

IUPUI ATHLETICS



FOR ALL

The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign

FOR ALL WHO RAISE THE BAR

For IUPUI Athletics, this is a time of great significance and opportunity. In only its fifth decade of existence, the department continues to build a foundation for long-term success at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics and academic distinction.

We understand the importance of our mission extends well beyond our department. When athletics is successful, it builds a sense of community not only on our campus but also throughout the city of Indianapolis and our alumni networks.

At IUPUI, creating tradition is a team sport. It takes student-athletes who compete with ferocious determination, fans who roar with all their might, and our loyal supporters who have the power to impact our mission.

Be a game changer!

As part of **For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign**, we invite our alumni and friends to join us in support of IUPUI Athletics. Together, we can create a sustainable athletics program that will support student-athlete success and a continued Jaguars tradition of excellence for generations to come.

FOR ALL WHO WILL CHANGE THE GAME



GOAL #1: ATTRACT EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT-ATHLETES

Scholarships are at the heart of attracting, retaining, and supporting our dedicated student-athletes.

Our student-athletes not only excel at their sport, but also in the classroom. When they choose to compete as Jaguars, they raise the level of academic achievement across our campus. In fact, many of our student-athletes are also the first in their families to go to college. They are trailblazers at home, in the classroom, and in competition.

The story of our student-athletes' academic accomplishments plays out in their recent achievements. IUPUI Athletics had 11 athletes named among the university's Top 100 students; and, 85 percent of all our student-athletes have individual grade point averages (GPA) higher than 3.0. As a department, we've achieved an overall 3.0 or greater GPA for 18 consecutive semesters.

As the cost of higher education soars, we are called to assist our student-athletes with scholarship support like never before. Only 13 percent of our athletes receive full athletics awards; 63 percent have partial athletics aid; and, 24 percent have no athletics aid at all.

To succeed, our student-athletes require support. Scholarships are the foundation that enables us to attract talented student-athletes who might otherwise

be unable to attend IUPUI. Philanthropic investments truly help us recruit, retain, and graduate champions.

SUCCESS OUTSIDE THE STADIUM

Elizabeth Bourgeois '13 (shown at left), a swimmer who graduated with a BS in mechanical engineering, also exemplifies the success that hard work and scholarships can create. As an undergrad competing at IUPUI, she made a tremendous impact throughout campus, using her athletic skills to help further her education and mentor young women in engineering.

Her leadership and commitment—to her sport, her coursework, and the Indianapolis community—were recognized with the bestowment of the Michael A. Carroll Scholarship. She was also named the Most Outstanding Female Student at IUPUI in 2013, an award based on academic achievement, cocurricular activities, civic engagement, and community service. Bourgeois is now a successful engineer with the Whirlpool Corporation in Benton Harbor, Michigan, and she remains active in the J-Club and on IUPUI's Engineering and Technology Board of Directors.

When you join in supporting students through endowed scholarships and financial aid, you create life-changing opportunities for aspiring leaders in a myriad of industries—people like Bourgeois. With your help, they can attain an education that's second to none, and go on to build stronger economies and ensure healthier communities for generations to come.

"My scholarship made it possible for me to earn my engineering degree while competing as a swimmer for IUPUI. The blend of academic and athletic achievements gave me a sense of confidence that has overflowed into other parts of my life. Now working as a mechanical engineer at Whirlpool, that confidence helps me be innovative, bring new ideas to life, and help bring those traits out in others."

—Elizabeth Bourgeois
2012 IUPUI Michael A. Carroll Scholarship recipient

IT STARTS
WITH YOU

Scholarships build a dynamic, talented community of student-athletes who push their teams to excellence, stand out in their academic pursuits, and go on to succeed in their professions and communities.



FOR ALL WHO PREPARE SUPERSTARS

GOAL #2: SUSTAIN COACHING EXCELLENCE

Competition among universities to hire and retain top-level coaches is intense. The best coaches use sports to instill discipline, teach skills and responsibility, and build character. They make a lifelong impression on the student-athletes they coach.

Endowments can help us win this competition. Endowing a head coaching position not only ensures permanent salary support for coaching positions, it also raises the level of prestige associated with the position, helping to bring the best in coaching talent to IUPUI.

Today, we endeavor to attract these leaders to IUPUI: leaders who are not only talented instructors of the sport, but who are also passionate, knowledgeable, and ethical leaders for our student-athletes.

Austin Parkinson, head coach of women's basketball, is one of these individuals. Since his arrival in 2010, Parkinson has steered the Jaguars to their first 20-win season in the Division I era, their first-ever postseason appearance, and their best record in the Summit League. In addition, he was named the league's Coach of the Year.

Parkinson's success can be traced to his emphasis on recruiting throughout the state of Indiana, a deep well of basketball talent from Gary to Evansville and

Richmond to Terre Haute. In his first three recruiting classes, 8 of the 10 freshmen signees hailed from the Hoosier State.

