Harmony

USM’s Music Faculty Work Together to Restore the Music Major
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Music has always been part of our heritage. Among the many bags and bundles the sisters carted up the Missouri to our new home in Leavenworth over 154 years ago were two guitars and a harp. The harp is still with us, a permanent reminder of how music feeds the spirit, particularly, our spirit. Whenever the sisters gather—whether for prayer, celebration or fun—you can be assured that music will be involved. The sisters’ love of music has been institutionalized in their founding mission, Saint Mary.

The halls of Saint Mary are often echoing with music as the bell choir, the chorale, the band, and individual students develop their God-given potential as musicians. We who were not given the gifts of music are the grateful recipients of their music. Over the years, our students have been blessed with outstanding faculty—Sr. Rose Tomlin, C’34, Sr. Anne Callahan, C’59, and Sr. Dominique Long, C’47 among others. The tradition of helping students realize their God-given talent continues under the devoted care of Dr. William Krusemark and Professor Freda Proctor.

Both Bill and Freda are celebrating major milestones this year. Bill has taught at Saint Mary for 35 years, and Freda for 25. Together, they have 60 years of teaching, mentoring, and training musicians. With their passion and dedication, Saint Mary has been able to re-launch the music major.

This reinstatement of the music major and our McGilley Endowed Chair in Liberal Studies underscores USM’s commitment to the liberal arts. Yes, we are educating more nurses, physical therapists, and health information managers, but all of our students leave here able to think and write creatively and critically with an expansive vision of what is possible and a deep compassion for what is. For the noble task of forming the human spirit and training the human mind still remains best done in the liberal arts.

Peace and blessings to you,

Diane Steele, SCL, Ph.D., C’83

On the Cover:

This edition’s cover focuses on Saint Mary faculty members Dr. Bill Krusemark and Freda Proctor, the driving forces behind the USM music program. And in the background? The Saint Mary School Song, of course!
'She Taught us How to Care'
Friends and Students of Sr. Mary Erwin Baker
Remember the Beloved and Brave Teacher

View from the Spire
'Best Midwestern' and 'Military-Friendly'
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for your reference

Class Codes
A - Academy        U - University
C - College        M - Master's Degree

MISSION STATEMENT
The University of Saint Mary educates students of diverse backgrounds to realize their God-given potential and prepares them for value-centered lives and careers that contribute to the well being of our global society.
We value: community, respect, justice, and excellence.
Sr. Mary Erwin Baker lived the first decades of her life boldly—delving into the latest in technology, always pushing her students to excel, and traveling to new locales with gusto. She lived the final few years in the same spirit, displaying a courage that few may ever know.

Sr. Mary Erwin passed away on Sept. 24 at the age of 77, after a hard-fought struggle with neurodegenerative ataxia, an incurable condition that relentlessly attacks the brain’s ability to control the body’s motor functions. Despite the grave nature of the condition, Sr. Mary Erwin took it on more as a problem to be solved than a source of fear and despair.

“She always said that she approached it as a challenge, as a puzzle,” said Sr. Kathleen Wood, C’70, and a long-time friend of Sr. Mary Erwin. “Her math and science and observation skills served her well in both trying to continue to teach us to make things more accessible and to help her be active and involved much longer than one might have expected...

“Each morning, she’d be aware of what skills she might not be able to do quite as quickly or as well, and she’d try to find a way to work things so she could go about her day.”

Sr. Mary Erwin, born Marlene Anne Baker, answered her religious calling while enrolled at Saint Mary College, making her profession of vows as a Sister of Charity in 1955. She went on to establish herself as a dynamic, dedicated, and whip-smart educator, teaching students at every level from grade school to high school to college during a career that took her from Kansas and Missouri to Colorado and back. Math was her specialty, and a great love.

“She was very good at working with students who were having a hard time with math, and she was ever so patient with them if they would put in the effort to get better,” Sr. Wood said. “She had no use for someone who wanted you to do the work for them. But she loved to give people confidence in themselves to discover their potential and succeed—especially those who at first thought they couldn’t.”

Sr. Mary Erwin’s friends remember her as an avid reader and lover of classical music. She had a decided taste for the high tech, and helped introduce the first personal computers to the Saint Mary campus.

Sr. Mary Erwin, with Sr. Wood at her side, was diagnosed with ataxia in 2001. What happened in the years that followed helped cement the popular teacher as a Saint Mary legend. Following her diagnosis, Sr. Mary Erwin became something of a fixture in several of the USM nursing program’s classes, particularly the end-of-life classes—not as a formal instructor, but as the subject.

Kathy Ducey, an associate professor in USM’s nursing program and a 1990 Saint Mary grad and former student of Sr. Mary Erwin’s, started the process.

“She was one of the first people I bumped into when I came back as a faculty member in 2006, and we renewed our friendship,” Prof. Ducey said. “She had ataxia at that time, and I told her we were starting the nursing program. She told me I want to talk to the students.”

