

## NEWS RELEASE

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# University of Saint Mary Prepares for Spire Games 2005, A Field Day for Adults and Youth to Raise Scholarship Funds

*9 a.m. – Noon Saturday, April 30, 2005*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— Thought play time was a thing of the past? Well, jump up and get ready because it's time to play at University of Saint Mary's third annual Leavenworth/Lansing **Spire Games** from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 30.

**Spire Games** is a fund-drive field day benefiting the University of Saint Mary scholarship fund. Many Leavenworth/Lansing businesses sponsor and participate in the games. Approximately 250 community members are expected to play with a goal of raising \$55,000.

This isn't the average run-of-the-mill scholarship fund drive. **Spire Games** offers a wacky and exciting assortment of field day fun for co-workers, neighbors, family and friends. Participants can also enjoy live entertainment, prizes and a great picnic lunch, complete with sandwiches, hot dogs and ice cream.

There are 10 games in all, including "Noah's Park," an outrageous obstacle course where you and your partner must balance a balloon between you while running and balancing an egg on a spoon. Did we mention that one of participant is blindfolded? And sure to offer some hilarious photo-ops are the fast and furious tricycle races around the main circle, dubbed the "Chariot Races." Did we mention these are tricycles sized for small children? And you don't want to miss "The Halo Toss," a relay race where contestants must flip a tortilla in a frying pan before they pass the skillet onto the next runner. First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded at each game.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. on the USM campus at 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Leavenworth. The morning kicks off with breakfast at 9 a.m. and a group warm-up followed immediately by the playing of the games. Leavenworth/Lansing area company involvement is the name of the game, and it's not too late to participate as game sponsors or entrants. Entry fees are based on each company's employment total. Admission for non-corporate sponsored participants is \$100 for one-to-five people. Daycare will be provided from 9 a.m. to noon for children 12 and under. Call 913-758-6126 to register for daycare or for more information.

"Spire Games is always an unbelievably fun event with an even better cause," said Brenda Hawkins, coordinator of the event. "It's a great way for local businesses to let loose and have some fun while supporting their hometown university. Working with co-chairs Bill Petrie, president of Commerce Bank, and Joe Abbott, director, R.L. Leintz Funeral Home, has been a great morale booster for the community," Hawkins said.

"The funds we raise from Spire Games will help make it possible for deserving young people with financial constraints to realize their dreams of getting their college education at Saint Mary," said Molly Serridge, vice president of Institutional Advancement at USM. "The community support, the laughs, the fun—it's worth every penny."

To date, sponsors include:

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Commerce Bank  
Corrections Corporation of America  
Danny Zeck Ford  
First National Bank of Leavenworth

Geiger Ready-Mix  
Hallmark Cards  
Kaaz-Lexeco Management Group  
The Leavenworth Times  
MidAmerican Bank & Trust  
Saint John Hospital

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