

JOSH WEYER

Striving for the Life of a Physical Therapist: A Look at the Life of Josh Weyer

Graduate: Class of 2008

Occupation: Physical Therapy By Jordan Weyer, Spring 2010

A Forest Park graduate, Josh Weyer is currently a student at Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis (IUPUI). He has been going to college for two years now, and he plans on attending college for seven years. He hopes to receive a doctoral degree in physical therapy. Josh received the Plater Distinguished Scholars Award, a scholarship that pays his tuition for the first four years of college. Josh Weyer, a successful Forest Park High School student, continues that success in his collegiate career and life.

Josh may be going to college, but he grew up a Ranger. Josh received a B+ in Algebra II-effectively ending his valedictorian status-but still finished with a 3.98 GPA. He enjoyed track and basketball in high school. Running track with a torn ACL, Josh persevered through challenging times. One of Josh's highlights in high school included winning the PAC track conference championship his senior year. When asked to give advice to students currently in high school, Josh responded, "I would suggest that you listen to what the teachers have to say. You may think it is not important then, but it will be important once you get to college." He also said, "Coming from a smaller community, we tend to have a narrow vision on the things we want to partake in; however, living in Indianapolis has changed that for me."

During the summer, Josh has a part-time job at Holiday World, the area's premiere amusement park. After working for four years, Josh became a manager at Holiday World. His workday usually starts at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. Hoping to finish college debt-free, Josh works as many hours as possible at Holiday World.

One of the many benefits of taking his freshman physical therapy class included touring the Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts. He talked to the building director, toured the Colts locker room, and met some of the staff of trainers and physical therapists for the team. This was all possible because of the Plater Distinguished Scholars, an international scholarship that selected Josh as one of their recipients. This scholarship made his collegiate career much more enjoyable. His words included, "It gives me the opportunity to tour abroad for free, and I've also had the opportunity to meet many prominent international figures."

Before Josh can receive his doctoral degree in physical therapy, he has to perform eight to ten hours of volunteering per month. By volunteering at the Motor Activity Clinic, he helps mentally handicapped children have an opportunity to play sports and swim. Josh said, "Volunteering not only makes me feel better as a person, but it also goes a long way toward my goals of becoming a physical therapist."

Josh has shown that he can succeed as a high school student, but that doesn't necessarily continue into college and the rest of life. Content does not describe him, as he always tries to do one step better; consequently, this has led to him choosing a career in which he will help people on a daily basis.