

NEWS RELEASE

May 4, 2010

Contact: John Shultz (913) 758-6165
Email: shultz35@stmary.edu



University of Saint Mary Celebrates Newest Class of 'Saint Marians' at 2010 Commencement Ceremony *1 p.m. Saturday, May 8, McGilley Field House*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Marking the passage of another academic year on the campus of Leavenworth's hometown university, the 2010 graduating class of the University of Saint Mary will receive their degrees and celebrate their accomplishments at Commencement at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 8, in McGilley Field House, 4100 South 4th Street.

The 2010 commencement ceremony will recognize the university's 317 graduates—a group composed of 154 undergraduate degree recipients and 163 graduate degree recipients. This year's graduates hail from as far away as Kenya and the United Kingdom.

Commencement will be preceded by a traditional Baccalaureate Mass in Annunciation Chapel. During the commencement ceremony, USM student speakers Colin Dean Aldrich, of Kansas City, Kan., Leavenworth's Michaela Forge, and Catrina Osei from Leawood, Kan., will offer student reflections.

The event will also include 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 the oldest building on USM's campus, Saint Mary Hall, to McGilley Field House.

The graduating class of 2010 represents a student body that came to USM from a variety of places. All of them leave with bright futures ahead of them. Students who personify this outstanding class include:

- **Jessica Simorte**, Platte City, Mo., who will graduate with departmental honors in art, will complete a prestigious internship at the Byron Cohen Gallery in Kansas City, Mo. Simorte's photos also won one of four cash awards at the recent Kansas City Artists' Coalition Juried College Student Show.
- Leavenworth native **Michaela Forge**, is graduating with a degree in history and political science as well as her certification in secondary education. Forge is going to travel abroad and teach in underserved regions. Forge is a third-generation Spire, with both grandmothers, her mother, and two older siblings earning their USM degrees before her. Forge was heavily involved in campus, and won USM's Mother Mary Ancilla Award for Student Service.
- **Mary Ann Snyder**, Lee's Summit, Mo., is another heavily-involved USM student. She's graduating with a degree in history and secondary education, and plans to teach in Colorado. Snyder, like Forge is a former Starr Scholar with USM's Global Studies Institute, and traveled to Jamaica in 2009 to study poverty as part of the program

Call (913) 758-6115 or go to www.stmary.edu for more information about 2010 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.