

Spirit

Summer 2008

The Magazine of Saint Leo University

It was a dark and stormy night...





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Spirit magazine is published twice each year by the Division of University Advancement, Saint Leo University. Please direct correspondence about this publication to the Office of Public Relations, Saint Leo University, University Campus—MC-2266, P.O. Box 6665, Saint Leo, FL, 33574-6665. Readers also may reach staff by sending an e-mail to news@saintleo.edu.

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Printed in the U.S.A.

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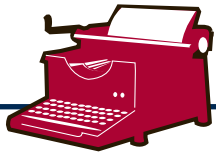
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Dear alumni and friends:

We have had many opportunities in recent seasons to celebrate, from the dedication of our new Student Community Center Complex to the achievements of our athletes. Yet, as sincerely as we cheer these successes, we at Saint Leo never lose sight of our primary mission to serve as an institution of higher learning. We believe the role of the Catholic liberal arts university—in educating our students to think and to read critically, to reason carefully, to calculate capably, and to communicate gracefully—remains as critical to society as ever. In addition, our strong Benedictine values set an example of principled leadership for students to adopt as they grow intellectually.

For an educator, this pursuit of academic excellence at Saint Leo is exciting to behold. But it is often more difficult to convey to our alumni and friends than the tangible construction of a new building or the elation of a winning sports team.

We hope this issue of *Spirit* helps bridge that gap. Our cover story details the expansion of literary and creative efforts at Saint Leo, and a related piece explains the inspiration for an innovative “road” course on Southern literature. Additionally, a few of the published writers from our Saint Leo community have shared with us excerpts from their work, demonstrating just how many diverse talents we have within the SLU community. We also believe that an issue celebrating academic excellence is a fitting place to include the stories of Thomas French and Brian Porter, two military men of different generations who overcame profound challenges to realize their academic goals. All these tales and features and poems, some light in nature, and some more serious, come to you collected in this summer reading issue of *Spirit* magazine. We hope you enjoy it and gain a glimpse of the less tangible achievements we celebrate every day at Saint Leo University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arthur F. Kirk, Jr." in a cursive style.

Arthur F. Kirk, Jr.
President



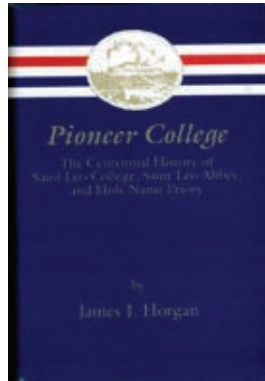
Cultivating Our Creativity



It was neither a dark nor stormy night on April 17 as eager listeners gathered in Cannon Memorial Library to celebrate the publication of the Spring 2008 Sandhill Review, Saint Leo's own literary and arts magazine. It was, instead, a vibrant spring evening filled with the sharing of poems, stories, and music. And there's more to come.

Our storytellers are once again growing in numbers and confidence at Saint Leo.

As a liberal arts institution, Saint Leo University has always stressed to students the importance of reading intelligently to broaden our experiences and to deepen our understanding, and of writing skillfully to convey our most important ideas and deeply felt emotions. And we have always had students and teachers and staff who published their own literary works from time to time in campus magazines. Saint Leo's heritage also includes the accomplishments of Saint Leo College Press, which published the late Professor James J. Horgan's historical text: *Pioneer College: The Centennial History of Saint Leo College, Saint Leo Abbey, and Holy Name Priory*. Yet our literary profile has also included some drier spells in the last 15 years, particularly when enrollment was down, and a smaller population of students resulted in fewer people interested in publishing and less financial support available for a literary review.



But now, with continued healthy gains in student enrollment, the writers, poets, storytellers, publishers, and artists are appearing again—on campus, online, and in our regional centers. The animated 2008 *Sandhill Review* celebration on campus on April 17, demonstrated that vividly. Brent Short, director of library services, noticed more people from the off-campus community in attendance than he had seen in previous years. Meanwhile, more students and faculty and staff filtered in, eventually about 50—a good number of attendees for a library event—and staffers actually had to fetch more chairs. People had the chance to admire displays of original art work, placed on easels in the reading area, that had either been reproduced in the new 90-page *Sandhill Review* issue, or that had just been on display during the spring campus art show. By the time the readings kicked off at 7:30 p.m., everyone in the room could feel a level of excitement in the air, recalls Mary Spoto, chair of the department of English and fine arts. “It was palpable.”

At the invitation of *Sandhill's* faculty advisor and editor Kurt Wilt, contributors and other writers began coming to the microphone to share their work. Several commented that they were glad to see, as visual artist and Assistant Professor of Education Elaine Omann said, that “the arts are coming back.... We need it here.” Speakers shared whatever they wanted. Though several read poems that appeared in *Sandhill*, some decided to go with other works.

Student Work from the Spring 2008

Sandhill Review



Seeing the General

Seeing the general kept alive by machines,
I put on the mask the hospital gave me.
He was still the same old oak
that he was in his fighting days.
We talked about coins, but not what
I must sacrifice to obtain them.
Walking out, I saluted him and promptly
took off the mask from the hospital.
Feeling the world grow cold,
I cried through the mask I always wear.

John Minteer '10

Night Owl

Night, by my muse
Silence, the chant
The un-distracting moon
Lights my unconscious awake

When the world shuts its eyes
It allows me to see
Quieted Sun and it followers
Create a University

The noiseless, blackened sky
Permits illumination
Petty rivalries sleep
And harmony eclipses domination

The chorus of the stars
Count down until dawn
When the Sun blinds me into day
Where I must transform

Johanna Lane '08

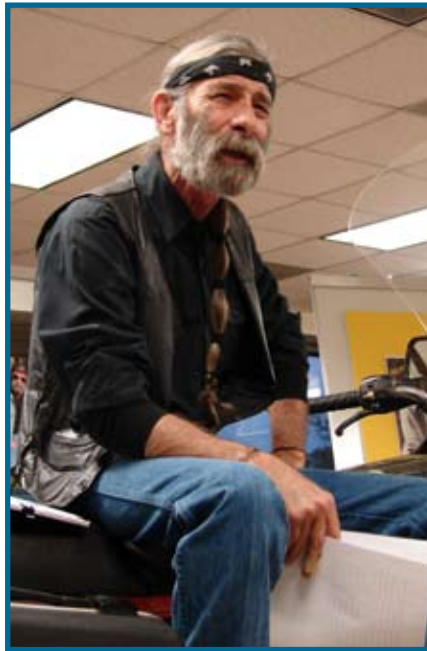
Joshua Smith, whose story “Dairy Farm” appears in the review, decided the forum was a better place to read a poem instead. Some writers read poems they said they were still working on, but felt moved to share. Consistently, the audience reacted to each speaker with focused attention and appreciation, which seemed to encourage more readers to come up to speak.

“I think that’s one of the great things about Saint Leo,” Smith said later. “It’s such a supportive environment that people feel safe getting up and reading what’s coming out of them.”

“It really is a safe, appreciative environment,” said Wilt, where the lines between student-writers and faculty-writers are erased, and where everyone is just a person experimenting with language.

After more than 90 minutes of readings, the group had to wrap up for the evening. But the appetite lingers for more literary events, and now, it seems, Saint Leo has the critical mass needed to sustain a more active literary culture.

Some of the apparent success of *Sandhill* in 2008 comes from having a larger pool of student writing talent, according to Wilt, which comes from having a larger student enrollment on the campus, in centers, and online. Authors have always submitted quality work to the *Sandhill Review* for publication, Wilt says, but now there are more works from which to choose. The editors, he notes, had to select just five short stories from 15 that were submitted. A short play was also printed, along with 29 poems.



Professor Mark “Tiger” Edmonds

Faculty members also have helped nurture a love of literature and writing in Saint Leo students, observes Dr. Maribeth Durst, vice president of academic affairs. Kurt Wilt, she notes, a poet and playwright, has been teaching creative writing for years, along with the now retired professor, but still colorful character and active motor cyclist, Mark “Tiger” Edmonds. (See related story on page 8.) Students such as senior Brandi Armstrong have found the committed interest of the faculty, along with small class sizes, especially conducive to serious

discussions about the themes of books, as well as the craft of writing. “I could not sit in a classroom of 2,000 other students and take it all in,” says Armstrong, who transferred to Saint Leo after community college, and who became an English major at the urging of Dr. Spoto. “It’s so conversational here. You have that comfort level with your professors.”

