

## University of Saint Mary Sees off Successful Class of 2012 at USM's Commencement Ceremony

*1 p.m. Saturday, May 12, McGilley Field House*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary will mark the close of another academic year and the completion of this leg of the class of 2012's educational journey at USM's Commencement ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 12, in McGilley Field House on the university's main Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

The 2012 commencement event will recognize the university's 257 graduates—a group composed of 174 undergraduate degree recipients and 83 graduate degree recipients. This year's graduates hail from Kansas to South Korea, from multiple countries and every geographic region of the United States.

As is tradition at Saint Mary, the 2012 Commencement ceremony will be preceded by a traditional Baccalaureate Mass in Annunciation Chapel. Following brunch, graduates will process across campus to McGilley Field House, led by the Pipes of the Kansas City, Kan., Police Honor Guard.

The ceremony itself will feature performances by the USM Community Band and the Saint Mary Concert Chorale. Reflections will be provided by student speakers Leticia Ochoa, a history and political science major from Donna, Texas; George Crossland of Overland Park, Kan., who's studying applied psychology at USM's Overland Park Campus, and Matthew Riffel, a USM MBA student from Overland Park.

The members of the Saint Mary graduating class of 2012 have come from a wide variety of backgrounds and are headed toward an equally wide range of bright futures. In reaching their God-given potential, USM's graduates have overcome obstacles of all kinds.

Students who personify this graduating class include:

- **Michelle Chrisman**, a biology major from Linwood, Kan., who was the first-ever student accepted into USM's new Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Michelle graduates USM cum laude and with honors in her major. She was a standout performer on the Spires Women's Basketball Team and an Academic All-American and Champion of Character award winner. Her dream of becoming a physical therapist was in part inspired by her own injury experience playing high school sports.
- **Daniel Young**, a political science major from Leavenworth, Kan., who last week won the university's top student service honor, the Mother Mary Ancilla Award for Service. During his Young was involved in multiple social justice projects, including spending many of his breaks, working with local community groups and travelling around the country to underserved areas to work with the poor. Daniel is headed to Ft. Benning, Ga., to serve in the U.S. Army. He's graduating cum laude with honors in his major.

- **Mary Bautista**, a student in USM's online RN-to-BSN program from Kansas City, Kan. When she enrolled at USM, she was a registered nurse with an associate's degree, seeking a BSN so she could teach nursing classes. Mary worked full time, cared for her family, and stayed heavily active in her church while she completed her studies at Saint Mary.
- **Winston Hines**, a business administration major from Dodge City, Kan., who was named USM's Business Student of the Year. Winston is graduating magna cum laude and is a founding member of USM's chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, a business service organization. As a standout on USM's Spires Baseball Team, Winston was named an Academic All-American. After graduation, he'll work as a project manager and foreman at a local construction company

The accomplishments of several USM faculty members will also be acknowledged at this year's commencement ceremony.

- **Paul Dean**, instructor in mathematics at USM, will be recognized for winning the university's Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence. The award is annual presented to a full-time faculty member who has made a distinct difference in the teaching climate at USM. The award dates back to 1990, and the recipient is nominated by students, faculty, and staff. Dean, of Kansas City, Mo., began teaching at USM as an adjunct in 2004 and is retiring at the end of the academic year.
- **Sr. Frances Juiliano**, retiring associate professor of education and longtime chair of the university's education department, will be recognized for recently earning the distinction of USM professor emerita. Sr. Juiliano came to Saint Mary in 1981. Her tenure included successfully overseeing key accreditation processes for the education department.
- **Rick Hite**, retiring associate professor and chair of the department of information systems & technology, will also be recognized for earning the professor emeritus distinction. Hite joined the Saint Mary faculty following a long and distinguished military career. At USM, he's also served as director of online learning programs.

Go to [www.stmary.edu/graduation](http://www.stmary.edu/graduation) or call 913-758-6115 for more information on this year's USM commencement activities.

*The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) for more information.*

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