Prof. Ducey said Sr. Mary Erwin became the nursing department’s first patient.
“Our students would move her, from the scooter to the chair to the bed… She’d just giggle through the whole thing,” she said. “She’d come and give talks to the classes and give them advice, tell them things to do, what worked, what didn’t.

“It was a phenomenal experience for the students, and for me,” Prof. Ducey said. “You rarely find people willing to speak so openly.”

One student, Jackie Asherman, U’08, said she will never forget her sessions with Sr. Mary Erwin. “We were supposed to be her nurses that day, but instead, she took care of us, put us at ease, and told us what great nurses we would be.”

Prof. Ducey said she learned from the sessions as well.

“The top lesson she taught us was caring,” she said. “She taught us how to care. The top thing she stressed to students was to just listen to your patients. Not just hear, listen. Listen and listen deeper. We called it ‘nursing assessment.’ She just called it ‘listening.’”

For her efforts, the nursing students decided in 2008 to create the Sr. Mary Erwin Baker Award for Caring Behaviors. The annual award recognizes the Saint Mary student who best personifies the “Five C’s” of nursing—Compassion, Competence, Confidence, Conscience, and Commitment. Sr. Mary Erwin was flattered.

Sr. Mary Erwin appeared in her final nursing class in the fall of 2009. But she continued to have nursing students visit her in Ross Hall for educational sessions long after she was unable to make the trek to their classrooms, Prof. Ducey said.

“She was always the professor,” Prof. Ducey said. “You couldn’t have the students come over to take care of her. They came for her to teach them.”

As a former student of Sr. Mary Erwin’s, Prof. Ducey was not surprised by her dedication to student learning.

“I met her in the late ’80s. I was a student here completing my BSN, and she was my statistics teacher,” Prof. Ducey said. “I was no math major, and she recognized that pretty instinctively. She was wonderful. I was working at St. John’s, and she called and said ‘you need some help in this class, and you need to come here after work.’ So I did.

“I sat down at the computer, and she handed me a floppy disc, and she said ‘everything you need is here on this disc. She was a really amazing lady, and she was ahead of the times.’”

But Sr. Mary Erwin’s appearances in nursing classes went beyond her love of teaching. She advocated for anything that would better the lives of those suffering from afflictions.

“Once her condition of ataxia was diagnosed, she extensively researched the causes and effects of the condition for herself and others afflicted,” said friend Sr. Mary Pat Lenahan, C’70. “She sought ways to prepare for the personal toll the condition would exact by looking at ways that technology could better serve those who would need ways to communicate as it would become more difficult with the progression of the condition.”

Sr. Wood added “she always felt herself an ombudsman for patients.”

For those who knew her well, it was difficult to watch the disease take its toll on Sr. Mary Erwin. But, through it all, they said, she handled her condition with strength, courage, and a positive outlook.

“She handled it well,” Sr. Wood said. “Naturally, it was a great sadness in her life, and she did struggle with the Lord’s choice of this. But when people visited with her, they always felt a kind of peace around her.”

Prof. Ducey added “she was always in a good mood. That was the thing that was pretty amazing to the students and me. She was always trying to make the best of the challenges she was given, and her spirits were always good.”

Her friends say they were honored just to know her.

“I think she would want to be remembered as a Sister of Charity who loved her community and her family and enjoyed teaching,” Sr. Wood said. “She was a very good friend, and many people have many cherished and special memories of her.”

THOUGHTS & MEMORIES FROM SR. MARY ERWIN’S FRIENDS

“She inspired us that day, melted our fears, and stole our hearts. She won’t need her scooter in heaven, but I bet she brought the bike horn along, just for fun. Hugs to you Sr. Mary Erwin. You will be missed, but never forgotten.”

— Jacki Asherman, U’08

“Her smile, kind words, and willingness to serve others were always evident and I will never forget the impact she had on my life.”

— Prof. Rick Hite

“She was a kind, gentle, generous soul who always seemed to have a smile on her face. Her love of math and her dedication to teaching helped pioneer the math program into the program it is today.”

— Prof. Rick Silvey

“She was an incredible teacher. Frankly, one of the best I had at Saint Mary. She believed in me and knew I could do it!”

—Kelly Vestal, C’01

Read more quotes
@ stmray.edu/aspire
Best Midwestern, Military-Friendly Accolades for Saint Mary

It’s been a big year for the University of Saint Mary on the national-recognition front.

In mid-August, The Princeton Review named Saint Mary a “Best Midwestern College” for a remarkable eighth straight year. And just a month later, G.I. Jobs Magazine dubbed USM a Military-Friendly School—the third consecutive time Saint Mary has secured that annual honor.

The Princeton Review award honors schools based on their track record for strong academics and positive feedback from students and parents. Only 153 Midwestern schools to earned the Best Regional College honor for 2013, and only about 25 percent of the country’s 2,500 four-year colleges make one of the Review’s four regional lists. In the Kansas City area, USM is part of a short list of “Best Midwestern College” winners.

