



News Release

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WESTERN FRATERNITY TAKES STEPPING COMPETITION

St. Joseph, Mo. —Oct. 28, 2005—The Missouri Western State University chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity took first place and won \$1,000 at the “Stepping for a G” step show Oct. 22 at Maryville University in St. Louis.

Anthony Dixon, a senior criminal justice major from Kansas City, Mo., and member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, said their eight team members performed a 12-minute step show at the competition.

According to a California Academy website, stepping is a complex dance form that grew out of African American tradition. Mainly performed by black Greek-letter organizations and black college students, stepping is a dance form that combines elements of military drills with contemporary jazz and hip-hop moves. Clapping, slapping the hands against various parts of the body, and stomping the feet produce the complex rhythmic foundation for the dance. In addition to this array of bodily percussion, stepping also features complex synchronized body movements, along with singing, chanting, and verbal play.

The group is scheduled to compete again on Nov. 4 at the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.