

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Red Carpet Premiere Set for USM Library's WWI Film Series

*"The World War I Years" Premieres at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The University of Saint Mary De Paul Library has been selected as one of only 50 libraries nationwide to present a six-part film-discussion series, *"The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power."*

The film-discussion series is the only one open for public viewing in Kansas, and opens with a special red-carpet premiere at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15 in Mabee Auditorium located on the lower level of De Paul Library, University of Saint Mary, 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Leavenworth, Kan. The series is free and open to the public, seating is limited. Call 913-758-6306 for reservations.

*"The WWI Years"* examines the American Experience in the Great War, the first global conflict. The events of World War I transformed America into a world power and continue to influence the most important aspects of our lives today, nine decades later. The series was created by the National Video Resources (NVR) in partnership with the American Library Association and the National Endowment for Humanities. Each film runs approximately 90 minutes.

Hollie Becker (C'00 and '01) wrote the federal and state grants and is the project coordinator for the series. She is currently a graduate student in clinical psychology at USM. "The films are very interesting, and they are not all about war, rather, they focus on America during that period," she said.

The entire series will air in six installments throughout the year. Show dates are as follows:

- Sept. 15**     **Film 1: *The Road To War***  
With German aggression building against the neutral United States, President Woodrow Wilson rallied the country and prepared for war.
- Oct. 13**     **Film 2: *Over There***  
The United States quickly mobilized an army and sent millions of fresh troops to France at the war's darkest hour, helping to ensure an Allied victory.
- Nov. 17**     **Film 3: *Modern War***  
WWI marked the industrialization of 20<sup>th</sup> century warfare, introducing brutal new weapons like the tank, machine gun, grenade and poison gas, and with them, new war-related traumas.
- Feb. 16**     **Film 4: *The American People in Wartime***  
Wartime needs triggered an economic boom and large-scale worker migrations from rural areas to industrial centers, as well as creating fertile ground for the passage of a new constitutional amendment granting American women voting rights.
- March 23**   **Film 5: *Peacemaking***  
President Wilson joined allied leaders at the Paris Peace Conference confident he could help establish a global peace that would help prevent future wars.
- April 20**    **Film 6: *After the War: The Turbulent Years***  
The war's end ushered in an unstable period in the U.S. marked by economic problems, racial strife, and a bitter fight between President Wilson and Congress over America's future place on the world stage.

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