The Princeton Review asks students to rate their own schools on several issues—from the friendliness and accessibility of the faculty to the vibrancy of a given school’s student life program. Students also answer questions about the general atmosphere and culture on campus.

Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM’s vice president for academic affairs, noted that “once again the nationally recognized Princeton Review has applied its widely held standard measures of academic quality to USM and found us worthy to be named a ‘Best Midwestern College.’ We are grateful, and we are also proud of what we accomplish year after year.”

The Military-Friendly honor goes to the top 15 percent of U.S. colleges, universities, and trade schools that do the most to serve the needs of military service members, veterans, and family members as they work to attain their education.

According to G.I. Jobs, schools on the 2013 Military Friendly Schools list go out of their way to provide the best college experience for military students. They also exhibit leading practices including on-campus veterans programs and flexibility for active-duty students. USM, for its part, is a VA Yellow Ribbon Program participant, and has an on-campus office for veterans services and a veterans services coordinator with over 24 years of military experience.

Professor Carlton Philpot, USM’s veterans services coordinator and a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, said “Saint Mary always feels proud, privileged, and honored to be able to serve and support our country’s veterans, active duty personnel, and military families as they work to meet their academic goals.

“With each passing semester and with each veteran, active duty, dependent, or spouse we enroll and assist, we are always improving at serving the educational needs of those who served this nation proudly.”

DPT Blessing & Dedication

Archbishop Joseph Naumann visited the University of Saint Mary on Friday, Oct. 26, for the blessing and dedication of the university’s new Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

USM named the new program for the late Sr. Mary Kathleen Stefani, C’51, one of the guiding lights of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

Sr. Anita Sullivan, C’54, and Sr. Stefani’s sister Doreen Strizic, C’50, presented a portrait of Sr. Stefani for Archbishop Naumann to bless. The portrait was then installed outside the DPT main office.

Learn more about the Stefani DPT Program at www.stmary.edu/dpt.
Saint Mary Welcomes Board of Trustees Newcomers

Saint Mary added several new members to its Board of Trustees at the group’s quarterly meeting in October.

The new members include:

**Rolland (Rolly) A. Dessert, Jr.**, is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army and currently president and CEO of Design Associates International in Lansing, Kan. Prior to taking that post, he worked as associate and later as senior associate at Booz Allen Hamilton in Leavenworth.

Col. Dessert’s wife, Karen Dessert, earned bachelor’s degrees in pastoral ministry and applied psychology from USM in 2003 and 2004, respectively. They have 10 children, several of whom attended Saint Mary.

Col. Dessert has extensive military experience, first serving as an infantry platoon leader at Ft. Lewis in Washington and finishing his military career as commander of the U.S. Army Garrison & Fort Leavenworth. He’s a graduate of West Point.

Col. Dessert also served as chief administrator of the Leavenworth Regional Catholic Schools.

**John D. Starr** is chairman and CEO of Ultrasource LLC, in Kansas City, Mo., a packaging and processing equipment company and the nation’s largest vacuum chamber packaging equipment manufacturer. Previous career stops include Bankamerica Corp. in San Francisco, and Booz Allen Hamilton in London and New York City.

Mr. Starr is a graduate of Pomona College and earned his MBA from MIT. He also works with the philanthropic Starr Family Foundation. He is also the son of Lawrence D. Starr, a former USM board member and the namesake of the Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute.

**Kathleen Fogarty, C’82**, is medical center director for the Veterans Health Administration. As director, she is responsible for the management of the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa, Fla.

Prior to this appointment, she concurrently served as director of the Veteran Healthcare Systems of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, Ark., and as the interim director of the Overton Brooks Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She also served as the interim director of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care Systems and as associate medical center director at the Oklahoma City VAMC. She previously served as the clinical support service line executive at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston.

**Frederick Tromans**, of Kansas City, Mo.-based Tromans-Slosburg Investments, was licensed as a general securities representative and separately as an investment advisory representative after a 33-year career in corporate financial management.

Mr. Tromans is a Xavier University graduate who earned his MBA from Rockhurst University. He worked at Aetna before leaving to serve as an Army Air Defense Artillery officer. He worked in finance and accounting at Procter & Gamble and financial management at Butler Manufacturing. For 10 years, he served as senior vice president and CFO at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City. He later served as vice president and CFO at Government Employees Hospital Association, Inc.

Mr. Tromans has served as an adjunct faculty member for the MBA programs at USM, Rockhurst, and Benedictine.

