



News Release

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WESTERN STUDENTS FORM ROCK GUITAR ENSEMBLE

St. Joseph, Mo. —Nov. 13, 2006—Students in Jason Riley’s commercial music ensemble class are doing much more than sitting in a classroom. In order to learn about the business of commercial music, they have formed a rock guitar ensemble, and they will perform at 9 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Café Acoustic, 2605 Frederick Ave., in St. Joseph.

The ensemble was developed for upper-level commercial music majors to perform a variety of classic and contemporary styles with a rock beat. The group features the double electric guitar work of Josh Huffman, St. Joseph; and Brett Blakemore, Independence, Mo.; supported by Jesse Boley, St. Joseph, on the drum set, Stacy Saythany, Liberal, Kan., electric bass; and Marshall Carter, St. Joseph, guitar.

Besides performing, the students also compose and arrange for the ensemble, cover promotional responsibilities, make audio and video recordings and study technical and historical topics.

The upcoming set for the Café Acoustic will showcase a diverse repertoire including selections from The Allman Brothers, Frank Zappa, Jeff Beck and J.S. Bach while genre-jumping from jazz, bluegrass and surf. The Western rock guitar ensemble is directed by adjunct professor of guitar, Jason Riley, '96.

For more information on the ensemble, call the Western department of music at 816-271-4420 or visit www.missouriwestern.edu/music.

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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.