

## NEWS RELEASE

July 21, 2011

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



## McLouth, Kan., Native Named First Recipient of USM's Full-Ride Nursing Scholarship

*Jessica Wayman is Awarded the Sr. Joanna Bruner Scholarship*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—A Saint Mary sophomore and McLouth High School grad will be able to continue her University of Saint Mary education and earn her nursing degree for free thanks to the generosity of an anonymous USM supporter who is funding the Sister Joanna Bruner Scholarship for Nursing.

Jessica Wayman begins her sophomore year at USM this fall semester. And thanks to the gift of her anonymous benefactor, all of the 19-year-old's tuition, fees, and room and board, will be covered by her Bruner scholarship, so long as she continues to meet certain criteria.

The Bruner scholarship is available to new, transfer, or current Saint Mary students, and only one scholarship is awarded at any time.



**Jessica Wayman**

"It's a wonderful gift," Wayman said. "It's going to help tremendously, because I have a lot of medical expenses and school costs. I'm very grateful."

Jessica said she plans on getting into pediatric nursing and believes she'll opt to work at a hospital once she completes her studies. She said her own medical issues have given her a unique perspective on health care and how to best care for patients.

"You have to treat people with kindness and respect and comfort them and help them to work through it," she said.

"Jessica was a natural choice for the award because of her enthusiasm, her love of nursing, and her dedication to helping people," said Glenna Mahoney, director of USM's nursing program. "We're confident Jessica will epitomize the values of the University of Saint Mary, and we know she has a bright career in nursing ahead of her."

The Sister Joanna Bruner Scholarship at USM was established this year to provide financial educational support for a candidate accepted to the Saint Mary Bachelor of Science in Nursing program offered at the main USM campus in Leavenworth. This scholarship will pay all educational expenses that are not covered by federal or state grants or federal work study.

Under its terms, Wayman will have the scholarship for one academic year, renewable for up to a combined total of five academic years so long as she meets key requirements, including residing on campus and maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA.

The scholarship is named for Sister Joanna Bruner, one of the original pioneer Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Sister Bruner was instrumental in the opening of St. John's Hospital in Leavenworth and was the first trained nurse in the state. She also played a major part in the development of the health care ministry of the Sisters of Charity by setting up a system to train the younger sisters as nurses.

“Naturally, we are very pleased to be able to offer Jessica such a wonderful opportunity, and we are truly grateful to our donor,” said Sister Diane Steele, president of the University of Saint Mary.

“Nursing and education were two of the founding missions of our founders and sponsors, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth—and nursing was very important to Sister Bruner. We know Jessica will do her proud.”

Contact Ken Wuerzberger, USM's director of enrollment management, at (913) 758-6307 or email [Wuerzeberger53@stmary.edu](mailto:Wuerzeberger53@stmary.edu) for more information on USM scholarships, or visit [www.stmary.edu/scholarships](http://www.stmary.edu/scholarships). Go to [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) to learn more about the Saint Mary nursing program.

*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.*

###