

Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2010 • Vol. 3



INDIANA UNIVERSITY Outdoor Adventures

A publication of the Indiana University Alumni Association



LIFE AFTER IUOA ...

Jamie Crawford, BA'05



I left Indiana, college life, and the warmth of belonging to IUOA in August of 2005. I drove straight to Salt Lake City, full of ideas about the outdoorsy life.

I stayed in Salt Lake for two tough years as a field instructor for a therapeutic wilderness program for adolescents. Through a strange bit of coincidence (or dare I say destiny?), my immediate supervisor at Second Nature was fellow IUOA alumna Karen Hesselman. I learned a lot during my stay in Utah and the world of wilderness therapy, but soon got restless for new and different adventures.

I took all of my hard earned wilderness program money and immediately spent it all on a backpacking trip to Europe. I came back home a lot poorer, not much wiser, and with only the beginnings of a plan. It involved a long drive to Washington State and an old friend from IUOA named Liam Elio.

"LIFE AFTER IUOA IS STILL PRETTY RAD."

Liam and I had e-mailed a little over the two years since graduation. We had never been very close friends but had shared some classes and some trips. We had passed by each other on various cross-country drives, and all I knew was that he lived in some sleepy little college town north of Seattle. I can't say I thought much more about it,

continued on page 5

IUOA nestles into new home in Eigenmann!

by Ginelle Heller

IUOA moved to Eigenmann in early January 2010, leaving behind many great memories in the Indiana Memorial Union (IMU) and opening the doors for many more. We will now operate as a satellite branch of the IMU, an auxiliary unit of Indiana University.

One of the most exciting aspects of the move is that we have an actual tent room that is part of the central space. Who knows (and who cares?) how they will use the room for which we all had so many names — Area 5, Unit 5, and the Dungeon. We love having our most heavily used gear item close by and closer to daylight.

We now have a room dedicated to boats with canoe racks that are on-wheels. And even better — we now have a loading dock! Remember the days of carrying boats up and down the stairs going from the green awning down to the loading dock? Those days are over. Now students and leaders can save all that energy for the river.

The campus installed a fire-safe room for us with special ventilation for equipment such as lanterns, stoves, and fuel. As much

continued on page 5

>> INSIDE: Fungi to new guy
Leader profiles

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, my fellow alumni!

It has been a year since our last newsletter. A lot has happened, and I would like to share that with you. First, I hope you are all doing well and your families are surviving the economic fallout. It seems like things might be getting better but I know times are still difficult and still many Americans are losing their jobs. I have personally been fortunate enough to stay in business; however, it has been slow and scary at times. It is certainly a time to adjust our needs and wants and live simply again. My thoughts and prayers go out to those of you struggling through these times.

On an exciting note, we awarded the IUOA Memorial Scholarship for the first time this year. Josh Cisney, an IUOA trip leader, received a \$400 scholarship for the school year of 2010-2011. Applications were due by the end of February, and we awarded the scholarship at the annual Trip Leader picnic on April 30. It was great to finally get this project into motion as this was our goal when we started IUOA Alumni Association. This annual scholarship will be awarded at the end of each school year. All alumni are encouraged to attend the picnic in support of the scholarship.

I imagine that it might be difficult to keep up with news and events, so we tried to make it easier. We managed to jump on the train of the future — or current outlet via the internet. Facebook! IUOAAA has a Facebook page where we will post reunion events, scholarship updates, Board meetings, openings to serve on the alumni board, etc. So far we have seen a great response, and it seems like this is an easy means to communicate what is new without cluttering your e-mail boxes. Please add posts to the page with events you will be attending, places you are going to perhaps run into old friends, or just say hi! Our past reunion pictures are uploaded for those who missed out on the great fun.

It's always nostalgic to go back to IU. It is beautiful no matter what time of year. Even though some of the old establishments got a facelift, the memories and stories remain the same. When I was walking along Kirkwood in November, I realized how clean the town was. I thought it was amazing that a college town could keep itself looking so nice. Nick's and Irish Lion have not changed a bit. The people watching is always top notch come late night. Pizza Express breadsticks — delicious! Oh, and the ATM on Kirkwood ... super loud buttons. I look forward to returning again soon and hope to see some new and old faces. Please keep in touch and be a part of our community.