Armstrong also joined a University Campus book club with Associate Professor Kathryn Stasio, who found in the course

of teaching, students who wanted to read and discuss literature just for pleasure. One selection was novelist George Orwell’s dystopian work *1984*, read in conjunction with theatre classes, led by Assistant Professor David McGinnis, who staged the theatrical version of the work for the student body and alumni during the 2008 Homecoming Weekend.

Theatre programs on campus also are poised to take “new artistic leaps,” McGinnis feels. Having joined the faculty for the 2007-08 academic year, McGinnis observed that Saint Leo students are “passionate....Everything I have



Author Scott Cairns

tried has received at least a whole-hearted attempt; as a result, they usually succeeded. My fellows within the department have also been extremely supportive, and based on the attendance at our productions thus far, it would appear that the student body as a whole supports the program.”

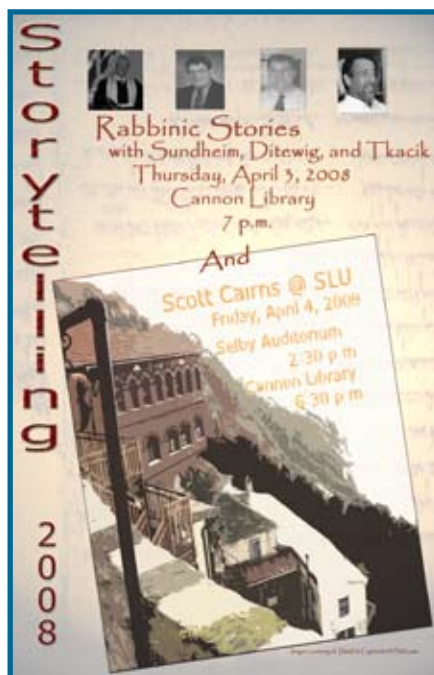
Creative new cross-collaborations between departments also seem to be feeding the literary spirit at Saint Leo. Soon after Edmonds’ reading in late February, Cannon Memorial Library, along with the departments of English, and philosophy, theology and religion, and the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies were at work on the “Storytelling Festival 2008”—three events over the course of two days in early April exploring spiritual themes. And again, the events drew interested, engaged audiences. The first function featured Rabbi Frank Sundheim, a frequent lecturer at the university, who lead an interfaith panel discussion on rabbinic stories, vignettes and commentaries on ethics from ancient Jewish texts and oral traditions. Two of Saint Leo’s Catholic theologians, professors William Ditewig and Michael Tkacik, added their perspectives, from Christian teachings, to a wide-ranging dialogue that underscored the enduring importance of religious narratives. That was followed by a visit from University of Missouri professor and prominent American poet Scott Cairns, who contemplates sacred experiences through poetry. It was especially satisfying to Dr. Spoto that a student later mentioned to her that he had never been to a poetry reading before attending the Scott Cairns event, and was intrigued to attend more. “They’re getting turned onto these things,” Spoto says.

Saint Leo also has been able to introduce a new cross-disciplinary course for students to feed their literary imaginations, Dr. Durst notes. In early May, English Instructor Elisabeth

Aiken and Assistant Professor of Sociology Shawn Bingham escorted a small group of students on a literary and cultural tour of the Deep South, with visits to places important in the lives of authors William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, and others. At the conclusion of the road trip in mid-May, students were assigned readings and papers they could complete remotely with their laptops. The pioneering course was so successful that Aiken and Bingham are already making plans to repeat it (See related story, page 6) . Another innovative travel course, focusing on British literature and art, will take students to England, Ireland, and Wales over the 2008 Thanksgiving break, guided by Aiken and fine arts instructor Karen Bryant. Though the course is geared to students, alumni, faculty, and staff may also register, simply for the travel and cultural

experiences. More such opportunities may follow, giving alumni options to re-connect with Saint Leo and enjoy arts and literature and travel at the same time.

Ultimately, Dr. Durst notes, SLU strives to give all our students a lifelong love of learning. “The joy of learning, of discovery and creation feeds the whole person,” she says.



To view video recordings of literary events, go to the “Digital Commons” page of Cannon Memorial Library’s Web site. Enter this link: <http://www.saintleo.edu/literaryevents>, and then click on Digital Commons to see the presentations available.

To request a copy of *Sandhill Review*, contact Professor Kurt Wilt at kurt.wilt@saintleo.edu.

To find out more about the British Isles Study Tour, contact karen.bryant@saintleo.edu or elisabeth.aiken@saintleo.edu after Aug. 20, 2008.

SOUTHERN JOURNEYS

A Dispatch from the Road

In early May, faculty members Shawn Bingham, assistant professor of sociology, and Elisabeth Aiken, instructor of English, accompanied eight students on a tour of several Southern cities to get a clearer understanding of the literature and culture of the Deep South. It was the first time either had tried such an extended field trip, and it promised to be an unusual learning opportunity for the students, as well.

It took plenty of work from everyone to make the journey a success. The road trip lasted two weeks, and required each teacher to drive a Saint Leo van with students and their luggage on a 2,250 mile route to Savannah and Athens, Georgia; Montgomery, Alabama; and Oxford and Clarksdale, Mississippi; ending back at the university's main campus. The group visited sites important in the lives of William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, and Eudora Welty; toured several civil rights museums and landmarks; and were invited into a blues lesson in progress at a music studio. They spoke with contemporary authors about the writing process, encountered other Southern scholars and college teachers, and discovered many different styles of cooking. The students, a mix of English and sociology majors, had six weeks of reading and online writing assignments awaiting them upon their return.

Just a day after getting back to Florida, Bingham and Aiken reported the trip was an unqualified success. They were so excited they had already begun thinking about how they might enhance the course when, not if, they offer it again. Aiken and Bingham also noted the extraordinary contributions to the trip of Julius "Boo" Hornstein, assistant professor of social science at the university's Savannah Center, and of trustee Cynthia Brannen '92 and her husband George. Hornstein directed the group to key spots in Savannah. On the last leg of the trip the Brannens hosted the entire group at their Georgia home. That gave the group the chance to talk more about writers with Cynthia, who also teaches, and to tour farmlands and a wildlife preservation area.



The Southern Journeys class with two of their Georgia hosts, Cynthia Brannen, a university trustee, and Cynthia's husband George, (both in the back row, right) at the couple's property outside Athens.



The tour included stops at several civil rights museums, landmarks and memorials.



English instructor Elisabeth Aiken with literary artistry installed in Langan Park, outside the Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, Alabama



Prof. Shawn Bingham appears to be conversing with legendary author William Faulkner outside City Hall in Oxford, Mississippi

Q: How did you get the idea for this course?

Shawn Bingham: I read the *Oxford American* frequently... and my research is on the sociology of literature. I thought, wouldn't it be cool to put a tour together loosely based on the things they cover in the magazine: music and food and art and literature.

Elisabeth Aiken: And I'm really interested in travel, in going to places where literature happens, instead of just reading it.

Q: How did the size of the class (eight students) figure into the success of the trip?

EA: I think the size was perfect. As a group they worked well together. I was so proud of them and the way they conducted themselves. They were smart and considerate travelers. Most of them had never been on a road trip of this scale.

Q: How did your teaching change in this environment?

SB: I feel it's probably the best teaching experience I've had in the six or seven years I have been teaching. I always tell students in sociology classes that musicians and writers are more interesting as sociologists than sociologists are. They're doing the same thing, they're just communicating in a more accessible way.

Q: From what you have been able to observe so far, what did the students take from the experience?

SB: They were already interested in the material. I think they made the most of the opportunity. A few got a sense that there are professors who are willing to take two weeks out of their vacation time to spend with students. They appreciated that.

EA: The longer we were away, and the more we were on the road, the more that I saw that it was so important. It is important to have students understand things that can't necessarily be adequately articulated in a classroom setting.

SB: The whole thing that makes Southern writers different is their attachment to place. So, you can't just talk about this stuff in a substantive way...you can't get outside the dry textbook unless you're at that place.

Q: For the most part you encountered great hospitality and excitement from other teachers about your visit. What was it about the trip that got people so excited?

EA: I don't know anybody who teaches who wouldn't like to be on a trip like this, and to meet a group of students on the road who are there to listen to what they're interested in as experts in their fields. I hope there is the potential to make some strong relationships to continue this in the future.

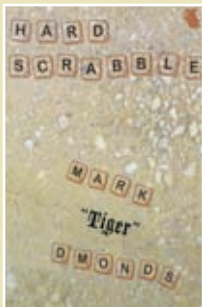
SB: Some of it is that we met people in their 60s, and they want to see the young kids get interested [in Southern culture and literature]. They don't want to see it get lost...and that actually was the point of the whole class, for them to get a sense of the breadth and the depth of Southern culture beyond the stereotypes.

