





# 50 Famous IU Alumni

(PLUS FOUR INFAMOUS)

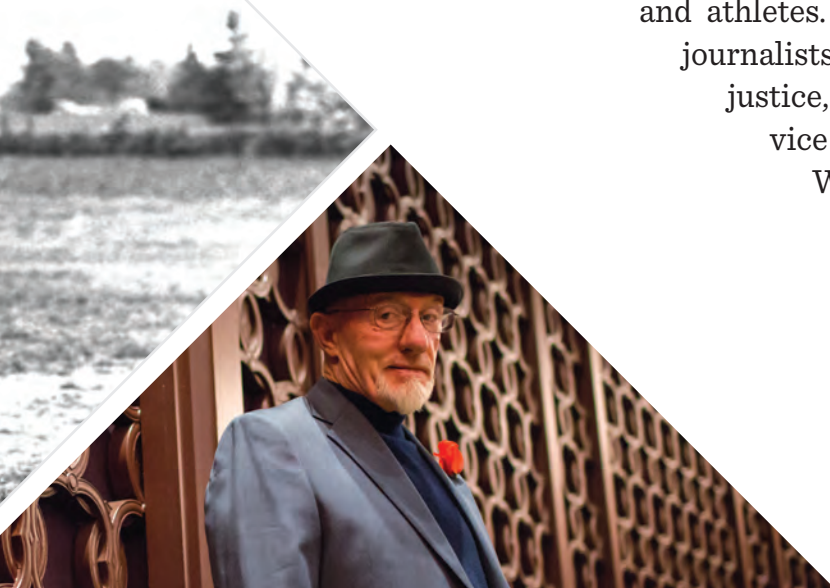
By Sophie Bird, Rodney Margison,  
Carmen Siering, and Tracy Zollinger Turner

In its 201-year history, Indiana University has turned out tens of thousands of outstanding alumni in every imaginable field. Their contributions have helped to define America and to some extent the world at large. In this issue, we celebrate 50 of those alumni who found fame in their chosen fields.

As you might expect, many are musicians, actors, writers, and athletes. But there are also entrepreneurs, CEOs, journalists, a presidential candidate, a Supreme Court justice, a CIA chief, a foreign president, a couple of vice presidents, and even a famous herpetologist.

Whatever your age and interests, you will likely know many of these alumni—but probably not all.

So here they are, 50 famous folks who once attended IU.







Courtesy photo

## TRIGGER ALPERT

Jazz Musician

Jazz bassist Herman “Trigger” Alpert was born in 1916 in Indianapolis and studied music at IU in the 1930s. Asked to join the Glenn Miller Orchestra in 1940, he appeared with the band in the film *Sun Valley Serenade* the next year. He played with Miller until being drafted in 1941. When Miller volunteered in 1942, he selected Alpert as a member of his all-star Army Air Force Band. The two remained friends until Miller’s death in 1944.

Alpert went on to work with Tex Beneke, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, Woody Herman, and others. In 1956, he recorded his only album as a leader: *Trigger Happy!* He left the music business in 1970. Alpert died in 2013 at the age of 97. —C.S.



Photo by Tom Stio

## DAVID ANSPAUGH

TV & Movie Director

Born and raised in Decatur, Indiana, David Anspaugh studied secondary education at IU, and shot 16 mm films of Vietnam War protests, live music, and sporting events in his free time. He later attended film school at the University of Southern California and began a career producing and directing several of the 1980s’ most illustrious television shows, including *Hill Street Blues* (for which he won two Primetime Emmy Awards), *St. Elsewhere*, and *Miami Vice*.

His big screen directing debut was the film *Hoosiers* (written by his closest friend at IU, Angelo Pizzo—see Page 88.), followed by several others, including *Rudy* and *Moonlight and Valentino*.

Anspaugh moved back to Bloomington in 2014, where he has taught at IU and directed and acted in plays with the Bloomington Playwrights Project. —T.Z.T.

## KENNY ARONOFF

Drummer

While he is best known for the 17 years he spent as the concert and studio drummer for John Mellencamp, Kenny Aronoff has shared the stage with a huge roster of pop and rock icons, including Paul McCartney, Lady Gaga, Bruce Springsteen, John Fogerty, and Johnny Cash.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Aronoff came to IU to study classical music in the mid-1970s, then turned his focus toward jazz and fusion for a handful of years before auditioning for Mellencamp.

In addition to playing and recording, Aronoff taught percussion at the IU School of Music as an associate professor in the 1990s. Now 68, he continues to perform as a musician and motivational speaker. He recently released an autobiography called *Sex, Drums, Rock ‘n’ Roll*. —T.Z.T.



Photo by Shannon Zahle

## HOWARD ASHMAN

Theater Genius

Lyricist, writer, director, and producer Howard Ashman earned an M.F.A. from IU in 1974. One of his early theater collaborations with lifelong professional partner Alan Menken was 1982’s *Little Shop of Horrors*, which Ashman later turned into a screenplay.

Ashman and Menken were pivotal in the “Disney Renaissance” era, beginning with *The Little Mermaid* in 1989 and continuing with *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin*. Among their many awards, they earned Oscars for Best Original Song in 1986 (*Little Shop of Horrors*), 1989 (*The Little Mermaid*), and 1991 (*Beauty and the Beast*).

Returning to IU in 1987 to present a Collins Lecture, Ashman attended an IU Theatre performance of *Little Shop of Horrors*. IU was the first university granted permission to stage the musical, thanks to Ashman.

Ashman died of complications from AIDS in 1991, at age 40, shortly before the release of *Beauty and the Beast*. *Howard*, Don Hahn’s 2018 documentary on Howard Ashman’s life is now streaming on Disney+. —C.S.