Take care, Karen Hesselman, BS'01

2010 IUOA Spring Picnic filled with food, frisbee, and friends

Picnics are not supposed to make you sore. Picnics are only supposed to leave you full from consuming too many brats and burgers. But as is typical for an enthusiastic, character-filled group of individuals like IUOA, this year's April picnic exceeded the norm. I went home both filled with tasty food and sore from too many hours of the wackiest Frisbee game you've ever seen.

Feeding and entertaining 60 people was a big deal. However, the core purpose of the event is to recognize the immeasurable contributions Trip Leaders and other staff have made over the past year towards carrying out the mission of IUOA. With so many trips throughout the year, IUOA relies heavily on the committed involvement of so

rial scholarship. Before presenting the award, Dave Calvin shared the sad history which motivated him, Rob Holman, Tom Mathews, Jon Fisher, and Cathy Taylor to memorialize the loss of two IUOA co-leaders through the scholarship. The board selected Cisney based on his demonstrated commitment to community service, volunteerism, and leadership within IUOA.

Finally, alumni are always welcome to the annual picnic. If you were unable to attend this year, we hope to see you next spring. It's



THE IUOAAA AWARDED ITS FIRST EVER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP!

many students and outside professionals, including 70 Trip Leaders and Instructors, 12 Adventure Specialists handling gear rental and retail sales, and four part-time student staff coordinating major events, marketing the program, and supporting the academic courses. The greatest aspect of the annual picnic is simply the chance to call these folks out in front of their peers to say, "thank you."

This year's picnic also highlighted a major accomplishment for the IUOA Alumni Association.

After diligent effort by members of the IUOAAA Board, Josh Cisney, from Berne, Ind., became the first to receive the association's memo-

one of the best ways to annually reconnect with former co-leaders and to meet the new faces of IUOA. And the food and Frisbee are pretty good, too!

— Dustin Smucker

2009–10 Awards

Leader-in-Training:

Mike Shaw

Trip Leader:

Tyler Kivland
and Seth Pettit

Significant Contribution:

Chris Noel and Tim Street

IUOAAA Memorial Scholarship:

Josh Cisney

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Stay in contact with your favorite college organization IUOA! All memories and new adventures welcome!

Information

Categories: Organizations - Clubs & Societies

Description: Alumni Association to maintain a connection and stay in touch with IUOA Alumni and Friends. Also serve to support the current IUOA students through sponsorship, events and fun!

David Calvin I will be there. What about Whitney, Venus, Paige, Josh, Colorado, Ben others in the area that I am not aware of. Welcome others for this our first scholarship offering March 25 at 10:30am - Flag

Kate Smucker-Oates The IUOA Trip Leader up. Will you be there? It will be 5pm, Friday Cascades Waterfall Shelter. The evening will be awards, and the first ever IUOAAA Memorial earlier in the day to give yourself time to do See More March 19 at 11:55am - Flag

Jennifer Gentry Hey IUOA ALUMNI! Do you know that the IUOA Alumni Association scholarship? This scholarship is to commi



Williams



Meier



Greenberg

SPOTLIGHT ON THREE IUOA LEADERS

I recently interviewed three IUOA trip leaders that have served with Outdoor Adventures since 2002. *Mary Williams*, executive director of the Wilderness Education Association and OA leader trainer; *Kyle Meier*, student and OA trip leader studying outdoor recreation; and *Wendy Greenberg*, student and OA assistant trip leader, studying art and telecommunications.

Written by Kim Collins, Assistant Program Coordinator

What brought you to IUOA? And what keeps you interested in leading trips?

MW: I got involved through a Wilderness Freshman Orientation trip (WFO). I learned a lot about IUOA through that and while taking an R-1 Sea Kayaking course. On the course, Greg Martz told me I should work for OA, so I started showing up to Trip Leader meetings. One day in the old office, Cal referred to my contract, and I said, "What contract?" Back in the day, if you wanted to be involved with OA, you could just show up and they might have let you in!