Another leader who's drawing elite talent to IUPUI is **Brandon Currie** (shown at left). A member of the IUPUI tennis program for more than 14 years, Currie has been head coach of the men's team since the 2005–2006 season, recruiting student-athletes who arrive with passion, positive attitude, and purpose.

Off the court, Currie is drawing from the sports world's socioeconomic and sociopolitical history to research the impact of the increasing number of minority athletes who are participating in traditionally less diverse sports—sports like tennis. After earning his PhD in urban education at IUPUI, Currie has been committed to the Indianapolis community and the organizations that are making tennis available to diverse groups of people within the city.

Jason Gardner is another standout on the IUPUI Athletics coaching roster. In 2014, the Indianapolis native came back home to take over as the eighth head coach of the IUPUI men's basketball program. A standout in the sport himself at North Central High School and the University of Arizona, Gardner was the 1999 winner of the Mr. Indiana Basketball Award, and a four-year All-American at Arizona, along with earning numerous other collegiate athletic awards.

In the true Jaguar spirit of coaching excellence, Gardner has not only increased the team's winning percentage each season, but he is equally passionate about his players' academic success and development as men.

Coaches at IUPUI like Parkinson, Currie, and Gardner are changing the game for their student-athletes, teaching them lessons that push them toward excellence in competition and in life.

By helping us fund top-tier coaching at IUPUI, our alumni and friends will ensure that our student-athletes receive the support they need to bring their personal best to their sport, their studies, and their future careers.



→ IT STARTS WITH YOU ←

In the competitive world of Division 1 intercollegiate athletics, endowed coaching positions will increase our opportunities to recruit and retain the very best coaching talent to IUPUI for the benefit of our student-athletes and the quality of our programs.



**FOR ALL
WE CAN DO TO
INSPIRE**

**GOAL #3: PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTS THAT INSPIRE
ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC SUCCESS**

To continue developing quality athletic programs at IUPUI, we need to invest in our facilities not only to attract top student-athletes, but also to improve the overall experience for our student-athletes. First-rate facilities demonstrate a commitment to providing the resources our student-athletes need to achieve at a very high level.

In recent years, IUPUI Athletics embarked on facility improvements at the Softball Complex with the makeover of the backstop and initial equipment upgrades in the Training Room inside the IU Natatorium.

It is time for us to take the next step forward to renovate and upgrade the facilities where our student-athletes study, train, and compete.

IUPUI was the beneficiary of a full-scale renovation of the IU Natatorium, however, the training rooms and support areas inside the facility, as well as the locker rooms throughout campus, still require significant renovations. Creating an inviting space and experience for student-athletes, who spend up to 20 hours a week training for their sport, is at the forefront of these upgrades. Improvements to the training room space, offices for athletic trainers, locker rooms, and state-of-the-art equipment for strength and conditioning is an investment in our student-athletes' overall experience and performance.

Built in preparation of the 1987 Pan American Games, the top priorities for the IUPUI Softball Complex include a renovation of its dugouts, a new scoreboard, and a new press box area. These upgrades are needed to ensure IUPUI's softball facilities meet or exceed standards compared to other competitive Division 1 softball programs.

Under the current facility constraints, the men's and women's basketball programs face ongoing challenges related to available practice time and space on and off campus. This significantly hampers in-season team practices, out-of-season individual workouts, and recruiting conversations.

While academic reputation is a top priority, quality facilities continue to serve as a source of pride, which enhances the overall student-athlete experience. Your investment in upgrading IUPUI's athletic facilities will touch each and every IUPUI student-athlete in a very significant way.

**IT STARTS
WITH YOU**

IUPUI's student-athletes are success stories being written every day. Your support for upgrading and improving facilities plays a large part in those successes. To develop a top-level athletic program, we need quality facilities to attract top student-athletes.





FOR ALL WHO SET THE PACE

GOAL #4: FOSTER STUDENT-ATHLETE WELL BEING

The pressures and demands on student-athletes are enormous—daily practices, competitions that require travel, full academic course loads, and challenging strength and conditioning programs. In today’s competitive collegiate athletic environment, providing services and programs that address the needs of the whole student-athlete are essential for Jaguar athletes to attain the competitive edge necessary to compete in their sport and achieve in the classroom.

IUPUI Athletics has invested in a number of relationships with people and organizations who support our goal of helping student-athletes become healthier and more competitive, while building a lifelong commitment to wellness of mind, body, and spirit.

Heather Fink, a sports nutritionist, works with individual IUPUI student-athletes and teams approximately 20 hours a week. More recently, student-athletes and coaches have increasingly requested her services. They understand proper nutrition and hydration can improve athletic performance in practice and in competition.

Much of Fink’s work focuses on nutrition education. Many of our student-athletes are preparing their own meals and making their own food choices for the first time in their young adult lives. Fink helps them do this in a more intentional way. From choosing foods to fuel a practice session, to learning how to shop and prepare meals at home, to recovering and hydrating after practice and throughout the day, Fink is making a difference. And before a team travels, she also advises coaches on healthy restaurant and menu choices to ensure student-athletes are fueled to perform at their best, wherever they may be competing.

