



# News Release

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## WESTERN WRITING CONTEST WINNERS NAMED

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —March 10, 2006—Scribes and Muses, a student writing club at Missouri Western State University, recently announced the winners of their annual student writing contest. Students who participated in the contest could submit one entry in any of the three genres: nonfiction, poetry, and fiction.

“An Unvarnished Moment,” the winning nonfiction piece written by Julie Summa, a senior speech communications major from Lathrop, Mo., was written about the birth of her daughter. “It was written in response to a prompt that asked us to write something from our lives and not gloss over anything,” she said. Summa also won third place in the poetry division of the contest and received honorable mention for her fiction entry.

Amanda Hash, a freshman education major from Levasy, Mo., entered the contest on a whim. She said that she saw a flier for the contest and figured she would enter some things she had been working on to see how they would do. Her poem, “Stare at the Pinstriped Walls,” won first place in the poetry division.

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Kathy Crawford, a senior English/journalism major from Platte City, Mo., has her creative writing professor to thank for her first-place fiction submission, “Bleach and White Beaches.” “I took a subject I knew well and plugged it into the formula I learned in creative writing class,” she said. “Bleach and White Beaches” was only her second attempt at writing fiction.

Other winners included: JoAn Floyd from Wathena, Kan., honorable mention, nonfiction; Mary Stone from Oregon, Mo., second place poetry, and Nellie Trigg from St. Joseph, Mo., honorable mention, poetry.

The contest was judged by Jo Van Arkel, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Texas Christian University. Van Arkel, winner of the Missouri Arts Council’s 1990 Missouri Writers’ Biennial Award, has published fiction in several literary magazines, and she is the author of two books. Van Arkel also teaches courses in creative writing and poetry at Drury University, Springfield, Mo.

The event was sponsored by Barnes and Noble campus bookstore and Scribes and Muses, Josh Kalin, president.

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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.*