

3-6-05

**For immediate release**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA**

**Senior is 500 Festival Princess**

April Dawn Williams, a USI senior from Lyons, Indiana, has been selected as one of the 500 Festival Princesses who in May will help celebrate the 2005 500 Festival and the 89<sup>th</sup> running of the Indianapolis 500, the Greatest Spectacle in Racing. She was one of 33 princesses chosen among 193 applicants.

The young women are selected based on communication skills, poise, academic performance, and community and volunteer involvement. This year, the princesses are from 11 Indiana colleges and universities and 24 Hoosier cities and towns.

Williams is the daughter of Mike and Dee Williams, also of Lyons. She is a graduate of White River Valley High School.

She will graduate summa cum laude in May from USI. She is earning a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in accounting and professional services. She attends USI as a Presidential Scholar and has been on the dean's list every semester. She is president of Beta Alpha Psi honorary, a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma honorary, a member of the Honors Program, and a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Council for the School of Business. She was an accounting intern for Harding, Shymanski & Company.

Williams was a student athlete for the women's basketball team in 2001 to 2004. She was on the Academic All-Great Lakes Valley Conference Team for 2002 and 2003.

One of the 33 princesses will be selected as the 2004 500 Festival Queen and receive a \$2,500 scholarship. The queen will be crowned May 21 during the Indianapolis Life 500 Festival Mayors Breakfast at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.