KM: My first year at IU I lived in the outdoor adventures residence hall. I realized what an awesome and unique opportunity it was to become an outdoor trip leader. Climbing, kayaking, backpacking, caving, skiing ... how could I not get involved? I love to take people out on adventures and have experiences that, in some cases, last a lifetime. I also love all those outdoorsy folk! I've met so many great people and made some lifelong friends.

WG: I heard of OA during my freshman orientation and actually had wanted to do a WFO, but I did not have the funds for it at the time. I did sign up for an R113 backpacking class, and took an R-1 every semester until second semester of my sophomore year, when I decided to join OA as a leader. I had always been interested in the outdoors, but I just figured I was not experienced enough to be a leader. After taking an R-1 Rock Climbing course, I decided that I could probably do a decent job at teaching and I wanted to meet more people who enjoyed the outdoors as much as I do.

What was your best IUOA trip?

I hinted that we wanted to hear the best, not necessarily the most memorable...

MW: (*Author's note: Immediately Mary gave a me the look that said, "You know what trip it is..." so I had to reemphasize the BEST, not most memorable. If you did not know already, Mary has more unbelievable IUOA stories than maybe even Cal.*) My favorite trip is a white-water rafting trip with Prinsen and Kelly Boner. We had a great group of students and I wish all trips could be that fun.

KM: My best trip was Sleeping Bear Dunes coastal kayaking, a 2008 WFO. It was just such a fun and laid-back trip. The participants were really positive, energetic, and just plain fun. At the end of the trip I saw how positively this experience affected them, and seeing that makes it my best trip.

WG: My favorite trip with OA was a backpacking trip that I took this fall to the Two Lakes Trail. It was the first time I really felt like I was leading a trip where I knew what I was teaching. I felt like I did a good job inspiring the participants to go backpacking more and it was a good group of people. I also bonded with the other leaders, Josh Cisney and Audrey Speicher, and they treated me like an equal instead of a leader-in-training. The weather was beautiful, and it was a fantastic way to spend a fall weekend.

What is one wish you have for IUOA or for future trip leaders?

MW: I wish for OA and our students that we always foster a culture of learning, fun, and personal accountability. These things are important to the success of OA, as an

organization, and for providing students opportunities to grow as leaders.

KM: I would love to see IUOA just build upon the strong foundation already in place: taking people out into the great outdoors and creating competent outdoor leaders.

WG: Provide more staff-only trips and events! I joined OA to meet other people who love the outdoors, so we need to get those who don't work in the office more involved besides going on an R-1 once a semester. In addition, a group who knows each other on a personal level does a better job at leading together.

What is your trip specialty?

MW: I am interested in training trip leaders into educators. I want to develop educational and group management skills in leaders of all types.

KM: They call me the Riddler... OK, not really... but they should! I have so many riddles up my sleeve, it will knock your socks off!

WG: I feel that my strongest skill is in teaching backpacking. I always hope to inspire participants to get outdoors and be active, whether that is climbing a mountain or going for a nice hike.

Through this interview process, I noticed in the past eight years many of us came to OA for similar reasons. I hope that we can continue growing and developing OA's training capabilities to be exciting and intriguing so others join our mission, to provide quality outdoor programming to the students of Indiana University. I cannot wait to celebrate my fifth year with OA this fall!

From Fungi to New Guy

Past and current IUOA directors share insights about the program

From David "Cal" Calvin

I recall the days of signing my professional letters at IU as "the outdoor fungi" and then signing my name a line or two below. The idea in my mind was "fun guy." That later evolved to IUOA students implying I was old.

Nonetheless, I enjoyed my signature and many others did as well. However, after a few years the administration did not think highly of my professionalism. The pun stopped and I had the pleasure of a new dress code, including wearing a tie. I expressed my tie wearing "professionalism" as somewhat questionable within the outdoor industry, but it fell on deaf ears. Eventually, I figured out that students and student committees possessed a *huge* influence with IU administrators. So, various IUOA student committees were established to further the development of IUOA and help in the development of a realistic dress code for IUOA staff and students.

It doesn't take much to see the significant development and improvements that students have made with our outdoor program over the years. The power of the students, student committees, and student programming at IU is wonderful

and provided me over 16 years of enjoyment as the program coordinator at IU.

