

# Southern's SHINING MOMENTS

May 2009

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENT

Three SIU students are part of the 2009 All-USA College Academic Team selected by *USA Today*. Lisa Furby, a junior in mechanical engineering, and Sean Goodin, a senior majoring in physiology and philosophy, made the second team. Joe Batir, a senior in geology, earned an honorable mention. Just 60 students nationwide make the team, with another 20 selected for honorable mention, from a field of hundreds. The program honors full-time undergraduates who excel in scholarship and extend their abilities beyond the classroom to benefit society. Judges rated applicants based on grades, academic rigor, leadership, activities and an essay describing their most outstanding intellectual endeavor. All wrote about their undergraduate research activities.

## LIBERAL ARTS

Pyramid Public Relations, SIU's non-profit student-run public relations firm, became nationally-accredited this year. The national affiliation status allows the firm to work with clients throughout the U.S. SIU's branch of the Public Relations Student Society of America was also named SIU's top registered student organization along with the Student Alumni Council, the student chapter of the SIU Alumni Association.

Leslie Duram, chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources, received a Fulbright Scholar Award from the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and the Irish Fulbright Committee. She will spend a sabbatical year at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

## SCIENCE

Joe Batir, an SIU geology student, will join the elite ranks of Fulbright Scholars next year. He will travel to Akureyri, Iceland, in February to pursue a Master of Science degree in geothermal energy resources at the School of Renewable Energy Science there.



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## ATHLETICS

The Southern Illinois men's tennis team captured a Missouri Valley Conference title with a 4-3 win over No. 1 seed Drake at the Hanscom Indoor Tennis Center. This is the University's first conference win since 1990.

Bryan Mullins was named a recipient of a \$7,500 NCAA Post Graduate Scholarship. The scholarships were awarded to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are in their final year of intercollegiate athletics competition.

SIU head basketball coach Chris Lowery has been selected as an assistant coach for the U.S. men's Under-19 team at the FIBA World Championships. The 16-team championships will be held July 2-12, in Auckland, New Zealand. The U.S. is grouped with Egypt, France and Iran, and will open against the Iranian team. The team will feature many of the nation's top freshmen.

Sarah Taylor and Nicholas Kramer, both assistant employees for the University's Recreational Sports and Services, won scholarships to attend the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association's (NIRSA) national conference in Charlotte, N.C. Just seven people nationwide received the General Foundation Scholarships.

## ENGINEERING

The Illinois Technology Foundation, a Chicago non-profit organization aimed at promoting technology talent from academia to industry, selected engineering students Lisa Furby, Max Kleiboeker and Christopher Scott Williams as winners in its annual "50 for the Future" competition. The winners will attend a reception in Chicago on Thursday, April 2, during which they will have the opportunity to network with technology company leaders, and university and government officials as they chart a course for their futures in the technology field.

Yoginder "Paul" Chugh, a professor in the Department of Mining and Mineral Resources Engineering, is a member of the China Council Task Force on Sustainable Use of Coal. Chugh joins scientists and engineers from France, Canada, Denmark and China in studying the country's current and future approach to coal-based energy. The China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development created the new task force.