In perspective: An inside look at last year’s Dance Marathon

Dear Dance Marathon Alumni,

As all the alumni know, every year around October or November, this little thing we like to call IU Dance Marathon takes place. Last year’s marathon, which was held on Halloween weekend, was an all-out success. Thanks go to all the alumni who came out for the event, but for those of you who were not able to make it, thank you for all the phone calls, e-mails, and encouragement before and throughout the marathon. Here is a recap of some of the events that took place.

Picture that it is eight o’clock on Friday evening. A swarm of more than 600 dancers runs into the orange gym at the HPER building, ready to start their most memorable college experience. These dancers all have smiles on their faces; little do they know what is in store for them. The hours pass, and our wonderful morale committee keeps the dancers and committee members pumped up about the marathon. Mike and Joe, X-Ray Roger Jimmy, the Leonards, Ladies First, Straight No Chaser, and the Dynamics all took their turn entertaining the crowd.

Although each musical act was well-received, nothing could have topped the Riley talent show, when Riley children and their families got on stage to sing karaoke and dance. When Jill-Ann, a Riley patient, got on stage to sing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” she brought everyone to tears, including the three judges who were on stage.

What I am trying to express is my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our 19 members of exec, 200-plus committee members, and 600-plus dancers, who helped us hold one of our most successful marathons ever. We raised a grand total of $403,000.19 for the Ryan White Infectious Disease Center at last year’s marathon. This was an incredible accomplishment for all who were involved. Thank you, once again, to all of the alumni for your unending support of this wonderful cause. We look forward to seeing you Nov. 5–7, and we hope to make this the most successful marathon in history.

For the Kids,
Rachel Auerbach, External VP

Congratulations, 2004 Dance Marathon!

The 2004 IU Dance Marathon raised $468,600.19 for the kids at Riley Hospital for Children — a new record! Congratulations on a great effort by all. We look forward to seeing you and your friends at next year’s Dance Marathon.
To all IUDMC Alumni,
Hello! I hope things are going well with all of you; I know that here at the hospital, we have lots of exciting new developments! Here are two stories written by the Riley Children’s Foundation.

Kohl’s Donates $1.5 million to Automotive Safety Program
One of the greatest dangers facing children is riding in an automobile. Kohl’s Department Stores is partnering with Riley Hospital for Children to improve the safety of Indiana’s children. In September, Kohl’s presented a check for $1.5 million to Riley Hospital’s Automotive Safety Program. The funds directly support the Kohl’s Center for Safe Transportation of Children at Riley, allowing the hospital to provide much-needed car safety education and specialty transportation services to the public.

Effective July 1, 2005, Hoosier children younger than age 8 riding in an automobile must be restrained in an approved car seat or booster seat. In 2003, more than 291,000 Indiana children under age 15 were injured and 2,570 were killed in motor vehicle crashes, while only 16 percent of Hoosier children who needed to be in booster seats actually used them. Young children are nearly four times more likely to suffer devastating injuries — including severe damage to the brain, liver, spleen and spinal cord — when they use a vehicle’s seat belts rather than booster seats.

Through the continued work of Indiana’s legislators, the Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, Riley Hospital and the contributions of community organizations such as Kohl’s, the ambition to improve the safety of children will continue to make progress.

Riley Hospital names first president and CEO
Indiana University School of Medicine’s top dean of research stepped into the role of president and chief executive officer of Riley Hospital for Children in September. A longtime Riley physician, Dr. Pescovitz will continue to treat patients three days a month.

Dr. Richard Schreiner, physician-in-chief, hired Dr. Pescovitz in 1988 and calls her appointment “exciting, promising, and wonderful.”

Kevin O’Keefe, president and CEO of the Riley Children’s Foundation, says the appointment means good news for the foundation’s fund-raising efforts.

 alumni president

in your Dance Marathon contribution.
The marathon is quickly approaching, and the students need all of our help.
As you remember from my spring letter, there is a new check procedure for IUDM Alumni checks. This new procedure is going to allow us to keep better track of the donations so we can send acknowledgement letters for each and every donation. Please begin by sending your checks directly to the Riley Children’s Foundation, making them out to the Riley Children’s Foundation, and marking IUDM Alumni/IU Dance Marathon on the memo line. They can be mailed to Riley Children’s Foundation, 30 S. Meridian St., Suite 200 — Attn: Katherine Cain, Indianapolis, IN 46204. It is very important that you write in the memo line, as the foundation will not know what group your check belongs to if this is not done.

The students in Bloomington will also be sending all alumni checks they receive to the foundation, but if you send them there initially, it will eliminate confusion on each end. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please remember that every little bit helps! Joe Todd has sent a separate letter on this subject, so please be on the lookout for that to arrive in your mailbox very soon.

