



# News Release

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

**Contact:** Kristy Hill

**Phone:** (816)-271-5649

**Title:** Public Relations/Marketing Director

**Email:** [hillk@mwsc.edu](mailto:hillk@mwsc.edu)

## TRAVEL STUDIES BROADEN EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —July 8, 2003— Clinton Dougherty had to look twice the first time he saw the fenced-in herd of deer in New Zealand. “It’s very different to see 50 deer behind a raised fence.” Learning that deer are raised domestically was one of the surprises for him on the recent Missouri Western State College – sponsored New Zealand trip, he said.

The New Zealand trip in May was one of several opportunities for Western students to study abroad and enhance their undergraduate experience this past year. Along with New Zealand, trips were offered to Spain, Mexico, France, England, Japan and Germany during the past academic year, and many were available to community members as well.

The New Zealand trip was the culmination of a Global Viewpoint class in the spring semester. Thirty-four students toured and met with officials from businesses including a yacht company, a kiwi farm, a dairy farm, a pharmaceutical company and two universities.

Dougherty, a May 2003 graduate from St. Joseph, noted that the Global Viewpoint class work offered great preparation for the trip. Teams in the class each researched one of the places they would visit on the trip and made presentations, and a native New Zealander spoke to the class.

-more-

Other trips abroad included intensive class work for students while they were in the foreign country. In June, eight Western students traveled to France and attended language classes four days a week for almost three weeks, earning three college credit hours.

“The trip gives them a complete immersion experience,” said Dr. Susan Hennessy, associate professor of French. “It gives them a real sense of what it’s like to be part of a different culture. They make tremendous progress.” She believes that having the students live with a host family is the strongest point of the trip because it offers students a great opportunity to experience the culture firsthand.

Senior Lindsay Fuller, who went to France, agreed. “Staying with the family really helped improve my fluency.” Fuller, from Liberty, Mo., noted that she learned a lot on the trip just by listening to French people speak their native language.

A weekend in Paris capped the French trip, which Fuller said was “amazing.”

For more information about opportunities for travel abroad, contact the division of continuing education at 816-271-4100.

—end—

*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.*