

# **Southern California Rose of Tralee 2008**

## **Sinéad Cunningham**

*Sinéad Eithne Cunningham is the twenty-fifth young woman to be crowned the Southern California Rose of Tralee and given the distinct honor of representing Southern California in Tralee, Ireland. Sinéad joins a unique sisterhood of women, beginning with the first Southern California Rose in 1984, who have continued the tradition of the Rose of Tralee in Southern California for more than two decades.*

*Sinéad was born twenty-one years ago in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She will be graduating from the University of California at San Diego in June 2008 with a degree in sociology. Her special area of study at UC San Diego has been the sociology of family, childhood, violence and the media. Recently, Sinéad started an internship working with the children of incarcerated parents. Sinéad is an alumni of*

*Sultana High School in Hesperia, CA.*

*Her future plans include pursuing graduate school and continuing to work with the young. She aspires to be a mentor to young people and encourage them to become contributing members of society.*

*Sinéad is the daughter of James and Eithne Cunningham. She is one of five children, who include Donal (age 25), Emer (age 23), Eoin, (age 18) and Niall (age 13). Sinéad describes her family as amazing. She notes that her family is very quick with the wit, so there is always laughter abound. The Cunningham family is also very determined and loving. One of the family's favorite things to do is to play card games and board games together.*

*Her family's Irish roots are found in Counties Tyrone, Derry, Donegal, Antrim, and Down. Her parents were both born in Belfast and Sinéad and her family immigrated to the United States when she was six.*

*The blue-eyed dark haired Sinéad spends much of her free time as a member of I Partners at UCSD and Alpha Kappa Delta. She claims The Devil Wears Prada as one of her favorite literature. Her favorite movies include Step Up and Save The Last Dance and Katherine Heigel is one of her favorite performers. Her tastes in music run from the ballads of Celine Dion to the rock and pop sounds of U2 and Snow Patrol. Sinéad is passionate about sports and loves playing soccer and volleyball and is a die-hard Padres fan. Over the years, her travels have taken her to Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Italy, Spain and Germany.*

*With fourteen former Roses in attendance as part of Southern California's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Sinéad Eithne Cunningham was chosen on March 15, 2008 from ten young women of Irish heritage to represent Southern California this summer in Tralee, Ireland.*