

April 23, 2002

For Immediate Release

**Rick A. Hudson to be awarded President's Medal
at USI Commencement**

Rick A. Hudson of Patoka, Indiana, is this year's recipient of the President's Medal, the highest honor bestowed on a graduating senior at the University of Southern Indiana. He will receive the award at the USI Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 5, at Roberts Stadium. Over 1,400 graduates will be eligible to receive degrees in the ceremony.

Hudson will graduate magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. He holds a 3.9 grade point average. He was chosen because of his commitment to academic excellence and his service to the University and the community. He is the son of James and Marilyn Hudson.

For the past two years, Hudson has served as president of USI's Student Government Association, and has given leadership to several of its committees and new initiatives. He has been a member of the Student Alumni Association, serving as treasurer and chair for several programs. He also has served on many University committees, including the University Center Coordinating Council, the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee, and the USI Foundation Student Relations Committee. As an -AMIGO orientation leader, Hudson has assisted incoming students in making the transition to college life at USI.

Hudson has been a consistent Honors List student, a participant in the Honors Symposium, and has been named to Sigma Zeta Math and Science Honorary, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and Golden Key National Honor Society. He also is a member of the Student Education Association and the Mathematical Association of America. He is the recipient of the Trustees Distinguished Merit Award, the All-Campus Student Achievement Award, the Kinsey Memorial Scholarship, and the USI Alumni Association Scholarship. He has worked in several USI offices, including the Mathematics Department and the Office of Career Services and Placement..

Active beyond the campus borders, Hudson has been a volunteer judge for high school speech tournaments, a participant in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, a speaker for National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, a volunteer for the Princeton Music Classic, an active member of Patoka United Methodist Church, and a volunteer for the USI Alumni Phone-a-thon.

With the hope of ultimately becoming a university professor, Hudson has prepared himself to teach secondary school mathematics. Next year, he plans to enter the University of Louisville's graduate program to earn a master's degree in mathematics, and then to obtain a high school or middle school teaching position before going on for his Ph.D.

Other finalists for the President's Medal were Amy J. Clem, Jamie R. Cutter, and Anna M. Green.

Sent to: Pat Swanson (C&P), Shield, Mt. Vernon Democrat, Princeton Clarion, WRAY, Web