

Derreck Langwith, a first-generation college student, Sparta, IL native and senior in linguistics, is an example of a local Southern Illinoisan moving up and on to the big city. At least he did in mid-April when he traveled to Washington, D.C. to present his research at the 2011 "Posters on the Hill". Derreck returned to SIUC just in time to attend the Honors Day ceremony on Sunday, April 17th, at which he received an Undergraduate Distinguished Achievement Award from the Department of Linguistics. However, this is just one of the many awards he has received during his years at SIUC. The fall of 2006 was his first semester here, and he has managed to make the Dean's List every semester since. Derreck was also enrolled in the Study Abroad Program in Nagoya University in Japan for an academic year, completed the University Honors Program, served as a student representative on the College of Liberal Arts' Council. In addition to his classes, Derreck worked as a Linguistics undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Paul McPherron and also worked in the Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) which may have sparked his interest in his life's next step – travelling to South Korea to teach English.