

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Students to Argue Capital Punishment at Annual Lincoln-Douglas Debate

11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010

Mead Hall Walnut Room

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The annual Lincoln-Douglas Debate tradition at the University of Saint Mary continues this year as four students will argue the pros and cons of capital punishment at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the Walnut Room of Mead Hall on USM's Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street. The event is free and open to the public.

The event will be argued before Kansas First Judicial District Judge Robert Bednar. Judge Bednar has overseen the last nine USM Lincoln Douglas debates.

The debaters—sophomores Brittney Atchison and Michael Bille, junior Alex Waite, and senior Brandon Hoch—will emulate the historic debate styles of the event's namesakes as they argue whether the death penalty should be outlawed in the U.S. USM's event is inspired by 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.

As has become a university tradition, USM's Lincoln-Douglas Debate is a prelude to the 12th Annual University of Saint Mary Lincoln Lecture. This year's lecture, set for 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, in Xavier Theatre, will cover "Abraham Lincoln's Journey of Faith," and will be delivered by Ronald C. White, Jr. White is an eminent Lincoln scholar and author of several books on the beloved president, including the *New York Times* best-seller "A. Lincoln: A Biography." White will sign copies of his book following the lecture.

The Lincoln Lecture is free and open to the public. The lecture is made possible by Country Club Bank of Leavenworth and Lansing, the event's benefactor.

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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