

NEWS RELEASE

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USM Curtain Rises for Classic in American Poetry
“Spoon River Anthology”

7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 21-Saturday, April 23, 2005

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— Unique performances are a staple at the University of Saint Mary Fine Arts—Theatre Department. Shows like *“Alice, Through the Looking Glass”* and *“Bedroom Farce”* have already hit the Xavier Theatre stage this season, with one more production still to come—an adaptation of American poet Edgar Lee Master’s classic, *“Spoon River Anthology.”* When *“Spoon River Anthology”* was published in 1915 it garnered immediate national attention for its truth and its shocking transgression of societal mores. A collection of poems from the graveyard of a rural Illinois town, *Spoon River Anthology* poignantly captures the politics, love, betrayals, alliances, hopes, and failures of this small American town.

Spoon River will be performed at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 21 – Saturday, April 23. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with a valid student ID. The production kicks off the 2005 University of Saint Mary Spring Fine Arts Festival, which highlights undergraduate student accomplishments in performances and exhibits during April and May.

Through free verse and fetching ballads, the disenchanted former residents of the mythical Midwestern town of Spoon River discuss their deep, dark secrets and failed dreams from the graves of their final resting place. Virtually every former Spoon River citizen has something to confess—including lovers, preachers, teachers and friends. This show is recommended for adults.

The University of Saint Mary Xavier Theatre is located on the south east side of the USM campus, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth. Call 913-758-6152 for more information about the show or the University of Saint Mary Spring Fine Arts Festival.

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