



SPIRENOTES

A Newsletter for Saint Mary Parents

August 2011

Greetings from Dr. Lisa Beckenbaugh, the Dean of Students

Dear parents,



We are happy to welcome your sons and daughters as they embark upon—or continue—their college careers. We welcome all of you—students, parents, guardians & families—to the USM community.

Our dedicated staff and faculty are here to support the academic success of your student. A successful college experience also includes you, because we are well aware of the significance influence parents have with their daughters and sons. Research shows you can play critical role as a partner with the university to positive influence your student's development and education.

The USM student life department advocates for students. We work closely with our academic colleague to foster the best possible experience inside and outside the classroom. Together, we can ensure that students maximize their time here and achieve their goals. We wish you and your student all the best on this exciting journey.

USM Earns 'Best Midwestern College' Distinction for 7th Straight Year



The University of Saint Mary has again been named a "Best Midwestern College" by *The Princeton Review*.

The honor is an important one, as selection for The Princeton Review's Regional Best lists is based on positive feedback from students and parents responding to surveys as well as the academic institution's strong academic record.

On the surveys, students said the campus is full of "friendly people who are always willing to do what it takes to solve your problem." They added that "intelligent professors" are the "school's greatest strength" and they create "a close-knit community of students who are expected to think."

For 2012, USM is one of only 153 Midwestern schools to make the cut, and only about 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges get included on one of the organization's four regional lists.

USM Launches Emergency Text & Email Service



To better ensure the safety of our university community, USM has created an opt-in Emergency Communications System (ECS) that relies on several

channels of communications, including bulk text messaging and email.

Working with Textcaster, USM's ECS will broadcast alerts on life-threatening emergencies, severe weather, fires, evacuations, and other circumstances that might impact university buildings. Parents and students will be able to opt-in to receive the messages via text or email, and multiple university offices will be responsible for sending out emergency communications to provide redundancy.

Other offices, including USM athletics and student life, will offer additional non-emergency messaging on an opt-in basis. These services will include reminders on bill paying and class registration deadlines, updates on USM sports teams, and student life event reminders. Subscribers can sign up now at www.stmary.edu/alerts.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



An ongoing look at USM's outstanding students



Macee Trecek

Class of 2014

From: Paxico, Kan.

Studying: Art & Education

Career Goal: Teaching

Why USM?

"I chose the University of Saint Mary because of the way the campus made me feel. It's like a second home. Everyone is friendly, and the art program seems very promising. I also got several scholarships."

Future Plans?

"I would love to go work at the Louvre in Paris! Speaking more practically, I'd love to be able to go back and teach in the town where I went to junior high and high school."

USM Theatre Announces 2011-2012 Production Calendar

The University of Saint Mary theatre program has put together a slate of productions for the 2011-2012 theatre season with something for everyone in the family.

Performances include:

- *Dandelion Wine* – 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6, 7 & 8.

Adapted from his novel for the stage by Ray Bradbury, and suitable for all ages.

- *The Wizard of OZ* – 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2 & 3, 2 p.m. Dec. 4. Adapted by Van Ibsen, director of USM's theatre program and suitable for all ages.

- *The Pillowman* – 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16, 17 & 18. By Martin MacDonagh. Features adult themes; not recommended for children.

- *"A" My Name is Alice* – 7:30 p.m.

April 19, 20 & 21. By Joan Micklin Silver & Julianne Boyd. Features adult themes; not recommended for children.

Saint Mary theatre productions are held in Xavier Theatre on the USM's campus. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and are available at the door. Season tickets are available for \$25 at www.stmary.edu/tickets.

Student Life Events

Sex and College Relationships, Aug. 21—Students from the theater department, in conjunction with campus counseling, will be presenting interactive theater for in-coming freshmen. The production will feature skits and monologues that highlight challenges in dating relationships with an emphasis on safety, decision-making, and creating healthy relationships.

Into the Streets, Aug. 22—USM freshmen spend a morning performing community service in Leavenworth, helping seniors winterize their homes and doing clean-up projects. They'll

come back to campus for lunch by the fountain and an afternoon of reflection sessions.

Campus Safety Resources

USM's Public Safety works towards maintaining a safe living and learning environment. Public Safety maintains a regular patrol and enforces policies pertaining to safety and security.

Student attitudes and actions can also help protect the entire Saint Mary community, and students must take precautions to prevent injury, harm, or damage to persons or property.

The Public Safety Office is on the ground floor of Berchmans Hall. The on-duty officer can be reached 24/7.

-The public safety cell number is (913) 683-5201

-The office number is (913) 758-4346, or ext. 6446 on campus

-For life-threatening situations, students on campus should dial 9-911 first, then public safety at (913) 683-5201.

Learn more at stmary.edu/safety-security.

Upcoming Dates

Aug. 20 - Remaining Freshmen Move-In

Aug. 22 - Into the Streets USM's freshmen service project

Aug. 23 - Transfer & Returning Students Arrive

Aug. 23 - Transfer Advising, Registration & Orientation

Aug. 24 - Main Campus Late Registration

Aug. 24 - USM Matriculation; 11 a.m.; Annunciation Chapel

Aug. 25 - Main Campus Day & Evening Classes Begin