

University of Saint Mary Recognizes Students and Faculty at Traditional Convocation and Hooding Ceremony

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—As university commencement and the end of another academic year approaches, the University of Saint Mary honored the many impressive achievements of the undergraduate class of 2012 at USM's annual Spring Convocation Honors & Hooding Ceremony on Tuesday, May 1, in Annunciation Chapel on the university's Leavenworth campus.

The University of Saint Mary is one of the few universities in the U.S. that continues the time-honored tradition of hooding its undergraduates. The hoods are worn over the graduation robes and denote a student's specific academic discipline and are presented to the graduating students by **USM President Sr. Diane Steele**.

"The hooding ceremony at the University of Saint Mary is one of the things that makes us unique," **Dr. Bryan Le Beau**, USM's academic vice president, told the attendees on Tuesday. "Very few colleges and universities have a hooding ceremony for undergraduates. In fact, at some places, the actual hooding ceremony is only for Ph.D.'s. At Saint Mary, hooding has always been for all of our graduates, and we consider it a very special way to honor your achievement in a personal way."

Among the student and faculty members honored at the stately event:

Daniel Young, of Leavenworth, Kan., won the top student service honor—the **Mother Mary Ancilla Award for Service**. During his four years at USM, Young was involved in multiple social justice projects, including spending many of his Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring breaks, working with local groups like the Alliance Against Family Violence and the United Way and travelling around the country to underserved areas to work with the poor.

"One of his nominations commented on his character, saying he was 'always thinking of others,'" said **Sr. Julie Marsh**, head of USM's campus ministry. "And his acts of service will not end at graduation, for he will be headed to Ft. Benning, Ga., to serve in the U.S. Army."

The Ancilla Award also carries with it an additional honor: Young will deliver the invocation prayer that opens the commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 12

Paul Dean, instructor in mathematics at USM, won the **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.

Dean began teaching as an adjunct at USM in 2004, becoming a full-time instructor in 2010. He retires at the end of the academic year.

USM Academic Vice President Dr. Le Beau, said Dean “is a caring instructor who provides outstanding support to his students... Paul’s passion for teaching and his compassion towards his students have made him a favorite among the USM student body.”

The university also honored two retiring faculty members at Tuesday’s Convocation event.

Sr. Frances Juiliano, associate professor of education and longtime chair of the university’s education department, was named professor emerita.

“Students of all levels, elementary through secondary to baccalaureate and graduate levels, have been the focus of her greatest concern,” Dr. Le Beau said. “Her love for them has consistently shown in her meticulous care that her students ‘get it right’—that they be their most productive selves as future teachers entrusted with children.”

And **Rick Hite**, associate professor of information systems & technology, was named professor emeritus.

“Rick created the department of information systems and technology here,” Dr. Le Beau said. “Rick has a passion for his field of learning and teaching; but anyone who knows Rick Hite knows his profound commitments to his family, church, and God.”

Other USM student awards presented at Spring Convocation included:

- **Students Appreciating Students Award:** Leticia Ochoa, of Donna, Texas
- **The Chase Student Award in Biology:** Derek Bauman, of Atchison, Kan.
- **The Outstanding Business Student Award:** Winston Hines, of Dodge City, Kan.
- **All-University Honors** (*requires a 3.70 cumulative grade point average, participation in honors work within the major and in Honors Seminar, and Recommendation of the Honors Council for All-University Honors.*)
 - Brittney Atchison**, of Lansing, Kan., Departmental Honors in Political Science and All- University Honors
 - Preston Becker**, of Hays, Kan., Departmental Honors in Pastoral Ministry and All-University Honors
 - Yvonne Sell**, of Alcova, Wyo., Departmental Honors in Political Science and All-University Honors
 - Nicolas Stevenson**, of Lansing, Kan., Departmental Honors in Chemistry and All-University Honors
 - Jessica Zoglman**, of Garden Plain, Kan., Departmental Honors in Psychology and All-University Honors
- **Departmental Honors** (*requires a 3.50 GPA in the major, completion of at least two honors-in-course or honors-in-field in the major, and recommendation by the departmental faculty.*)
 - Michelle Chrisman**, of Linwood, Kan., Departmental Honors in Biology
 - Kathleen Hermes**, of Lawrence, Kan., Departmental Honors in Art
 - Mitchell Ludwig**, of Gladstone, Mo., Departmental Honors in Theatre
 - Leticia Ochoa**, of Donna, Texas, Departmental Honors in History and Political Science
 - Alexander Waite**, of Blue Springs, Mo., Departmental Honors in History and Political Science

Daniel Young, of Leavenworth, Kan., Departmental Honors in Political Science

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.

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