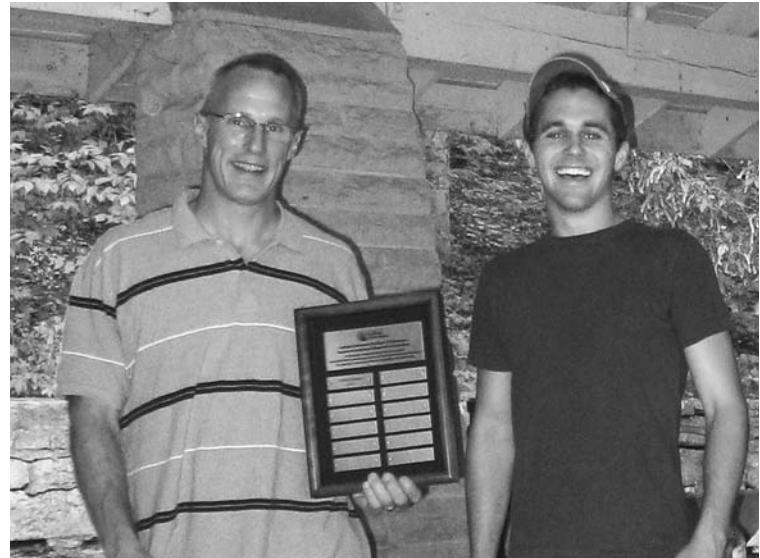
In short, I started in 1993 when IUOA was housed with the bowling and billiards center, and I was one of two graduate assistants responsible for the program. At the time, IUOA had a \$30,000 budget, some great climbing gear for about 10 people, 12 tents and sleeping bags, and a few stoves and lanterns to compliment our 8-10 trips and courses per semester. IUOA (named IMU Outfitters at the time) had about six trip leaders/skills course instructors at the time, and I had no idea their level of outdoor experience (there were no applications on file and no leadership training). Obviously the program has greatly expanded through the years, and each of you deserve credit.

Growth in number of participants, number of student leaders, and an increased budget over the years has been wonderful, but the efforts of each and every past and current trip leader have been more important. Occasionally some advice from the administrative staff facilitated the process, but the student leaders in IUOA were the driving force of the organization's success. I thank each of you for your help, friendship, and devotion over the years. I will always cherish the memories as we improved IUOA in some aspect and made it known as a credible outdoor program throughout the nation.

IU Outdoor Adventures Alumni Association (IUOAAA) is a great way to keep in contact with alumni of the program. I would encourage each of you to join the new IUOAAA Facebook site as one of the "oldies" of the IUOA program. I first became aware of Facebook in 2004 when IUOA alumna Kris Taylor invited me to befriend her site. Not being the most computer savvy person (I know, it's shocking) I avoided the commitment, but recently made the plunge. Thank you for your patience, Kris!

I vacated my full-time position at IU officially June 30, 2008. I am now a full-time fireman/EMT and still enjoy the benefits of working at IU as a part-time employee. My family and I call Bloomington home, so please let me know if you're in the area as I would enjoy catching up with you and hopefully you would enjoy seeing the new IUOA facilities at Eigenmann and meeting the "new guy" – Dustin Smucker. Dustin and I get together often and I am amazed at his passion and loyalty to continue to improve IUOA. He is truly the right person to help IUOA remain a first-class student outdoor program.

"THE POWER OF THE STUDENTS ... AT IU IS WONDERFUL."



Cal with the first-ever IUOAAA scholarship winner, Josh Cisney, at the 2010 picnic.

From Dustin Smucker

When I was a young, impressionable kid my dad told me that the only thing that stayed the same is that everything changes. Over the past couple of years, those sage words have been a personal theme as well as a reality for IUOA and Cal. Cal brought unbelievable growth to IUOA during his 16-year tenure. Like he says above, budgets grew and trip numbers exploded. But my impression is that Cal's real impact went way beyond the astounding growth measured by numbers. For dozens, if not hundreds, of trip leaders, through Cal's leadership, IUOA became their vital social and recreational network.

