



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

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Three St. Mary's Academy Students Win University of Portland Essay Contest

Portland, Ore. – **April 8, 2010** – Three of the five first place winners of the University of Portland and the Garaventa Center for Catholic Intellectual Life and American Culture 2010 high school essay contest award attend St. Mary's Academy. The following SMA juniors each received a \$500 cash award for their essays on *History: What We Choose to Remember*:

Morgan Bassford: *Death and Taxes*
Madeline Wilson: *The Jesus Man*
Anna Pedersen: *A Nation of Elephants*

"Our young women continually amaze me with their ability to write clear, creative and well-documented essays," said principal Pat Barr. "I applaud Morgan, Madeline and Anna."

Five students also received \$100 cash prizes for honorable mention awards.

The essay contest was open to Catholic high schools in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah and Nevada. The topic for the 2011 essay will be *Getting Beyond Myself: How I Learned It's Not All About Me*.

For additional information or questions, please contact Crystal Ghassemi, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at 503-724-8589 (cell), 503-721-7715 (direct office) or crystal.ghassemi@stmaryspdx.org.

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About St. Mary's Academy

Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school and one of 716 all-female schools in the country. The student body represents a diverse background of young women from over 30 urban, suburban, and rural communities in Oregon and southwest Washington. St. Mary's Academy is distinguished by its development of the whole person, and is the only school in the state to receive three U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools awards. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit: www.stmaryspdx.org.