New USM board of trustees (from left:) Rolly Dessert, John Starr, and Fred Tromans are installed at a special ceremony in Ross Chapel on Oct. 26, 2012. Not pictured: Kathy Fogarty, C’82, and John C. Kornitzer.
The ranks of legendary athletes in the Saint Mary Athletic Hall of Fame grew considerably this fall with the additions of a robust 2012 class of honorees—baseball standout Cody Newman, U’08, and the entire award-winning 2000-2001 Saint Mary Men’s Basketball Team. Confused by the timing? The Saint Mary athletics department made a break with tradition this year, moving the induction ceremony from January to October’s homecoming weekend.

The switch meant a bigger turnout for the HOF festivities, including the traditional banquet dinner the night before USM’s Oct. 6 Homecoming Game.

At the banquet, USM Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach Rob Miller praised Cody’s efforts and character both on and off the field.

“I got lucky (recruiting) Cody Newman,” Coach Miller said. “He came here as a football student-athlete who could play baseball, and could he ever play baseball. Sometimes luck in sports—luck when you’re recruiting, luck during a game—is crucial.”

Cody, a catcher and native of Peculiar, Mo. was named First Team NAIA All-American in 2008, First Team All-Region in 2007 and 2008, and First Team All-KCAC in 2006, 2007, and 2008. In 2007, he led the nation with a .480 batting average, and finished his Spires career averaging .434 with 182 hits and 21 home runs.

Cody offered advice to current Spires student-athletes.

“I have no regrets for my collegiate playing days because I know I worked hard in the classroom, and I worked hard during the season and the off season to do everything I could to help my team win,” he said. “You’re going to make mistakes, know that now. But know that you will have an opportunity to fix them… You can persevere if you believe and you are confident. Doubt is your most feared competitor, not only in athletics, but in life.”

The 2000-2001 Spires Men’s Basketball Team enter the university’s Athletic Hall of Fame as a team. The ’00-’01 squad went 24-9 that season en route to winning the KCAC Tournament. They qualified for the NAIA DII National Tournament, and advanced to the Sweet 16 round. The Spires finished the season ranked 20th in the NAIA DII.

Representing the team at Saint Mary during Homecoming weekend were: Head Coach Tim Schuring, Assistant coach Cam Schuknecht, Graduate Assistant Jerome Williams, C’01, Graduate Assistant Joe Godina, C’02, Team Captain Troy Brown, C’02, and players Bryan Shelley, U’04, Jess Arter, C’03, Josh Woods, C’03, Mike Finnell, C’01, Dave Finnell, C’02, and Shawn Pinkett, C’02.

In introducing the team, current Head Men’s Basketball Coach Jon Bishop said “I tell my guys all the time: the best basketball team that’s ever been assembled here at Saint Mary is the 2001 team…we’ve never accomplished what that team’s accomplished… You will always have a home back here with the Saint Mary Basketball program.”

Coach Schuknecht shared tales about his days with the program, when his office was a cubicle and a Saint Mary team once was forced to finish a game with only four players.

“We were not your average group. We had six states represented on that roster. We had outstanding senior leadership,” he said. “This team was special.”

Jerome Williams echoed the sentiment.

“We were all friends. We were all close. That’s what really matters most. We had it rocking here for a while,” he said. “Cherish the moment. It will end quickly in the blink of an eye and you’ll be working the rest of your life.”

Learn more about USM’s Athletic Hall of Fame at www.gospires.com.
## 2012 Basketball Schedule

### WOMEN’S SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Kansas Wesleyan</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Sterling College</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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Holiday Classic Tournament Dec. 15-16, 2012

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>@ Stephens College</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 16</td>
<td>@ Central Methodist</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
<td>@ McPherson College</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 5</td>
<td>Bethany College</td>
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<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>Manhattan Christian</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>Tabor College</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>@ Ottawa University</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>@ Southwestern College</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Bethel College</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Friends University</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>@ Kansas Wesleyan</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Hillsdale College</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>@Sterling College</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>McPherson College</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>@ Bethany College</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>@ Tabor College</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>Ottawa University</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Southwestern College</td>
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### MEN’S SCHEDULE

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Kansas Wesleyan Univ.*</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Sterling College*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>Haskell University</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
<td>@ McPherson College*</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 5</td>
<td>Bethany College*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>Tabor College*</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 12</td>
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<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Friends University*</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>@ Kansas Wesleyan Univ.*</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Hillsdale Free Will Baptist</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>@ Sterling College*</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>McPherson College*</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Southwestern College*</td>
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(*) denotes KCAC conference game
Home games in bold

Visit [gospires.com](http://gospires.com) for more info.

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### Spiro Soars at Fiery Debut

After years of dedicated service, USM’s long-time mascot retired in September and passed the baton to a new up-and-comer.

Spiro the Dragon version 2.0 made his dramatic debut before USM’s home football opener on Sept. 22. Among the highlights were a great production by the USM Cheerleading squad and a dramatic performance by a KC-based fire dancer.

