

April 20, 2007
For Immediate Release

Craig Fehrman to receive President's Medal at University of Southern Indiana

This year's President's Medal recipient Craig Fehrman of Dearborn County, Indiana, is described as an original thinker and an extremely hard worker who is sensitive to the human feelings of fellow students. He is a superb listener, witty, and strongly grounded in the values of charity and respect for others.

Faculty members who have taught Fehrman describe him as the best student they have taught as an undergraduate. An English professor said Craig's academic excellence is visible in his grade point average of 3.9, his double major in English and psychology, his research made possible through Research, Innovation, Creativity, and Scholarship (RISC) grants, and scores on the Graduate Record Exam. He will graduate magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Commencement ceremony at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 5. The President's Medal is presented during the ceremony.

Fehrman was homeschooled through high school by his parents Deborah and Charles Fehrman of Lawrenceburg, Indiana. His parents will attend the Commencement Exercises in Evansville.

He enrolled as a journalism major planning to be a writer for a magazine. He said, "I soaked up the college environment, especially the interaction with peers and professors, the opportunity to develop research, and the broad range of disciplines and backgrounds."

A freshman English class and the college atmosphere changed his career focus, and he plans to teach in college. He said, "It is the quality of my time at USI that inspired me to consider and then pursue more school."

Faculty members describe Fehrman's writing as superb. He had a paper accepted in *Chaucer Review*, a journal for the presentation and discussion of research and concepts about Chaucer and the literature of the Middle Ages.

In addition to academic excellence, the President's Medal is awarded for service to the University.

Fehrman has served the University in important ways. He is online editor of The Shield, the student newspaper, and a resident assistant

in University Housing. He served on numerous residence committees including Resident Hall Council and the Web site committee, while managing between 32 and 64 residents each semester.

He started the College of Liberal Arts journal for undergraduate research called *Amalgam*. In the second year of publication, the journal saw a doubling in the number of student submissions. And he helped ensure the continuation of the journal by training a person who will take over the publicity and editorial duties after he graduates.

He received the 2006 Trustees Distinguished Merit Award, and he represented the University by presenting conference papers at seven different conferences or panels including the National Undergraduate Literature Conference in 2004 and the Medieval Forum at Plymouth State University last year. He is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. He served as vice president and president of the USI chapter.

This fall Fehrman will attend graduate school at Yale University to study English. What motivates him to continue with graduate school is the same thing that started him on the education path as a freshman, and that is the import and inspiration of the student-professor exchange. He applied to a number of the country's most prestigious graduate schools, and with several acceptances in had, he chose the Connecticut-based university.

The President's Medal is the highest award presented to a graduating senior. This year the medal goes to a student of great promise whose accomplishments deserve the recognition signified by this award.

University of Southern Indiana is a comprehensive public university located in Evansville, Indiana. Established in 1965, the University is located on a 300-acre campus with modern facilities and park-like setting. Over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled at USI. More information is available at www.usi.edu.

only to
home town at
the request of
Craig.