Q: Would you do it again?

SB: We're already making plans.

Q: Do you see opportunities for alumni to host or join a future trip?

EB: Absolutely.



Recommended Reading

An excerpt from

Hard Scrabble

by Mark "Tiger" Edmonds

She was dying, and she knew it. And now I knew it, too. Apparently the two operations and chemotherapy and radiation had only slowed the disease down. I'd known and loved her for longer than either of us could remember, and her impending death frightened and saddened me. I wasn't done being her friend. I wasn't done loving her. And I wasn't done playing Scrabble with her.

Over the years, we had played a whole lot of Scrabble. She claimed that in all that time she had never beaten me, but I think she probably did a time or two. Scrabble, like cards and life, depends, at least in part, on the luck of the draw. If you pick poor letters, you won't spell many good words or get many points. So I really don't think I always won, but she did. She was a real competitive woman, and she always played a vicious game. But I had somehow consistently managed to come out ahead.

Scrabble, again like cards and life, often provides the players with an opportunity to discuss things, to enter into and often complete lengthy conversations about important issues. It can similarly give them a chance to heckle and mess with one another unmercifully, to harass and tease each other and psyche your opponent out. We did all these things during our thirty-five years of Scrabble games.



Mark "Tiger" Edmonds, D.A.

Hard Scrabble tells the story of a 35-year friendship between author Mark "Tiger" Edmonds and Nancy Pacey, and the time they spent together when it became clear Pacey was dying of cancer. She passed away in 2002.

Hard Scrabble was released earlier this year, and Edmonds gave his first reading from the memoir at Saint Leo's Cannon Memorial Library. The setting was a fitting one, as Edmonds taught English at Saint Leo for 28 years. He surprised a few people by wheeling his BMW motorcycle into the browsing area of the library for the reading. It was a natural thing for Edmonds to do though, as motorcycling plays an important part in the story, and is central to Edmond's two previous books: *Longrider: A Tale of Just Passin' Through* and *The Ghost of Scootertrash Past*. All are published by Livingston Press at the University of West Alabama.

Edmonds retired from teaching at the end of the spring semester. He expects to spend his time now working on another book, motorcycling, riding his horse, hunting, and taking more naps.

More about Faculty Authors

Shawn Chandler Bingham, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology, wrote *Thoreau and the Sociological Imagination* (Rowan and Littlefield Publishers Inc.).

Jose E. Coll, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work, along with Patrick R. Draves, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, co-authored *A Developmental Guide to Research: A Student/Faculty Handbook* (Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.) with Roger Park.

Christopher Cronin, Ph.D., professor of psychology, is the author of *Forensic Psychology* (Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.).

Deacon William T. Ditewig, Ph.D., associate professor of theology, wrote *The Emerging Diaconate* (Paulist Press).

Anthony V. Esposito, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, is author of *The Ideology of the Socialist Party of America, 1901-1917* (Garland Publishing Inc.).

Jane M. Govoni, Ph.D., associate professor of education, served as editor of the text *Perspectives on Teaching K-12 English Language Learners* (Pearson Custom Publishing). She is also co-author with **Mary T. Spoto, Ph.D.**, professor of English, and **Valerie Wright, Ph.D.**, associate professor of education, of two student guides: *Lions, Leos, & Learners: A History of Saint Leo University* and the second edition of *Fusions: Integrating Values in Online Education* (Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.).

Julius "Boo" Hornstein, Ph.D., assistant professor of social science, wrote *Sites and Sounds of Savannah Jazz* (The Gaston Street Press).

Michael O. Moorman, Ph.D., professor of computer science, and **Balbir S. Bal, Ph.D.**, professor of computer information systems, brought out a third edition of the text they wrote with co-author Stephen F. Wingreen, Ph.D., called *Introduction to Computer Information Systems* (Thomson).

Michael Nastanski, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business, is the author of *From Shanghai to Mumbai: Cases for Asian Strategy* (Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.).

Donald Pharr, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, is co-author of two guides: *Writing Today: Contexts and Options for the Real World* (McGraw-Hill) and *Grammar, Etc.: The Handbook for Writers* (Freeload Press).

J.D. Smith, Ed.D., assistant professor of educational leadership, is a novelist and author of *Happy Holidays: A Political Thriller* (Publish America).

Leonard Territo, Ed.D., distinguished visiting assistant professor of criminal justice, has worked with a variety of colleagues from the criminal-justice education field on three texts: *Stress Management in Law Enforcement* (Carolina Academic Press); *Police Administration* (Pearson Prentice Hall); and *Criminal Investigation* (McGraw-Hill).

Michael J. Tkacik, Ph.D., associate professor of religious studies and director of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies, wrote *Pneumatic Correctives: What is the Spirit saying to the Church of the 21st Century?* (University Press of America) with Thomas C. McGonigle, O.P., of Providence College.

Doris Van Kampen, Ed.D., associate professor and systems librarian, contributed a chapter to the *Handbook of Electronic and Digital Acquisitions* (The Haworth Press Inc.), edited by Thomas W. Leonhardt.

Jacci White, Ed.D., associate professor of mathematics, has written a second edition of *The Value of Thinking Mathematically* (Pearson Custom Publishing).

Ernie M. Williams, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, wrote *It's How You Play the Game: A Workbook for Creating Great Results in Your Life* (Pearson Custom Publishing) with Robert B. Levine.

Recommended Reading



An excerpt from

Lump: A Dog Detective In The Secret of the Ring by Vera K. Swade

Hello! My name is Gertrude, the Duchess von Belcher. That's way too long, so my master Natalie just calls me Lump. I am a three year old German Standard Schnauzer. When I lay down, I look like a lump of black coal, don't you think? So, everybody calls me Lump. I am very smart and I like to solve problems and mysteries. I hope you will help me solve my first mystery.

It started yesterday. As I lay in the sun after lunch, my master Natalie called me. "Lump – come," she cried. Her voice was squeaky and it sounded serious. She needed my help.



Vera K. Swade, Ed.D.

Vera K. Swade now chairs the education department in the School of Education and Social Services at Saint Leo. In a previous career, she taught in Ohio public schools. It was during those years of classroom teaching that she observed that as children grew they sometimes struggled with issues such as forgiveness and apologies. She began to consider writing a series of children's books that could teach children about ethical concepts in an engaging way. Swade later found one of the main characters she would need for this series when she lived for a short time in a household with a particularly intelligent, curious and charming German Standard Schnauzer named Gert.

All the elements eventually came together in *Lump: A Dog Detective*. Swade underwrote the publication of her book herself through AuthorHouse Inc. to save the trouble of searching for an agent or traditional publisher. The book is still available for sale through the company's Web site and on Amazon.com. She would like to write more children's books featuring Gert and exploring other principles, such as gratitude. "I have several other ideas, it's just figuring out where to find the time."



Imani Asukile has established himself in west central Florida as a local historian of note with a regular newspaper column appearing in a local section of *The Tampa Tribune* and with the 2005 publication of a pictorial history, *Black America: Hernando County, Florida* from Arcadia Publishing. He researches and writes during his time off from his full-time responsibilities as an administrator at Pasco-Hernando Community College.

Often, Asukile's newspaper columns reflect back on his boyhood in Hernando County, where he was raised as Dale Bennett, or on his days as a college student. He attended Saint Leo College during the 1972-73 academic year, before moving on to earn his bachelor's degree from Morris Brown College and his master's from Clark Atlanta University. This recent column (4/19/08) from the *Pasco Tribune*, a section of *The Tampa Tribune*, explores the work Saint Leo has done to recruit Caribbean students to the university's main campus and cites one graduate who became a teacher.

Saint Leo's Influx of *Caribbean Students* Contributed to Area's Culture

by Imani Asukile
Tampa Tribune Correspondent

The rich cultural history of Saint Leo University—then Saint Leo College—helped prepare Therese Mitchell for a career in education and for a world that was becoming more diverse by the day.

The Nassau, Bahamas, native came to Saint Leo College in 1972. She was among a growing number of students from the intensely Catholic country attending the private Catholic school. Saint Leo started recruiting students from the Caribbean in the 1960s, when it became a four-year college, according to school officials. Father Murphy, the admissions director in those days, made many recruiting trips to the islands.

I met Terri and her sister, Paulette, when I was a student there. They were the first foreign-born blacks I met who were not here in America to work in the field. I was used to seeing Jamaicans in my native Hernando County because they were brought here to work the fields. Others followed, such as the Haitians in the 1980s.