Learn more (and watch video of the debut) at the Dragon’s Den, the online home of Spiro at [www.stmary.edu/spiro](http://www.stmary.edu/spiro)
REVIVING A
CLASSIC

USM’s Resident Maestros
Re-Launch Music Major
to Rave Reviews
hey spend free hours scouting talent, their summers fine-tuning the game plan for the start of the year, and plenty of grueling sessions of practice, practice, practice. The Saint Mary Spires Football program? Not quite. Try the dedicated maestros behind USM’s music program.

In any given point of the year Dr. William Krusemark, chair of the fine arts department and director of the music program, and Freda Proctor, director of instrumental music studies, are blurs of activity. They teach classes, give private lessons, put together a long list of music events for the community, and—due to their frequent contributions at convocation, commencement, and other key university gatherings and events—basically produce the soundtrack of Saint Mary.

This year add to that list one weightier task: bringing back the university’s music major.

Harmony

USM has offered some form of music education for decades. Even without the major in recent years, two music minor offerings were quite popular on the university campus.

Restoring the Saint Mary music major—dormant since 1995—just makes good sense for the university and blends in well with current trends in education and employment, Dr. Krusemark says.

“We had put forth the proposal several years ago to bring it back,” he said. “I think, since then, there’s been a change in the economy and the realization among students that you don’t necessarily have to pursue an educational track that’s narrowly restricted to a future job.

“There are opportunities to make a living in music. We need to market it as such, and reach out to students and families so they can understand there are successes to be had. (Freda and I) are both examples of that.”

Prof. Proctor echoes Dr. Krusemark’s sentiment.

“Even if you don’t do music professionally, you can still be a success,” she said. “I’m thinking about Condoleezza Rice, who describes herself as a washed up piano major. But she was highly successful regardless.”

And even if a student doesn’t make a living out of it, music can add a lot to their lives.

“Music is forever,” Prof. Proctor said. “With sports, your knees can go out. You’ll have to quit. But you can go on making music your whole life.”

So far, the demand for the new major has certainly given the faculty reason to sing.

“We have three freshmen, one sophomore, and one junior,” said Dr. Krusemark. “And all three freshmen, I recruited. They were (private music lesson) students of mine in high school.”

And, Prof. Proctor said, interest only seems to be growing.

“I’ve heard from people in my community band who live in town—high school kids—who are really happy that this major is here, because they’d like to do that when they graduate,” she said. “We had people in the band before that went off to UMKC or someplace else to be a major. They stayed with us through their growing up years and then had to go someplace else for the major.”

Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM’s vice president for academic affairs, stresses that the music major is harmonious with the university’s larger tradition and mission.

“Music has always been a major part of the lives of the Sisters of Charity from the day
they first arrived in Leavenworth over 150 years ago – musical instruments in hand,” Dr. Le Beau said.

“So, too, it has been at the heart of the University of Saint Mary and its liberal arts core.”

Alums are similarly supportive.

“I taught school music or privately at home for over 40 years. I still have students come up to me and tell me how much they learned in my classes. This foundation was given to me at Saint Mary,” wrote alum Joan (Depperschmidt) Albers, C’54.

“I was sad when Saint Mary dropped the music program, and I am now exalted that they have reinstated it,” added Joan, who at the age of 80 still plays regularly for her church.

“We must continue to teach and exemplify quality music in church and society. Saint Mary did this, and I hope they do so again.”

Rhythm

The Saint Mary music faculty provides a rock solid foundation for the program. They form the basis of everything the program accomplishes, and can be counted on like clockwork to give their all to further the program and university goals.

And if re-establishing the major represents a big milestone for the university, Dr. Krusemark and Prof. Proctor are celebrating a couple of other key milestones themselves. The 2012-2013 academic year marks Dr. Krusemark’s 35th with Saint Mary and the 25th for Prof. Proctor.

“To be able to restore the music major has been a pleasure,” said Dr. Le Beau. “And that could not have happened without Freda and Bill—two of the finest musicians in the area—whose dedication to music education at USM has been second to none. We are blessed to have them.”

Dr. Krusemark has served as director of vocal music studies at USM since 1978. Prior to coming to Saint Mary, he earned received the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Music Education from the University of Kansas and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Voice from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He completed additional studies at the Berkshire Music School at Tanglewood, Mass., and the American Institute of Musical Studies overseas in Graz, Austria.

Dr. K, as he is known to his students, has sung throughout the United States and Europe, including more than 20 featured and supporting roles as a 16-year roster artist with Lyric Opera of Kansas City. In New York, he was a regular soloist with the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys and the National Chorale at Lincoln Center and on National Tour. Other credits include the Aspen Festival, Central City Opera, Flensburg, Germany Opera, and the Kansas City, Mo., Springfield, Mo., St. Joseph, Mo., Topeka, Kan., and Lake Charles, La., Symphonies. In addition to his academic duties at USM he serves as Choirmaster at Bethany Lutheran Church of Overland Park, Kan.

