

NEWS RELEASE

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Immigration at Issue at University of Saint Mary's Annual Lincoln-Douglas Debate *11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009* *Walnut Room*

(Leavenworth, Kan.) — Borrowing the historic debate styles of the event's namesakes, four University of Saint Mary students will argue the finer points of U.S. immigration policy at USM's 2009 Lincoln-Douglas Debate at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the Walnut Room on the main campus in Leavenworth, 4100 South 4th Street.

The one-hour debate, which is free and open to the public, will be argued before Kansas First Judicial District Judge Robert Bednar. Judge Bednar has overseen the last eight USM Lincoln Douglas debates.

The four debaters — seniors Katie Murray, Mike Stuart, and Jamie Spruk, and junior Mary Ann Snyder — will debate whether, when it comes to U.S. immigration, restrictions on the rights of non-citizens mesh with the country's democratic ideals. Murray and Stuart will argue that restrictions are inconsistent with democracy. Spruk and Snyder will argue that restrictions can work. The debate will be done in the style of the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, which saw Abraham Lincoln engage in a series of debates with Stephen A. Douglas for one of Illinois' U.S. Senate seats. Though Lincoln lost that election, the debates launched him into the national political limelight.

USM's Lincoln-Douglas Debate is a prelude to the 11th Annual University of Saint Mary Lincoln Lecture at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12, in Xavier Theatre. This year's Lincoln Lecture topic, "Leadership in a Time of Crisis," will be delivered by Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth.

The Lincoln Lecture is free and open to the public. The event benefactor is MidAmerican Bank & Trust Company. This year's Lincoln Lecture is co-sponsored by the De Paul Library Lincoln Collection and the university's Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute.

Call 913-758-6165 or visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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