



News Release

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WESTERN YEARBOOK STAFF WINS AWARDS

St. Joseph, Mo. — May 4, 2004—The 2003 Griffon yearbook and staff at Missouri Western State College recently received awards at the Missouri College Media Convention in St. Louis.

The yearbook received six awards. It received an All-American rating, the highest possible rating, from the national Associated Collegiate Press. This is the 15th time in 16 years that the yearbook has earned this award.

Students who won awards are Shaun Berry, third in sports photography and Angela Smith, second in personality sketch, both of Kansas City, Mo.; Mika Snodgrass of Lathrop, Mo., third in sports design and student life design; Rachel Siron of St. Joseph, Mo., third in overall theme development, student life design and sports design; and Jenny Olson of Sweet Springs, Mo., placing third in feature writing. Siron was the 2003 Griffon editor-in-chief.

The Griffon yearbook boasts a long history of success since receiving its first award in 1987. In 2001 and 1994, the yearbook earned the “Best of Show” award as well as receiving the “Gold Crown” award in 1990, the “Silver Crown” award in 1988 and the “Pacemaker” award in 1989, an award given only to the top 16 yearbook publications in the nation.

“I could tell the book was really good when it was delivered in the fall from our publishers, and it’s always nice to have that reinforced by winning recognition in state and national competitions,” Dr. Ann Thorne, associate professor of journalism, said. “We have exceptionally talented students on the yearbook, and they bring out the best in each other when they work together to bring out a book of this caliber.”

Dr. Thorne has been the Griffon yearbook advisor since 1987. For the past six years, she has served as chair of the national College Media Advisers Yearbook

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Committee. Dr. Thorne has presented more than 40 sessions on yearbook advising and production at national conventions and has served as a workshop leader for the national Yearbook Workshop and Idea Forum.

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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.