

## Dates to Remember

### April

- 5 Holy Thursday (No Classes)
- 14 Overland Park Campus Information Session
- 17 Providence Medical Center Information Session
- 23 Pre-Registration begins for Fall '07

### May

- 10 Spring II Classes End
- 12 Commencement Ceremony (Located at Leavenworth Campus)
- 21 Summer Classes Begin

### July

- 9 Pre-Registration Fall '07 Ends
- 16 Continuous Fall '07 Registration Begins
- 19 Summer Classes End
- 31 Overland Park Campus Information Session

### August

- 10 Continuous Fall '07 Registration Ends
- 13 Payments Finalized for all Fall Classes
- 20 Overland Park & Providence Medical Center Campuses Classes Begin

### September

- 3 Labor Day - No Classes

### October

- 15 Fall I Classes End
- 17 Fall II Classes Begin

## Message From the Dean

Dear Students,

It is my pleasure to introduce the premiere issue of *The Connection* – our brand new newsletter filled with information we believe students at the University of Saint Mary Overland Park Campus and Providence Medical Center will find helpful and useful. Each issue will highlight important deadlines for you to remember, workshop and intersession courses opportunities, you'll also learn about new faculty, new programs, and your fellow classmates. Your opinion about this publication is important and you may have story ideas yourself. We want to hear those ideas and opinions as we prepare our next issue. You may contact our newsletter publisher, Bryan Schrepel, at (913) 758-6165 or schrepelb@stmary.com.

All of us at the University of Saint Mary are committed to serve you by providing the best possible education and meeting your individual needs. Our goal is to help you realize your God-given potential in your career and in life. Thank you for choosing Saint Mary. Your success is our success!

Sincerely,



Ronald Logan, Ed.D.  
Dean and Vice President, Overland Park Campus

## Pre-Register NOW, Win \$25!

By Tom O'Leary, Director of Enrollment Management

We want to reward you! That's right, reward you. Pre-register for fall 2007 classes between April 23 and July 9 (classes begin on Monday, Aug. 20) and your name will be included in a drawing to win one of four \$25 cash prizes.

Early enrollment numbers allow the university to make decisions regarding the scheduling, confirmation, and cancellation of classes. By enrolling early, these decisions can be made quicker to better assist you.

We strongly encourage you to pre-register online using eSpire. For directions on how to pre-register online, see the eSpire tip sheets. (Story on Page 4) By pre-registering online, your name will be entered into the \$25 cash drawing for a second time, doubling your chances to win!

Payment for all pre-registered classes must be finalized by Aug. 13, one week prior to the first night of classes for the fall semester. Finalized payments include any combination of personal payment, financial aid, or securing tuition remission from your employer.

Thank you for registering for your Fall '07 classes in advance. We appreciate your partnership as we work to better serve you in meeting your academic goals.

# MBA Program Expands, Adds Health Care Management Concentration

By Bryan Schrepel

Starting this fall, the University of Saint Mary Master of Arts in Business Administration (MBA) program will expand to include a fourth concentration, health care management. The newest concentration joins the MBA program's general management, finance, and human resources concentrations.

The new health care management concentration offers great flexibility: in addition to the MBA's nine core courses, the health care management elective courses will be offered completely online, as part of USM's Health Care Management Certificate.

According to MBA Program Coordinator Dave Smith, the expansion will not only be a great addition for the program, but will serve a tremendous need for the community at large.

"Healthcare administration is a huge, booming industry right now," said Smith. "By adding the new health care management concentration to our MBA program, we are giving our graduates an opportunity to enter into that sector almost seamlessly, not to mention advancement opportunities for people already working in the health care field."



The three health care management electives include Topics in Health Care Management, Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care and Business Skills for Health Care Management. All three classes are offered exclusively online.

You may reach Dave Smith by calling (913) 345-8288 or email [smithda@stmary.edu](mailto:smithda@stmary.edu) for more information.

## Student Spotlight: Janie Schumaker, MBA Student

By Bryan Schrepel

Just weeks after adding a health care management concentration to USM's Master of Arts in Business Administration (MBA) program, at least one high level health care professional is considering the new avenue.

Janie Schumaker is the director of emergency services at Providence Medical Center and is an MBA student at Saint Mary. She is considering the MBA's health care management concentration because she believes it will help her excel in a rapidly growing, ever changing field.

"I believe health care management will be a huge asset to the MBA program at Saint Mary because health care really is different from every other business," she said. "While health care is a business, it is one of the few businesses where human lives are at stake, and no two people are alike. It is much different from your standard company."

As a nurse working in emergency care, there are definite challenges for Schumaker's

profession, including worker shortages, patient overcrowding, and long wait times. The struggle can be difficult at times, but Schumaker believes the long-term rewards are well worth it.

While she admits she is still weighing her options, her post-graduation goals are clear: she wants to continue to be a leader in health care by serving her community. She also hopes to teach leadership and management one day, while continuing to lead emergency care into in the next decade and beyond.

"In order to stay alive in health care, you can't keep doing the same things, expecting different results. I believe the MBA degree will give me the business knowledge I did not receive in my nursing degree," she said. "After I graduate, I would like to continue to work in a leadership role in my community. I intend to study more about leadership and human capital, as I believe these are two areas that need more work in organizations."



### The Connection

*The Connection* is published for current students and friends of the University of Saint Mary Overland Park and Western Wyandotte County campuses during the fall and spring semester. Please send story ideas and news items to Bryan Schrepel at (913) 758-6165 or by email at [schrepelb@stmary.edu](mailto:schrepelb@stmary.edu).

