



News Release

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WESTERN FUND-RAISER FOR NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS SUCCESSFUL

St. Joseph, Mo. —May 18, 2004—Great food, outstanding entertainment, and more funds for nontraditional student scholarships at Missouri Western State College marked the 10th annual Night at the Ritz, hosted by the Western Ambassadors.

This year's event, dubbed "Caribbean Cruise Night at the Ritz," raised over \$16,500 for scholarship for nontraditional students, those over 25. Also, at the Night at the Ritz this year, it was announced that U.S. Bank as trustee, and on behalf of the funding committee of the W. Fairleigh Enright Charitable Trust, established the Enright Family Scholarship for Nontraditional Students. This scholarship will ensure an additional \$5,000 will be available each year for distribution to nontraditional students at Western.

"We want to thank our sponsors and our donors for their commitment to education, and for their willingness to help students in need," said Jeannie Pitluck, president of the Ambassadors and one of the emcees of the evening with Dr. James Roeber, vice president for institutional advancement.

The evening at the St. Joseph Ramada Inn featured Caribbean musical entertainment by Western's Steel Drum Band, directed by Dr. Dennis Rogers, professor of music; and the Western Chamber singers, directed by Dr. Richard Bell, assistant professor of music.

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“It was an outstanding evening,” said Pitluck. “We had a ball. The Steel Drum Band and the Chamber Singers were excellent. It was great to showcase some of the talent of the college students.”

Two nontraditional students, Mark Galbraith and Joellen Bledsoe, told the audience how Ambassador scholarships had helped them pursue their goals of a college education.

Pitluck noted that almost 300 attended this year’s Night at the Ritz, the best attendance since the event began 10 years ago. Since 1989, the Ambassadors have raised over \$153,000 for nontraditional student scholarships.

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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.