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St. Mary's College of Maryland
at Historic St. Mary's City

SMCM Announces Zach Messitte as Director for the Center for the Study of Democracy

Photos available via e-mail

(St. Mary's City, MD) September 30, 2002 – St. Mary's College of Maryland announces the first director of the new Center for the Study of Democracy. Zach P. Messitte, a former United Nations Public Information Officer and CNN producer, will be responsible for the Center's programs and role as an educational leader in democratic principles.

Messitte has a range of political and academic experience. He worked as a press spokesman for the U.S. Senate Committee on Intelligence and as a researcher and producer for "Inside Politics" and "World View" at Cable News Network (CNN). In 1993, he studied U.S.-Italian relations as an associate fellowship at *Agenzia di Ricerche e Legislazione*, one of the leading foreign policy think tanks in Italy. Most recently, he held the position of Public Information Officer at the United Nations (U.N.) where he wrote speeches for a U.N. under secretary general and served as a liaison to the U.S. Congress.

Messitte earned a bachelor's degree in American History and Italian language from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine and a master's degree in American Foreign Policy and International Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He is currently completing his Ph.D. on "The Politics of Anti-Americanism in France, Greece and Italy," at New York University.

Born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Messitte grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland where he graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. He is married to Julia Holman Messitte and they have one son, Sam, who is six months old.

The purpose of the *Center for the Study of Democracy* is to sponsor scholarship and education on the evolution of democracy and civil society in 17th and 18th Century Maryland, and to explore and advocate its relevance to civil society today. The CSD addresses a critical need within the academic and political arenas to providing a deeper understanding of the nature of democracy and how that process can benefit present day societies. It is the exclusive study of historical and contemporary inquiries at the same time, and the rich history of democratic evolution at Historic St. Mary's City, that make the CSD a distinct leader in democratic principles. The scope of the Center includes development of innova-

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Founded in 1840 as Maryland's "monument school" commemorating the state's first capital, St. Mary's College of Maryland occupies a distinctive niche in American higher education. Designated Maryland's public honors college in 1992, St. Mary's provides the high-caliber liberal arts education typically associated with prestigious institutions while maintaining the affordability and accessibility of a public college.

- 1675 men and women
- Consistently ranked among the top public liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Selective admissions – SAT average of 1230
- Highly qualified full-time faculty, more than 94% with Ph.D.
- Opportunities for independent student research through the senior thesis, the St. Mary's Project
- Waterfront campus along the St. Mary's River in Southern Maryland
- 2002 ICSA Co-ed Sailing Champions

(more)

tive research and unique resources for study; the education and public debate of research findings through new curriculum, lectures, and programs; and to prepare students and future leaders in social sciences.

With roots going back to 1840, St. Mary's College of Maryland is the state's only public honors college, offering the academic excellence of private education with the openness and affordability of public education. St. Mary's students have gained recognition as among the finest students in Maryland higher education.

The average SAT scores of entering first-year students are among the highest of any public college or university in the nation. The capstone of the St. Mary's experience, the St. Mary's Project, engages seniors in a program of independent research of the kind found only in a few prominent colleges.

SMCM is consistently ranked one of the best public liberal arts colleges in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. The Washington Post called St. Mary's College of Maryland "a place to get an Ivy League education at a public school price."