

NEWS RELEASE

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Inaugural USM Service Scholarship Sends Five Students to Jamaica to Study Poverty

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— Five University of Saint Mary (USM) students will travel to Kingston, Jamaica, next month to study poverty through a new scholarship initiated by USM’s Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI).

The five selected students — the first recipients of GSI’s Award for Scholarship and Service — will leave for Kingston on March 15 and return March 23 and will work and travel with international relief organization Food For The Poor to study the lives of the poverty-stricken in inner-city Kingston, render aid, and report back on their findings. They will travel with GSI Director Dr. George Steger and Tony and Sharon Albers, two of the major donors for the study trip, and will blog about their experiences.

The student participants are Cori Collis, a graduate assistant in the Business Department; Michaela Forge, a junior in the Secondary Education program; Gian Malloy, a Nursing senior; Katie Murray a senior History major; and Mary Ann Snyder, a junior in Secondary Education. They were selected based on their academic strength and commitment to service.

“We believe that this trip will be a life-changing experience for our students,” Steger said. “The scholarship trip will become an annual event and — if we can find the donors — we want to expose as many Saint Mary students to the experience as possible. It’s extremely important to our Global Studies mission to raise awareness of world peace and social justice issues.”

Upon return from Kingston, the five students and Steger will talk about their experience at an all-university forum and act as USM ambassadors around the community. The forum will be open to the public, and is tentatively slated for April.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic 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 on the web for more information.

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