

Woodridge's Cushion named outstanding recreation student

Kelly Cushion, 25, of Woodridge, recently was named 2006 Outstanding Recreation Student by the Recreation Department of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Cushion, who graduated May 13 from SIU with a 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale, earned a bachelor's degree in leisure service management.

She is a 1999 graduate of Downers Grove South High School, and also attended Thomas Jefferson Junior High School and Edgewood School in Woodridge.

Cushion will pursue a career in recreation management, and will intern this summer at the Bensenville Park District, she said.

She was selected outstanding recreation student from more than 130 students in the school's recreation management program.

Over the last year, Cushion served as the president of the Student Recreation Society, which led to her giving a speech April 28 at the Allen Symposium in front of hundreds of recreation professionals from throughout the state.

"It was a great experience," Cushion said.

She also was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award for performing more than 200 hours of volunteer work last year.

"The volunteer work included tasks such as helping in after-school programs for kids and working at a local food pantry," Cushion said.

Cushion, the daughter of Peter and Marge Cushion of Woodridge, also has been accepted into the National Scholars Honor Society.