“In ’78, I moved back from New York and was living in Tonganoxie and was looking for a position,” Dr. Krusemark said. “I had taught in Atchison and Kansas City and Long Island, but I wanted to teach at the college level. When I saw this position open, I was singing in Aspen for the summer, and they flew me back for an interview.

“I loved the place immediately.”

Prof. Proctor, a master pianist, organist, and flutist, received her Bachelor of Music in Piano and Flute from Wichita State University and a Master of Arts in Piano and Class Piano Pedagogy from Eastern Illinois University. Before coming to USM, Proctor taught piano at Eastern Illinois and the College of DuPage and flute at Wheaton College. She played at Carnegie Hall and has served as accompanist for numerous professional performers and as pianist for the Topeka, Kan., Symphony. Proctor is active as a performer, teacher, adjudicator, and church organist-choirmaster.

Her arrival really marked the beginning of an instrumental program at Saint Mary.

“My husband’s a Methodist minister, and he was working at a church right behind the school. Had seen the school,” Proctor said. “I figured I wouldn’t have been considered for a position because I wasn’t a Catholic. But I was wrong about that because I’ve been very welcomed the entire time I’ve been here.

“I came in and accompanied for somebody at a lesson for Dr. Krusemark, and my position sort of grew out of that, so I was an accompanist here for a while. And then I started the Community Band and that just grew over time.” Proctor’s position went full time after Saint Mary Music Legend and Professor Emerita Sister Anne Callahan, C’59, retired.

What’s kept the job fresh and stimulating for the duo over the decades?

Continued on Next Page
“For me, it’s the love of music and I love dealing with students at this age,” Dr. Krusemark said. “It’s the love of music, the sharing it and preparing it, that energizes me... and working with talent. There’s a lot of talent right now... The quality of music students comes in cycles, and right now we have really fine students and we’re excited about that because it means we can do better music, and we can do it more professionally.”

For Prof. Proctor, the job is similarly satisfying.
“I love teaching at any level,” she said. “The love really is for the music. It’s sharing the music; it’s sharing the performance, and how to bring the performance to life.”

That, she said, and “I like to keep up with what young people are doing... My youngest son went to the school here, so I was always up on the latest thing. Working with students today, I can keep my attitude young. If you don’t have kids in school, it’s easy to stop at that point.”

Another plus for the dynamic pair? Working together.
“We like to work together,” Prof. Proctor said. “I think we have a very fine working relationship. We really support each other.”

That support extended to the creation of the music major. The two professors had to come up with classes and sequencing for the major, plus must teach all of the offerings. That has to blend with their other commitments, including Dr. Krusemark’s involvement with the Freshmen First Year Experience program, and Prof. Proctor’s extensive work with the USM Community Band.

**Melody**

The Community Band, the ensembles, the Handbell Choir, the student and faculty recitals—these are all another part of the musical story at Saint Mary.

USM’s music program provides no shortage of events for the community, from the Halloween Concert to Christmas Vespers to the Spring Pops and Oratorio concerts.

“We have maybe 12-15 programs a year,” Dr. Krusemark said. “That’s about right for a liberal arts college of our size... We’re probably at the point where we need to add another senior recital, as the last one had 16 student performers. That’s a good symptom of things changing, as we need to offer more opportunities for more students to perform.”

In reaching out to the community—which in turn responds eagerly to all of USM’s public music offerings—the music program works to spread the story of Saint Mary.

It’s not the easiest task. With prep work for the new school year starting shortly after the end of the previous year. (And after students arrive, the music faculty only have a few short weeks to prepare for convocation.)

“In the summer, I have to rent orchestral scores for the 12 | Aspire

A Special Thanks

The university honored Saint Mary music stalwart Sr. Anne Callahan, C’59, at the 2012 Founders’ Day Concert on Nov. 13 in recognition of her many years of service to the music program.

As part of the event, Sr. Callahan was presented with a portrait painted by Peter Proctor, son of current USM music professor Freda Proctor. The portrait now hangs in Cecilian Hall on the 3rd floor of Mead Hall.

Pictured from left to right are Dr. William Krusemark, Freda Proctor, Sr. Anne Callahan and Peter Proctor.
Christmas program,” notes Dr. Krusemark. “So I have to predict what my balances are and what the talent level was to make the right choices. It truly is never ending.”

They also try to pick works that students will enjoy. For example, later this school year they hope to put on a show of Gershwin and Porter tunes to tie in to recent revivals.

One final way they keep the song of Saint Mary continuing through the generations? The hundreds of students they’ve taught, some professionally successful in music, some just personally successful.

“I’m always happy to hear back from students who are not necessarily heavily involved in music, but are still doing it now, on the side, as they’re grown up and out in the world doing their jobs,” Proctor said.

For Dr. Krusemark, who started here when Saint Mary wasn’t yet co-ed, “generations of students” is a literal thing.

“I’ve taught a number of students for whom I’m now teaching their daughters and sons,” Dr. K. said. “We love what we do.”

All that effort doesn’t go unnoticed from alums or peers.

