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USI announces Class of 2008 Presidential Scholars

The University of Southern Indiana awarded its prestigious Presidential Scholarships to ten incoming freshmen of the Class of 2008.

Students from Indiana high schools ranked first or second in their senior class are eligible for the Presidential Scholarship, which covers full tuition and housing. A stipend for books and food also is provided. The ten students selected for these competitive scholarships and brief biographies information follows.

Sam Bowles is the son of John and Rita Bowles of Marengo, Indiana. He is the salutatorian at Crawford County High School. He was a member of the Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletics, National Honor Society, and National Society of High School Scholars. He was also C.A.R.E.S. After-School Program tutor. He is a Lilly Scholar. His career plan is to become an English teacher.

Katherine Braun is the daughter of Pat and Mary Jo Braun of Evansville, Indiana. She is salutatorian at Memorial High School. Braun participated in band/color guard, Spanish Club, Teens for Life, Tiger Pride, National Honor Society, track, Newburgh Library Teen Advisory Council, SWAT, (special winning attitude team), DELTA, and placed first in forms competition in the 2003 Taekwondo world championships. She also received the St. Michael's College Book Award for Scholarship and Service and the Evansville Catholic High School President's Award. For her major, Braun is considering exercise science, criminal justice or business management.

Christi Carter is the daughter of Nancy and Dennis Sparrow and Mark Carter of Evansville, Indiana. She is valedictorian at Reitz High School. Carter participated in Student Council, National Honor Society, dance team, French Club, and the prom committee. She was also a class official and a volunteer at Deaconess Hospital. She plans to be a pre-medicine major.

Katie Gerlach is the daughter of Pam and Chris Gerlach of Washington Indiana. She is the salutatorian at Washington High School. She was a member of student council, Beta Club, track team, soccer team, cross-country team, praise chorus, and small group bible study. She will major in public relations, advertising, or journalism.

Ashley Kaltenbacher is the daughter of John and Joyce Kaltenbacher of Holland, Indiana. She is valedictorian at Southridge High School. Kaltenbacher participated in the National Honor Society, school improvement team, Peers educating Peers, academic bowl, German Club, pastoral search committee, youth group, and study club. She plans on majoring in Elementary Education and German.

Candace Landmark is the daughter of James and Elaine Landmark of Evansville, Indiana. She is salutatorian at Bosse High School. Landmark was a member of the debate team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, French Club, volleyball, National Honor Society, bowling team, student council, concert choir, and Star Power. She also helped with

church activities and various community activities. She plans a career in social work, psychology, or education.

Michelle Price is the daughter of Mark and Linda Price of Evansville, Indiana. She is valedictorian at Reitz High School. Price was a member of the National Honor Society, student council, choir, Hilltoppers dance team, swim team, and cheer zone. She also participated in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk and Race for the Cure. She will major in psychology.

Keith Rexing is the son of Daniel and Kelly Rexing of Evansville, Indiana. He is valedictorian of Central High School. Rexing participated in Star II Power, 4-H Club, Cenetary United Methodist Youth Group, Christian Fellowship Church youth group, and Youth Action Council. He also received Scholarship E and the Outstanding Business Student Award. He graduated magna cum laude and was a member of the National Honor Society. He will major in business.

Timothy Scheirer is the son of Allan and Peggy Scheirer of Lafayette, Indiana. He is valedictorian of Tippecanoe County's Harrison High School. Scheirer participated in baseball, Quiz Bowl, tennis, intramural basketball, Food Finders, and the St. Lawrence youth group. He was a member of National Honor Society. He will major in biology.

Julie Verkamp is the daughter of Eugene and Cindy Verkamp of Schnellville, Indiana. She is salutatorian of Northeast Dubois High School. Verkamp participated in Celestine Catholic Youth Organization, Schnellville youth group, the Spanish Club, National Helpers, Math Academic Bowl, Interdisciplinary Academic Bowl, Peers Educating Peers, St. John Bosco youth group and the Beta Club. She is a Lilly Scholar. Her major will be secondary education.