

SOUTHERN'S SHINING MOMENTS

December 2009

UNIVERSITY

For a third consecutive year, *Military Advanced Education* magazine lists SIUC as one of the nation's **top military-friendly colleges and universities** in the November/December 2009 issue. SIUC is one of fewer than 30 universities and colleges in the nation to make the publication's list in each of the last three years

ENGINEERING

The American Society of Civil Engineers named **John W. Nicklow**, associate dean of the College of Engineering and a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, as a fellow of the organization. The distinction is one of the highest offered by the ASCE, which is considered the flagship professional organization for civil engineers.

Dr. Lizette Chevalier, professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was also named as a fellow with the American Society of Civil Engineers. In addition, the American Academy of Environmental Engineers named her a board certified environmental engineer. The organization is dedicated to the practice of environmental engineering to ensure public health, safety and welfare.

BUSINESS

Donna Margolis, assistant dean of the College of Business, is a new member of the prestigious Disney College Program National Advisory Board. Her appointment is for a three-year term. The board members serve as liaisons between the Disney Co. and the universities and colleges it recruits from.



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LIBERAL ARTS

Southern's **creative writing program** was ranked 47th in the nation by the "2010 MFA Rankings: The Top Fifty" in the journal *Poets and Writers*, the standard journal for those in creative writing professions. SIU's ranking places it ahead of every other university in Illinois, both public and private.

APPLIED SCIENCES & ARTS

José R. Ruiz, an associate professor in the Department of Aviation Management and Flight, received the John K. Lauber Aviation Safety for his efforts in aviation safety. Ruiz received the award during the University Aviation Association's Fall Education Conference in Wichita, Kan. The award recognizes achievement that demonstrates clear advancement of aviation safety by an individual or an organization.

ATHLETICS

Saluki junior free safety **Mike McElroy** was named to the 2009 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America second team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America. McElroy is the first Saluki to receive Academic All-America accolades since 1991 and just the sixth in school history.

Jeff Schirmer captured all-American honors for the second consecutive season and etched his name into SIU record books with a 19th overall finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships.

Senior running back **Deji Karim** is one of three finalists for the 23rd annual Walter Payton Award. The Payton Award, which is voted on by an elite panel of sports information directors, writers and broadcasters, goes to the top player in the sub-classification.

The **Saluki football team** set a new Missouri Valley Football Conference record with its 14th-straight league victory after securing the outright MVFC Championship with a win over Missouri State in November. The team earned the No. 1 spot on The Sports Network FCS Top 25 poll.