

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Universal Health Care To Be Argued at USM's Annual Lincoln-Douglas Debate**

*11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The University of Saint Mary students argue for and against universal healthcare at the 2008 Lincoln-Douglas Debate at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13 in Xavier Theatre on the main campus in Leavenworth. The one-hour debate, which is free and open to the public, will be argued before Leavenworth County 5<sup>th</sup> District Judge Robert Bednar. Judge Bednar has presided over the last seven USM Lincoln-Douglas Debates.

Senior Kate Schebaum, and junior Mike Stuart will argue in favor of government funded universal health care. Senior Andrew Hood, and junior Michaela Forge will argue against. They will square off in the style of the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, which pitted Abraham Lincoln against Stephen A. Douglas in a series of formal political debates in a campaign for one of Illinois' two U. S. Senate seats. Although Lincoln lost that election, the debates launched him into national prominence, and led to his election as the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States in 1860.

The 2008 Lincoln-Douglas Debate is a prelude to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Saint Mary Lincoln Event on Feb. 18. This year's event will be a concert of Lincoln era music highlighted by a performance of "The Lincoln Portrait" by Aaron Copland. Fox 4 News anchor Phil Witt will narrate as the piece is performed by the Academy Orchestra of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City. The event benefactor is MidAmerican Bank and Trust Company of Leavenworth and Lansing, Kan.

The free concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 18, at the McGilley Field House at the University of Saint Mary, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan. Call (913) 758-6165 for more information.

*The University of Saint Mary is a private, four-year Catholic university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The main campus is located at 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations providing accelerated degree-completion and graduate programs in Overland Park, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan.*

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