Well before Kris Taylor invited Cal onto Facebook in 2004, IUOA was connecting like-minded students and fostering lasting friendships. These friendships were born out of rainy nights in the Hoosier National Forest, steep climbs at the Red River Gorge, and grueling road trips to the Rio Grande. While handling the unending challenges of program administration, Cal remained focused on empowering students to develop their leadership abilities by filling their calendars with powerful outdoor adventure opportunities.



After his first year, Dustin is passionate about continuing the IUOA tradition.

DUSTIN *continued from page 4*

I want that prioritized focus to continue. However I admit it can be easy to become derailed and swamped with administrative and budgetary demands. This was particularly true during my first year in this position as I worked hard to fully understand the complexities and histories of IUOA's programs.

Instructing courses has always provided the most powerful reminder of the student leadership focus that ought to forever best describe IUOA. Last fall, while on an R145 Intermediate Rock Climbing course, the two co-leaders took on critical leadership roles, instructing technical aspects of anchor construction

"ALUMNI: THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO CREATE THE HISTORY OF IUOA AND FOR ALL YOU CONTINUE TO DO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT LEADERS."

and facilitating group dialogues aimed at processing the students' experiences. These genuine leadership experiences developed essential qualities that are infinitely transferable to subsequent leadership opportunities. And we had a super fun time climbing and teaching together!

Stories of incredible experiences with IUOA may seem like a distant memory for those of you who have moved on from IU. You probably are not about to call me up and ask how you can lead a backpacking course to the Morgan-Monroe State Forest. But your involvement can be no less active. You can make simple contributions like spreading the word in your community about IUOA, joining us at the alumni-sponsored trip leader picnics, or even just encouraging friends to participate in their own local outdoor adventures.

My personal story is that without the recommendation of an IUOA alumnus, I would never have found this position — thanks Frank! Alumni: thank you for all you have done to create the history of IUOA and for all you continue to do to participate in the development of student leaders.

NEW HOME

continued from cover



as we all loved jumping out the window (from the Mezzanine floor, not the old Activities Desk level) or testing stoves on the solarium patio, we don't have to anymore. In our new home we also have a much larger retail space, a lounge with comfy couches, a resource library, and a television.

The most exciting news (yes, I have saved the best for last) is the new bouldering wall, to be installed this summer. Lockers pictured above are in the entrance to what will be the bouldering room.

We surely outgrew our old space. It's will be exciting to see what this new home brings to our program.

LIFE AFTER IU *continued from cover*

and after a phone conversation or two, I found myself driving all of my belongings to the furthest northwest corner of the United States.

Starting a business

Bellingham, Wash., is accurately and hilariously nicknamed the "City of Subdued Excitement." We host a modest sized, liberal university, a sweeping view of the San Juan Islands and Mt. Baker, and a whole lot of quirky townies — it's Bloomington with more interesting topography. Liam and I decided we would make excellent roommates, but what happened from there still remains a mystery even to us. Complicated and inexplicable events led to the acquisition of a school bus, some pretty good business connections, and a whole lot of less-than-brilliant ideas, and before long we had started our own nonprofit.

Live Consciously (www.liveconscioulsy.org) began in February of 2009. Despite the pretentious name, our aims are modest; let's do what we can to build the kind of sustainable and responsible community we want to live in.

We use the school bus to bring strangers together and run classic, IUOA-inspired trips like white water rafting, snowshoeing, and full-moon hikes. We host community events, some simple like our monthly dinner-and-discussion potlucks, and some elaborate like our embarrassingly epic Thrillingham 2010 (you can check out the videos on YouTube).

Lifelong connections

I never cease to be amazed at the ties I still have to the folks I worked with at IUOA, way back when. Here Liam and I are, 5 years later, running a business together out of our basement. Another IUOA alumnus, **Andy Prinsen**, designed our logo. Some of our original board members are old IUOA friends, too — Mary Williams and Skippy Baker. Hell, I still call **Karen Hesselman** for business advice. Who would have known that the lessons we learned and the bonds that we formed would find ways to keep our lives intertwined? Life after IUOA is still pretty rad. — *Jamie Crawford*

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