Photo courtesy of IU Archives





Photo by Steve Raymer

## DAVID BAKER

Jazz Educator

Born in Indianapolis, jazz musician David Baker earned a bachelor's degree in music education from IU in 1953 and a master's degree the following year. Originally a trombonist, he switched to the cello after sustaining jaw injuries in a car accident.

An IU School of Music faculty member beginning in 1966, Baker founded IU's jazz studies program in 1968, one of the first at an American university. He served as its chair until 2013.

Baker's body of work includes more than 65 recordings, 70 books, and 400 articles. Among his many accolades, Baker was named a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2000 and a Living Jazz Legend by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2007.

He died in 2016 at the age of 84.  
—C.S.



Photo by James Brosner/IU Cinema and IU Studios

## BRADY BARR

Herpetologist

Of the more than 100 wildlife documentaries he has hosted for National Geographic television, Brady Barr is best known for his seven-season stint hosting *Dangerous Encounters with Brady Barr*.

Barr grew up in Bloomington and graduated from Bloomington High School South. He earned a B.S. in education at IU in 1987, then taught high school science in Indianapolis before receiving a master's degree in 1994 and a Ph.D. in biology in 1997 from University of Miami.

Barr was the first known herpetologist—someone who studies reptiles and amphibians—to have captured, studied, and released all 23 extant species of crocodilians in his career. He authored a children's book about crocodiles and citizen science, appeared numerous times on *The Tonight Show*, and in 2017 received the IU School of Education Distinguished Alumni Award. —R.M.



Courtesy photo

## JONATHAN BANKS

Actor

Jonathan Banks, best known for portraying Mike Ehrmantraut on *Breaking Bad* and *Better Call Saul*, has strong ties to IU. His grandfather was a Monroe County farmer and stonecutter who helped lay the foundation for Franklin Hall, and his mother and daughters all earned IU degrees. Banks studied theater at IU in the 1960s, appearing in *The Threepenny Opera* with future Academy Award winner Kevin Kline.

With more than 50 movies and 70 television shows to his credit, Banks has six Emmy nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for *Wiseguy* (1989), *Breaking Bad* (2013), and *Better Call Saul* (2015–17 and 2019). He is the only actor with nominations in this category for three different shows, two of which are for the same character.  
—C.S.





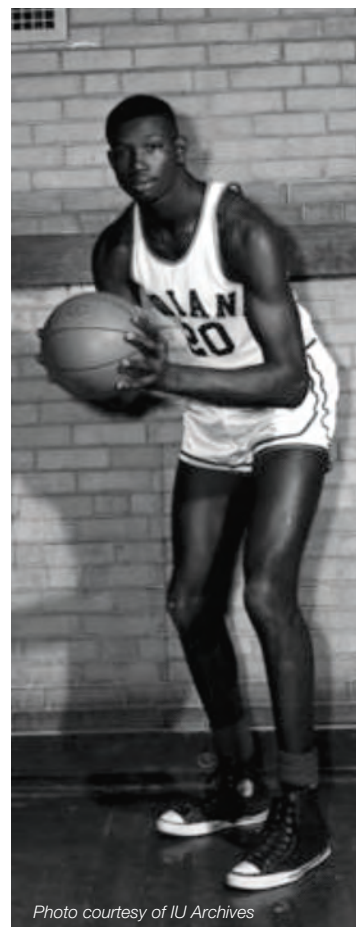
## JOSHUA BELL

Violinist

Bloomington native Joshua Bell is a world-renowned violinist who debuted at Carnegie Hall at age 17. A Bloomington High School North graduate, Bell got his start training under violinists at the IU School of Music, where he received an artist diploma in violin performance in 1989.

Bell, 53, has served in multiple professorships, including as a visiting professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and was artistic partner of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra from 2004–2007. He received the Indiana Governor's Award and was named an Indiana Living Legend.

Bell plays the Gibson ex Huberman Stradivarius violin, which was crafted in 1713 and purchased by Bell for nearly \$4 million. The violin, which has twice been stolen from previous owners, is the subject of a documentary film called *The Return of the Violin* (2013). —S.B.



## WALT BELLAMY

Hall of Fame Basketball Star

North Carolina native Walt Bellamy says he chose to play basketball at IU because "it was the closest school to the South that would accept African Americans." A 1961 graduate, he is considered one of the greatest basketball players in school history.

In 70 games for the Hoosiers, Bellamy tallied 1,087 rebounds (a school record), averaged 20.6 points per game, and shot 51.7% from the floor. His 33 rebounds in one contest—his final college game against Michigan—still stands as both a school and Big Ten record. He became the first Hoosier ever taken No. 1 in the NBA draft, and was the first Hoosier named NBA Rookie of the Year in 1962.

A four-time NBA All-Star, Bellamy played for six teams in his 14-year professional career, averaging 21.7 points and 13.7 rebounds per game, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He died November 2, 2013, at the age of 74. —R.M.

## ANGELA BROWN

Opera Star

Angela Brown journeyed through teenage soul bands, musical theater performances, and a brief stint as a singing waitress before the fates turned her talents toward opera. She studied with voice teacher Virginia Zeani in graduate school at the IU School of Music and won the National Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions in 1997, launching her career.

Her turn as the lead in Verdi's *Aida* at the Metropolitan Opera in 2005 brought her international acclaim, and soon she was performing on historic opera stages around the world. She founded Morning Brown Inc., a nonprofit designed to "introduce and expose economically and ethnically diverse and multigenerational audiences to opera and classical music"—a mission that Brown regularly brings to life with her own iconoclastic stage show, titled *Opera from a Sistah's Point of View*. —T.Z.T.







Photo courtesy of Fox Sports

## JOE BUCK

### TV Sportscaster

Joe Buck's life as a student at IU was preempted by his career in sportscasting. He began broadcasting on local St. Louis television and radio stations as a caller for minor and major league baseball games around the time he turned 20, sometimes filling in for his veteran sportscaster father, Jack.

