

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: John Shultz (913) 758-6165
Email: shultz35@stmary.edu



USM Establishes Academic Scholarship To Honor Namesake Professor Dr. George Steger

Ceremony Set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary has created the Dr. George F. Steger Scholarship, a new \$1,500 annual scholarship for students majoring in history, political science, or global studies. Dr. George Steger, former chair of USM’s history, political science, and global studies department, and director of the university’s Global Studies Institute, will be on hand for a special ceremony honoring him at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, in McGilley Field House.

Dr. Steger, of Leavenworth, Kan., taught at USM for 22 years before retiring in 2005. Prior to joining the USM staff, he spent 26 years in the U.S. Army, working primarily in military intelligence as a Russian Specialist. Dr. Steger was a battalion commander in the Vietnam War, and retired a full colonel.

His friendship with USM benefactor Lawrence D. Starr was instrumental in the eventual creation of USM’s Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI). Dr. Steger is also the 1991 recipient of the Sullivan Award for Excellence in Teaching—the highest honor USM bestows on faculty members.

“George Steger was one of our finest professors,” said Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM’s academic vice president. “He is still remembered fondly for his knowledge and genuine concern for students. Although it began before he became director, the Starr Global Studies Institute rose to new heights under his leadership. The George Steger Scholarship is recognition for his work at USM.”

The Steger scholarship is available to incoming USM freshmen or transfer students who have declared history, political science, or global studies as their major. To be considered for the scholarships, applicants also must have a minimum ACT score of 26 or be in the top 10 percent of the class, have a 3.2 GPA or better, and take at least one history or political science course each academic year. To keep the scholarship for additional years, the student must maintain a 3.0 GPA each semester and not earn a grade below a C in any history or political science course.

“In his years at Saint Mary, George had a very positive influence on hundreds of students. In the classroom, he motivated students to do their best. Outside the classroom, he exemplified the Saint Mary spirit of service,” said Dr. Ken Mulliken, USM’s current history department chair and Dr. Steger’s successor at GSI. “He was a great mentor and is a great friend.”

Departmental faculty unanimously selected Dr. Steger as the scholarship’s namesake.

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Ken Wuerzberger, USM's director of enrollment management, added that "we're thrilled to be able to offer this wonderful opportunity to history, political science, and global studies students. At USM we aim to make a quality education affordable to all and maintain a commitment to academic excellence. This scholarship helps us with both goals—assisting students with the educational costs, and attracting talented applicants."

Go to www.stmary.edu/scholarships for more information on the Steger scholarship and other Saint Mary Scholarship Offerings.

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 for more information.

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