

NEWS RELEASE

April 10, 2006

Contact: Bryan Schrepel 913-758-6165

E-mail: SchrepelB@stmary.edu



Saint Mary Guardian Angel Nursing Department Receives \$200,000 Grant For Equipment

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Thanks to a generous grant from the Goppert Foundation of Kansas City, Mo., the University of Saint Mary Guardian Angel Nursing Department will be stocked with new equipment and modernized learning tools when the nursing program begins this fall. The Goppert Foundation recently donated \$200,000 to the University of Saint Mary Nursing Department, which will be used to purchase new learning aids.

“I am so grateful to the Goppert Foundation for this grant and I’m thrilled for the students and faculty to be able to provide state-of-the-art equipment for teaching and learning nursing,” Dr. Fernengel, Dean of Nursing said. “Getting this grant will help make our ultimate dream of creating a great, hands-on nursing program a reality.”

According to Fernengel, funds will be used to purchase virtual human patient simulators, which can simulate virtually any illness, condition or injury. One simulator, called “SimMan,” will cost in excess of \$50,000. Fernengel also plans to purchase a Virtual IV simulator, which will allow students to simulate running IVs into patients. For any nursing program, simulators are the next best alternative to a live patient.

“With a profession like nursing that requires hands-on practical skills, experience along with knowledge is essential,” Fernengel said. “In today's health care system, patients have very short lengths of stay in the hospital. With the rapid turnover of patients, students have limited opportunity to see the full trajectory of an illness or post-operative experience. Through the use of faculty directed scenarios, students will experience simulated patient responses to illness and learn the various assessments and interventions needed for responding in a variety of situations. Having the ability to practice techniques and critical thinking before entering the hospital increases the student's competence and confidence.”

The university’s grant writer, Glen Meredith, worked closely with Fernengel and assistant professor in nursing Debbie Smith to compile data for the grant proposal. On March 17, Saint Mary received word from the Goppert Foundation that the grant was approved.

Call 913-682-5151 or visit www.stmary.edu for more information about the USM nursing program.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

###