

Dance Notes

Dance Marathon Alumni Council

Indiana University Alumni Association & Dance Marathon Council

Spring 2004

Letter from the IU DMC president

Dear Dance Marathon Alumni:

I would, first of all, like to congratulate the 2003 IU DMC council for an amazing Marathon — more than \$403,000 raised for the kids at Riley Hospital for Children. The hard work and dedication put into this Marathon was wonderful, and I can say I am proud of everyone involved!

It is now time to start thinking about the next Marathon, and that means a new DM alumni board. I have taken on the role of president and will remain in that position until the 2005 Marathon. I am very excited about my new role and feel that, with the help of my board, we will make great things happen for IU DMC alumni.

We have reorganized the board to better serve you. I feel this will give more validity to the group and will allow us to work with everyone more effectively. The members and their terms are as follows:

President: Deanna Pucci, '03-'05

Vice President: Joe Todd, '03-'05

Secretary/Treasurer: Megan Richards, '03-'04

Internal Board Members: Amy Carroll Balcus, '03-'04; Sam Rogers, '03-'05

External Board Members: John Moran, '03-'04; J Ryan Williams, '03-'05

All positions will be two-year terms, but we did not want to have all new people rotate on at once so a few members opted for a one-year term this year to make everything work out in the future.

Immediate past president Jen Morrow, BS'95, is serving *ex officio* on the board.

The roles of each board member have been defined and are outlined here.

President

- Sets goals and vision for Riley Children's Foundation and Hospital;

- Maintains DM alumni board; and
- Works with technology director on effectively utilizing alumni section of Web site.

Vice President

- Sets goals and vision for Riley Children's Foundation and Hospital;
- Oversees the external board members;

- Creates and maintains the operating budget capital campaign; and
- Supports the president.

Secretary/Treasurer

- Sets goals and vision for Riley Children's Foundation and Hospital;
- Oversees the internal board members;
- Assists alumni director with events and alumni database;
- Maintains budget; and
- Acts as liaison between IUAA and the alumni board.

Internal Board Members

- Plan DM council retreats;
- Work with IUAA and the alumni database;
- Plan Marathon Weekend for alumni returning to Bloomington;
- Work with alumni director to improve communication between students and alumni; and
- Maintain DM mentor program.

External Board Members

- Maintain operating budget campaign;
- Improve alumni fund raising through alumni-based campaigns and



events; and

- Maintain and improve communication between the current council and alumni.

We have had two board meetings since the board was developed, and I am excited about the new structure and the board members selected to work with me over the next few years.

There is a new check procedure for IU DMC alumni checks that will allow us to better track the donations and will allow you to receive acknowledgement letters for each and every donation. Please begin sending your checks directly to the Riley Children's Foundation, making them out to the Riley Children's Foundation and marking "IU DMC Alumni/IU Dance Marathon" on the memo line. It is very important that you write in the memo line so that the foundation will know what group your check belongs to. The students in Bloomington will also be sending all alumni checks that they receive to the foundation, but, if you send them here to begin with, it will eliminate confusion on each end. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

We also have a new IU Dance Mara-

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Meet your board



► I am the IU Dance Marathon alumni board president. I live in Indianapolis and am a fund-raiser for the Riley Children's Foundation. During my time at IU, I participated in Dance Marathon as a dancer, marketing chair, and then alumni relations/reception director for the 1999 event. I am very excited about my current position with the alumni board and hope to increase communication and involvement among everyone. We have a great board in place and great ideas to make the IUDM alumni council the best it can be!



— Deanna Pucci

► I serve as the vice president of the IU Dance Marathon alumni board. I live in Indianapolis and work in sales/marketing for my family-owned business, Coatings Solutions. As an undergraduate, I was the IU Dance Marathon director of operations in 1998 and



► I am the secretary/treasurer for the IU Dance Marathon alumni board. Currently I am living in Indianapolis and finishing my nursing degree at IUPUI. I will graduate in May and have accepted a job as an RN in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Riley Hospital. I spent four years with Dance Marathon, two as a dancer and then as director of dancer relations for the 2001 Marathon and external vice president in 2002. I am honored to represent the Dance Marathon alumni and look forward to working with the incredible members of the alumni board.

