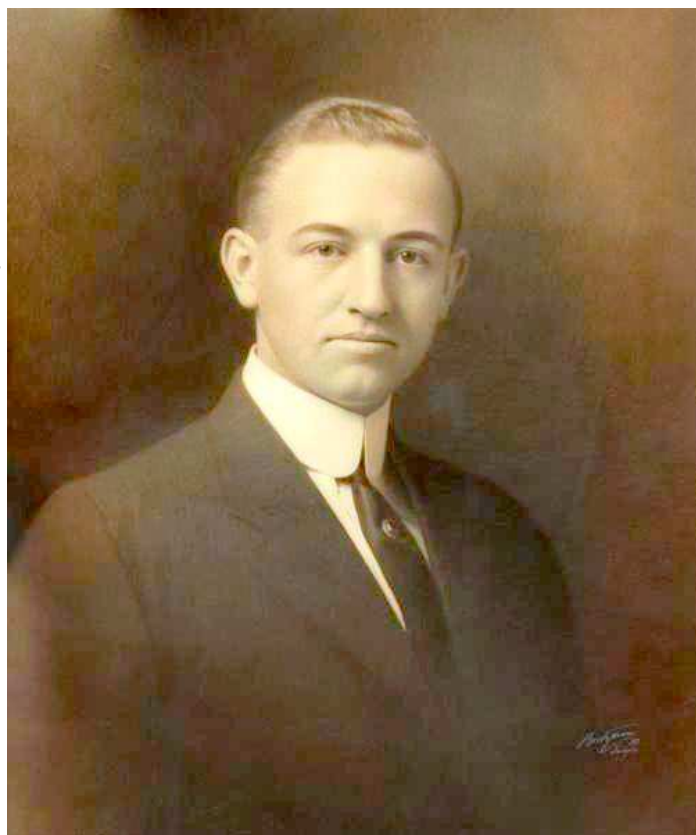


John Whittenberger

The Indiana Chapter of Delta Upsilon traditionally holds its initiation ceremony in the auditorium named in honor of John Whittenberger, a star in the chapter's distinguished history.

The Wrangler Society was established at Indiana University in 1902. Whittenberger was a member of the society. The Wranglers became the Indiana Chapter of Delta Upsilon on December 15, 1915 and Whittenberger was one of the group of distinguished campus leaders that provide the proud heritage of our chapter.

Whittenberger was the founder and first president of the Indiana Union, now known as the Indiana Memorial Union. A memorial to John published in the 1911 Arbutus says, "...the Union which he founded ... was his organization, but he gathered about him the most influential men in the University ... He succeeded so well that "Whit" was ... unanimously elected to serve another year as president." The organization John founded has become (probably) the largest student union building in the world with over 500,000 sq. ft. of space.



Whit was stricken with typhoid fever in August 1910 and died in September of that year. An Indiana Daily Student editorial called John, "the archetypal big man on campus, football player, fraternity man, and founder of the Union Board. Probably no other undergrad has left such a legacy at I.U." While typhoid fever is very unusual today, in 1910, twenty I U students were stricken. This was an era when restaurant customers had to use privies and public drinking cups were common. In 1910, two other top students and athletes died of food poisoning. We can be thankful our public health has improved greatly since then.

Many members of Delta Upsilon have served on the Union Board that Whittenberger founded. Starting in 1935, alumni who had served as a member of the Union Board started having an annual reunion. In 1980, this alumni group was formalized as the John Whittenberger Society. Recently, D U alumnus Lindy Moss, '49, was president of the Whittenberger Society. Lindy served for many years as president of the chapter's Wrangler Foundation.