



News Release

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WESTERN AMBASSADORS NIGHT AT THE RITZ A SUCCESS

St. Joseph, Mo. —May 2, 2003— The ninth annual Night at the Ritz, a fundraiser for the Missouri Western State College Ambassadors, raised over \$13,000 for nontraditional student scholarships April 25. Because the event raised more than \$10,000, the Ambassadors will receive an additional \$5,000 from the W. Fairleigh Enright Charitable Trust.

“I am amazed at and thankful for the generosity of our community and the Fairleigh Enright Charitable Trust. Without their help, many nontraditional students would not be able to pursue their dreams,” said Ellen Smither, coordinator of nontraditional students and liaison for the Ambassadors. “With budget constraints, these scholarships are more important than ever.”

This year’s event was the “Jazzy” Night at the Ritz, and featured entertainment from Western’s music students. A jazz combo from the college performed during the reception, and the Jazz Ensemble and Steel Drum Band entertained the audience of over 200 after dinner. Three Western students also performed “Mallet Madness,” and Andy Ewing was featured in a lights-out drum solo entitled BLACK LIGHTning. Students from the Jazz Ensemble also played for the dance.

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A variety of raffle prizes was given away, including a one night's stay at the Raphael Hotel in Kansas City, dinner for two, complimentary champagne and breakfast, donated by Lester Einbender of Royal Ambassador Travel. An anonymous donor added \$100 to the grand prize.

The Western Ambassadors serve as a bridge between the college and community. The major focus of the group is helping nontraditional students, which is anyone over 25. Since 1989, the Ambassadors have awarded \$113,000 to 203 nontraditional students, and of that total, Night at the Ritz events have raised over \$88,000.

Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college 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.

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