At age 25, Buck was hired by Fox Sports, where he was the youngest announcer ever to call NFL games and the World Series on a national network. He is now Fox's lead play-by-play announcer for NFL and MLB games, and has won seven Sports Emmy Awards.

Buck was chosen as one of the final guest hosts of Season 37 of *Jeopardy!* as the game show continues to seek a successor to long-time host Alex Trebek.

—T.Z.T.



Photo by Steve Raymer

## MEG CABOT

### Author

Meg Cabot has written more than 50 teen, young adult, and adult novels, primarily in the fiction and fantasy genres.

Cabot's most well-known series is *The Princess Diaries*, which was adapted into the 2001 film of the same name starring Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews. *The Princess Diaries* was published in more than 40 countries and spent 38 total weeks on *The New York Times* Children's Best-Seller List.

A Bloomington native, Cabot graduated from Indiana University in 1991 with a degree in studio arts. She married writer and poet Benjamin Egnaz on April Fool's Day in 1993. Cabot and Egnaz split their time between Bloomington; Key West, Florida; and New York.

—S.B.

## PAUL CAINE

### Media Honcho

Paul Caine, who graduated from IU in 1986 with a degree in telecommunications, has served in leadership positions at *USA Today*, Time Inc. and WestwoodOne.

Caine served as the youngest salesperson at *USA Today* before being recruited by Time Inc. to join the sales team of *People* magazine. At *Time*, Caine helped launch *Teen People* magazine, and served as publisher of *Entertainment Weekly* and *People* before being named executive vice president, chief revenue officer, and group president of Time Inc.

After a stint as CEO of radio syndication company Dial Global—which Caine renamed WestwoodOne—Caine joined Bloomberg Media as chief revenue officer before leaving to serve as chairman of the board of both Telaria Inc., a video advertising firm, and global marketing agency Engine Group. —S.B.



Photo by Dave Cross Photography

## HOAGY CARMICHAEL

### Songwriter

Anyone who has tapped out the piano duet "Heart and Soul" is familiar with Hoagy Carmichael, who composed the music in 1938. His song "Stardust," which was written in Bloomington, is one of the most-recorded songs in the world and is part of the *Great American Songbook*.

From the 1920s to the 1950s, Carmichael wrote more than 50 hit songs and appeared in a number of movies, often as a piano-playing character.

Born in Bloomington in 1899, Carmichael earned a bachelor's degree (1925) and a law degree (1926) from IU.

In 1971, Carmichael was one of the first 10 inductees into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. He died in 1981 and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery on Bloomington's west side. —C.S.



Photo courtesy of IU Archives





Photo by Jérémy Barande/Ecole Polytechnique Université Paris-Saclay (CC BY-SA 2.0)

## JOHN CHAMBERS

Internet Pioneer

When the internet was ascending from a niche service to a household utility, John T. Chambers headed up software company Cisco Systems as its executive chairman and CEO. He is credited with steering the company into becoming a global technological giant, growing annual revenues from \$70 million to \$40 billion over his 20 years at the company (1995–2015).

Chambers' predilection for the business of technology began right after he earned his M.B.A. in finance and management from the IU School of Business in 1975. He began his career as a computer salesman at IBM before moving on to Wang Computers, where he became vice president of U.S. operations.

He now serves as chairman emeritus of Cisco Systems and is a member of the board of directors of Quantum Metric, a Colorado-based digital development company. —T.Z.T.



Photo courtesy of The Walt Disney Company

## BOB CHAPEK

Disney CEO

Hammond, Indiana-born Bob Chapek grew up vacationing at Disney World. Just last year, he became the CEO of the entire Disney mass media and entertainment conglomerate, perhaps an unexpected destiny for a man who, in the late 1970s, focused on microbiology as an undergraduate at IU.

He later earned his M.B.A. from Michigan State University, then worked for the H.J. Heinz Company and advertising firm J. Walter Thompson before joining Disney as the Buena Vista Home Entertainment division's marketing director in 1993.

Over the last three decades, Hammond headed up Disney's consumer products, then parks and resorts—overseeing their largest expansion in the company's history—before he became CEO, right at the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic. —T.Z.T.

## SUZANNE COLLINS

Hunger Games Author

Suzanne Collins is the author of The New York Times Best-Selling The Hunger Games trilogy and its recently released prequel, *Songbirds and Snakes*. Together, the books have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide.

A 1985 IU graduate with a double major in telecommunications and theater, Collins got her start writing for children's television. She worked on several Nickelodeon shows, including the Emmy-nominated *Clarissa Explains It All* and *The Mystery Files of Shelby Woo*. The first book in her first young adult series, *The Underland Chronicles* (also a NYT Best Seller), was released in 2003.

Collins and her husband, Charles Pryor, have established an IU scholarship for undergraduate students majoring in theater and drama. Pryor is also an alum of the school's theater program. The couple met at IU. —C.S.



Photo by Todd Plitt

## LAVERNE COX

Actor & LGBTQ+ Advocate

Laverne Cox is probably most recognized for her role as Sophia Burset on the Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black*. In 2014, that character was named "the most dynamic transgender character in history" by *Time* magazine.

Cox is the first transgender woman to star in a mainstream TV drama and the first to receive a Primetime Emmy nomination. In 2014 she was included in the annual Root 100, a list that honors Black "leaders, innovators, and culture shapers" age 45 and younger. In 2018 she received the Claire Skiffington Vanguard Award from the Transgender Law Center for her work for the transgender community.

Cox, 49, attended IU for two years before transferring to Marymount Manhattan College, where she graduated with a B.F.A. in dance. —C.S.



