

NEWS RELEASE

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The University of Saint Mary Nursing Tradition Begins a New Chapter

Nursing Department Open House, 2 p.m. – 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 10, 2005

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary Guardian Angel Nursing Department will host an Open House and Skills Lab Shower from 2 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 10 on the 4th floor of Mead Hall, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan. The Open House and Skills Lab Shower is an excellent opportunity for current and prospective nurses to re-discover the nursing tradition at the University of Saint Mary. Please call 913-758-4386 or email williamsta@stmary.edu for more information.

The Open House and Skills Lab Shower presents an overview of the new Guardian Angel Nursing Department once it re-starts in the fall 2006. Some of the features for the event include:

- Tours of the University's new "Guardian Angel" Nursing education facilities
- Demonstrations of the latest skills laboratory equipment
- Meet the new USM Nursing faculty
- Discover the benefits of USM's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree scheduled to launch next fall (pending Kansas State Nursing Board approval)

Opportunities will also be available to make contributions toward the purchase of new skills lab equipment as well.

One of the highlights of the Open House and Skills Lab Shower will be the display of the "Universal Patient Simulator," better known as "SimMan." "SimMan" is a full-body anatomically accurate manikin that displays a realistic range of motions and features for students to diagnosis. "SimMan" maintains a pulse, regular breathing pattern, blood pressure, and can receive intravenous therapy and injections.

The Open House and Skills Lab Shower marks the re-birth of a new era in the history of the University of Saint Mary. The new Guardian Angel Nursing Education Program, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), is scheduled to launch in the fall of 2006, pending Kansas State Nursing Board (KSNB) approval. Nursing was one of the two original majors when Saint Mary was founded in 1858. The nursing program was eventually done away with in 1994 due to an over abundance of nurses world-wide. Now, however, with a dramatic shortage in nurses that is expected to rise for the next 10-years, the University of Saint Mary has answered the call to help.

For Dr. Karen Fernengel, BSN, Ph.D., dean of the Nursing program, it was the university's duty to reinstitute the nursing degree. "Nursing is a great profession with a future as strong as its past," she said. "With the shortage of nurses predicted to worsen in the next 10 years, opportunities for young nurses to build lifelong careers in the profession are assured. At Saint Mary, it was our responsibility to help out."

Fernengel was a member of the nursing faculty during the original program until 1994. She hopes alums from all classes can attend the Open House to witness first-hand how the university plans to re-institute the nursing department.

"We want all nursing alums to visit us," Fernengel said. "So many of our nursing alums have moved on to great and fulfilling careers. It would be great for non-alum nurses to come as well because it's imperative for our students to discover the exciting careers that are out there."

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