"The first time I saw a white Haitian was at Saint Leo," Terri recalled. Malcolm X reportedly had a similar experience on his hajj, or pilgrimage, to the holy City of Mecca. Malcolm was said to be surprised to find Muslims of different hues and eye colors from those he'd met in the Nation of Islam.

It was at Saint Leo that I saw Italians much darker than what I was familiar with. In Hernando County, you were black, or you were white. My perspective on ethnicity became much broader after Saint Leo. Like Terri, I am still anxious to learn as much as I can about different cultures.

Judging from a Caribbean King and Queen Pageant held at the school recently, I realized the school's Caribbean student enrollment is much greater than it was when we were students.

The school's Caribbean student enrollment has increased from 12 in 1998 to 111 last year, and students from 16 Caribbean nations are enrolled. Times have changed. To better understand the change, we have to go back a generation or so.



Terri did not have to come to the American south to experience the cold reality of racism or the importance of teaching accurate world history. As a 16-year-old exchange student in Bangor, Wales, she was astonished to find the Welsh children's minds had been poisoned by the "Tarzan" TV show.

"The children wanted to know if I lived in a grass house," she said. "I had to correct them."

Actually, the standard of living is pretty high in the Bahamas. The exchange rate, for example, between the Bahamian and U.S. dollar is one-to-one.

Ignorance cripples one's potential for growth.

I often wonder why people move certain places, and I'm not afraid to ask. Terri followed her younger sister, Paulette, to Pasco County, immediately fell in love and married a local guy, Charles "Chuck" Arnold, and started a family. Terri earned her associate's degree from Pasco-Hernando Community College and got her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Saint Leo.

Things that frighten others served as challenges to Terri. "Diversity" has become a buzzword nowadays, but Terri has long believed the more we know about one another, the better we will understand. A job was a job with her. It really did not matter where she worked or with what kinds of students. She

taught in Pasco County for more than 20 years, including stints at Lacoochee Elementary, Pasco Middle, Moore Mickens Adult Education Center, and Cox Elementary.

Along the way, she's taught English to non-native speakers and earned her master's degree in teaching English as a second language from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

In 1990, Terri relocated to Broward County after a divorce. One of her proudest moments as a teacher came 10 years ago, when she was selected as the Broward County Council for Social Studies' teacher of the year. Another such moment happened in 2003, when her fifth-grade class won best of show in the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the City of Coral Springs' student art show.

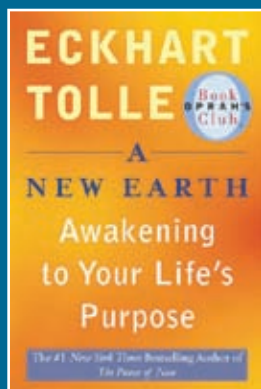
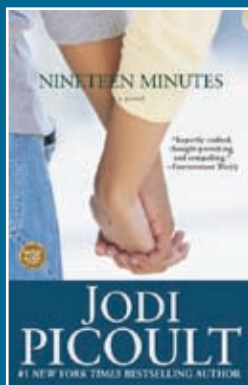
Now, after more than 30 years in education Terri is to retire in August.

She won't be saying goodbye to education entirely, though. Terri, 55, already has enrolled in a course in Caribbean history at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Howard is a mosaic of people of African descent, so the course, which starts in August, will not be a remake of the "Tarzan and Jane" version of history.

"I have taught a little bit of it all; but now, I want to know more about my own history," she said.

In this season of graduation, we can expect a few of Saint Leo's Caribbean graduates to cast their professional lots in Pasco, as Terri did, and make a difference. Thirty years from now, maybe one of you will be writing to compare your experience with graduates in 2038. Thanks, Terri, for your service, and we wish you the very best.

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Hot Titles on College Campuses

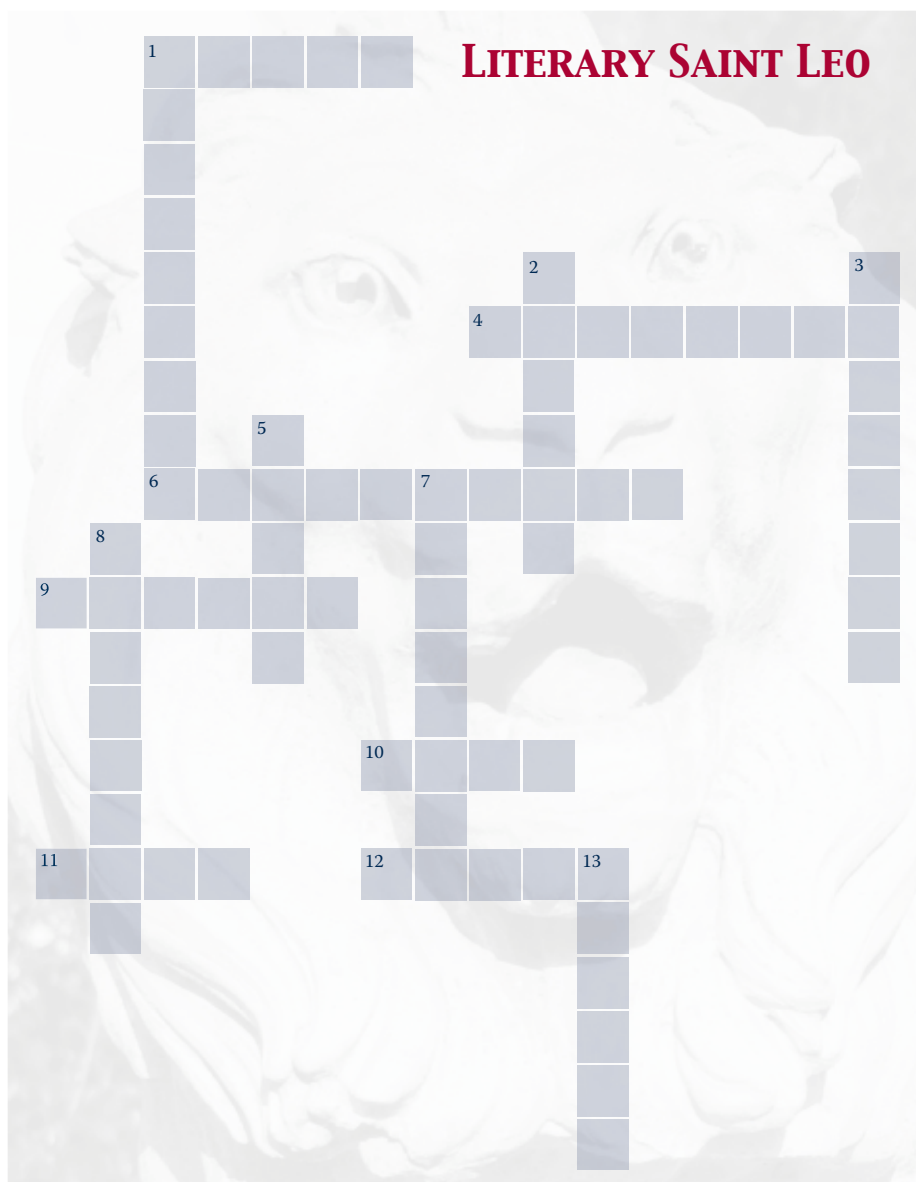
Campus bestsellers (hardcover and paperback trade books) based on an April 2008 sales survey conducted by Follett Bookstores, the contract operator of bookstore services for Saint Leo's main campus.

FICTION

1. *Nineteen Minutes* Jodi Picoult
2. *World War Z* Max Brooks
3. *Reluctant Fundamentalist* Moshin Hamid
4. *For One More Day* Mitch Albom
5. *Loving Frank* Nancy Horan
6. *Friday Night Knitting Club* Kate Jacobs
7. *You Suck* Christopher Moore
8. *The Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini
9. *Peony in Love* Lisa See
10. *No Country for Old Men* Cormac McCarthy

NON-FICTION

1. *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* Eckhart Tolle
2. *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream* Barack Obama
3. *This is Your Brain on Music* Daniel Levitin
4. *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia* Elizabeth Gilbert
5. *Marley & Me* John Grogan
6. *Green, Greener, Greenest* Lori Bongiorno
7. *Infidel* Ayaan Hirsi Ali
8. *John Adams* David G. McCullough
9. *Not Quite What I Was Planning* Larry Smith and Rachel Fershleiser
10. *The God Delusion* Richard Dawkins



Across

1. Motorcycle-riding professor
4. Type of story important in Judeo-Christian tradition
6. Creative writing genre (2 words)
9. Prominent poet pictured in this magazine
10. Widely pictured Saint Leo symbol from the animal kingdom
11. Wrote about a detective dog named Lump
12. Uniquely American music featured in Southern Journeys tour

Down

1. Writers use this to find just the right word
2. University's library
3. Board game central to memoir
5. Diplomat who began career writing and delivering sermons
7. Name of crane and publication
8. Famous novelist's grave included in Southern Journeys tour
13. Prime season for beach reading

This puzzle was created with assistance from Carol Ann Moon, reference and instructional outreach librarian. Answers are listed on page 23.