— Megan Richards

► I'm one of the IU Dance Marathon alumni board's internal members. Throughout my term, I'll be focused on planning retreats, developing the mentor program, and helping plan alumni activities at the Marathon. While at IU, I was privileged to be a part of the first three Dance Marathons as reception director, Riley development, and president. I live in Indianapolis with my husband, Minda, daughter, Sofia, and "Baby Balcius," whom we are expecting in August. I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Marathon in November!

— Amy Carroll Balcius

► I am one of the IU Dance Marathon alumni board's internal members. I graduated from IU in 2000 with a degree in finance and international business, and

I currently work for my family's business outside of Richmond. I was a mass member in '96, fund-raising chair in '97, director of fund raising in '98, and internal vice president in '99. I am very excited to be a part of this board. I think that we alumni can be a powerful group, with the ability to really help the executive council improve the Marathon, as well as become a fund-raising force. All of the great members of the alumni board are dedicated to that cause!

— Sam Rogers

► I graduated from the Kelley School of Business in May of 2003. I'm from Chicago and have moved back there to start a career in financial planning. My involvement with Dance Marathon has been as dancer, chair, director of operations, and finance vice president. I am very excited to remain involved with Dance Marathon as an external alumni board member. One of my major goals is to keep Chicago-area alumni involved in the Dance Marathon family.

— John Moran

► I graduated from Indiana University in 2002. During my time at IU, I was IUDM director of morale, '99-'00, and external vice president, 00-'01. I am currently one of the external board members on the alumni council. I live in Louisville, where I am studying medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. I'm extremely excited about continuing my involvement with IUDM and look forward to working with this year's executive council.

— J Ryan Williams

Letter from the president

(continued from page 1)

thon Web site for you to check out: www.indiana.edu/~iudmc/. We have an "Alumni" section on the site (under "Staff") for alumni updates and information. Please bear with us as we work through the logistics of posting information, but do continue to check regularly for updated news and information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (317) 590-2934 or dpucci@rileykids.org (e-mail is usually best) and I will be more than happy to help. Also, I am trying to collect as many e-mail addresses as possible to create a DM alumni e-mail distribution list so please send me your e-address if you would like to be added.

For the kids,
Deanna L. Pucci

Committee reports



Public Relations

This year the Public Relations Committee worked diligently to increase public awareness of IU Dance Marathon on the local, regional, and national levels through the use of media and special events. In addition to working with the media, we also designed a new digital press kit, which we sent out to more than 20 media organizations. The press kit included such information as our mission statement, facts about Riley and IUDM, and a press release for the Marathon, along with more information about our organization.

We worked closely with B97, a Bloomington radio station, to run commercials promoting special events and fund-raising weekends. The committee worked with both the Technology and Promotions committees to produce the IUDM slide show and video, as well as to develop letters that were sent to parents of the participants informing them of their son/daughter's involvement, information about the event, and order forms for the video and magazine ads.

Finally, we developed a 25-page magazine that covered our sponsors, the participants, Riley stories, fun facts, and special events of the year.

This year, the Marathon was a huge success! Over the year, I developed a statement that I will leave you with, which describes what the Marathon has come to mean to me over the years:

Dance Marathon means making a difference in a culture that often loses sight of what is truly important in life. During the final hours of the Marathon, when I'm tired, sore, and I don't think I can make it, I look into the eyes of a Riley child and realize just how precious life can be. It's amazing to witness the strength, courage, and hope the children of Riley possess. In the end, Dance Marathon means working with an amazing group of individuals to give hope to those who hold all the hope in the world.

