



News Release

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WESTERN ANNOUNCES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

St. Joseph, Mo. —Jan. 16, 2007— Missouri Western State University announces recent achievements of its students:

- Chemistry students Deborah Wright from Cameron, Mo.; Jonathan Morrison from St. Joseph, and Joseph Noynaert from St. Joseph; Excelsior Springs High School student Tara Hill, and Dr. Michael Ducey, associate professor of chemistry, presented the results of their research at the 41st annual Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Quincy, Ill. The students presented “Effect of Solvent on the Alkyl Conformational Order in Alkyl Methylimidazolium Room Temperature Ionic Liquids,” describing work conducted as part of the 2006 Summer Research Institute.
- Three psychology students attended and presented at the Missouri Undergraduate Psychology Conference held at Avila University: Jillian Liu of St. Joseph presented “Practicum Experience at the Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office,” Eva Williams of St. Joseph presented “Practicum Experience at the Missouri Career Center-St. Joseph” and she won the first place Best of Panel award. Brandy Criss of Savannah, Mo., presented “Psychology in Development.”
- Six students from biology and mathematics, Adam Brown from St. Joseph, Trevor Butner from Savannah, Mo.; Eric Jessen from Brookfield, Mo.; Kelly Malloy from Brookfield, Mo.; Marian Broderick from Wichita, Kan.; and Brad Ogden from Missouri Valley, Iowa; and Central High School student Lane Heard, participated in the International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) Jamboree at M.I.T. iGEM is an international initiative to expand the field of synthetic biology. Thirty-three teams participated in the jamboree, presenting the results of their summer 2006 projects. The team won first place for best oral presentation. In a collaborative effort with Davidson College, the Western team

won three additional awards: second place for best poster, second place for best cooperation and collaboration; and third place for best conquest of adversity. Team leaders were Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor and department chair of biology, and Dr. Jeff Poet, assistant professor of mathematics.

- Daniel Kirk from Emporia, Kan., presented a session on “Poetry and the Chopin Ballades” at the annual conference held at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. Kirk traveled with Dr. David Bennett, assistant professor of music.
- Two students participated in the Missouri Music Teachers Association Collegiate Honors auditions in Liberty, Mo. Senior voice majors Karla Buckminster from Falls City, Neb. and Mindy Southard from St. Joseph competed in the lower division. Southard was named first runner up and Buckminster was chosen to perform in the vocal master class with adjudicator Dr. Genara Mendez from the University of Kansas.

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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.