Photo by Luke Fontana





Photo by William Foley

## MARK CUBAN

Entrepreneur

Entrepreneur extraordinaire Mark Cuban, 63, is worth more than \$4 billion, placing him 655th on *Forbes* magazine's 2021 World's Billionaires List. A Pittsburgh native, Cuban worked his way through college by providing disco lessons, among other endeavors, and graduated from the IU School of Business in 1981 with a B.S. in marketing.

In 1995, Cuban and fellow IU alum Todd Wagner started broadcast.com, then sold it four years later to Yahoo for \$5.7 billion. Cuban now owns the NBA's Dallas Mavericks and is a "shark" investor on the reality television show *Shark Tank*. He also owns film distributor Magnolia Pictures, started the Fallen Patriot Fund, and has written two books, among countless other endeavors.

Cuban gifted IU Athletics \$5 million in 2005 to create the Mark Cuban Center for Sports Media and Technology. —R.M.



Photo courtesy of IU Archives

## JANIE FRICKE

Singer

Born in South Whitley, Indiana, singer Janie Fricke is a 1972 graduate of IU, where she was a member of the Singing Hoosiers. She got her professional start singing commercial jingles, most notably for Coca-Cola and Red Lobster ("Red Lobster, for the seafood lover in you.").

Moving to Nashville, Tennessee, Fricke joined the Lea Jane Singers, a vocal ensemble that backed up some of the biggest names in country music. By age 30, she was one of Nashville's most sought-after backup singers. By the 1980s, she was dominating the charts and winning awards, such as her back-to-back Female Vocalist of the Year wins from the Country Music Association in 1982 and 1983. Fricke is still active in the music industry and lives with her family in Texas. —C.S.



Courtesy photo

## DICK ENBERG

Sportscaster

Dick Enberg earned his master's and doctoral degrees in health and physical education at IU in the early 1960s, but a class in sports broadcasting, followed by announcing gigs for the Little 500 bicycle race and Hoosier basketball and football, ended up defining his career.

Enberg worked as a sportscaster for six decades, beginning on a local Los Angeles station, then gradually stepping up to NBC Sports, CBS Sports, and ESPN before settling back into play-by-play broadcasting for the San Diego Padres.

A prosaic broadcaster who waxed poetic in television essays in his later years, his signature line was "Oh, my!" — also the title of his 2004 biography. He died in 2017 at age 82. —T.Z.T.





Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of Defense

## ROBERT GATES

CIA Chief &  
Secretary of Defense

Robert Gates, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, grew up in Kansas and attended the College of William & Mary. He was recruited by the CIA while earning his master's in history at IU–Bloomington and would come to lead the organization 25 years later, from 1991–1993.

When Gates left the CIA, he moved into academia, lecturing at multiple universities and becoming the 22nd president of Texas A&M University in 1999. President George W. Bush attempted to bring Gates into his administration several times, ultimately succeeding in 2006, when Gates became the Secretary of Defense. President Barack Obama kept him in the position and awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom when he retired in 2011.

He has since served as the chancellor of William & Mary, as well as president of the Boy Scouts of America, which lifted its ban on gay scout leaders at his urging. —T.Z.T.



Photo by Chris Bellen, Fenell Photography, for Irish Defence Forces

## MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

President of Ireland

Michael D. Higgins, 80, has served as the president of Ireland since November 2011. He was the first in his family to attend college, studying in Ireland and the United Kingdom before coming to Bloomington to earn a master's in sociology in 1967.

A fierce proponent of Irish culture, Higgins served as the country's first minister for arts, culture, and the Gaeltacht (areas where the Irish language is still spoken). A renowned intellectual, he has published several collections of poetry.

His more artistic side may have been on display while he was an IU student. In the runup to the 2011 elections, then-candidate Higgins confirmed to the *Irish Independent* newspaper that he smoked marijuana while he was in Bloomington in the '60s—and that he did, indeed, inhale. —C.S.

## JAMIE HYNEMAN

MythBuster

Jamie Hyneman, who grew up in Columbus, Indiana, earned a degree in Russian language and linguistics from IU in 1981. He's worked as a linguist, boat captain, wilderness survival expert, certified dive master, chef, and animal wrangler, among other things, but found his niche in the special effects industry. He was co-host of the Discovery Channel's *MythBusters* from 2003 to 2018 and owns the special effects company MF Industries, where *MythBusters* was filmed.

Hyneman, 64, received the IU College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012, gave the commencement speech in 2016, and received the Bicentennial Medal in 2020. As the COVID-19 global pandemic emerged, Hyneman partnered with the IU School of Public Health to help engineer improved PPE for health care workers. —C.S.



Photo by Benjamin Hanson/Discovery Channel

## BOOKER T. JONES

Musician

In 1962, while he was still in high school in Memphis, Tennessee, Booker T. Jones and his band, Booker T. and the MGs, had a Billboard No. 1 hit with "Green Onions," which Booker co-wrote. Given the band's success, when Jones chose to attend college to study music, many in the industry were surprised.

While at IU, Jones made the deans' list, pledged Kappa Alpha Psi, and played trombone in the symphony orchestra and the Marching Hundred. He returned to Memphis on weekends to record and play with the MGs. He graduated from the IU School of Music in 1967.

Among his many honors, Jones was elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992—the only IU alum to achieve that honor—and was awarded a Grammy for Lifetime Achievement in 2007. He received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from IU in 2012 and the Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2013. —C.S.



Photo courtesy of IU Archives





Photo by Mike Dickbernd/IU Athletics

## LILLY KING

Swimmer

The winner of two gold medals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, Lilly King may have earned one or two more in the Tokyo games by the time this story is published.

The Evansville-born athlete swam competitively in high school and joined the swimming and diving team at IU the same year she qualified for the Olympic team. As a Hoosier, she won the NCAA Women's Division I Swimming and Diving Championship competitions for the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke all four years—the second woman in history to do so.

She currently holds the world record for the 100-meter breaststroke and swims for the Cali Condors, which is part of the professional International Swimming League that was founded in 2019.

