

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Commencement Celebrates Accomplishments of Class of 2011

1 p.m. Saturday, May 14, McGilley Field House

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary will celebrate the passage of another successful academic year—as well as the successful academic journey of the 2011 graduating class—at USM’s Commencement ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14, in McGilley Field House on the main Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street.

The 2011 commencement will recognize the university’s 291 graduates—a group composed of 168 undergraduate degree recipients and 123 graduate degree recipients. This year’s graduates hail from Kansas to California to Kenya.

Commencement will be preceded by a traditional Baccalaureate Mass in Annunciation Chapel. During the commencement ceremony, USM student speakers Jenna Schwinn, of Wray, Colo.; Jason Phillips, of Merriam, Kan.; Kim Brown, of Leavenworth, Kan.; and Steven Flamez, of Kansas City, Mo., 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 2011 represents a student body rich with stories of overcoming personal adversity and everyday obstacles to secure their bright futures. Students who personify this outstanding class include:

- **Kaitlin Peterson**, of Hays, Kan., who was involved in many student leadership roles and spent several Spring Breaks traveling around the country to work with the poor. Kaitlin was the recipient of the university’s top student service honor, the Mother Mary Ancilla Award, and plans to work with the Vincentian Religious Community serving the needs of the homeless and hungry through the AmeriCorps Program in St. Louis.
- **Christine Weber**, of Douglass, Kan., who plans to go on to pharmacy school following the completion of her degree. Christine is the recipient of the 2011 Students Appreciating Students Award and the Chase Student Award in Biology. She also received departmental and All-University Honors.
- **Jeanine Peterson**, of Santa Monica, Calif., who successfully completed USM’s online RN-to-BSN program. Commencement will mark Jeanine’s second trip to Leavenworth in less than a month to celebrate her achievement, the first trip was for USM’s Spring Convocation on May 3. Jeanine has been in nursing since 1982, and completing her degree has long been a personal goal. She now plans on using her degree to further her career in nursing informatics and may pursue a master’s.

The accomplishments of several USM faculty members will also be recognized at USM's commencement ceremony.

- **Dr. Robert Schimoler**, retiring professor of philosophy, will be recognized for recently earning the distinction of USM Professor Emeritus. Dr. Schimoler currently lives in Leavenworth and is a Queens, N.Y., native. His education career spans nearly 40 years. Dr. Schimoler began working at Saint Mary in 1992, and during his time at the university, he served as chair of the philosophy and theology department, faculty chair, and dean of the graduate division.
- **Associate Professor of Marketing David Reynolds**, of Gladstone, Mo., will be honored for winning USM's Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence. The award, plus \$1,000, is presented to a full-time faculty member who has made a distinct difference in the teaching climate at USM. The Sullivan Award was created in 1990 and named for the late Sister Mary Louis Sullivan, former academic dean. The winner is nominated by students, faculty, and staff. Reynolds has been at USM for seven years, and served in several capacities, including as chair of the faculty senate.

Call (913) 758-6115 or go to www.stmary.edu for more information about this year's USM commencement 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.

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