

## NEWS RELEASE

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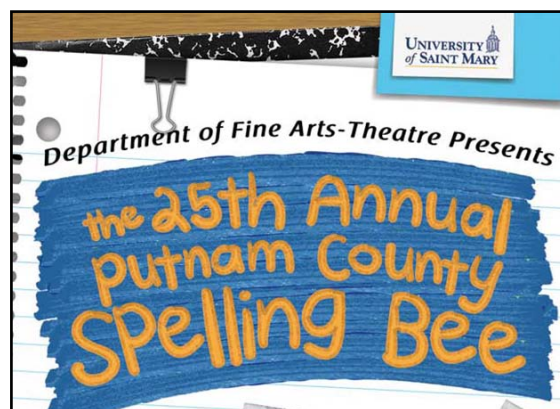


## USM Theatre Students Explore Themes of Growing up with Production of 'Putnam County Spelling Bee'

*7:30 p.m. April 14, 15 & 16, Xavier Theatre*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary theatre program presents the critically-acclaimed musical comedy *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at 7:30 p.m. April 14, 15, and 16 in Xavier Theatre on USM's Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and are available at the door. Call (913) 758-6152 or go to [www.stmary.edu/tickets](http://www.stmary.edu/tickets) to purchase advance tickets.



*Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a modern musical conceived by Rebecca Feldman with a score by William Finn and a book by Rachel Sheinkin. It explores the simple act of growing older through the prisms of six quirky kids competing under the harsh and unforgiving spotlight of a spelling bee.

“It’s a new play for us, and it’s always fun doing something new,” said USM Theatre Instructor Danielle Trebus. “It’s about growing up, and it teaches a message. It’s a tribute to competition and to succeeding on the strengths of your own talents.”

Audience participation will play a role in the USM production, and volunteer spellers will be sought from the audience.

The production stars Saint Mary students Brittany Atchison, Chelsey Breshears, Sarah Cronkleton-Kidd, Alyssa Dunning, Brandon Hoch, Amanda Jacobs, Briana Janas, Mitchell Ludwig, Emily Nold, Patrick Peterson, Sadie Vetter, and Jerrad Willis.

The production’s poster, program cover, tickets, postcards and t-shirts were designed by Saint Mary art student Kathleen Hermes.

Call (913) 758-6152 for tickets or for more information.

*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](http://www.stmary.edu) for more information.*