

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Honors Students and Faculty At Spring Convocation/Hooding Ceremony

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary has hooded its bachelor's degree candidates in preparation for commencement at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, in McGilley Field House. Saint Mary is one of the few remaining universities remaining who performs the ritual of a hooding ceremony for its undergraduates. Hoods are worn over graduation robes and denote academic disciplines.

The ceremony, which took place on April 30, is also a time to honor graduates and faculty for special achievements.

Senior Angela Shehan, a psychology major from Prairie Village, Kan., received the Mother Mary Ancilla Award, the university's top student honor for service and community leadership. In addition to working with Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Shehan twice helped deconstruct houses in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, and also helped construct homes for elderly and poor in Appalachia, Kentucky, and Denver. As part of the honor of being the Ancilla Award winner, Shehan will deliver the invocation prayer that opens graduation ceremonies on Saturday.

Dr. Patricia Carnahan, associate professor of education, received the Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence, the university's highest teaching honor. Dr. Carnahan teaches in the elementary education program at the main campus in Leavenworth and at the Overland Park Campus. She also teaches in the university's online Master of Arts in Teaching program. The Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence was created in 1990 to recognize teacher achievement at Saint Mary. Named in honor of the late Sister Mary Louis Sullivan, the award recognizes a full-time faculty member who creates a unique distinction in the teaching climate at Saint Mary. The recipient is determined by faculty, staff, and student nominations.

A very special academic honor was bestowed upon retiring Vice president and Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Sandra Van Hoose. Dr. Van Hoose will be conferred with professor emerita status, a life-long honor, given to distinguished full-time faculty upon retirement. She has worked at the University of Saint Mary for 28 years, serving the past decade as academic vice president and dean. Her previous posts include interim president, chair of the education department, graduate faculty, professor of education, associate academic dean, assistant dean for records and adult programs, and registrar. She will be named professor emerita of education.

Other USM awards presented at Spring Convocation included:

- Students Appreciating Students Award: Sara Woods
- "E" Award (given to a USM sophomore intending to major in English): Kristin Orr
- Outstanding Business & Accounting Award: (given to a senior business administration/accounting major): Cori Collis
- Chase Student Award in Biology: Amanda Cole

Master's candidates will receive their academic degree hoods during commencement. Of the 275 students graduating this year, 130 will receive bachelor's degrees, 144 will receive master's degrees, and one will receive an associate degree.

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