

NEWS RELEASE

Moms Association
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Moms Association Announces 2009 Medallion of Honor Recipient

The Moms Association of the University of Illinois is pleased to announce that Penelope Soskin has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2009 Medallion of Honor Award. Ms. Soskin will be recognized for her contributions at the 2009 Moms Association Annual Board Meeting on April 18th, 2009.

The Medallion of Honor Award was created in 1966 to pay tribute to those individuals who, by example and services, have used their talents to enrich the lives of others. Two men and eight women were honored between 1966 and 1976. Since 1977, this award has been given to a woman affiliated in some way with the University of Illinois. Ms. Soskin was chosen from a number of excellent candidates as best representing the qualities to which the Medallion of Honor pays tribute.

In her current role as Senior Assistant Dean and Director of Honors, Scholarships, and Experiential Learning Initiatives for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS), Ms. Soskin has the opportunity to interact with, and impact, students on a daily basis. With over 15,000 students in the College of LAS, guiding each student through his or her educational journey is a large undertaking. Some of Dean Soskin's duties include administering the college scholarship selection program, serving as the primary support to out-of-state LAS students, and organize the LAS Senior Thesis program. Dean Soskin's main charge, however, is the oversight of the Edmund J. James Scholar Honors Program for the College of LAS.

Students involved with the James Scholar Honors Program strive to achieve the most during their college career. These students hold themselves to a higher standard academically and require additional support as they continue on their journey of distinction. Dean Soskin sends frequent e-mail communications to her students, making a large-scale program like the James Scholar Honors Program feel more personalized and intimate. In his letter of support, a class of 2008 James Scholar student describes Soskin as "a continual source of encouragement and insight" who helped him work through his intellectual and personal aspirations with a "tireless work ethic." Her co-workers echo the sentiments of her students. College of Business Assistant Dean John Hedeman, a colleague of Soskin's, has noticed the effect her support has had on her students. "By encouraging young undergraduates to set the highest possible standards

for themselves, she inspires her James Scholars to... pursue undergraduate research, apply for the most prestigious scholarships..., and to give back to the world through positive civic engagement.”

Despite her busy schedule, Dean Soskin has also built an extensive résumé of community service work, in programs that have benefitted both the University and the Champaign-Urbana community at large. She has also dedicated herself to being a loving wife and mother to her four children, one of whom is a University of Illinois alumna. She is a welcome addition to the tradition of outstanding Medallion of Honor Award recipients.

For more information about the Medallion of Honor and the Moms Association, please visit our website at www.uofiparentprograms.illinois.edu or call the Parent Programs Office at 217.333.7063

The Moms Association at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, established in 1923, is believed to be one of the nation’s oldest parent organizations. The Association supports programs, services and activities that promote the health, safety and well-being of the University community and serves as the parent liaison to the campus.

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