



# 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 PROFESSOR TO SPEAK

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Nov. 10, 2006—Dr. David Ashley, professor of biology at Missouri Western State University, will make a presentation on “Orchids, Ants and Grassland: Field Studies in Northwest Missouri Prairies” at 4 p.m. Nov. 14 in Agenstein 308. The event is free and open to the community, and refreshments will be served.

Dr. Ashley’s talk is the first of a series of presentations throughout the academic year by Western faculty members who received Western Institute Summer Research grants this past summer.

Dr. Ashley has been studying and monitoring the white-fringed orchid for almost 20 years. The orchid used to be found all over Missouri, but today can only be found on three isolated prairies in northwest Missouri.

The grant from the Western Institute enabled Dr. Ashley to expand his monitoring practices this past summer. He also was able to hire a Western student, Ryan Evans, as a research assistant to begin a new research project studying ants and ant mounds in the prairie ecosystem.

For more information about the presentation, contact Dr. Ashley at 816-271-4334 or [Ashley@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:Ashley@missouriwestern.edu). For more information about the research grants, contact

Dr. Mark Mikkelsen, director, Western Institute Center for the Arts, Culture and Literacy,  
at 816-271-4530 or [mikkelsen@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:mikkelsen@missouriwestern.edu).

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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.*