



NEWS RELEASE

Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/465-1096
E-mail kfunke@usi.edu
<http://www.usi.edu/events.htm>

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President's Medal to be awarded at USI Commencement

Jill M. Welden of Morganfield, Kentucky, is this year's recipient of the President's Medal, the highest honor bestowed on a graduating senior at the University of Southern Indiana. The daughter of Gary and Cathy Welden of Morganfield, Kentucky, she will receive the award at the USI Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 6, at Roberts Stadium. Welden, who will graduate summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting, was chosen for her commitment to academic excellence and her service to the University and to the community.

Welden graduated from Union County High School in 1996 and has been a dean's list student throughout her career at USI. She is a charter member and officer in the Speaking Eagles, a student Toastmasters Club that builds business students' oral communication skills. Her campus service affiliation includes work as an Amigo Orientation leader helping incoming freshmen and past officer of the Student Alumni Association. A member and past officer of the Accounting Club, Welden also sits on the Accounting Student Advisory Committee. She holds a finance co-op with GE Plastics in the Commercial Finance Department.

Welden was one of five finalists for the award. The other graduating seniors nominated were Mary Jo Hagedorn, Tell City; Danielle Hargis, Sandford; Chris Webb, Williamsport; and Elizabeth Verkamp, Mt. Vernon.

Mary Jo Hagedorn, a 1995 graduate of Perry Central High School, is the daughter of Joseph L. and Marilyn F. Hagedorn of Tell City, Indiana.

She will graduate summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education.

Her academic awards and honors include the Rotary Foundation's Ambassadorial Scholarship for 2000-01, the Academic Achievement Award in German in 1999, and the US History Academic Achievement Award. A Presidential Scholar, Hagedorn was chosen for the 1999 Honors Symposium, and was the School of Liberal Arts candidate for the Trustees Distinguished Merit Award in 1998. Hagedorn is a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society. She is currently teaching at Castle High School.

Danielle Hargis, a 1996 graduate of West Vigo High School, is the daughter of Richard and Theresa Hargis of Sandford, Indiana.

Hargis will graduate magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy.

Her academic honors include the Mattox-Bedino Scholarship, the 21st Century Scholarship, and she was a nominee for the Trustees Distinguished Merit Award. Hargis has been active on campus as chief justice in the USI Student Government Association, as parliamentarian for Alpha Sigma Alpha social sorority, and as an Amigo Orientation leader. She is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and the Student Occupational Therapy Association.

Chris Webb, a 1996 graduate of Seezer Memorial Junior/Senior High School, is the son of James Webb of Williamsport, Indiana.

Webb will graduate magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics.

His academic honors and awards include the Kinsey Memorial Scholarship, Kappa Delta Pi Scholarship, and he was also a nominee for the Trustees Distinguished Merit Award. Webb is a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society, and the USI men's tennis team. He is a member of Sigma Zeta Honorary Society.

Elizabeth Verkamp, a 1995 graduate of Mater Dei High School, is the daughter of Tom and Kathy Verkamp of Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

Verkamp will graduate magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting.

Her academic honors and awards include the Institute of Management Accountants Outstanding Junior Scholarship and the Scholastic Excellence Award. Verkamp has been a dean's list student throughout her academic career at USI. She is a member and 2000 fundraising chair for the Accounting Club, member and parliamentarian for Alpha Kappa Psi – Professional Business Fraternity, and a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society.