

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Mock Negotiations Teach High Schoolers about Russian/Georgian Conflict

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday, April 21



(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Dozens of students from seven area high schools will try their hands at cooling tensions between Russia and former Soviet Socialist Republic Georgia in a round of mock negotiations at USM's Third Annual Global Human Rights Conference for High Schools, a day-long event beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, at the university's Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street.

The USM Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI) is sponsoring the conference. USM students from the Advanced International Peace Building class taught by Dr. Natalie Riegg, professor of political science and global studies, will facilitate the conflict resolution exercises.

Participating high school students will learn about the thorny history between Russia and Georgia and of the countries' recent confrontations in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The students will then role-play the various parties with a stake in the conflict as they attempt to establish a meaningful dialogue between the nations.

“The purpose of this program is to bring together a diverse group of high school students to expand their knowledge and perspectives on global issues and to get them to flex their critical thinking skills as they negotiate and solve problems that affect the lives of people both globally and locally,” said Dr. George Steger, GSI director.

Participating high schools include Atchison, Bonner Springs, Cristo Rey, Lansing, Immaculata, Rockhurst, and St. Pius X. Last year's GSI Human Rights Conference, which focused on violence in Darfur, drew over 100 area high school students.

Call (913) 758-6117 or visit <http://gsi.stmary.edu> for more information.

The Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI) is a professional academic organization dedicated to the examination of global integration and to the promotion of attitudes, policies, and practices that foster peace, justice, generosity, and the equitable enrichment of life for all members of the global community.

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