

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary to Send Off New Class of 'Saint Marians' at Commencement Ceremony *1 p.m. Saturday, May 9, McGilley Field House*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary Class of 2009 will receive their degrees and celebrate their accomplishments at commencement at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 9, in McGilley Field House on the university's Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street.

The 2009 commencement ceremony will recognize the university's 286 graduates—a group composed of 136 undergraduate degree recipients and 150 graduate degree recipients. This year's graduates hail from as far away as Ecuador and Gambia.

Commencement will be preceded by a traditional Baccalaureate Mass at Annunciation Chapel. During the commencement ceremony, USM student speakers Kathryn Lowe, a Lansing High alum, and Jo Ann Palmer, of Gardner, Kan., will offer student reflections.

The event will also feature performances by the USM Community Band and Concert Chorale. The Pipes of the Kansas City, Kan., Police Honor Guard will lead the processional of graduates from Saint Mary Hall (the oldest building on campus built in 1870) to McGilley Field House (the newest building to open on campus in 2004).

The USM graduating class of 2009 represents a student body of both diverse backgrounds and distinct futures. A few students who personify this outstanding class are

- **Kathryn Lowe**, who maintains her own private studio of 14 elementary, middle, and high school piano students. Besides being a music standout at USM, Lowe studied criminology and English and plans to attend law school at Baylor University.
- **Addie Heim**, a nursing major and Women's Basketball team mainstay. Heim, of Tonganoxie, Kan., is a past National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics scholar athlete. "The fact that she can juggle all of that and still maintain a 4.0 GPA is pretty remarkable," said Dr. Lisa Beckenbaugh, USM's dean of students.
- **Diane Walter**, the first graduate of USM's 100 percent online RN-to-BSN program. Walter is a registered nurse in Nebraska who, after 20 years in nursing, decided to further her career by going back to school to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- **Geoff Peterson**, who double-majored in biology and theology. Peterson was heartily involved in every aspect of university life, from campus ministry to the men's basketball team. The Montana native will next be attending dental school at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Ore.

Call (913) 758-6115 for more information about all of the 2009 graduation events.

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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