— Catlin Blewitt

Development

On June 1, the day after the annual Riley Telethon, the Riley Development Committee held a special IUDM day at the Children's Museum in Indianapolis. All of the council was invited to come to spend the day with our Riley families.

We had five families in attendance, four of which were returning marathoners.

Families and council members were able to roam the museum and interact throughout the afternoon. To conclude the event, we had lunch, which was catered by Auntie Anne's Pretzels. Then each Riley kid was paired with a committee member for a scavenger hunt. The kids followed their clues, which led them through the entire museum. When they finished, all of the kids were given a special prize.

Overall, the event was a huge success. New council members were able to socially interact with our Riley families, and all of the kids had a wonderful time. I hope that this can become an annual event for IU Dance Marathon.

— Matt Sowder

Most memorable experience

The most memorable Dance Marathon experience for me happened earlier this year when we had the opportunity to hang out with Riley kids at the Children's Museum in Indianapolis. I had the honor of being a scavenger hunt guide for Mallory, a girl who has truly touched my heart since first being involved with the organization. Her exciting attitude and never-ending enthusiasm were inspirational for all of us. Seeing the kids' smiles proved to be a great reminder of why we work so hard all year.

— Ryan Bulan

Special Events

This year's annual IUDM date auction benefiting Riley Hospital for Children was a complete hit. It took place on Thursday, Oct. 9, at Kilroy's Sports Bar in Bloomington. The upstairs bar was packed full of people waiting in anticipation for Dance Marathon's biggest and most popular fund-raising event to get started.

There was a total buzz around the Bloomington campus in the days before the date auction because of the well-known host coming all the way from Los Angeles to help out with the event. MTV's *Real World: Back to New York* cast

member Malik came to Bloomington to be the host of the event, and he stole the show. Alongside him, auctioneer Aaron Wilson (2003 morale member) put in his efforts to make sure the event was a huge success, and it was.

The auction brought in close to \$3,000 for the kids. IU athletes, cheerleaders, and others (including Malik) were auctioned off as dates. Some of the date packages included IU basketball tickets, dinners to Grazie and Puccini's, and Pacers basketball tickets. The Dance Marathon date auction will, for sure, be an event that will continue to be a success throughout the years and raise tons of money for the kids at Riley!

— Carrie Watt

Entertainment

The Entertainment Committee kept a tradition alive this year by having Straight No Chaser and Ladies First again perform at Alumni Hall in the Union to raise money for the kids at Riley. We started this in 2001 and have made a decision to continue it from here on out.

The concert was a great success, and we raised more than \$2,000 in one night. My chairs and I worked hard to set up the concert, and Ladies First and Straight No Chaser did an awesome job for us. Next year, check the Web site to see when the concert will be and try to make it down for a great time listening to two of the best college a cappella groups.

— Rob Shoemaker

Catering

The catering at this year's Marathon was a huge success. The Catering Committee was made up of 12 of the hardest working, most dedicated people that I could have asked for. We had several new sponsors this year, including Gatorade, Krispy Kreme, and Golden Corral.

In addition to those, our favorite sponsors all returned, including Pizza King, Kilroy's, Roly Poly, and Crystal Pure.

There was also tremendous support from the Greek Houses.

Being a member of the 2003 executive council for the 2003 IU Dance Marathon was an amazing experience that I will always hold near to my heart.

This year's Marathon was extremely successful, as I'm sure it will be in years to come.

— Amy Myjack

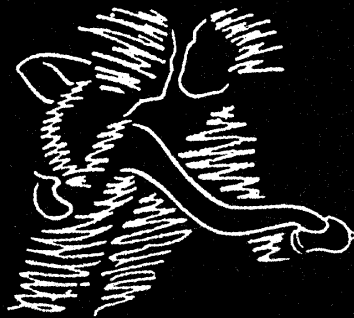


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Dance Notes

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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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