“Saint Mary is very blessed to have two very outstanding music professors,” said Sr. Anne Callahan. “Very few small colleges have faculty of such outstanding talent and teaching ability... Both of these faculty members radiate scholarship, musicianship, performance skills to a very high degree but also personal goodness, integrity, and kindness to all with whom they come in contact.”

You can experience Saint Mary music making at its finest at the annual Christmas Choral Vespers at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 in newly refurbished Annunciation Chapel.

Dorothy Zalar Gillan, C’58

“An important part of my life was nurtured and propelled by my four years of study at Saint Mary College (as it was known then) as a Voice and Music Education major back in 1954 - 1958. I was there in the hey day of the music major with faculty like Sr. Rose Vincentia Tomlin, C’34, St. Mary Madeleva, and Madame Olga Sacerdote. This foundation opened doors to me into musical circles that I still enjoy today... I believe that Saint Mary was the place where I learned how to integrate music into my life as performer, wife, mother, teacher, arts supporter and liturgical musician.”

Nancy Dover Moylan, C’65

“Sr. Rose V. sums up the music department at St. Mary College for many of us. Rose was a brilliant musician, a strict director, a stern presence and a big softie underneath... Even to this day, around the Circle, in front of Saint Mary Hall or Saint Joseph Dining Hall or Berchmans, one can hear music. A fond memory, indeed.”

Melissa Jones, C’97

“My favorite moments were the Opera workshop where we incorporated props, beautiful full length dresses, and many wonderful voices to add to an evening of entertainment. Also my Senior Recital. This involved many hours of rehearsal. We prepared pieces in foreign languages, classical, contemporary and pieces from more recent Broadway theaters. I was thrilled to work with Sr. Anne Callahan, as she was a part of the program and a huge supporter.”

Tes Mehring, C’74

“While many of our careers did not remain directly associated with music, many of us ended up applying our music skills to church settings. Tes Mehring, Alison Banikowski, C’75, Lucy Urlacher, C’78, and Chris Vitt, C’78, have all been musicians at Guardian Angels Church in Kansas City, Mo., for several decades. It is unique that so many of us from multiple generations of Saint Mary music majors ended up in the same church!”
Marion (Ryan) Kelsey, C’63, Prairie Village, Kan., and her husband Darrel, celebrated 50 years of marriage on Sept. 8, 2012.

Justin Jones, C’83, has been appointed the Senior Vice President of Loan Operations and Administration for Country Club Bank, Kansas City, Mo.

Susan (Hammen) Smith, C’91, M’00, Overland Park, Kan., currently finishing her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration, specializing in Criminal Justice. She is married to William “Bill” Smith and together, they have seven children. Susan was recently elected president of the International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA) after having served previously on the Executive Board for two terms as vice president of administration. She will serve as president from 2013-2016. Susan is recognized internationally as one of the top crime analysts in the world, having given keynote speeches in Beijing, China, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Vancouver, Canada, and Den Haag. This winter, she will be keynoting in Melbourne, Australia, and in Santiago, Chile. Back at home, Susan practices crime analysis full-time for a municipal police agency, teaches as an adjunct at four colleges and universities, and is a part time policy analyst for RAND Corporation. She is one of only 38 internationally certified crime analysts in the world.

Amy (Armstrong) Maggio, C’96, Redmond, Wash., and her husband, Bill, are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Caroline Rosemarie, Nov. 8, 2011.

Heather (Stipp) Turner, C’96, Overland Park, Kan., and her husband Stan Turner welcomed the birth of a baby girl on April 9, 2012, Overland Park, Kan.

Damian Torres-Botello, C’01, Chicago, is one of 15 men who entered the Society of Jesus for the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces at its bi-province novitiate in St. Paul, Minn., on Aug. 25, 2012. Damian hails from Kansas City and is an accomplished playwright and performer. He co-founded Full Circle Theater Company and has written and presented original plays on social justice themes.

Jean (Thompson) Volk, U’04, and Timothy Volk, U’04, M’08 have moved to a new home in Parkville, Mo. They have two sons, Henry (age 2 1/2) and John Paul (15 months). Jean deployed as a civilian to Afghanistan for work (TRADOC Analysis Center and ISAF HQ) from April 2012-October 2012. Tim is currently the youth minister at St. Therese Parish in Parkville.

Ashley Mallon, U’09, & Scott Banister, Leavenworth, Kan., are proud to announce their engagement.

Geoff Peterson, U’09, is a senior (fourth year) student at OHSU Dental School in Portland, Ore. Geoff has started a Student Patient Assistance Program (SPAP) to help people who are low-income and have no or little insurance, for dental care. Geoff is married to Becky (Summers) Peterson, U’09, and they have a 2 year old named Quinn Robert.

