



# News Release

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## 2006 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUMMER INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Oct. 4, 2006—Missouri Western State University will host the 2006 Undergraduate Research Summer Institute Symposium (URSI) from 3-5 p.m. Oct. 17 in Thompson E. Potter Hall theater lobby.

URSI was designed to enrich undergraduate teaching and learning by providing talented students with meaningful investigative or creative experiences in their major discipline in partnership with a faculty member of that discipline.

The URSI student/faculty teams who will report on their projects include:

- Characterizations of a Newly Discovered Bacteriocin, Judy Knadler, biology major from Easton, Mo. and Dr. Jason C. Baker, associate professor of biology;
- Literary Influences on the Four Ballads by Frederic Chopin, Daniel O. Kirk, music studies major from Emporia, Kan. and Dr. David Bennett, assistant professor of music;
- Remediation of Heavy Metal Ions in Wastewater by Coffee Grounds, Matthew R. Unzicker, chemistry major from St. Joseph; Jacob Voelkel, chemistry major from St. Joseph; Charity Witkowski, chemistry major from St. Joseph; Dr. Ben Caldwell, associate professor of chemistry; and Dr. Mike Ducey, assistant professor of chemistry;
- Prevalence of Different Tick Species and Ehrlichia Disease Agents in Public Areas Around St. Joseph, Shellie Murril, biology major from

Maysville, Mo. and Dr. Melissa A. F. Daggett, assistant professor of biology;

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- “It Don’t Make No Nevermind” or Even the Bible Contained Double Negatives, Casey Nichols, English major from St. Joseph; and Dr. Patricia Donaher, assistant professor of English;
- Clinical Analysis Project (CAP): An Integrated, Inquiry-centered Laboratory Sequence for CHE 111 General Chemistry, Jacob Voelkel, chemistry major from St. Joseph; Matthew R. Unzicker, chemistry major from St. Joseph; Charity Witowski, chemistry major from St. Joseph; Dr. Mike Ducey, assistant professor of chemistry; and Dr. Ben Caldwell, associate professor of chemistry;
- Economics of Freedom, Amy Pankau, economics major from Kidder, Mo.; and Dr. Reza Hamzaee, professor of economics;
- Political Activism at Missouri Western State University: Spring vs. Summer Semester Students, Jeffrey W. Knapp, social work major from St. Joseph; and Dr. Monica Nandan, associate professor of social work;
- Evaluation of the Potential Energy Surface of the Tetrhydrofuranyl Oxocarbenium Ion and its Derivatives: An Approach to Sterocontrol in the Glycoylation Reaction, Brett Cagg, chemistry major from St. Joseph; and Dr. Jonathan Rhoad, assistant professor of chemistry.
- Effects of Perceived Status and Type D Personality on Health and Cognitive Functions, John Waller, psychology major from St. Joseph; and Dr. Phil Wann, professor of psychology.

The URSI is funded by the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professional Studies. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 816-271-4510.

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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.*