→ **IT STARTS
WITH YOU** ←

Our student-athletes require integration of mind, body, and spirit to become the absolute best that they can be. Your support to enhance professional staff services and related spaces will ensure our Jaguars have everything they need to find their peak performance place while developing successful life habits.

Frequent fueling is the name of the game when it comes to effectively optimizing athletic performance. Along with additional wellness staff like Heather Fink, IUPUI Athletics seeks a dedicated space stocked with nutritional grab-and-go style foods—whole grain cereals, sandwiches, protein bars, nuts, fruit—and beverages for busy student-athletes to refuel before and after practice. Additionally, investment in a dedicated training table that provides nutritious meals specially prepared to replenish and fuel will also assist our student-athletes as they seek to attain and maintain peak performance.

Becoming a successful student-athlete also requires strength of mind. With mental health and sports performance counselors, athletes can integrate mind and body, and overcome anxiety and stress to excel under pressure. In addition, student-athletes must also achieve in the classroom. Access to tutors, designated team study spaces, learning specialists, and academic advisors can support overall student-athlete performance.

FOR ALL THE HISTORY WE WILL MAKE

Since our onset in the early 1970s, IUPUI Athletics has been committed to showcasing our university and the city of Indianapolis through the lens of sports. Thanks to supporters like you, our determined students, and our dedicated faculty and staff, our program has made incredible strides in a relatively short time.



“IUPUI provided me a solid educational and athletic foundation on which I have continued to build throughout my professional career.”

—Cindy Reese '88, softball
IUPUI Hall of Famer



“It was a blessing to spend time at IUPUI and in my hometown of Indianapolis. It helped me chase and achieve my dream of playing in the NBA.”

—George Hill '18, basketball
IUPUI Hall of Famer



IUPUI ATHLETICS THROUGH THE YEARS

1972: The IUPUI Athletics program officially begins with a basketball game between the IUPUI Metros and IU Kokomo in Ritter High School's gymnasium.

1975: Softball and volleyball launch the women's varsity sports program.

1978: IUPUI joins the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

1980: Led by Coach **Mel Garland**, the men's basketball team completes its first winning season.



1984: Trudy Bernath —who began her collegiate career at age 32— finishes her career as the holder of every IUPUI softball pitching record.

1990: George W. Adams becomes the first IUPUI men's tennis player to qualify for the national tournament.

1990: IUPUI wins its second men's basketball NAIA District 21 title, earning a spot in the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City.

1990 and 1991: The women's basketball team wins the NAIA District 21 Tournament.

1993: The IUPUI Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame is established.

1993: IUPUI joins the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA's) Division II.

1998: Carlos Knox finishes his career as the most prolific player in IUPUI men's basketball history.

1998: IUPUI moves up to the NCAA's Division I, joins the Mid-Continent Conference, and changes from the Metros to the Jaguars to reflect the powerful, swift, and confident spirit of the school.

2000: The men's soccer team wins the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament and becomes the first team to compete in an NCAA Tournament at the Division I level.

2003: The men's basketball team plays in its first NCAA tournament.

2008: George Hill, an Indianapolis native and IUPUI athlete, is drafted by the NBA's San Antonio Spurs as the 26th overall pick. He goes on to star at point guard for several teams, including the Indiana Pacers. Hill completed his degree requirements and graduated from IUPUI in 2018.

2009: The IUPUI women's soccer team caps a 17-win season with the program's first-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament.

2012: Chen Ni, IUPUI's most-decorated student-athlete, wins her second national diving title.

2012: The IUPUI men's golf team wins a nation's best seven tournaments and earns one of three NCAA Tournament berths in the program's history, led by future pro golfer **Michael Davan**.

2014–2015: The men's basketball team plays its first season in the Indiana Farmers Coliseum, formerly known as the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum.

2016: Former IUPUI women's swimmer **Alexus Laird** competes in the Summer Olympics in Rio, representing the Seychelles in the 100m backstroke.

2017: IUPUI senior **Robert Murphy** becomes the program's first-ever



runner to reach the NCAA National Championships, competing in the steeplechase in Eugene, Oregon.

2017: IUPUI joins the Horizon League after a 19-year run in The Summit League.

2017: The IUPUI women's soccer team collects the department's first ever Horizon League Championship.

2018: The IUPUI women's golf team wins the program's first league championship, qualifying for NCAA Regionals.

FOR ALL THE CHAMPIONS WE WILL CREATE

For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign seeks strategic improvements to the IUPUI Department of Athletics, including scholarships for student-athletes, coaching endowments, facility upgrades and improvements, and people and programs to enhance the wellness of our student-athletes.

With the right resources in the right places we can and will set a new standard for IUPUI Athletics.

Together, we can fulfill the promise of a more robust Jaguars athletics program, a more vibrant university, a more dynamic downtown Indianapolis, and a better IUPUI experience for all.



FULFILLING *the* **PROMISE**

IUPUI ATHLETICS

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