2008 British Isles Tour

November 21-29, 2008

Join Saint Leo University for a trip to the British Isles.

Tour St. Patrick's Cathedral, Warwick Castle, the Tower of London, and the Houses of Parliament. Visit historic places including Shakespeare's birthplace and Anne Hathaway's Cottage. See important artifacts such as the Book of Kells and the Rosetta Stone. Stroll down Dublin's O'Connell Street and feed the birds at London's Trafalgar Square.

The 9-day guided tour includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations with private baths, two meals daily, and sightseeing tours of Dublin, Stratford, and London. Tour cost is approximately \$2350 for SLU students, \$3350 for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.

For more information or to register for the tour, contact Karen Bryant, instructor of fine arts, at karen.bryant@saintleo.edu or Elisabeth Aiken, instructor of English, at elisabeth.aiken@saintleo.edu.



Log on and re-connect!

The SLU Network is Saint Leo's new online forum where alumni can build and maintain their own personal and professional connections.

As a network member you can

- Connect with classmates, friends, and friends-of-friends in a secure online community.
- Use the network's search capability to find other Saint Leo alumni who share your interests, acquaintances, professions, or locations.
- Make professional connections.
- Post your own messages and photos.

To log on to the SLU Network, visit www.saintleo.edu, select the link for "alumni," and click on "Join Now!" For more information, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at (352) 588-8667.

SLU NETWORK



An Extraordinary Graduate

The Saint Leo University community was especially proud and delighted to see U.S. Army Master Sergeant Brian Porter accept his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from President Arthur F. Kirk, Jr., during the May commencement celebration at University Campus.

Brian, a 39-year-old husband and father of two, completed his degree through the **Center for Online Learning (COL)** in spite of extensive injuries sustained during active duty in Iraq four years ago. A roadside bomb hit the vehicle Brian was traveling in, leaving him with such serious head, neck, and facial injuries that he needed 21 separate surgeries.

Nevertheless, Brian resumed his studies through COL. He had previously earned an associate's degree from Saint Leo in 2000, and had enrolled in the bachelor's degree program in 2003. Brian completed one term in 2003 and another in 2004. Then, while still recovering from his injuries, he completed five terms in 2005. He kept going until he finally finished his last course in 2008. Along the way, Peter Wubbenhorst, a professor in Saint Leo's criminal justice program, kept up with Brian and his wife Shawn, and welcomed the family on their first visit to campus in May for Brian's commencement.

Brian remains in the U.S. Army, having so far served 22 years. He agreed to talk about his educational journey.

Q: We understand that during some of the time you were studying you were stateside, and sometimes you were deployed. During the times you were home and studying, your children (a boy and a girl) were quite young. That must have been a challenge in itself.

A: Yes. It's tough with kids. We've got a laptop and a PC and sometimes we're trying to figure out who gets computer time. With my study habits, sometimes I had to go to someplace like a library, or back to work where it was quiet, to do my studying.

Q: You had started on your bachelor's (upper-level courses) when you got hurt in 2004. Then you had to stop for awhile, of course. How did you start again and continue?

A: That first year [after the injury], I was going through a lot of surgeries. And I said, well, you know, I've got the time. I've got the time because I'm laid up, so let's do it.

Q: But wasn't it hard to concentrate with the pain medications you needed?

A: You build up a tolerance after awhile....After about a week or two on the pain meds, you become tolerant. Then you kind of get used to the pain and you deal with it. I had to time courses just right....The eight-week term really helped out, because I could determine: "OK, I can do this, I can do that." It's learning how to do your schedule. I had to do what I had to do. I didn't want to take a course and fail. I didn't want to do that. Getting done with school was something I had wanted for years. I wanted to hurry up and get it done. So I took a bad thing and made a good thing.

Q: Why criminal justice?

A: Being in the military, I just liked the field. I was just interested in it. My dad was a cop. My stepbrother is a captain in a police department.

Q: So you got your BA, and now you want to get a master's degree?

A: Yes.

Q: In the same field?

A: I don't know. I really don't know. I've been at my education center talking with colleges there. I've been reaching out with email to people that I know...just trying to get a feel, asking, I've got a bachelor's in criminal justice, where can I go with this and



what can I do with this? I don't want to become a police officer. So I'm out there, getting feedback right now. I want something that's marketable.

Q: Right, because you have to think of your post-Army career, even if you stay in for another, what, five years?

A: Right. It's going to be another three years. So I'm thinking about

how I am going to market myself after that.

Q: Do you have any advice for people studying in COL, whether they are in the military or not?

A: It's all about discipline, honestly. Procrastination will catch up with you and bite you in the butt. I've seen people procrastinating on getting assignments done. You've already been told that you have eight weeks, and this is what you're going to do each week. Procrastination does not work. You can get it done—but you can definitely see who took the time to do the work. And just communicating is important. Sometimes you're stuck and you ask for advice from the instructor and you're still not getting the answer or direction that you need [to start an assignment], and you have to communicate with someone else, but you've got to ask. Sometimes getting started is the hardest part. Once you get started it's: "OK, I've got it."

Q: So if you're confused about something, it makes sense to keep asking questions, and maybe reach out to other faculty you've had, or other students?

A: Yes, and that's the hard part of being online. When you're trying to type a question at 11 o'clock at night on a computer, sometimes what you're trying to say you can't convey well. So I think it helps to keep talking, or to use one-on-one instant messaging.

Q: This is a question for both you and Shawn: How excited are you as a family about this, having achieved this milestone?

A (from Shawn): I just think it's a great accomplishment for Brian. When I got my bachelor's and wasn't married, and had no kids, it was like a night-and-day difference. You can't even compare it to getting off work and then having to take a test and having to squeeze it in, and then you've got to deal with your kids, you've got to deal with your wife, who is saying, "You've got to deal with your kids and do this and that." So it's been tough. It's been tough on both of us, and more on him. So it is a great accomplishment.

FAMILY & HONOR *a graduation story*

Almost no one in the room understood quite what was taking place one Friday afternoon in March at the MacDill Air Force Base NCO Club when Kenny Gonzalez, director of the university's MacDill Center, picked up the microphone and began speaking.



Pat French; Director Kenny Gonzalez; Angelia French; and honored graduate Thomas French.

“Ladies and gentlemen,” Gonzalez told the casual crowd, “there is an important occasion to mark today, and a memorable story that’s important for all to share.” Gonzalez then began telling the story of a young man who was born into a large family in the Philippines in 1927, the son of a Philippina mother and an American soldier-father. This young man endured the loss of his soldier-father, and then incredible hardship during the Japanese occupation of World War II.

Thomas French wanted an education though, and returned to high school when he was able. He then completed three years of higher education with the intention of becoming an attorney. He had to abandon those plans when he discovered that to be allowed to practice law, he would have to make a mighty sacrifice. Because of his parentage, French enjoyed both Philippine and American citizenship. But his professor said in order to practice law in his homeland, he would have to give up his American citizenship. “I’ll never do that,” he responded. He left school without the degree he had wanted, and in 1952, enlisted in the United States Air Force.

Thomas French spent 27 years in the Air Force serving his country in a variety of ways, at many different locations, achieving the rank of senior master sergeant. He worked in hospital administration as first sergeant supervising more than 600 air

force personnel for years, creating the business and management routines needed for patient admission and care. He helped design new clinic facilities and wrote some of the hospital regulations still in effect today. Along the way, he married and raised a family, always instilling in his three children the value of an education and the importance of discipline.

French left his family back in the States in 1968 for a tour of Vietnam—not to work in hospital administration, but on combat support missions to help locate enemy forces. The French family lived in the Tampa area when French was assigned to duty at MacDill. When he retired in 1979, the family returned to Florida.

Master Sergeant French was as intellectually curious as ever, and still prodding his children to do well in school. Several of his buddies began taking classes from Saint Leo at MacDill AFB, and French joined them. At long last, he was getting the education that had been deferred for so long. Sometimes his wife Pat came along to the base with him for classes, or for other social activities. The Frenchs were starting to become a Saint Leo family.

