

NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 16, 2004

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## Kansas City Hall of Fame CEO Lawrence D. Starr Leaves \$1 Million Gift to University of Saint Mary

(Leavenworth, Kan.) — University of Saint Mary has received a financial gift of \$1 million from Kansas City philanthropist and entrepreneur Lawrence D. Starr. Starr was a member of the University of Saint Mary Board of Trustees. He died Oct. 24, 2004 from pancreatic cancer at age 72.

Starr was the retired chairman and CEO of Kansas City-based Koch Equipment LLC. He was inducted into the Packaging Hall of Fame of the Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute on Nov. 7 as the “founding father of vacuum packaging in the U.S.”



As a member of the University of Saint Mary Board of Trustees, Starr focused his attention on the quality of students’ learning and their potential impact for good. His influence is memorialized in the university’s Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute, established to promote attitudes, policies, and practices that foster peace and justice. Saint Mary has also established the Lawrence D. Starr Endowed Scholarship in History, Political Science and Global Studies.

Dr. George Steger, chair of the History and Political Science Department, enjoyed a long friendship with Starr. “He had a steadfast belief in the dignity of human beings and human life in all its diversity,” Steger said. “His commitment to justice and his abiding love for and confidence in the principles of democracy were cornerstones of his life and because these principles are at the core of the Global Studies Institute mission, he felt strongly about leaving a bequest to fund GSI endeavors.”

Starr’s son, John, CEO for the company his father helped create into the leader it is today, echoed Steger’s sentiments. “My Dad felt that he could make a significant impact with his financial support for admissions and global studies at University of Saint Mary,” he said. “Dad firmly believed that University of Saint Mary would cherish every dollar and help to educate students in need about the world and democratic values.”

For USM President Sister Diane Steele, dedicating the Global Studies Institute in Larry’s name is the least the university could do to show just how grateful the entire Saint Mary community is for his unwavering support. “Larry was dedicated to the educational mission of the University of Saint Mary,” she noted. “We were all blessed with his friendship, loyalty and guidance and it is an honor to have the Global Studies Institute carry his name. He will be missed.”

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