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**For immediate release**  
**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA**

**University of Southern Indiana senior earns Trustees Merit Award**

University of Southern Indiana senior Matthew S. Keener, Newburgh, is the 2005 recipient of the Trustees Distinguished Merit Award, the most prestigious award given during the honors convocations held for each academic school at USI the third week of March. The award carries a \$1,000 stipend.

Keener will graduate in the spring with a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing with a German minor. He is a member of College Republicans, Alpha Chi Honor Society, and the Association of German Students. He is a lifetime inductee of Beta Sigma Gamma, an academic honor society for students in business programs accredited by the Association for Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). He has completed a marketing internship with Accuride Corporation.

A pitcher for the USI baseball team, Keener was named USI's first Academic All-American for baseball in 2004. Last year he had a .347 batting average and led the team with 47 RBIs, eight home runs, and 14 doubles.

He is the recipient of the Seamans Merit Scholarship and the School of Business Departmental Scholarship. He has been named to the dean's list each semester of his university career and currently carries a 4.0 grade point average.

In nominating Keener for the award, a faculty member wrote, "Matt shows enthusiasm and commitment for the study of a foreign language, its literature and culture and for the pursuit of knowledge across disciplines, thus distinguishing himself as an outstanding university citizen."

He is the son of Steve and Cindy Keener and a graduate of Castle High School.

The Trustees Distinguished Merit Award recognizes outstanding achievement not only in the student's major but also in the liberal arts and sciences that form the core curriculum of a college education. Each school nominates one student for the award. The award is presented to one junior or senior at USI who best qualifies by virtue of the overall integrity of his or her student life. Selection is made by the Student Affairs Committee.