# Former Superintendent Joins Overland Park Campus

By Laura Davis

The former Superintendent of Basehor-Linwood School District has joined the team at the University of Saint Mary Overland Park Campus as the new coordinator of education for undergraduate and graduate programs.

Dr. Jill Hackett, who began her new position with Saint Mary in January, spent the past 20 years working as a superintendent, principal, and teacher. During her three years as superintendent of Basehor-Linwood the district was ranked No. 11 in the Top 25 Kansas City Metro Area schools by *Ingram's Magazine*. She was assistant superintendent for the Goddard, Kan. School District for four years and served seven years as principal for Goddard's Intermediate School, Middle Level Center, and Middle School. Prior to that, Dr. Hackett was a classroom teacher at Randolph Elementary in Topeka public schools for six years, teaching 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

"My entire background has prepared me for this new position at Saint Mary. My long term desire as an educator



has always been to work in higher education at the university level. The fact that Saint Mary is a Catholic institution sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth made this position even more appealing to me," said Dr. Hackett.

Dr. Hackett has been busy meeting with area administrators exploring new opportunities to help grow the Master of Arts in Education programs, looking for ways to highlight and present USM in a broader perspective.

Her position is two fold – administrative, plus an instructional piece. "I have a preference for the administrative – organizing, putting people in right place, finding and securing resources."

Starting this fall, Dr. Hackett will begin her faculty duties by teaching School Law.

You may reach Dr. Hackett by calling (913) 345-8288 or email [hackettj@stmary.edu](mailto:hackettj@stmary.edu).

# New Coordinator Brings Unique Real World Experience to Psychology Programs

By Bryan Schrepel

When Dr. Martin Zehr was hired as the USM Overland Park Campus coordinator for undergraduate and graduate psychology programs in February, he couldn't help but reflect on the unique blend of real-world experience he brings to USM.

For more than 25 years, Dr. Zehr has not only worked as a psychologist, but also as an attorney in the Kansas City area. As a clinical psychologist, Dr. Zehr worked for 14 years at Research Medical Center, and then later served as the Director of Neuropsychology at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. As an attorney, he has worked for local law firms, including Benson and McKay.

Dr. Zehr's vision for the psychology programs is ground breaking; he hopes to use his unique combination of experience to provide students with perspectives they previously ignored.

"We are very excited about the addition of Dr. Zehr," said Dr. Ron Logan, vice president and dean for the Overland Park Campus. "His combination as a counselor and attorney will



add an innovative dimension to our psychology programs that I believe will be extremely beneficial to our students' education."

Since coming on board, Dr. Zehr has been working diligently to customize the undergraduate psychology program and both the Master's of Arts in Psychology and Counselor Psychology programs to fit the everyday needs of typical behavioral science professionals. It can be challenging to balance education and training with what real-world psychology-based careers require.

"One of the primary challenges [with the programs] will be the anticipation of particular needs for counselors in the community and statewide, so that training and education prepares students to have the skills necessary to fill those needs," Dr. Zehr said.

The first courses Dr. Zehr will teach are Theories of Counseling and Legal and Ethical Issues in Counseling, which will be offered this coming fall.

You may reach Dr. Zehr by calling (913) 345-8288 or email at [zehrm@stmary.edu](mailto:zehrm@stmary.edu).

# eSpire: What Is It And Why Is It Important?

By Bryan Schrepel

Is “eSpire” part of your common vocabulary? You’ve probably been wondering, what is eSpire - and what can it do for me?

For new and current students alike, it is important to take advantage of eSpire and its capabilities. It could mean the difference between “acing” a class and barely scraping by. Let’s find out what eSpire is.

eSpire is USM’s web-secure portal that will allow you to do anything from register for classes to check your grades.

eSpire is important because it will allow both you and your professor to do a variety of things, including register for classes, post syllabi, assignments, check attendance, announcements, and even check grades.

If you’ve never accessed eSpire before, the first step is to find your log-in information, including your username and password. Your username and password were mailed to you, as part of your acceptance letter.

Here are two quick ways to utilize eSpire:

## ***Register For Classes Online***

Once you have your log in information, you should be ready to access eSpire. To register for classes, the steps are quick and easy.

1. Log on to USM’s website at [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu).
2. Click the “eSpire” link, located on the very bottom of both the main campus and Overland Park Campus websites.
3. At the very top (inside the yellow bar) you will see two fields: one for a user name, the other for a password. Input the information (which was mailed to you)
4. Select the “Academics” tab on the top of the page
5. Select “Student Info” on the far left
6. Inside the next page, select “Course Search”
7. From here you can customize your search according to major, course type, semester and campus (Overland Park vs. Providence Medical Center)

## ***Access Specific Class Information***

To access your classes once you have enrolled (with all payment arrangements completed)

1. Log on to eSpire (Follow steps 1-3 listed above)
2. Within eSpire’s homepage, you will see a section on the bottom left hand corner of the browser titled “My Courses.” Select “My Courses.”
3. A list of all your active courses should appear. Click on any of the courses to read all about your course, see if your teacher has posted a pre-assignment, or to check your grade.

If you encounter problems with eSpire or if you lost or have forgotten your log in information, call 1-800-752-7043, or email [Helpdesk@stmary.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@stmary.edu) for assistance. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.



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