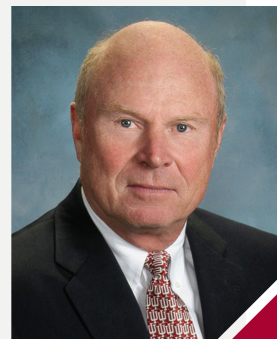
"That led to committee work in other areas my sophomore year, and my junior year I was selected to be a Union Board member," he recalled.

He took on a role working on the Auditorium Series, where he would come into contact with then-union director Harold Jordan, "who taught me the importance of attention to detail and follow-up." Because of this regard, Gibson became a meet-and-greet student representative for some worldly figures who visited IU, including comedian Bob Hope.

By the time he was a senior, Gibson had been elected president of Union Board. And it, at times, presented itself with some incredibly unique challenges: "On November 22, 1963, we had prepared for the bi-annual Union Board reunion, which was then held on the Purdue football weekend. We planned a great program, and I had my speech written to welcome our guests," he recalled. "At noon the world changed when we received word that the president (John F. Kennedy) had been assassinated. Unfortunately, most of our guests had arrived or were in transit. We considered all options, but in the end we went ahead with a modified and somber weekend program."

A chairman emeritus of Gibson Insurance Group and a former officer in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps after graduating from IU in 1964 with a master's in business administration, Gibson credits his academic and Union Board leadership experiences for his personal and family successes.

"I am convinced that the quality education in the class room from our Business School, combined with the leadership experiences I received as a member of the Union Board, contributed significantly to the opportunities I have had in my business and civic career," Gibson said.



2019 *Union Board of Directors*



FRONT ROW:

Ike Eguzouw, Director of Music;
Sohile Ali, Vice President of Marketing;
Teja Vontikommu, Vice President of
Finance; Patricia Cornejo, President;
Hannah Marshall, Vice President of
Internal Affairs; Fuhang Mou, Director of
Interdisciplinary Connections

MIDDLE ROW:

Hank Walter, Executive Director
of the Indiana Memorial Union; Seth
Blunt, Director of Performance and
Entertainment; Lauren Long, Director
of Science and Environment; Ethan
Schwartz, Director of Lectures; Alaina
Patterson, Director of Films; Dynasty
Hubbard, Director of Performance and
Entertainment; Atticus Westerfield,
Alumni Representative

BACK ROW:

Noah Byles, Director of Music; Alex
Ruschman, Director of Canvas Creative
Arts; Sadia Habib, Director of Science
and Environment; Olivia Owens, Director
of Lectures; Chea Yeun Kim, Director
of Late Nite; David Smiley, Faculty
Representative

Learn about the 2019 Union Board of Directors by visiting
<https://blogs.iu.edu/ubalumni>

SAVE *the* DATE

OCTOBER 18–20, 2019
41ST BICENTENNIAL REUNION



Photo courtesy of IU Archives

Metz Suite Gets Elevated

Distinguished guests of Indiana University can enjoy the recently renovated Metz Suite of the IMU. The suite is named for 1909 IU graduate Arthur Metz, who had planned to live there after retiring but died before his plan could be realized. Located on the top floor of the Biddle Hotel, the space now features an updated catering kitchen, digital climate controls, a marble-appointed bathroom, and furnishings that highlight IU's cream and crimson. Much of Metz's extensive art collection is showcased throughout the rooms, and the large dining table remains a prominent fixture.

CONTINUE *the*
**THE UNION
BOARD LEGACY**

*Email jws1909@indiana.edu
to find out how you can give back.*

Jennifer Parks Retires from the IMU

BY CECI JERRY, 2018 UNION BOARD PRESIDENT

Jennifer Parks started her career at the IMU in 1992, moving to the Director's Office in 1993. In 1998, she joined the Union Board family.

For 20 years, Jennifer contributed each and every day dedicating her life to Union Board. Her title was Administrative Assistant, but her role and support of Union Board and all students she encountered reached far beyond her job description. The success of the Indiana Memorial Union Board is a direct result of her efforts and dedication. If you have ever been so lucky to share a few words with her, you would leave with a series of stories from past board members, her favorite memories, and what it truly means to be the governing body of the Indiana Memorial Union.

From Jennifer, I learned the value in slowing down to have a conversation with someone to get to know them rather than simply rushing to get the information you needed and moving



Left to right: Hank Walter, Mara Dahlgren, Ceci Jerry, and Jennifer Parks celebrate Ceci's Senior Recognition Award

on. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have worked alongside someone who understands how to bring the best out in each and every person that they meet.