A new aquatic center in her hometown—set to open this fall—will be named in her honor. —T.Z.T.



Photo by gdcgraphics (CC BY-SA 2.0)

## KEVIN KLINE

Oscar-Winning Actor

Actor Kevin Kline has won three Tony Awards for his work on Broadway and a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for *A Fish Called Wanda*.

The St. Louis native came to IU to study music, but after two years switched to theater. In an interview, Kline says once he found the stage, he could barely make it to class because all he wanted to do was act. He did manage to graduate, in 1970.

His Hoosier connection has been of some use. Kline portrayed a fictional high school teacher from Indiana in the 1997 film *In & Out*, and Hoosier songwriter Cole Porter in 2004's *De-Lovely*. He also played Maurice in the 2017 live-action version of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, with lyrics written by IU graduate Howard Ashman. —C.S.

## TED KLUSZEWSKI

Baseball Player

When travel restrictions forced the Cincinnati Reds to find a new spring training location during World War II, they discovered more than just Indiana University—they found Ted Kluszewski.

"Big Klu" was recruited to play football at IU, but also played baseball. A Cincinnati groundskeeper noticed he was hitting baseballs in excess of 500 feet and the team offered him a \$15,000 contract.

Kluszewski is considered one of the strongest baseball players ever. In his career, he was a four-time National League All Star, led the league in fielding average five straight years, topped the NL in home runs and RBIs in 1954, and in 1955 led the league in hits.

In 1957, the Reds traded Kluszewski to Pittsburgh, who later traded him to the Chicago White Sox for their World Series-winning 1959 season. He died in 1988 at the age of 64.

A statue of Kluszewski stands outside Cincinnati's Great American Ballpark. —T.Z.T./R.M.



Photo courtesy of IU Archives

## MICHAEL KORYTA

Mystery Writer

New York Times Best-Selling author and Bloomington native Michael Koryta was a 20-year-old IU student when the first book in his Lincoln Perry mystery series was published in 2004.

Several of Koryta's novels have been optioned for films over the years, but the first one hit the big screen in 2021—*Those Who Wish Me Dead*, starring Angelina Jolie. When the novel was published in 2014, it was named that summer's best thriller by both Amazon and *Entertainment Weekly* and selected as one of 2014's best books by more than 10 publications.

Now, Koryta has published 15 crime novels under his own name and one supernatural thriller, *The Chill*, published as Scott Carson. The second Carson novel, *Where They Wait*, is due in October. Read *Bloom's* feature story on Koryta at [magbloom.com/koryta](http://magbloom.com/koryta). —C.S.



Photo by Jim Krause



**ROSS LOCKRIDGE JR.**

Author

Ross Lockridge Jr. is the author of *Raintree County*, a 1,060-page epic many have called The Great American Novel. Graduating from IU in 1935 with a 4.33 grade point average—the highest GPA ever accumulated at the university—Lockridge entered a doctoral program at Harvard in 1940, announcing he would write a dissertation on Walt Whitman. In reality, he began writing *Raintree County*.

In 1946, he carried the 20-pound manuscript to publisher Houghton Mifflin in a suitcase. Within five weeks the novel was excerpted in *Life* magazine, won an enormous monetary prize and movie contract from MGM Studios, and was the Main Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. But the publisher, the studio, and the book club wanted significant cuts and revisions.

Lockridge, already depressed, found the situation unbearable. The day before his novel was announced as the No. 1 national bestseller, he took his own life. His obituary was carried on the front page of *The New York Times*. —C.S.



Courtesy photo

**EDGAR MEYER**

MacArthur 'Genius' Musician

A groundbreaking virtuoso of the double bass, Edgar Meyer first learned to play from his father—the string orchestra director for the public schools in Oak Ridge, Tennessee—and went on to study with Stuart Sankey at the IU School of Music.

He has since performed and recorded extensively in the rarefied realm of solo classical bassists and was a member of the progressive bluegrass supergroup Strength in Numbers with Béla Fleck, Sam Bush, Mark O'Connor, and Jerry Douglas. He has also composed music alone and collaboratively that crisscrossed through genres of bluegrass, jazz, and classical, which have earned him a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship and five Grammy Awards.

In 2020, he collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Stuart Duncan, and Chris Thile for the second time on an album called *Not Our First Goat Rodeo*. —T.Z.T.



Photo by Jim McGuire



Photo by Roni Griffith

**SYLVIA MCNAIR**

Singer

Grammy Award-winning opera singer and recitalist Sylvia McNair has performed in the great concert halls of Europe and America, with the world's most famous conductors, before the U.S. Supreme Court, and at the 80th birthday celebration of Pope John Paul II.

McNair, who received a Master of Music degree with distinction from the Indiana University School of Music in 1983, had her operatic debut as Sandrina in *L'infedeltà delusa* in 1982.

A soprano, she went on to enjoy a prolific opera career during which she recorded more than 70 albums. For years, she performed at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, as well as at the Vienna State Opera and the San Francisco Opera, among others.

For a time, McNair served on the IU Jacobs School of Music voice faculty. She currently resides in Bloomington and volunteers for several charitable organizations. —S.B.



