

NEWS RELEASE

July 23, 2009

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



University of Saint Mary Senior Receives Honored Distinction as Fulbright Scholar

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—University of Saint Mary history major Kate Schebaum made some history herself this year, becoming the university’s first ever student recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship.

Schebaum, who graduated from USM with her bachelor’s degree and secondary education certification May 9, began her year-long Fulbright fellowship in the Republic of Korea early this month. As part of the program, Schebaum will further her lifelong goal of becoming an educator by teaching English to South Korean students.

“It’s a tremendous honor,” Schebaum said. “It’s kind of a big step going halfway across the world. I can’t really say that I’m nervous, because I’m not. I’m just excited and ready for the challenge.”

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Over 4,500 students from more than 155 countries and the U.S. receive scholarships in the Fulbright Student Program annually. Selection for the Fulbright Student Program emphasizes leadership potential, academic and professional excellence, and commitment to mutual understanding.

Schebaum was accepted into the program prior to graduation and left for Korea July 3. Following a six-week orientation, she’ll be placed in a school to help teach and may end up managing her own classroom. She’ll stay in Korea for a year with a host family. All of her living expenses are covered by the program, and she’s encouraged to travel during breaks. She’ll also perform research as part of the scholarship.

Schebaum, from Jefferson City, Mo., will blog about her experiences for the university.

Schebaum’s efforts to land a Fulbright grant were primarily championed by Dr. George Steger, the director of USM’s Lawrence D. Starr Global Studies Institute (GSI). Dr. Steger said Schebaum was a worthy recipient of the Fulbright.

“I’m thrilled but not surprised she got it,” Dr. Steger said. “Kate is accomplished as a scholar and a service-oriented, unselfish person. She was a spark-plug for the university and the student body. She’ll be a great ambassador, not just for the university, but for America.”

In light of Kate’s success, Dr. Steger said he’d encourage other USM students to pursue Fulbright awards.

USM President Sister Diane Steele said she and the entire Saint Mary community is proud of Kate.

“This award is a testament to Kate—her dedication, drive, and excellence,” Steele said. “But it’s also a testament to the excellent education our students receive here at USM. Our professors challenge our students to realize their full potential and achieve anything that they set their minds to.”

Visit <http://gsi.stmary.edu/> for more information on GSI or to read Schebaum’s blog.

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.

###