For immediate release
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USI announces Volunteer of the Year

Meredith Alcorn, a seventh grader at Perry Heights Middle School, is this year's University of Southern Indiana Volunteer of the Year. The award was announced at a volunteer recognition dinner for 1999-00 volunteers held on October 12 at USI.

A three-year volunteer to USI's productions at Lincoln Amphitheatre, Ms. Alcorn assists the cast and crew, paints and builds sets, assists with costumes, and performs other various tasks donating 10-15 hours per day during the summer theatre season. She is a unique volunteer and USI's youngest at 12 years old.

In 1999, Ms. Alcorn was recognized for her role in the acting company as USI's youngest volunteer at 11 years old.

In addition to helping behind the scenes, Ms. Alcorn's interest in acting manifested in serving as an understudy for multiple roles during the summer 2000 season. Her desire to act was fulfilled when one of the understudy roles became available. Ms. Alcorn played the role of Matilda Johnston in *Young Abe Lincoln* for the last month of the show.

"Meredith is willing to volunteer for anything to learn," said Mr. Elliot Wasserman, associate professor of theatre. "She has a wonderful, cheerful attitude and has made a lot of progress developing into a good actress."

In addition to her volunteer efforts, Ms. Alcorn plays soccer and is in the All-City Middle School Honors Choir. A year ago, she created her own pet care service called "Mere Bear's Pet Care." Ms. Alcorn cares for animals while the owners are on vacation. She is the daughter of two USI graduates, Nick '83 and Bonnie '84 Alcorn and has two brothers, Tim and Cregg.

Ms. Alcorn has donated 726 volunteer hours during two summers at the Lincoln Amphitheatre.

Since 1996, over 2,200 volunteers have donated 288,643 hours to various USI programs and departments. Calculated at minimum wage, volunteers have contributed over $1.5 million in services since July 1996.

The USI volunteer program is sponsored by the Volunteer USI Advisory Council and Office of Alumni and Volunteer Services.