Ashley (Packham) Peterson, U’10, Wheatridge, Colo., and her husband, Dustin Peterson, would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey Ann Peterson, on Aug. 28, 2012. Aubrey Ann Peterson is also the newest grandchild for Amanda (Burns) Peterson, C’80, and Greg Peterson.

Have an alumni event coming up?
USM’s development & alumni staff will help you promote your event! Contact Sharon Clay at 1-800-752-7043, ext. 6108, or email sharon.clay@stmary.edu if you need invitations designed or social media promotion.
in memoriam

‘30s
Eleanor (Heim) Forge, C’37, grandmother of Michaela Forge, U’10, Rebecca (Forge) Evans, U’07, Luke Forge, U’04; mother-in-law of Michele (Lane) Forge, C’80; and sister-in-law to Sr. Helen Forge, C’60, M’65. July 28, 2012, Leavenworth, Kan.

‘40s

Mike Miller, son of Marnie (Trudelle) Miller, C’47, July 26, 2012, Las Vegas.

‘50s

Donna (Demars) Brown, C’55, July 17, 2012, Broomfield, Colo.

‘60s

Sister Mary Erwin Baker, C’63, Sept. 24, 2012, Leavenworth, Kan. (See article on page 2)


‘70s

Dennis Hugh Sigafoose, son of Eleanor (Sharpe) Sigafoose, C’73, October 2012, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

‘80s
Fred Huppert, brother of Sister Marietta Huppert, C’84, Sept. 15, 2012, Billings, Mont.

‘90s

‘00s

Attendees
ALUMNICALUMNI CORNER

CHAPTER NOTES

KC Alums Gather for a Cultured Evening

On Friday, Sept. 7, a group of about 40 Saint Mary alums treated themselves to a tour at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art followed by a reception at the 1913 home of Lorraine Gordon, C’69, and her husband, Tom Nelson, a Kansas City architect.

The docent leading the tours tailored the one-hour event to each group’s specific interests. Alums responded generously, donating over $1,000 that evening to USM scholarships.

Thanks to all who participated, and we hope to see you all again at next fall’s fundraiser!

Lawrence & Topeka-area Alums Re-Connect

On Oct. 12, Lawrence-Topeka area alums rallied together for the group’s second official gathering in 2012 in Lawrence, Kan.

Attendees met at the home of Judy Francis Bellome, C’68, and enjoyed lots of socializing and food. The agenda also included a wonderful performance by USM sophomore nursing student Taylor Welch, who sang four songs while Dr. Krusemark played the piano. Alumni then enjoyed story-telling with Sr. Barbara Sellers, C’61, and heard about the latest developments on campus from Sr. Diane Steele, C’83.

Jane Ellen Liebert, C’97, says that Lawrence- and Topeka-area alums should watch for more gatherings coming in 2013.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can rent facilities on the Saint Mary campus for your special events? Call 913-758-6108 for more information! stmary.edu/YourEvent

publication notes

Ann Conver, C’73, Peoria, Ill., has released her newest book; it has been described by photographers as a “photographic recipe book.”

You can view her newest book at photographybyconver.com
**Spire Spirit Strong at Saint Mary Homecoming**
Over 70 alumni and guests gathered Oct. 6 for USM homecoming and the Saint Mary Alumni BBQ. The day started off chilly but warmed up quickly with the delicious BBQ and hot apple cider served at the lunch buffet. Kids enjoyed a castle bounce house, multiple games, and face painting. Attendees kept warm by bundling up in their Saint Mary gear and moving to music played by a local DJ.

Around 1 p.m. our guests moved into the packed stadium and caught a glimpse of the brand new Spiro the Dragon. The re-vamped USM mascot was only a few short days removed from his fiery debut, and sure entertained the crowd!

Fans as well as the Spires football team were more than amped when the game started and the momentum carried on leading your Spires into a 34-20 win over the Bethany College Swedes.

**WHAT ARE YOUR CLASSMATES UP TO?**

Have you lost touch with all your Saint Mary friends? Wonder if they ever got married or where their careers took them? Saint Mary can help you catch up with your old classmates—but we need your help!

We are looking for alumni to become Class Ambassadors. A Class ambassador, or “CA” for short, would assist the Saint Mary development office in verifying records by simply emailing or calling their old classmates. We will update our records here at USM so we can better communicate with all of our alumni and everyone can get connected if they choose.

Being a Class Ambassador is easy, and you can work at your own pace from your own home. Saint Mary will provide you with materials and assist you with any questions you may have along the way.

Class Ambassadors can also help the development office communicate to their classmates about upcoming events, campus happenings and when their alumni reunion will take place. Saint Mary will also provide you with all of these materials and emails.

To reward you for all of your efforts, Class Ambassadors will be offered special discounts during alumni reunion as well as special recognition.

If you are interested in signing up or would just like more information, please contact Sharon Clay at 913-758-6108 or Sharon.Clay@stmary.edu.
April 13, 2013
Overland Park Marriott
Learn more at stmary.edu/spirefest