

NEWS RELEASE

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USM Senior's Research Receives Top Honors From Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— Two University of Saint Mary students were invited to present their research papers at the regional conference of the Phi Alpha Theta national history honor society at St. Olaf College in Minnesota last week, with senior Katie Murray's project earning prestigious distinction as one of the top five papers delivered at the event.

Murray's winning project — "The Influence of Women's Magazines and Publications on the Second and Third Waves of Feminism" — was a fast favorite of judging professors at the conference, said USM History Department Chair Ken Mulliken. Mulliken accompanied Murray, of Eugene, Ore., and junior Michaela Forge, of Leavenworth, to the event. Forge's presentation, "Inside the Walls: Confessions of an Institution's Battle with Recidivism," grew out of volunteer work she does at the Lansing Correctional Facility.

"It's a nice honor. I couldn't be more pleased or more proud," Mulliken said. "Both of their presentations were as good as any that were there."

Another USM student, junior Isidra Estrada, attended to provide moral support and to experience the conference, which was held Feb. 27-28.

Murray and Forge submitted their projects as part of Mulliken's Historical Method class. One of the requirements of the class is to produce a 25-page research paper that focuses heavily on primary source material.

The conference the USM students attended covered the Phi Alpha Theta region that includes Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota. All of the presenters attend a school with a Phi Alpha Theta chapter.

Competition for top honors at the conference was strong, Mulliken said, with about 50 students presenting projects.

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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