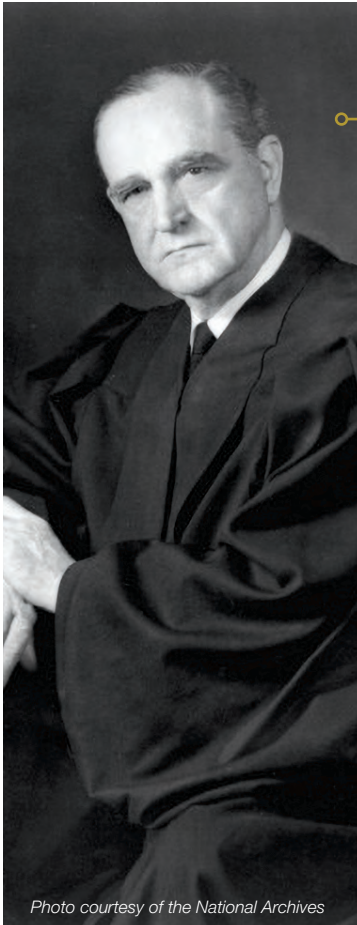


Photo courtesy of the National Archives

## SHERMAN MINTON

### Supreme Court Justice

Sherman Minton, a one-term Democratic U.S. senator born in Georgetown, Indiana, is the last member of Congress to have been appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

When Minton attended IU in the early 1900s, he was in good company. Among his friends were future governor of Indiana Paul V. McNutt and future presidential candidate Wendell L. Willkie.

Minton graduated from IU in 1913 and earned a law degree in 1915. From 1935 to 1941, he served in the U.S. Senate, where he befriended Harry Truman. In 1949, Truman had an opportunity to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. He nominated Minton.

Serving just seven years on the court, Minton was key in at least one major ruling—*Brown v. Board of Education*. He died in 1965. —C.S.



Photo by Alex Oliveira/Peabody Awards (CC BY 2.0)

## RYAN MURPHY

### Television Honcho

Ryan Murphy, best known for creating and producing popular television series such as *Nip/Tuck* (2003–10), *Glee* (2009–15), and *American Horror Story* (2011–present), studied journalism at IU in the mid-1980s. While a student, he was a member of the Singing Hoosiers and interned in the style section at *The Washington Post*. He went on to work as a journalist before beginning scriptwriting in the late 1990s. He started his career in television with the teen comedy *Popular*, which debuted on The WB in 1999.

Murphy has received six Primetime Emmy Awards and has been called “the most powerful man” in modern television. He recently signed the largest developmental deal in television history with Netflix, to the tune of \$300 million. —C.S.

## PAUL H. O'NEILL

### Treasury Secretary

Former Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill was the son of an Army sergeant who grew up on military bases all over the United States. He finished high school in Anchorage, Alaska, and college at California State University, Fresno, before earning his master's in public administration from IU.

O'Neill began his public service career at the Veterans Administration, followed by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, where he later became deputy director. He was appointed Secretary of the Treasury by President George W. Bush in 2001.

The tensions and conflicts that arose when he held that position—particularly regarding his perspective on the war on Iraq—were illuminated in the 2004 book *The Price of Loyalty* by Ron Suskind.

A year before O'Neill died in 2020 at age 84, IU renamed its School of Public and Environmental Affairs in his honor. —T.Z.T.



Photo by Michael Geissinger, courtesy of the Library of Congress

## JANE PAULEY

### Broadcast Journalist

Born in Indianapolis in 1950, award-winning journalist Jane Pauley took just one journalism class before graduating with a B.A. in political science from IU in 1972.

She began her career at WISH-TV in Indianapolis before moving to Chicago to become the first female co-anchor of a major evening newscast. Just 10 months later she was chosen to replace Barbara Walters on the *Today* show, beginning a long network television news career.

Pauley made history again when, in 2016, she replaced Charles Osgood as the host of *CBS Sunday Morning*, making her the only female anchor of a Sunday morning news program.

An author, actress, and mental health advocate, Pauley is married to cartoonist Garry Trudeau, creator of the comic strip *Doonesbury*. —C.S.



Photo by Michele Crowe/CBS





Official White House photo by D. Myles Cullen

## MIKE PENCE

Politician

Career politician Mike Pence has represented Indiana's 9th Congressional District in the U.S. Congress (2001–2013), served as Indiana governor (2013–2017), and was U.S. vice president under Donald Trump (2017–2021). A 1986 graduate of the Robert H. McKinney School of Law at IUPUI, the Columbus, Indiana, native has drawn controversy throughout his career.

In 1990, Pence admitted to using campaign funds from a failed bid for Congress to pay personal expenses, including his mortgage, groceries, and his wife's car payments. As governor, he signed bills further restricting abortions and permitting certain types of discrimination on religious grounds.

Pence, an evangelical Christian, remained ever loyal to Trump, who placed him in charge of the nation's pandemic response. After he downplayed its severity, more than 400,000 people died on his watch. —R.M.



Photo by Jeff Richardson

## ANGELO PIZZO

Screenwriter

Bloomington-bred from age 3 until he graduated from IU as a political science major, Angelo Pizzo then enrolled in the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts and began his career in the film and television industry.

Best known for authoring the screenplay for the film *Hoosiers*, which featured characters inspired by tiny Milan High School's 1954 state championship team, Pizzo was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and given the "Sagamore of the Wabash" award—Indiana's highest civilian honor for service to the state—which he shared with the film's director, David Anspaugh (see Page 78).

Pizzo and Anspaugh, close friends from their IU days, also collaborated on *Rudy*, another major player in the lexicon of inspirational sports films.

Pizzo, who returned to Bloomington in 2005, has continued to write screenplays and serves on the board of the Heartland Film Festival. —T.Z.T.

## ERNIE PYLE

War Correspondent

A pioneer of human-interest journalism, Ernie Pyle was renowned for telling straightforward, personal stories about people he met on his travels, and, most famously, on the front lines of World War II.

Pyle hailed from Dana, Indiana, and was already interested in becoming a journalist when he arrived at IU in 1919. He left school just shy of graduating, landing a reporting job in La Porte, Indiana, and at the *Washington Daily News* in D.C. soon after, where he worked as a reporter and aviation columnist.

In the 1930s, he traveled throughout North and South America with his wife, Jerry, writing the stories of individual experiences during the Great Depression. His frank conversations with infantrymen as a war correspondent won him a Pulitzer Prize, but the work also ultimately claimed his life—he was killed while covering the invasion of Okinawa, Japan, in 1945. —T.Z.T.



