



News Release

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WESTERN PROFESSOR AWARDED FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

St. Joseph, Mo. —April 27, 2004—Dr. Robert Bergland, associate professor of English at Missouri Western State College, is one of 800 Fulbright Scholars in the nation, and his Fulbright Scholarship will give him the opportunity to teach at the Luts'k Liberal Arts University in Ukraine in the spring 2005 semester.

“It’s a very selective process, so to be chosen is quite an honor. I have always been interested in teaching abroad for a semester,” said Dr. Bergland. “This is an incredible learning opportunity for me.”

He said he first became interested in Ukraine when journalists from that country visited Western in 1999. “I was intrigued by the struggles of the press in an emerging democracy, especially a place which had been under Communist rule.”

Along with teaching, Dr. Bergland, who is Western’s student newspaper advisor, hopes to conduct research to compare the student press at the Ukrainian university to U.S. colleges. He said that is what he will miss the most during his semester in Ukraine - working with the Western students on the newspaper. “I love the interaction with the students. It will be tough to leave them.”

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His wife Tammy and two sons, Zach and Alex, will accompany him, and the boys will be home schooled for the remaining months of their school year. Although he thinks the experience abroad will be a challenge for the family, it will be very worthwhile, and it will make them more appreciative of what they have. He thinks his sons will mostly miss their friends, English-speaking television and easy Internet access.

The Fulbright Scholar Program, begun in 1946, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program sends scholars and professionals each year to more than 140 countries, where they lecture or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

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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.