

## NEWS RELEASE

April 19, 2011

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



# University of Saint Mary Raises Thousands for Student Scholarships at Annual SpireFest Gala

## *USM Student Jenna Schwinn Wins Talent Competition*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—An outpouring of generosity by University of Saint Mary friends and supporters allowed USM to raise tens of thousands of dollars for student scholarships at the university's annual SpireFest fundraising gala on Saturday, April 16.

The annual "Saint Mary Has Talent" portion of the event saw USM student and songstress and Leavenworth resident Jenna Schwinn win the evening. Jenna is a Saint Mary senior originally from Wray, Colo. Schwinn, who is studying English at USM and participates in several activities including the Student Government Association, won for her renditions of *Love is Here to Stay* and *I've Got the World on a String*.



Other local acts who had strong showings at the Saint Mary event included high school singers Claudia Ortiz and Brittany Davis from Cristo Rey Kansas City; Sister Anita Sullivan of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, who sang *Danny Boy*; and Kansas City, Mo., champion-level baton twirler Savannah Miller.

Leavenworth native and Xavier Elementary student Larkin Reilly served as one of the evening's celebrity judges. And Bill Robinson—Leavenworth's own Motown singing sensation—provided entertainment as the talent competition vote was tallied and to close out the event.

Sister Diane Steele, president of the University of Saint Mary, thanked the crowd in attendance and called the university's students "the true talent of Saint Mary."

Andrew Dame, the university's director of annual giving, expressed gratitude to the donors who gave so generously at the event as well as to the local talent that made the contest possible.

"It was a wonderful evening and a great way to celebrate local talent, the success of Saint Mary students, and the joy of giving," Dame said.

*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.*

###