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## **SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY'S ISAAC EXTENDS TEACHING ROLE THROUGH POETRY COURSE IN MASTERS PROGRAM AT HAMLIN UNIVERSITY**

**MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Jan. 21, 2008** – Saint Thomas Academy announced today that Donna Isaac, a member of the Academy's English department, has been invited to teach a colloquium class on writing a poetry thesis for Hamline University's Graduate School of Liberal Studies, Master's in Fine Arts program.

Isaac has been with the Academy since 1992 and currently teaches American literature and composition, rhetorical skills and creative writing. She has more than 30 years experience in both public and private schools at the junior and senior high and college levels. She oversees the *Cadence* yearbook staff, and is director of The Write Place, a writing and tutoring lab for students. She has a bachelor's degree, master's degree and a master's degree in fine arts in creative writing.

One of the unique ways that Isaac encourages creativity among cadets is through The Write Place coffeehouse. The coffeehouse is an open venue for all members of the Saint Thomas Academy community to share writing, music, readings, art and performance pieces.

Isaac completed her MFA at Hamline in 2007, receiving the Outstanding Poetry Thesis award for her work, *Sustenance*. Recipients of the various awards by genre are invited to teach the process and to share the experience of their writing. Isaac will begin teaching at the end of January.

Hamline's MFA program, established in 1994, was the first MFA degree in creative writing in Minnesota. Students join a community of writers and scholars within an intensive, book-driven program of liberal studies. They can choose from an array of interdisciplinary electives, including courses in literary publishing. Many students will focus primarily on one genre in the advanced stage of the program as they move toward thesis. Students can choose from poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction (e.g., the essay, memoir, biography, etc.), children's literature, or any combination of genres. Courses in playwriting and screenwriting also are offered.

### **About Saint Thomas Academy**

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, military/leadership, Catholic, college preparatory school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit [www.cadets.com](http://www.cadets.com).

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