

## NEWS RELEASE

November 11, 2004

Contact: Laura Davis 913-758-6308

E-mail: [DavisL@stmary.edu](mailto:DavisL@stmary.edu)



# Olpe Graduate Awarded First Full-Ride Emil Babinger Memorial Scholarship

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Amanda Cole, valedictorian of Olpe High School’s Class of 2004, is the first recipient of the Emil Babinger Memorial Scholarship at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kan. This full-ride scholarship is named in memory of Emil Babinger, a long-time Olpe resident and friend of Saint Mary. Amanda received the scholarship upon recommendation from John Kuhlmann, an Olpe farmer who is a trustee advisor for the Emil Babinger Charitable Trust at Emporia State Bank and Trust. Steve Bell, Senior Vice President at Emporia State Bank is the trust officer. George Osborn and Steven Davis of Emporia are also trustee advisors.

Amanda was a star volleyball and basketball player, and ran track when the Olpe track team took first in the Kansas State Championship. She played basketball when Olpe took runner-up in state. Amanda graduated with a 4.0 Grade Point Average. “John Kuhlmann told me about this great opportunity at Saint Mary. I came up and visited the campus and decided to go. I’m now playing volleyball for the University of Saint Mary Spires. I want to thank John and the trustee advisors. I’m glad they gave me this chance,” Amanda said.

Emil Babinger was born June 12, 1898. He was an only child and took care of his mother and father in their farm home outside of Olpe, Kan., until each of them died. At the time poor health overcame him in 1991, Emil lived alone very frugally in the family home. There was no electricity or plumbing in the house. He died May 25, 2000 shortly before his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Throughout all of his life Emil has been very generous to a variety of charities. He has been very interested in Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch in Amarillo, Texas. In the 1960s, Emil began gifting Saint Mary College, as it was called then. He specifically assisted students in Lyon County, Kan. with gifts for scholarship assistance.

Over the years, Sister Marie Brinkman, daughter of Leo Brinkman of Olpe, and other Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth visited Emil and learned of his deep Catholic faith and his charitable intentions for young people. One of his earliest gifts was to assist a relative who attended Saint Mary. He also helped at least one other student from the Olpe area. Over the years he continued to make gifts, and in 1990 established the Emil Babinger Endowed Scholarship with a \$10,000 gift. Nine Saint Mary students from the Lyon County area have benefited from the Emil Babinger Endowed Scholarship.

“We deeply appreciate this generous gift to Saint Mary,” said Sister Diane Steele, University of Saint Mary president. “We look forward to continuing the relationship which Emil began over 40 years ago as his philanthropic intentions are carried out.”

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