

Building Campus Life

February 15, 2008

Tony Gutierrez talks about his plans after his undergrad and starting a fraternity at IUPUI.

Duration

3:00

Transcript

I'm Tony Gutierrez. I'm a senior in the School of Science here at IUPUI. My major is mathematics and secondary education.

Right now, I'm student teaching, but I'm unsure if this is the career choice for me. So, over the past 4 years, I've been doing research with Dr. Bahamonde over in the school of Physical Education on biomechanics research. It really sparked my interest in biomedical engineering. I'm planning on pursuing my Ph.D. in the field of biomedical engineering, and my concentration is hopefully going to be prosthetics and orthotics, primarily with the hand and feet joints, as well as spinal cord injuries.

Through my research, over the past years, I've been taking some really intense engineering classes, anatomy classes, biology classes, trying to garner further understanding of my research. Through this, it's really opened my eyes that there really is so much out there in biomedical engineering. And, IUPUI's campus really could foster a huge home for this because of all of the IU and Purdue schools collaborating here, as well as the medical school.

When I first moved in the dorms, there was me and about 10 other guys who were bored on campus. There wasn't much to do other than sit in your dorm room and study, or hang out on campus for a little bit, but that was it. So we put an interests flyer out on campus looking to start a fraternity. We got a lot of support from Tau Kappa Epsilon headquarters in Indianapolis. In August 2005, we chartered, which means we became an official fraternity in the eyes of our fraternity, and we got accepted by the campus. So, now, we're the strongest fraternity here at IUPUI. We have 65 members in our fraternity. Right now we have 35 members who are active.

Our fraternity's involvement on campus includes many aspects. We are really involved in a lot of community service. We did Martin Luther King Day every year, and we've also been really involved in a huge philanthropy efforts, like the Ronald Reagan Alzheimers Walk and the Holiday Assistance Program through the IUPUI Office of Community Service.

We have three or four active fraternities and three or four active sororities, which has been a huge benefactor for campus life. I think that our goal – there is definitely some healthy competition between these fraternities and sororities. But, our goal is definitely to be able to go in, especially in the dorms, to get as many people to go greek, as we say it, as possible. Because we feel that it's much more than a social outlet. It's definitely a very strong leadership and professional development thing as well.

I haven't really realized it until I sat back and reflected on it. I'm really not on campus anymore and I miss it. I'm student teaching full time at Pike High School and here at night on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but I really don't get to feel the buzz of campus life