Photo by Milton J. Pike, courtesy of the Library of Congress

## DAN QUAYLE

Politician

James Danforth Quayle, grandson of wealthy newspaper magnate Eugene C. Pulliam, chose politics over journalism and ascended to become the nation's 44th vice president.

A native of Huntington, Indiana, Quayle got his B.A. from DePauw University in 1969. Six days before graduating and becoming eligible for the draft, he joined the Indiana National Guard. He earned a J.D. from the IU School of Law–Indianapolis in 1974 while still in the guard and despite not having met the school's admission standards.

Quayle was elected to Congress in 1976 and to the U.S. Senate in 1980. In 1988, he was chosen as the vice-presidential running mate to George H.W. Bush and came under fire for his lack of political acumen, his military service, and a controversial relationship with Paula Parkinson, a D.C. lobbyist and subject of a 1980 *Playboy* pictorial.

Quayle is also famous for not knowing how to spell "potato." —R.M.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of Defense





Photo by Ben Weller

## WILL SHORTZ

Puzzlemaster

Will Shortz is the only known person to hold a degree in enigmatology—the study of puzzles—which he created through Indiana University's Individualized Major Program in 1974.

Shortz, who has authored or edited more than 100 books, has been puzzle editor for *The New York Times* since 1993. He founded the World Puzzle Championship in 1992, is a director of the U.S. Puzzle Team, and hosts the Sunday Puzzle cooperative game on NPR's *Weekend Edition Sunday*. Shortz also possesses the world's largest private collection of puzzle books and magazines, which is comprised of more than 20,000 publications dating back to 1545.

His TV and media appearances include *Oprah*, *The Daily Show*, *The Simpsons*, *How I Met Your Mother*, and *Jeopardy!* —S.B.



Photo by Bollywood Hungama (CC BY 3.0)

## RANVEER SINGH

Bollywood Actor

Then-aspiring actor Ranveer Singh Bhavnani was born and raised in Mumbai, India, and came to the United States to attend IU, where he focused on creative writing and minored in theater. When he returned to India, he worked as an advertising copywriter and auditioned for Hindi films.

In 2010, he landed the lead role in a romantic comedy called *Band Baaja Baarat*, which led to a series of other Bollywood castings that cemented his celebrity. He is now one of the top-paid and most critically acclaimed actors in India.

He has earned five Filmfare Awards (the Hindi film industry's most prominent honors), as well as International Indian Film Academy awards, Star Screen awards, and several others. —T.Z.T.

## MARK SPITZ

Olympic Swimmer

Mark Spitz was already a two-time Olympic gold medalist and held numerous world swimming records when he decided to attend Indiana University in 1969 and train with legendary swim coach Doc Counsilman. Spitz later described the step as “the biggest decision of my life [and] the best.”

As a Hoosier, Spitz won eight individual NCAA titles, and in 1971 was named the top amateur athlete in the United States. The following year, he became a household name when he won seven gold medals at the Munich Olympics, setting a new world record in each event.

Spitz is one of just five Olympians to win nine or more gold medals in a career. He retired from competition following the 1972 Olympics at age 22 and eventually became a corporate spokesman, motivational speaker, Realtor, stockbroker, and entrepreneur. —R.M.



Photo courtesy of IU Archives





## SAGE STEELE

Sportscaster

Sage Steele's Bachelor of Science degree in sports communication, which she earned from IU in 1995, has served her well. Currently the co-anchor of ESPN's noon broadcast of *SportsCenter*, Steele began her sports reporting career on local television stations in South Bend and Indianapolis.

Later, turns at stations in Florida and Maryland steered her into her first job with the national sports network in 2007. In addition to being an anchor of various editions of ESPN's signature program, she has been the host of the Scripps National Spelling Bee and a featured co-host on ABC's *The View*.

Born into a U.S. Army family in Panama, Steele grew up on military bases around the world, ending up in Carmel, Indiana, for her last two years of high school.

She gave IU's undergraduate commencement address in 2015. —T.Z.T.



## GEORGE TALIAFERRO

Football Star & Integrationist

The first Black player to be drafted by a National Football League team, George Taliaferro was the star player of IU's only undefeated Big Ten Championship season in 1945.

The halfback, quarterback, and punter faced the bigotry of a segregated IU campus and town where he was unable to live in the dorms, swim in the IU pool, or eat alongside his teammates. With the help of IU President Herman B Wells, Taliaferro helped desegregate the campus and the town.

Taliaferro played for five NFL teams over the next six years, eventually turning back to education and earning his master's degree in social work from Howard University. After establishing himself as an educator, he returned to IU as a professor and special assistant to the president, while his wife, Viola (Vi), attended law school. They raised four children.

Taliaferro founded Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana, and Vi became a Monroe Circuit Court judge. He died in 2018. A bronze statue of Taliaferro now stands in a plaza bearing his name at Memorial Stadium, dedicated in 2019. —T.Z.T.

## KHENG HUA TAN

Actor

When Kheng Hua Tan came to IU as a student from Singapore, her studies were focused on corporate marketing. She took her first acting class while in Bloomington, which gave her a taste for the performing arts, then pursued it as a side interest when she returned home.

A decade later, Tan left her day job in marketing to act full time, starring in stage productions as well as a variety of TV sitcoms and dramas in Singapore and Malaysia. The 58-year-old actor recently developed a broader international profile after starring as the mother of the protagonist in the film *Crazy Rich Asians*, and Empress Dowager in the Netflix series *Marco Polo*.

She is currently appearing in *Fung Fu*, a reimagining of the 1970s TV series that premiered on The CW this year. —T.Z.T.







