

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2003

**Merkley elected American Chemical Society- Student Affiliates president**

Nick Merkley is the president of the American Chemical Society- Student Affiliates (ACS-SA) for 2003-2004 at the University of Southern Indiana.

Merkley is a senior chemistry major and is the son of John and Donna Merkley of Newburgh. He is a graduate of Castle High School. Merkley is also an active member of USI's Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, in which he served as president for one year.

The American Chemical Society- Student Affiliates is a professional organization for students interested in chemistry as a career. Members attend national chemistry meetings and undergraduate research conferences.

Merkley is excited about the plans ACS-SA has for the year. Activities include demonstrations at the Evansville Science and Art Museum, panel discussions at USI on environmental issues, service projects, and events with the local boy/girl scouts.

He said, "We want to win the national award for chapter achievement in the ACS-SA."

Other officers of the ACS-SA include: Richard Lord, vice president; Gareth Riggs, secretary; Andy Freeman, treasurer; and Mark Wade, public relations. Dr. Shelly Blunt, assistant professor of chemistry, is the faculty advisor.

Merkley stated, "It is honor to head up an organization comprised of some of the most intellectual students on campus."

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