He was a dedicated student who always wanted to be fully prepared for his classes, recalled his daughter Angelia. At the time, she didn’t truly understand how much effort he must be

expending on reading, writing papers, preparing for tests. "I really didn't appreciate it until I got older," she said in a recent interview.

First her dad earned his associate's degree. Then he continued his studies to earn a bachelor's degree in human resources administration.

Only a few weeks into his final semester in 1991, when he had just one class left, Thomas French suffered a debilitating stroke. He couldn't speak or walk. The determination he had tapped to get through school now had to be redirected to a new purpose. He had to spend hours each day learning again how to move, how to eat, how to walk. Rehabilitation took years, and supplanted Sergeant French's goal of earning a four-year degree.

As time passed, the couple's youngest daughter returned as a working adult to Saint Leo. Angelia French already had earned an associate's degree, and after some years in the workforce resumed work part-time on a bachelor's degree in business administration.

As she approached her own graduation in the summer of 2007, she was also wondering about her father's birthday present, a man about to be 80, a man she considers a hero. One day, it occurred to her to ask her mom: "How come we never pursued Dad's diploma?"

She thought he wouldn't get a typical diploma, but wondered if the university would grant her father an honorary degree, given his years of service to his country, and given Saint Leo's commitment to educating members of the military. She began writing letters and making phone calls, and eventually the request found its way to university Registrar Karen Hatfield.

Hatfield looked into his record. An honorary degree was certainly possible, but there was more to be considered, she decided.



From left, daughter Angelia French at the home of her parents, Thomas (center) and Pat (left), with the three diplomas the family members have earned from Saint Leo.

French had completed course work in the Air Force that met the standards of the university at the time (1987) for transfer credit. He apparently hadn't known this was possible, but in fact had already completed enough college-level work to earn his degree when he suffered the stroke.

Hatfield ordered a new diploma, reflecting French's accomplishment in earning a bachelor's degree in human resources administration. Kenny Gonzalez, director of the MacDill Center, was selected to preside over a surprise ceremony to be attended by family and friends at the NCO Club on the base on March 14. Gonzalez considered the assignment a privilege. "Here is a man who gave so much to the service of his country. What an incredibly humbling honor for Saint Leo University, and true manifestation of our values, to see that Mr. French achieved his lifelong dream of getting a degree."

Gonzalez took up the microphone, and began telling the life story of this remarkable, 80-year-old Saint Leo graduate. Master Sergeant French, who still has limited speech, was caught off guard. Then, as Gonzalez delved into more biographical details, French realized this was his life being discussed. "You could see it in his eyes," recalled his daughter. Gonzalez presented the diploma to the retired senior master sergeant, who held the document high for his friends in the club to see as all applauded. "He's very proud," his daughter said.

As an added surprise, at the request of wife and mother Pat French, Gonzalez re-presented to Angelia her own diploma.

It turned into a family graduation. Father Thomas credits his daughter for his late-life commencement. And Angelia credits both her parents for encouraging her to follow her father's example. The diplomas are on display in the French home, outside Tampa.



Saint Leo Salutes Donors and Dedicates Stunning New Student Complex

On February 9, 2008, Saint Leo University trustees and guests had their first extended tour of the newly completed Student Community Center complex at University Campus.

The majority of the work on the \$21 million, Spanish mission-style complex was completed in late October. It was funded partly through the success of the university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, which set out to raise \$15 million for new projects and endowment needs.

Donors topped that goal and pledged \$19.7 million to SLU, a cause for celebration.

The addition of the complex has transformed the landscape at University Campus.

The larger of the two structures, the Student Community Center (SCC), replaces the former McDonald Center building, housing the university's popular dining hall, a convenience store, a comfortable lounge, and combination conference room and special-events dining area. The names of 46 leading donors to the project are honored with a plaque in the lounge.

The SCC's north face and adjacent patio directly overlook Lake Jovita. Its south side flows out across the courtyard to the Student Activities Building.

The two-story Student Activities Building has created more office and meeting space for student organizations, and it also houses the University Learning Center and University Ministry. The Saint Jude Chapel, a quiet sanctuary open to people of all faiths, balances the west end. A distinctive clock tower, also on the west wing, has become a new campus landmark.



1. Tom Dempsey, president of Saddlebrook Resort and former trustee (shown here with wife Eleanor), delivered the keynote address at the dedication dinner.

2. In addition to launching the campaign with an extraordinary financial contribution, alumnus and former Board Chair Glen Greenfelder '61/'63 and his wife Gail brought to the effort an invaluable enthusiasm and vision.

3. Longtime trustee, Janet Denlinger and her husband Endré Balazs also shared exemplary gifts of financial support and their deep dedication to the University's progress. The Student Community Center Boardroom is named for Glen and Janet.

4. Board of Trustees Chair Dennis Mullen '76 welcomed guests to the dedication.

5. Trustee Dwaine Gullett and wife Trish.

6. Most Reverend Robert Lynch, Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Petersburg, blessed the new facilities.





Sacred Spaces

Because of the caring hands and heart of a retiree, five tattered and worn religious statues at Saint Leo University's main campus have been restored to immaculate condition.

"This is the first time I've done on-site repair," said 71-year-old Donald Webster, a self-trained handyman who makes an avocation of repairing damaged religious art.

Saint Leo University is thrilled with the restoration and protective work Webster has performed on the white-painted statues, all of which are subject to Florida's humid climate, said Frank Mezzanini, vice president of business affairs.

"They'll be in great condition for years."

Mezzanini found Webster, a winter resident of nearby Zephyrhills, through local Catholic contacts. The handyman's services were particularly needed at the campus. SLU would not have been able to find replacements for these particular statues, each of which stands about five feet high.



A statue depicting Michael the Archangel, the protector, stands at the far west end of the campus.

A statue of the Madonna and Child is positioned in an alcove of an outdoor stairway on the second floor of Saint Francis Hall.

A representation of Our Lady of Fatima stands in a high-profile spot next to the outdoor steps of the busy Saint Edward Hall.

Two other figures are just inside an alcove at an entrance to Saint Edward's Hall. Saint Edward the Confessor stands to the right, holding a chapel, which is considered a symbol of the rebuilding of England's Westminster Abbey Church. Opposite Saint Edward stands Saint Benedict of Nursia, who founded the western monastic tradition and for whom the Benedictine order is named. The saint holds a cup.

Webster worked methodically on the figures over two winter seasons in 2006-07 and 2007-08. He finished in early February. Webster never accepts payments, and asks only that satisfied customers make a donation to their local Catholic parish.

Accordingly, the university has directed a \$500 donation from employee Kevan Griggs, specifically made for the restoration work, to Saint Leo Abbey. Griggs, who works in SLU's Distance Learning program, said mending the statues reflects one of the university's core values: responsible stewardship of our resources.





Celebrating women in sports

Saint Leo University honored its female student athletes at the 18th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day banquet in February. During the event, tennis great and guest speaker Betsy Naglesen McCormack was presented the 2008 Women in Sports Achievement Award. Sodexo awarded a \$1000 scholarship to one student from each of SLU's eight women's sports teams: Dana Graham (cross-country), Sarah Savage (soccer), Emily Frey (volleyball), Sarah Tatko (swimming), Monique Reynard (basketball), Gabrielle White (golf), Taylor Cleaves (tennis), and Ally Maddox (softball). The evening concluded with the presentation of the Elaine Evans Spirit of Saint Leo Award to senior soccer player Ginger Davenport. Ms. Davenport received the award for her sportsmanship and for exemplifying Saint Leo University's core values.

Julie Carusone earns All-American honors—swimmingly



Sophomore Julie Carusone earned All-American honors in each of her four events at the 2008 NCAA Division II Swimming Championships in March. The 54 points she earned helped Saint Leo University finish 18th in the championships. This is Carusone's second year finishing All-American in four events. She was featured on CBS Sports "Championships of the NCAA" in May.

Paying tribute to scholar athletes



Each April, SLU's Department of Athletics honors the university's best and brightest student-athletes. Among this year's honorees are (pictured left to right) men's soccer player Brandon Whisett, Male Scholar Athlete of the Year; women's soccer player Ginger Davenport, Female Scholar Athlete of the Year; men's soccer player Eusebio Montoya, Male Athlete of the Year; and Julie Carusone, Female Athlete of the Year.



Athletics

Congratulations Lions!

Saint Leo University was recognized for overall excellence in diversity by the NCAA Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Laboratory for Diversity in Sport during the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Convention which took place June 9-12 in Dallas, Texas. Saint Leo was one of only 14 Division II schools to receive this prestigious award. Winners were chosen based on responses from surveys mailed to the top six administrators at each Division I and Division II institution.