Photo courtesy of IU Archives

## ISIAH THOMAS

Basketball Great

Identified as a basketball prodigy during his early childhood on Chicago's West Side, Isiah Thomas' career spiked when he joined coach Bob Knight's Hoosiers in 1979 and was the team's captain as they won the 1981 NCAA Championship.

Thomas had enormous success as a professional player, including as point guard for the Detroit Pistons for 13 years, where he set new records for points, assists, steals, and games played for the team, and was named one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history.

After retiring from playing, Thomas took up residence courtside with much less success, including controversial turns coaching the Indiana Pacers, New York Knicks, and Florida International University. He also took up the business end as part owner of the Toronto Raptors and owner of the Continental Basketball Association before it went bankrupt and folded. He has been a broadcast game analyst on NBC and NBA TV. —*T.Z.T.*



Photo by Chris Floyd (CC BY-SA 3.0)

## JIMMY WALES

Wikipedia CEO

Though he may not have graduated from IU, Wikipedia co-founder and former financial trader Jimmy Wales is an IU alum. Born in Huntsville, Alabama, Wales graduated at 16 from Randolph School, a university prep school, then attended Auburn University where he received his bachelor's degree in finance in 1986.

After earning a master's degree from the University of Alabama, Wales came to IU to begin a doctoral program in finance at the School of Business, but left without completing his dissertation. Sources say he left due to "boredom."

In January 2001, Wales helped launch Wikipedia, a free open-content encyclopedia. Wales serves as Wikipedia CEO and, in 2006, was named one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People." —*C.S.*

## VENUS WILLIAMS

Tennis Legend

By the time she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from IU–East in 2015, Venus Williams had two decades of a record-smashing, historic career in women's tennis under her belt.

A professional player since the age of 14, she earned her first two Olympic gold medals at age 20 in 2000—one solo and the other playing doubles alongside younger sister, Serena. (The duo won golds again in 2008 and 2012.)

Now 41, she has won multiple Grand Slam titles both alone and with her sister, earning more than \$42 million in career prize money—the second highest amount in history, next to Serena.

Williams was the first player to take advantage of an agreement between the Women's Tennis Benefits Association and IU–East, which allows players to work on their degrees online. —*T.Z.T.*



Photo courtesy of Indiana University–East

## WENDELL WILLKIE

Presidential Candidate

Born in Elwood, Indiana, in 1892, Wendell Willkie attended IU and graduated from the School of Law in 1916. He practiced law with his father before entering WWI in 1917. After the war, he practiced corporate law.

Willkie earned his campaign moniker "Dark Horse" when, at the 1940 Republican National Convention, he defeated well-known political figures such as Thomas E. Dewey and Sen. Robert A. Taft on the sixth ballot. He ran against third-term candidate Franklin Delano Roosevelt in that year's general election.

Of course, he lost, winning only 10 states and 82 electoral votes. But he received more than 22 million ballots, the largest by a Republican at that time. He subsequently became known for his concept of international cooperation, outlined in his bestselling book, *One World*. Willkie died in 1944. —*C.S.*



Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress



## INFAMOUS ALUMS



Courtesy photo

**EMILY HARRIS**

Murderer with  
Symbionese  
Liberation Army

Emily Harris was a founding member of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), the left-wing terrorist group best known for the kidnapping of newspaper heiress Patty Hearst.

Harris became involved with the SLA after moving from Bloomington to Berkeley, California, with her husband, Bill Harris, and their friends Gary Atwood and Angela (DeAngelis) Atwood, also IU alumni. All four alumni were members of the organization.

As a member of the SLA, Harris was associated with the assassination of California superintendent Marcus Foster in 1973 and the 1975 robbery of Crocker National Bank in Carmichael, California, among other crimes.

She served a total of 16 years in prison, eight of them for the murder of Myrna Opsahl, who was fatally shot during the bank robbery.



FBI courtesy photo

**ERIC ROSSER**

Child Pornographer

In 2000, Eric Rosser, also known as Doc Rosser, became the first child sex crimes fugitive on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list for producing and distributing child pornography. His victims were in Bloomington, where he lived until the early 1990s, and in Thailand, where he had moved and was teaching piano.

Rosser, a keyboardist for John Mellencamp for two years beginning in 1979, was sentenced to more than 16 years in prison for his crimes. He was released in January 2017 but sentenced to an additional 10 years in prison in 2020 after he was discovered watching child pornography on public transportation in Montana in July 2017—only six months after he had been released.

Rosser earned a master's degree from the IU Music School in 1979.

**JIM JONES**

Cult Mass Murderer

Jim Jones, infamous cult leader of the Peoples Temple, is known for the mass murder-suicide of 918 commune members in 1978 via cyanide-laced Flavor Aid. More than 300 of the victims were children.

Jones is also responsible for the deaths of five others, including Congressman Leo Ryan, who visited Jones' commune, Jonestown, to verify the safety of its residents on the day of the mass murder. Ryan and four members of his entourage were killed by gunfire from Jones' armed guards at an airstrip in Guyana, South America, where Jonestown was located.

Jones, who attended IU for two years before finishing his degree at Butler University, was killed by a gunshot to the head that same day, which was found to be consistent with suicide.



Photo by Nancy Wong (CC BY-SA 4.0)

**JARED FOGLE**

Possession of  
Child Pornography

Jared Fogle is a former spokesman for the Subway restaurant chain who attributed his weight loss to eating sandwiches at the former Subway location on Atwater Avenue. The 2000 IU grad was arrested in 2015 for possession of child pornography and was sentenced to more than 15 years in federal prison.

Fogle has also been accused of embezzlement through the Jared Foundation, a nonprofit organization he founded to combat childhood obesity. The organization was found to have never issued grants or funds to further its mission.

In April 2015, the director of the foundation, Russell Taylor, was arrested in Indianapolis for possession of child pornography and child exploitation. The case against Taylor, who was sentenced to 27 years in federal prison, is what ultimately led to Fogle's arrest.



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