



News Release

Missouri Western State University • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • 816-271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: (816)-271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@missouriwestern.edu

WESTERN ANNOUNCES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

St. Joseph, Mo. —May 26, 2006—Missouri Western State University announces student achievements:

- Norman Beers of St. Joseph, Brian Jacobs of St. Joseph, and Justin Kerns of Gallatin, Mo., senior computer information systems majors, passed their professional certification test at the Association of Information Technology Professional's National Collegiate Conference in Dallas. Of the more than 400 taking the test, only the top 40 percent passed the exam.
- Eight Western students earned acceptance into the Southwest Area Choral Directors All-Collegiate Chorale at their St. Louis convention. The group is directed by Dr. David Benz, assistant professor of music.
- Eight students attended the national conference for the American Criminal Justice Association-LAE in St. Charles, Ill. Guy Stark of Brookfield, Mo., placed third in the under-25-year-old male category for physical agility. Nathan Miller of Columbia, Mo., placed third in the student scholarship competition for upper division and received \$100.
- Six students from the department of biology presented the results of their research along with 169 undergraduates from universities and colleges across the nation in a competitive undergraduate poster session at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) meeting. Presenters included Nate Talley, senior biotechnology major from Stewartsville, Mo.; and Kristen Thomsen, junior biochemistry major from St. Joseph; working with Dr. Melissa Daggett, assistant professor of biology; Steven Hart, senior biotechnology major from Maryville, Mo.; Trevor Butner, senior biotechnology major from Savannah,

Mo.; Kelly Malloy, junior biology major from Brookfield, Mo.; and Adam Brown, junior biology major from St. Joseph; working with Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology. Talley was selected as one of the top award recipients for the project he completed with support from the Summer Research Institute entitled “Determination of Small Stream Water Quality Using Crayfish as a Model Organism.”

- Four Western students presented their papers at the 2006 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCAACA). The student presentations varied widely in topic. Kim Schutte, senior English major from St. Joseph, gave a paper on the fusion band, “The Eleventh House.” Dawn Baker, senior history major from Agency, Mo., presented on Josephine Baker and her life in Paris. Peg Pella, senior English major from St. Joseph, presented on the use of black dialect by the 19th century white writer Joel Chandler Harris.
- Chemistry students William Wright, senior from Rayville, Mo., and Charity Witkowski, junior from St. Joseph, presented their summer 2005 research with Dr. Shauna Hiley, associate professor of chemistry, at the Undergraduate Poster Session of the American Chemical Society National Meeting in Atlanta. The title of the presentation was “Development of Microlab Experiments for General Chemistry Laboratories.”
- Amy Pankau, junior mathematics/economics major from St. Joseph, and Bob Smith, senior computer science/mathematics major from Wathena, Kan., gave a computer science, mathematics and physics colloquium. Pankau presented *More Test Ratios = Less Pivoting?* and Smith presented *Does the Computer Sudoku?*

—end—

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.