In addition to Saint Leo, the Division II colleges and universities honored for overall excellence in diversity are Queens (New York), Goldey-Beacom, Florida Tech, New Haven, Oakland City, Slippery Rock, Palm Beach Atlantic, Lock Haven, Cal State Stanislaus, Cal Poly Pomona, Alaska Anchorage, New York Institute of Technology, and Indiana (Pennsylvania).

Saint Leo alumni lend talent to NCAA Final Four



When the NCAA Women's Basketball Final Four Tournament came to Tampa this April, two Saint Leo University alumnae were instrumental in the tournament's success. Saint Leo University Athletic Hall of Fame member Denise Brooks-Clauser '87 served as an official at the tournament's title game. In 1992, Ms. Brooks-Clauser was the first female athlete to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, and in 2006 received the university's Women in Sports Achievement Award. Abby Boustead '07, a graduate of SLU's online MBA program, was named Women's Final Four Tournament Manager by the Tampa Bay Sports Commission. Ms. Boustead has built a career in athletics administration, serving as administrative staff at University of Nevada-Las Vegas and as director of football administration at Kansas State University.

Literary Saint Leo Crossword Puzzle Answers

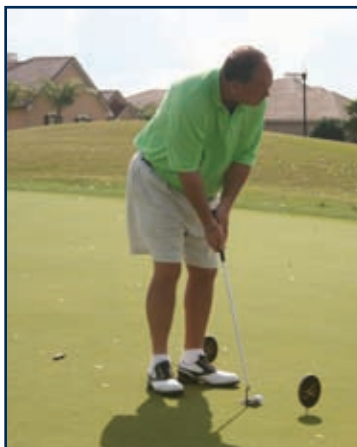
Across: 1. Tiger 4. Rabbinic 6. Short story 9. Cairns 10. Lion 11. Vera 12. Blues

Down: 1. Thesaurus 2. Cannon 3. Scrabble 5. Young 7. Sandhill 8. Faulkner 13. Summer

Hitting the green for scholarships



More than 100 alumni and friends of the university took part in the seventh annual Spirit of Saint Leo Golf Tournament in March to raise money for SLU's Athletic Scholarship Fund. The winning foursome, alumnus Dave Garcia, Bob Cornet, Jimmy Piloto, and Andrew Arena, display the muscle that helped them take the tournament.



Continue your education with Saint Leo University



I am glad I decided to take my graduate studies with Saint Leo University. The flexibility of online classes allowed me to balance job and career. Obtaining a master's degree has helped me develop both personally and professionally.

Wendy Geer
MBA Saint Leo University 2007

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■ Criminal Justice

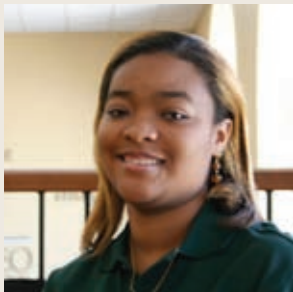
■ Instructional Design

■ Theology

■ Teaching

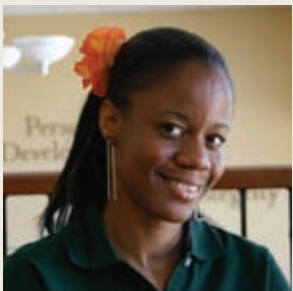
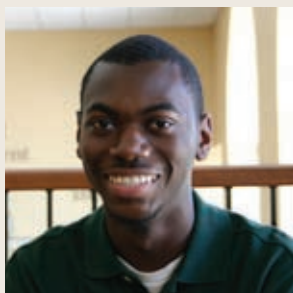
**For more information, call
(800) 372-0288 or visit www.saintleo.edu**

Introducing the 2008 SOAP students.



Deangria Carey '09 is a biology major. Deangria has been an active participant in the university's alternative spring break trips and she is a former student phone-a-thon caller.

Vernon Davis '10 is a biology major. He recently was elected Student Government Union secretary for the 2008-2009 academic year.



Amera Edwards '09 is a political science major. Amera has assisted the Office of Admissions in its international student recruitment efforts for the past two years. She hopes to attend law school after she completes her Saint Leo degree.

Holly Lyons '11 is a political science major. Holly was one of this year's student phone-a-thon callers. She also aspires to attend law school after completing her Saint Leo degree.



A great summer job!

Saint Leo students reach out to alumni

It's summertime and another four Saint Leo University students have signed on as paid employees in the University Advancement division. Students selected for the *Student Outreach to Alumni Program* (SOAP) are chosen for their poise, maturity, and their demonstrated capacity to succeed with their responsibilities.

This year's SOAP students are focusing their efforts on coordinating six student-alumni receptions for the university's continuing education centers in Florida. Their assignments include writing invitations, arranging venues for each reception, recruiting volunteers, and serving as hosts at the receptions.

In addition, the students are scheduling personal visits with alumni, as they do every year. Working in teams of two, SOAP students visit alumni to provide updates on activities at the university and to compare notes on the similarities and differences in their college experiences—socially and academically. While most of the students' activities take place in the greater Tampa area, regional and national travel opportunities arise from time to time.

If you receive a phone call or an email from one of these students, please take a few minutes to talk to him or her about your Saint Leo experience. They look forward to seeing you at one of the Florida receptions this summer or at a regional event during the coming year.



Commencement 2008

Retired Army General Bryan "Doug" Brown addressed 438 graduates at Saint Leo's morning commencement ceremony at the main campus. General Brown served as commander of U.S. Special Operations at MacDill Air Force Base.



Baseball Hall of Fame broadcaster and former catcher Joe Garagiola told 311 graduates at the university's afternoon ceremony to take chances and never be afraid to fail. Saint Leo University celebrates 14 commencement ceremonies throughout the Southeast during the months of May and June. Please visit www.saintleo.edu for complete coverage.







On May 6, Saint Leo University opened a new location in Trenton, Florida. The Trenton location will offer onsite and online classes beginning in August.



The Savannah Center celebrated its new location with a grand opening on May 8 for alumni, local business representatives, and current and prospective students.



Susan Paulson, assistant vice president for Continuing Education, was honored for serving during 2007 as president of the Virginia Out-of-State, Non-Profit College and Universities organization (VONCU). She accepted the award from the group's 2008 president, Dick Gates.

A dual-graduate household

Saint Leo's **Fort Eustis Center** is pleased to report their June 2008 commencement included spouses **Danny** and **Esther Barron**. Danny received a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice. Esther received her bachelor's degree in human resource administration in 2006. She continued her graduate studies at Saint Leo and has earned an MBA.



Langley AFB Center student receives scholarship

Saint Leo University student **Dion Lewis** received a \$1000 scholarship from the Virginia Advisory Council on Military Education VA-ACME. Pictured left to right are Dawn Hall, education services officer, Langley AFB; Jack Nussen, director, Langley AFB Center; Dion Lewis, and Susan Paulson, assistant vice president for Continuing Education.

University

Center Celebration: Mom can now breathe a sigh of relief.

Fort Eustis assistant director **Frances Volking** reports: "My oldest daughter, Christina Marie Volking-Zambrano, is an E-5 in the U.S. Navy, married to a former Marine. They are the proud parents of my first grandson. Christina completed a Bachelor of Science in computer information systems with a minor in homeland security/criminal justice in 2007, but wanted to wait and march with her sister. My youngest daughter, Kara Renee Volking, completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology with a minor in criminal justice at the end of the spring II 2008 term. She is engaged and her fiancé left for U.S. Army boot camp two weeks ago. Both daughters and their father received their Associate of Arts degrees from Saint Leo previously. I have been a staff member or administrator in the Continuing Education Department (formerly called Military Education Program) at the Fort Eustis Center since April 1981, and I also have been an adjunct instructor in psychology since 1993. My oldest daughter was nine months old when I started at Saint Leo and the youngest was born four years later. I am very proud of the accomplishments they have achieved in all areas of their lives." Congratulations Frances!



Andrew Young, former mayor of Atlanta, civil rights leader, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, appeared on University Campus in mid-April, and drew 225 guests.

The former minister spoke eloquently on topics ranging from development projects in Africa, to current U.S. foreign policy and public education in America.

Alumna Bettejo Indelicato '95 spoke to students about her work as a peace activist at the invitation of SLU's Theology and Social Science Institute. She was



Saint Leo's University Ministry welcomed black Catholic leaders from Brazil for a weeklong series of events that focused on racial unity. The **Most Reverend Gílio Felício, Bishop of Bagé, Brazil**, gave the keynote address on the history of African slavery in Brazil during Portuguese colonial rule. The situation was similar in many ways to the practice of slavery in America. Father Stephan Brown, director of University Ministry, moderated the discussion.