Fortunately for her, and unfortunately for us, Jennifer has chosen to retire from her role with the Indiana Memorial Union Board, but the impact she has made will last a lifetime.

Student Involvement Reorganization

Universities are no stranger to departmental, divisional, and other kinds of reorganizations, but the merger of the Office of Student Life and Learning with IMU Activities and Events into the new Student Involvement and Leadership Center is one being roundly cheered.

Center director Mara Dahlgren said: "This has been an exciting merger for us. It brings together two areas that provided similar work to support student life but did not often collaborate. A primary focus of the new Center is to provide experiences through involvement, recreation, and service that help students feel like they belong on campus."

Areas falling under the new Student Involvement and Leadership Center include leadership programs, community engagement, the Crimson Cupboard food pantry, IMU Bowling and Billiards, IU Outdoor Adventures, and student organization advising for groups, including Union Board, IU Student Government, and Funding Board.

As part of the change, the center will offer new resources, trainings and workshops for students and their organizations. The aim is to improve the student leadership experience through consistent student organization advising and support along with enhanced leadership education.

Some of the immediate rewards have been improved consistency and efficiency within university student organizations; the opportunity to build stronger partnerships between Student Government, Union Board, and Funding Board; and the creation of new support resources for student organizations leaders.

"We know there are always leadership turnovers in April for student organizations and wanted to provide additional support during this time to develop and train students to lead their organizations. It has been rewarding to offer these opportunities and see students excited to learn more about team development and goal setting," Dahlgren said.

O'Guinn Finds His Passion In New Student Affairs Role at IU

Dave O'Guinn says nothing has felt more natural to him than moving from being IU's chief litigation counsel to becoming the new Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at IU Bloomington.

As an undergraduate at DePauw University, one of his mentors was the director of student activities, and he was a union board member as a freshman, progressing on to hold a position on the union board's executive board. His deans and mentors there had gone to IU for graduate school, which played a role in O'Guinn going to graduate school in Bloomington as well.

"I BELIEVE WE HAVE THE GREATEST UNION IN THE WORLD, AND I'M PROUD THAT MY OFFICE IS HERE. IT'S AN HONOR FOR ME TO COME TO THE UNION EVERY DAY, AND I NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THAT."

"I had a passion for being involved in student activities and what I learned at DePauw was that what I really loved was planning events that weren't parties and that gave students something to do besides going out and drinking," O'Guinn recalled.

While working on a master's degree in higher education from IU's School of Education, he completed a practicum under former IMU assistant director Mark Guthier. Next, O'Guinn pursued juris doctorate degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he was a special assistant to that school's student union director.

O'Guinn landed his first job out of school planning special events as Quinnipiac College's Assistant Director of the Student Center and Student Activities. He then moved on to Centre College in Kentucky to become its Director of Student Activities and Greek Life.

After a stint in private practice, O'Guinn came on board at IU in 2007 as associate general counsel, was named chief litigation counsel in 2014, and began his new role as vice provost in May 2018.

"I believe we have the greatest union in the world, and I'm proud that my office is here," he said. "It's an honor for me to come to the union every day, and I never lose sight of that."

One of the challenges facing O'Guinn and his staff is taking the rich history and traditions of Indiana Memorial Union and keeping the union experience relevant for today's student. "How do we keep the IMU as the living room of our campus? It's certainly my goal to keep it that way, and I'm looking forward to working closely with Hank to keep it that way," O'Guinn said.

One major step already taken to strengthen student ties to the IMU has been to merge work done by the former office of Student Life and Learning and IMU Activities and Events to create the Student Involvement and Leadership Center. The office includes leadership and community engagement programs, the university food pantry, and student organizations, including Union Board.

"It's just awesome that all of this is now being brought into the union," he said. "This is a major move for the union as an attraction for students."



M. Dave O'Guinn,
Vice Provost for Student
Affairs and Dean of Students

John Whittenberger Society

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Bloomington, IN 47405



IMU DOCUMENTARY TO DEBUT AT BIENNIAL

A long-form documentary that celebrates the history and impact the Indiana Memorial Union and Union Board has had on the campus and culture of Indiana University is being developed by former Union Board Director Jerald Harkness (1990). The story begins in 1909 when John Whittenberger founded Union Board and continues to present day. As part of IU's Bicentennial celebration, the documentary will include dozens of interviews from IU historians, art experts, and past Union Board presidents and directors. Plan to attend its screening during the 41st Annual Biennial Reunion, October 18-20, 2019.

Register now at go.iu.edu/biennial2019

Get involved! Connect with us using the links below.



jws1909@indiana.edu



www.jws.indiana.edu



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www.imu.indiana.edu