You will also be receiving a postcard in the mail inviting you back to the 2004 IU Dance Marathon. For the 14th Annual Marathon, Dave “Mongo” Hyatt has planned the First Annual IU Dance Marathon Reunion, and we invite all back to experience this extraordinary weekend. During the weekend of Nov. 5-7, there are activities planned, meals scheduled, and, most important, Nick’s at Six is booked for another year! Please review the details on the postcard and see if you can make it back to Bloomington for this amazing weekend. We are all looking forward to seeing and spending time with friends.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (317) 590-2934 or deannapucci@hotmail.com (e-mail is usually best), and I will be more than happy to help or answer any questions you may have. Thank you again for your time, and I look forward to seeing everyone the weekend of Nov. 5-7!

For the Kids,
Deanna L. Pucci
What can the alumni do? by Emma Mahern, alumni relations chair

“Do it for the kids!” is a phrase that is near and dear to each and every heart that has ever been involved with Indiana University Dance Marathon. But now that you have moved on from your days here at IU, the question may arise, “Do WHAT for the kids?” It is easy to stay involved when surrounded by people working for the great kids at Riley, but now that you have moved on to bigger and better things (although what could be better than an IUDM??), you are probably wondering how you can lend a hand and stay involved. It is simple: Stay connected.

The most obvious way to do this is to make sure that we have your updated contact information, letting us know how to get information to you in the best and fastest way possible. This will allow us to contact you with our needs as they arise. But we also want you to know more: Let us know if you have a great Riley story, or have had some encounter that you want to share. Your perspective will give those of us still in the trenches a much-needed pick-me-up. Also, let us know if you have a great Riley story, or have had some encounter that you want to share. Your perspective will give those of us still in the trenches a much-needed pick-me-up.

Another great way to stay connected is to come back for the marathon itself. What could be more fun; reliving the “good ol’ days” with DM? We have lots of stuff for you to do the marathon weekend of Nov. 5-7. On Friday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m., there will be an alumni gathering before the marathon starts to kick off the big weekend. Then on Saturday, Nov. 6, there will be a brunch at Oliver Winery, an alumni meeting, and the annual Nick’s @ 6 tradition. Finally, on Sunday morning, there will be a brunch at Runcible Spoon after the close of the marathon. So, get back to Bloomington and get involved with the 2005 IUDM.

So … what are you waiting for? Come on, “Do it for the kids!”

My most memorable moment …

Committee, everyone was looking to me to keep them motivated. I had just hit a time in the marathon when I was completely drained physically and emotionally. It was to the point where my body couldn’t do anything more than cry. So there I was, on Morale, crying, trying to keep everyone else up, when I could barely do it myself. All of the sudden, a mother walks up to me and gives me a great big hug. She was a Riley mom. She asked why I was crying, and I explained to her that I didn’t feel like I could do it anymore. She grabbed my hand, looked me in the eyes, and said, “You are standing for my child. You are dancing for my child. You are raising money for my child. Thank you.”

Immediately after, she hugged me. My tears dried as she pulled out a little gold safety pin. Attached was a gold heart. As she pinned it on my shirt, she said, “You are a part of my heart because you are helping my son live.” That was enough. I don’t think I have ever had as much energy as I had those last three hours. Although I knew very well the true reason I was there, it did not hit me until the Riley mom came and connected with me on a personal level. She was my angel that marathon, and she will not be forgotten.

— Chrissy Harmas
Committee reports

Alumni Relations
The Alumni Relations Committee has been working hard to increase communication with our alumni. This year, we have created both a new IUDM alumni database with the IU Alumni Association and an updated alumni e-mail list, and we’ve been working with the IUDM Alumni Council to promote and plan our first IUDM reunion. This year saw the first annual IUDM golf tournament at Sagamore Country Club. It was great to see some of our alumni present to support such a great event, and we hope to see you at next year’s tournament!

Be sure to make it to the reunion this year, as we would love to see you!

Please feel free to contact me with your questions or comments at any time.

— Dave “Mongo” Hyatt

External Fund Raising
The External Fund-Raising Committee boldly started the marathon’s fund-raising campaign this last April. Our first fund-raiser, Spring Road Rules, was a complete success that raised more than $9,000, almost four times what this same fund-raiser raised last year. This fall, we are working on the next Road Rules fund-raiser, and we hope to surpass the spring’s total. We are also very excited about Roses for Riley. This fund-raiser involves sending committee members to the bars to sell roses for the kids at Riley.

The External Fund-Raising Committee, along with the rest of the council, eagerly anticipates the great challenges and rewards that the upcoming weeks hold.

— John Vujovich

Internal Fund Raising
The Internal Fund-Raising Committee has been working diligently this fall to implement a new receipt procedure for large monetary donations. Each donation is documented and copied for potential audit purposes, and a thank-you letter (that doubles as a tax receipt) is printed and mailed to the donor. Our goal for future years is to contact each donor, but this year we are testing the process and sending these receipts for donations for $100 and above.

