



News Release

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WESTERN STUDENTS HONORED AT CONVOCATION

St. Joseph, Mo. —May 5, 2006—Twenty-nine Missouri Western State University students were honored with outstanding graduate awards at the 22nd annual Honors Convocation for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in April.

The criteria, selected by each academic department, include academic achievement, potential contributions to the discipline, contributions to departmental and college activities, leadership and service. The students are nominated by faculty members.

The following students were recognized:

- Art – **Nathan Martinez**, St. Joseph, Allied Arts Council Trails West! Award; **Jennifer Bruckshaw**, St. Joseph, Amy Singleton Award; and **Shannon Kay Swanson**, Smithville, Mo., Art Department Honors Award.
- Biology – **Steven Hart**, Maryville, Mo., Donald Robbins Tri Beta Scholar of the Year Award; **Lisa Miller**, California, Mo., John R. Yancey Biology Award.
- Chemistry – **Justin B. Tone-Pah-Hote**, Orrick, Mo., and **William Wright**, Lawson, Mo., Edgar C. Little Chemistry Award. **Kristina Nelson**, Savannah, Mo., William Roesle Medical Technology Award.

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- Communication Studies and Theatre – **Noah Daniel Haahr**, Pleasant Hope, Mo., Public Relations Emphasis Award; **Casey Johnston**, Farmington, Minn., Organizational Communication Emphasis Award; **Genevieve Echeverria**, St. Joseph, Video Production Emphasis Award.
- Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics – **Robert Eugene Smith**, Cameron, Mo., Outstanding Graduate in Mathematics; **Therese Maria Hand**, Boulder, Colo., Outstanding Graduate in Computer Science and Mathematics; **Brian Free**, Clarksdale, Mo., Outstanding Graduate in Computer Information Systems.
- Economics – **Jeremy Simmons**, St. Joseph, Mo., Outstanding Graduate.
- English, Foreign Languages and Journalism – **Melanie Fisher**, St. Joseph, and **John Grogan**, Memphis, Mo., Sandy Jacobs Literary Studies Award; **Nicholas Draper**, West Plains, Mo., and **Jenny Olson**, Sweet Springs, Mo., Louise Lacy Award; **Amy Frances Miller**, St. Joseph, Mary Lee Doherty Award; **Victor N.K. Onkoba**, St. Joseph, Outstanding Graduate in Spanish.
- Government, Social Work and Sociology – **Margaret M. Howards**, Leavenworth, Kan., Henry W. Pilgram Social Work Honors Award; **Christina Ann Hammond**, St. Joseph, and **Adam David Brown**, St. Joseph, Political Science Honors Award.
- History, Philosophy and Geography – **Adam David Brown**, St. Joseph, James R. Jordan History Honors Award.

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- Music – **Chris Muehlich**, Kansas City, Mo., and **Kelsey Reid**, Atchison, Kan., Outstanding Graduating Senior Performer; **Erica Hidritch**, Washington, Mo., Outstanding Graduating Senior – Music Education.
- Psychology – **Alyssa Myers**, Savannah, Mo., Willis H. McCann Award – General Psychology; **Erin Wilson**, Overland Park, Kan., Willis H. McCann Award – Personnel Psychology.

The students will graduate at ceremonies May 13 in the M.O. Looney Complex on Western's campus.

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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.