

## NEWS RELEASE

June 23, 2006

Contact: Bryan Schrepel 913-758-6165

E-mail: [SchrepelB@stmary.edu](mailto:SchrepelB@stmary.edu)



# Ryan Alexander to Lead USM's New Criminology Program Director

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—After a lengthy search to hire the first-ever criminology program director, the University of Saint Mary found the perfect fit, tabbing Ryan Alexander for the position in early June. Alexander is currently a court services officer in the Third Judicial District Court in Topeka working in adult probation, and is the lead member of the district's Sex Offender Accountability Project. He has taught as an adjunct instructor at Washburn University.

Alexander is already devising ideas for the new the new criminology program. "A strong internship program is critical. That is what is going to be very exciting about this job. There is just so much potential with the five local correctional facilities and the close proximity to Kansas City," he said. "There are so many chances for students to get their feet wet, raising their chances of getting a great job. Some people look good on paper, but having that hands-on experience puts you over the top."

He also sees advantages for employees already working in corrections and law enforcement. "This bachelor's degree will open up doors for those workers. They may filter up through the ranks without a degree, but any more, most management positions require a college degree. You are much more likely to move forward in your career. This degree prepares you for a variety of professions that can be extremely rewarding," he said.

Alexander received his master's degree in Criminal Justice from Washburn and his Bachelor of Science in Sociology from South Dakota State University. He is two-thirds of the way through his doctorate at Kansas State University in the Sociology Department, and is writing his dissertation on the geographic buffer zones of sex offenders.

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.

###