Additionally, our committee fund-raiser for this fall is a cell-phone drive, for which we have collected more than 200 phones thus far. The price we receive for each phone varies, from a very nominal amount to more than $100 per phone, depending on the model. Not only will the money we raise benefit Riley, but the old cell phones will either be recycled or refurbished for use in third-world countries.

— Kristin Selund

Morale
The Morale Committee has been working very hard as of late to prepare the dancers for one of the greatest line dances of IUDM history. This year’s line dance is of a more eclectic style. We also have been planning new and exciting games for the marathon, such as Whose Line Is It Any- way? and Human Checkers. We held our first big fund-raising event for the semester on Sunday, Sept. 19: a carwash at O’Malia’s Grocery Store, off College Mall Road. Morale will be pumped and ready to go at the marathon … believe me!

— Kyle Dietz

Public Relations
This fall, the Public Relations Committee has been working diligently on a variety of media projects. Our first task was to create an updated brochure to give to different business, canning locations, and potential sponsors as a quick informational guide about the marathon.

Currently, we are working on the IUDM press kit, which will be sent out to major Indy television and radio stations. The IUDM magazine is also in the works, and this year we really hope to get part of it printed in color!

Another item we have been working on is setting up the B97 sponsorship. We hope to strengthen our partnership with them into becoming our largest corporate donor yet!

— Denise Feldman

Operations
This semester, the Operations Committee has hit the ground running. Our team consists of one returning member, Joe Keck, and several others who were involved in the mass member program last year. Danica Werhand, Katie Hanlon, Lauren Hutchson, and Kristy Scherer have really set the pace, working hard on a mass member program with vast potential. As we gear up for the marathon, the Operations Committee looks forward to the challenge of bringing in the most money per person, as well as putting on the greatest IU Dance Marathon ever — for the kids!

— Chris Carlson

Riley Development
The Riley Development Committee has increased in both size and workload this year. With a total of 16 committee members, the committee has taken on many new tasks; including providing chair education to all committees and updating a Ryan White montage video, which will be played for all of the dancers at the marathon.

It has been business as usual when it comes to sending chairpersons on Riley tours and decorating the Riley tent. We hope to have more than 15 Riley families come to the marathon, which would be our biggest total ever.

Last year’s Riley Kid Talent Show was a big hit, so we are making it the focal point of our marathon activities this year. It is shaping up to be a wonderful year for the Riley Development Committee and for all of IUDMC.

— Matt Sowder

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Committee reports  
(continued from page 4)

**Board of Managers**
This year’s Board of Managers has been hard at work, focusing on initiatives to make this marathon the best yet. Vice President of Communications Dan Koors has been working over the past year-and-a-half on branding the IUDM name and logos. As the creative mind behind the marathon, he has developed promotions, public relations, and marketing tools.

Rachel Auerbach has been working extremely hard on finding other sources for fund raising, such as the sale of merchandise items comparable to the Lance Armstrong “Live Strong” bracelets. Product sales may be the future for IUDM fund raising. Ashley Crouse, VP Internal, has been the point person for the operation of the marathon. She has worked all year long to ensure that the marathon is the most action-packed one yet. Finally, Brendy Lange, VP Finance, has attempted to make IUDM’s finances more of a streamlined process. He added online donations to our Web site and created IUDM’s first formal budget, which could help attract more sponsors in years to come.

— Brendy Lange, Rachel Auerbach, and Ashley Crouse

**Promotions**
The Promotions Committee has had a very busy semester. We have been chalking our little hearts out for bar nights and call-outs, along with promoting the Dancer Call-out and Mass Member Call-out. Right now, we are working with the Students Volunteer Bureau to recruit more dancers, along with the Residence Hall folks to spread the word about IUDM to underclassmen.

My committee and I have had a wonderful time and are looking forward to making this the best marathon ever!

— Lisa Babcock

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**ANNOUNCING**

The **Indiana University Alumni Association** is pleased to announce an easy, affordable way to become a **life member**: our new, no-interest monthly payment plan! For $55 a month for 10 months you can pay off your life membership!

Simply choose the monthly payment plan option on any membership application or renewal form, submit it with your first payment of $55, and we’ll send you monthly bills for the remaining nine payments.

*It’s that easy!*

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Morale director Kyle Dietz exchanges a high five with a Riley patient at the annual Riley Carnival put on by the Indiana University Dance Marathon.
Dance Notes

Dance Notes is published by the IU Alumni Association for the IUDM Alumni Council to encourage alumni interest in and support for IU. For membership information, please call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to iualumni@indiana.edu.

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Dance Marathon Alumni: What’s new with you?

The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Its purpose, in addition to providing us with your class note, is to keep IU’s alumni records accurate and up to date. To verify and update your information online, visit our online alumni directory at www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory.

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