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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Mount Mary College's Graduate Enrollment Reaches Record High**

**MILWAUKEE** (Nov. 21, 2012) – Fall 2012 graduate enrollment at Mount Mary College reached a record high of 587 students, announced President Eileen Schwalbach, Ph.D. This includes a 9.2% increase in first time graduate students and a 13.7% increase in total enrollment from Fall 2011. Total enrollment consists of 370 full-time graduate students and 217 part-time students.

The growth of Mount Mary's graduate enrollment counters a national trend that indicates an overall decline in graduate school enrollments. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) reported in September that nationally, U.S. graduate schools saw a 1.7% dip in first-time graduate students and a .9% decline in overall graduate enrollment between 2010 and 2011, the second consecutive year of decreases. CGS represents more than 500 institutions of higher education in the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Douglas Mickelson, Dean of Graduate Studies at Mount Mary, cited several contributing factors in the College's graduate enrollment success including the efforts of the graduate admissions team, dedication of the graduate faculty, quality of the programs, and the success of the graduates.

"Personal attention is a hallmark of our graduate programs," noted Mickelson. "The graduate faculty members are nationally and internationally recognized in their fields; regularly speak, publish and win awards; and are leaders in their national professional associations; yet they remain dedicated to teaching."

The growth of Mount Mary's graduate programs, now numbering seven master's degree programs and one doctoral program, also is related to the programs' responsiveness to the marketplace. All programs are tied to professional and career opportunities throughout southeastern Wisconsin. Graduate programs and concentrations have been added in response to new opportunities, such as the nation's first professional doctorate in art therapy and concentrations in clinical mental health counseling and writing for children and young adults. Graduates of Mount Mary's master's degree programs are well-prepared for the transition to MFA and Ph.D. programs, as well.

Mickelson sees continued growth in the graduate area through the development of new programs connected to the increasing need for highly trained professionals in Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin.

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Mount Mary College, founded in 1913 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was Wisconsin's first four-year, degree-granting Catholic college for women. Located on an 80-acre campus in Milwaukee, the College offers more than 30 undergraduate majors for women and eight graduate programs for women and men. Mount Mary also emphasizes study abroad, service learning, and social justice initiatives. Its more than 1600 students enjoy small class sizes (average 14) and over 90 percent of full-time students receive financial aid or scholarships. Through classroom instruction and community service, Mount Mary develops women to be leaders in their professions and their communities, serving as role models to inspire achievement in others. Visit Mount Mary at [www.mtmary.edu](http://www.mtmary.edu).

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