

NEWS RELEASE

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USM Annual High School Art Invitational Offers Golden Opportunity for Area Student Artists *March 27 – April 15, Goppert Gallery*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Nearly 100 students from 14 area high schools will get the chance to have their artwork displayed in a professional gallery setting for a judged exhibition at the University of Saint Mary annual High School Art Invitational this spring.

The Invitational opens with a reception and awards ceremony from 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, March 27, in Xavier Hall's Goppert Gallery on the USM Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street. The exhibit is open through April 15 in Goppert Gallery. Both the reception and general exhibit are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are weekdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and weekends by appointment.

Student artists will compete for cash prizes and scholarships, with entrants coming from high schools including Bishop Miege, Bishop Ward, Bonner Springs, Immaculata, Lansing, Maranatha Academy, Notre Dame de Sion, Oak Park, Piper, Platte County R-III, St. Theresa's Academy, Sumner, Washington, and Winnetonka.

USM's invitational is important for high schoolers, said Susan Nelson, director of the art program at Saint Mary, because it gives them a rare opportunity to have their work featured in a true exhibit in a professional art gallery setting. "Local high school students have many opportunities to enter any number of art contests," Nelson said. "But this is so much more than that."

The theme of this year's show is "Spaces... Places..." and entries must reflect the theme of establishing a sense of place. Previous High School Art Invitational themes have included "Black & White" and "Portraits." Past exhibits have featured more than 135 entries.

Samantha Nowak, a 2005 USM graduate, will help judge the 2011 High School Art Invitational. Nowak is a freelance artist and designer who specializes in illustration and character design.

Call Susan Nelson at (913) 758-6151 or email nelsons@stmary.edu for more information on the art show. Visit www.stmary.edu for a complete listing of Saint Mary 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, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

