

For immediate release
News from the University of Southern Indiana

USI student named Goldwater Scholarship recipient

Jamie Johnson, a junior at the University of Southern Indiana, is among 321 college students nationwide to be named a 2008 Goldwater Scholar.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation selected the award winners on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,035 mathematics, science, and engineering students nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities throughout the country.

Sophomores and juniors are eligible for nomination. The one- and two-year scholarships will cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

A chemistry major, Johnson maintains a 4.0 grade-point average. She plans to pursue a career as a physician.

In 2007, she was appointed by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels to serve a two-year term as the student representative to the USI Board of Trustees.

"I cannot express how much I've enjoyed learning about the inner workings of the University," she said, regarding her service as student representative, "but the people I've met mean the most."

Johnson has conducted undergraduate research with Dr. Cindy M. Basinski, an Evansville obstetrician/gynecologist, since summer 2007. Under Basinski's supervision, she has completed research related to the Essure method of female sterilization, a method that requires no incision and no general anesthesia. Johnson has prepared a paper on her findings for submission to a professional journal.

Johnson also has served as a research assistant to Dr. Kenneth E. Walsh, USI assistant professor of chemistry. She has presented findings of a study relating to carbohydrates at a local meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and will make a presentation in August at the ACS National Meeting and Exposition in Philadelphia. She also will present the research in April at the USI RISC (research, innovation, scholarship, and creativity) Showcase.

A USI professor who nominated Johnson for the Goldwater Scholarship said she has excelled in a rigorous technical curriculum.

"Jamie was one of the standouts in chemistry seminar," he said. "In her work for seminar, Jamie demonstrated superior writing ability and particularly excelled at presenting technical seminars. Many students find these presentations unnerving, but Jamie demonstrated knowledge, poise and self-confidence, even under a barrage of questions from faculty."

Johnson is a member of the USI student chapter of the American Chemical Society. She is co-founder and president of the USI Pre-Health Professions Club. She has been elected to serve a third term next year as administrative vice president for academic affairs for the Student Government Association.

Johnson is a 2005 graduate of Castle High School in Newburgh, Indiana.

The Goldwater Foundation was established by Congress in 1986. The Scholarship Program honoring Senator Barry M. Goldwater was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields.