



# 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](mailto:hillk@missouriwestern.edu)

## **WESTERN STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT MUSIC BUSINESS**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —March 22, 2006—When Missouri Western State University music major Justin Amos from St. Joseph, Mo., volunteered to help at a three-day seminar in Nashville, Tenn. recently, he never thought the experience would include a conversation with the president of Capitol Records, interviews with LeAnn Rimes, Martina McBride, and Rascal Flatts; or the opportunity to pass along his band’s demo tape to Emerson Drive. Perhaps that’s why the St. Joseph native called the experience “the best week of my life.”

Amos, who plans on a music career when he graduates, volunteered with eight fellow music majors and two video/theatre majors for three days at the 37<sup>th</sup> Country Radio Seminar for DJs and program directors across the nation. The Western students helped set up for concerts of new country music artists and “big name” performers, and the seminar featured more than 20 performances by country music’s major artists.

“It was a blast. We experienced more in that week than most people experience in a lifetime,” said Amos. “It definitely confirmed that this is what I want to do with my life.”

Mark Elting, adjunct instructor in the recording arts program at Western, accompanied the group, and said the seminar was a great applied learning experience for

the students. “This is what the students want to do for a living, and they were able to see firsthand what they will be doing. They got an inside view of what’s going on in today’s music business. We could have never given them such an opportunity on campus.”

Amos said on his first day at the seminar, a radio station asked him to interview several of the performers, so he had the opportunity to meet some of the biggest names in country music.

Elting noted that the two theatre/video students plan to produce a documentary about the trip and the students’ experiences.

Anita Snead served as event decorator and her husband, David DeBolt, was director of event planning. “These guys were outstanding,” she said of the Western students. “They were absolutely phenomenal. We really, really appreciated their help.”

Elting noted that Western has already been invited to bring student volunteers to the next seminar, and he hopes they will be able to attend. “Every student walked away with a success story.”

Along with Amos, the students who volunteered included music majors Tim Coolman, from Cameron, Mo.; Brett Blakemore, from Independence, Mo.; Ben Croskell, from Kansas City, Mo.; Tyler Chiarelli, from Liberty, Mo.; Mark Morris and Patrick Williams, from Savannah, Mo.; Schyler Smith, from Smithville, Mo.; and Lenny Bagley, from St. Joseph, Mo.; as well as video/theatre majors Drew Ames, and Anthony Bossler, from St. Joseph, Mo.;

—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.*