

**For immediate release
News from the University of Southern Indiana**

Cassandra Bowman, Boone County resident to graduate from University of Southern Indiana with high honors

Cassandra Renee Bowman, a resident of Zionsville, Indiana, will be among the 1,675 degree candidates who will be graduating from University of Southern Indiana on Saturday, May 6 at Roberts Stadium in Evansville. She will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, with a major in psychology from the College of Liberal Arts. She has been on the University's Honor List every semester and carries a 3.8 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). She is a finalist for the President's Medal, the highest award given to a graduating senior for academic excellence and service to the University.

Last spring she received the Top Student Leader award from the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. As a junior she was named the undergraduate Phenomenal Woman recognized for her contributions to diversity on campus. She has served as president of Panhellenic Council, a leadership role that best demonstrated her ability to organize activities and serve others. This spring she was named Homecoming Queen, representing Delta Zeta sorority.

Earlier in her college career Bowman was an ambassador for the Admission Office who gave tours and talked to prospective students. She also has been active in community work for Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life, Salvation Army, and more.

Bowman received the Best Big Sis Award and the Top Turtle Award (for highest GPA) in Delta Zeta. She represented USI at the Leadership Honors boot camp, a training program with student leaders from across the country. She was named to Who's Who Among Students, and currently she is serving as a student search committee member for a new administrative position in the Office of Student Development.

She is the daughter of George and Deborah Bowman of Zionsville and a graduate of Zionsville Community High School. She is seeking a career in business administration with plans to pursue a master's degree in the future.

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Jennifer Crowell, Vanderburgh County resident to graduate from USI with highest honors

Jennifer L. Crowell of Evansville will be among 1,675 degree candidates who will be graduating from University of Southern Indiana on Saturday, May 6 at Roberts Stadium. She will graduate summa cum laude with two Bachelor of Arts degrees in the College of Liberal Arts. One is in advertising and public relations with an emphasis in advertising and a minor in marketing and the other is in art with an emphasis in graphic design. She attended USI as a Presidential Scholar, and she has a 4.0 grade point average. She is one of seven students from Class of 2006 to graduate with a perfect academic record. She is a finalist for the President's Medal, the highest award given to a graduating senior for academic excellence and service to the University.

Crowell received the Academic Achievement Award in Graphic Design, Academic Achievement Award in Advertising and Public Relations, and the Mirabella Achievement Award, given to an outstanding student in Liberal Arts.

Crowell is an intern in product design and marketing for Berry Plastics, and she will become a full-time designer with the company after graduation. She also has completed a marketing internship for Evansville Dance Theatre.

She served as historian for the USI German Club and was a member of the USI Art Club and the USI Advertising Club. A consistent Honors List student, Crowell is a member of the USI Honors Program. She served as a member of the Liberal Arts Advisory Board, was a recipient of a Research, Innovation, Scholarship, Creativity (RISC) grant, and a two-time presenter at AAF Student Advertising Competition and the Kentucky Communication Association Conference. She is listed in Who's Who Among Students.

She exhibited in the USI Student Art Show and the Senior Seminar Art Show. She was a singles and doubles champion in intramural tennis and coed doubles champion in intramural badminton.

She is the daughter of Greg and Linda Stilwell of Evansville and a graduate of North High School. She married Cory Crowell in May 2005.

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Posey County resident to graduate from University of Southern Indiana with honors

Lora DeFries, a Presidential Scholar and New Harmony resident, is a soon-to-be graduate of the University of Southern Indiana who counts travel as one of her priceless experiences as a student. She has traveled to China, Egypt, Malta, Turkey, Bulgaria, Italy, and Spain. Next year as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, she will represent Southern Indiana in Delhi, India, taking classes and volunteering with local nonprofit organizations. She is a finalist for the President's Medal, the highest award given to a graduating senior for academic excellence and service to the University.

DeFries will be among the 1,675 degree candidates who will be graduating from USI on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at Roberts Stadium in Evansville.

She is a Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine (B/MD) scholarship recipient. Her academic interest changed to economics and international studies during her college career. She has been active in International Club, Model United Nations, Student Christian Fellowship, Delta Zeta sorority, USI Art Club, and Rock Climbing Club. She has helped with the International Club's Food Expo and their orientation activities for first-year students. She was a principal organizer of "Rake Out Hunger in Niger" as part of an economics class to raise money to donate to Africare to address food shortages in West Africa.

In addition to intellectual challenges, DeFries has met physical challenges because of a fall while rock climbing in 2003 that resulted in two surgeries to repair her spinal column. Faculty members have noted her academic success through diligent effort in the presence of significant pain.

She is receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in the College of Business with majors in economics and international studies. She is graduating with a 3.7 grade point average.

After her year in India, DeFries listed pursuing an MBA degree, medical school, the Peace Corps, or working with a consulting company that works in developing countries as career options.

She is the daughter of Roy and Nancy DeFries of New Harmony and she graduated from New Harmony High School.

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Vanderburgh County resident to graduate from USI with high honors

Amanda Kleiman of Evansville will be among 1,675 degree candidates who will be graduating from University of Southern Indiana on Saturday, May 6 at Roberts Stadium. She will graduate with a 3.9 grade point average earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, from the Pott College of Science and Engineering. She is a member of the Honors Program and studied Latin. She is a finalist for the President's Medal, the highest award given to a graduating senior for academic excellence and service to the University.

Kleiman is a Presidential Scholar, holds a B/MD scholarship, and has been on the Honor's List every semester. She presented at the Indiana Academy of Science and the Rose-Hulman Interdisciplinary Research Collaborative in biology and chemistry. She is a member of Sigma Zeta Honorary Science and Math Fraternity, a student ambassador for USI Admission Office, and an Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation volunteer science and math tutor.

Last year she completed summer undergraduate research as a fellow with the IU School of Medicine Evansville Center in molecular biology research.

She was active in intramurals and a volunteer for the Freshman Move In Day. She is a past officer in the Biology Club, and an active member of the USI Red Zone, the student cheering section at USI. She is a member of College Democrats and the Exercise Science and Physical Education Club.

She plans to enroll in the IU School of Medicine next year. The daughter of Ramona and Paul Kleiman, she is a graduate of Reitz High School.