The country band **Lonestar** entertained more than 500 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and their families at an outdoor concert in the Bowl on a beautiful April Saturday.



SLU recently received approval from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to

offer its **Master of Business Administration** program in **Hong Kong, China**. Classes are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2008. Eddy Lau, director of Hong Kong's Open Institute of International Education visited campus in May.

President Arthur F. Kirk, Jr., was among 200 Catholic college and university presidents invited to an address by Pope Benedict XVI at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The Center for



Catholic-Jewish Studies' **Rabbi James Rudin**, along with other Jewish leaders, also met with the Pope during his recent visit to the United States. "In his remarks, the Pope urged us to ensure religious liberty so 'all people can worship freely,'" said Rabbi Rudin.

Rabbi Frank Sundheim, a frequent lecturer at Saint Leo, was the featured speaker during an interfaith panel discussion on rabbinic stories—brief tales from the Jewish tradition. Rabbi Sundheim was joined in the discussion by two Catholic theologians, Professor Michael Tkacik, director of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies, and SLU Associate Professor William Ditewig.

Chronicles

working in Baghdad as a peace observer in May 2003 when the war began, and currently works with the Florida Peace Action Network. Bettejo holds a bachelor's degree in religion

from Saint Leo.

Voice actress **Nancy Cartwright**, known as the voice of animated television character Bart Simpson, gave students a humor-filled presentation on paths to success

in April. Cartwright also urged students to develop their artistic gifts and find creative outlets for their talents.



Alumni Events

Summer and Fall 2008



Greater Virginia Alumni Event

Sunday, June 29

Join alumni from South Hampton Roads and the Virginia peninsula at the *Nauticus*, in Norfolk.



Northeast Beach Party

Saturday, July 12

The Northeast Beach Party is back! Pack your bags and get ready to meet us at the Jersey Shore.



Florida Alumni Receptions

Late summer

Eight Florida picnics and receptions will take place from Tallahassee to Key West between July 31 and August 10.



Saint Leo Heads to the Ball Park

SLU alumni will be gathering at baseball parks across the U.S. Be sure to check your mail and visit the alumni Website frequently to find out when we will be visiting your city!



Saint Leo College Prep and Holy Name Academy Reunion

Saturday, October 3 – Sunday, October 4

A wonderful opportunity for all Prep and Holy Name alumni to reunite and celebrate. The classes of 1953 and 1948 will be celebrating their 55- and 60-year reunions.



For more information, please visit the alumni event schedule located at <http://alumni.saintleo.edu/166.php>.

To ensure that you are receiving mail and email about these events, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni.relations@saintleo.edu or (352) 588-8667.



March 26 – 29, 2009

Homecoming 2009

Homecoming Weekend 2009 will be a special time to shine for alumni who graduated in years that end in a “4” or a “9”.

This year’s Homecoming celebration will feature 50 years of basketball history. Members from the 1959 “Cinderella Team” are helping to organize this memorable occasion. In addition, other sports teams, social clubs, and Greek organizations are planning to hold special reunions during the weekend.

If you and the members of your class, club, sports team, or Greek organization are planning a special reunion during Homecoming Weekend and you would like Alumni Relations staff to help you plan or publicize your event, please telephone (352) 588-8667 or send an email to alumni.relations@saintleo.edu. For planning purposes please submit your requests by July 30, 2008.

Homecoming Weekend 2009 Schedule (tentative)

Thursday, March 26

- The weekend begins at the Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet.

Friday, March 27

- Be a student for the day: attend a class, a lecture, or a play.
- Join fellow alumni for the Green and Gold Golf Tournament hosted by the University’s Athletic Department.
- Attend the evening reception, dinner, a baseball game, and fireworks. We’ll have music, dancing, and a whole lot of fun.

Saturday, March 28

- Participate in one of several “alumni vs. student-athlete” games—or cheer your team on to victory!
- Join classmates and friends for one of several special reunion luncheons.
- Attend the all-alumni dinner, dance, and awards ceremony.

Sunday, March 29

- Wrap up Homecoming Weekend by attending Mass and joining classmates and friends for a farewell brunch.



Here to Serve

The 2008-2009 Alumni Association Board of Directors

The Alumni Association's Board of Directors represents all Saint Leo alumni, promoting active alumni participation and involvement through on-campus and regional programs; serving as an advocate for the university; identifying and encouraging the enrollment of quality and diverse students; assisting in gathering philanthropic support; and recognizing university alumni and friends who are distinguished by their loyalty, professional achievement, and community service.

Rich Barrella '78
Larchmont, NY

Joseph J. Booth '67
Clearwater, FL

Chris Borg '02
Saint Petersburg, FL

Mike Chiappetta '79
Toms River, NJ

Karen (Cofrancesco)
D'Ostilio '87
Hamden, CT

Charles F. Eason, Jr. '72
Washington, D.C.

Gary Franco '74
Wyckoff, NJ

William J. Griffin '71
Fairview Village, PA

Robert J. Grubbs '68
Winter Garden, FL

Kevin Hallock '78
Greenwich, CT

Anthony Ibrahim '98
Clearwater, FL

Dolores Incremona '80
Tampa, FL

Julie (Toby) Jenkins '84
Tampa, FL

Thamir A. R. Kaddouri, Jr. '94
Lutz, FL

Skye (Langmack) Largent '97
Kitty Hawk, NC

Michael P. McNulty '85
Brightwaters, NY

Carl Miranda '71
Baldwin, NY

Carl Moeller '79
Woodbury, CT

Beth (Dempsey) Moore '74
Ormond Beach, FL

Tonya D. Moore '96
Sumter, SC

Nick A. Muley '90
Tampa, FL

Allison (Seaburn) Newlon '92
San Antonio, FL

Horace H. Peek '54
Chesterfield, MO

Ryan Preller
Largo, FL

Tracy T. Swearingen, Sr. '97
Stone Mountain, GA

Karen Varga-Sinka '00
Atlanta, GA

Richard (Chip) Voorneveld '72
Charleston, SC

John View '72
Syracuse, NY

Jeff Wilke '03
Jacksonville, FL

Owen Wilson '75
North Granby, CT



Dear Fellow Alumni:

In March we celebrated Homecoming Weekend—and it was fantastic! Alumni from all across the country came back to Saint Leo to visit with classmates and friends and to see the many changes that have occurred on campus. During the weekend, I had an opportunity to speak with many of our alumni and to get a

sense of the nostalgia they felt coming back to Saint Leo and seeing where we are today.

One of my most important objectives as I enter my second term as alumni association president is to continue improving our communication network. I know the university focuses a great deal of effort on trying to keep you abreast of the exciting accomplishments that Saint Leo has achieved, as well as the professional and personal successes of its alumni.

With the new enhancements to the university's Web and electronic technologies, you can receive updates about the university and its alumni in almost an instant. I recommend that you consider taking advantage of the university's electronic services by assuring that the alumni office has your email information. The Alumni Association Board of Directors is presently exploring various issues related to the above and considering better ways to allow alumni to share photographs, personal accomplishments, or just to keep in touch with their classmates—all from your own computer.

We will continue to provide you with regular updates about alumni association activities on your behalf, and I will provide an outline of our 2009 goals after our July board meeting.

Communication works both ways, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me or the university's alumni relations office to share your thoughts about how we can better serve your needs or just to find out what is happening on campus, at the centers, or online.

Sincerely,

Thamir Kaddouri '94



Call for Nominations

Alumni Association Awards

Each year, the Saint Leo University Alumni Association recognizes those alumni who are distinguished by their loyalty, professional achievement, and community service. The Awards and Recognition Committee seeks nominations for each of the following award categories:

Distinguished Alumnus/a

The Distinguished Alumnus/a Award is the highest honor granted by the Alumni Association. Alumni who have received this award exemplify the ideals and mission of the university through extraordinary achievements. Their outstanding service brings honor to their alma mater.

Service to Community

The Service to Community Award honors alumni who provide extraordinary public service to their community.

Professional Achievement

The Professional Achievement Award honors alumni who have achieved significant goals as defined by the standards of the industry or profession in which they work.

Service to Saint Leo University

The Service to Saint Leo University Award recognizes alumni who have dedicated their time, energy, talents, and financial resources to the betterment of the university.

Church Service

This Award recognizes alumni for their outstanding service to the church at a local, regional, or national level.

Military Service

The Military Service Award honors alumni who have outstanding records in the U.S. military services (active or reserve).

Honorary Alumnus/a

This special award is presented to an individual who is not a Saint Leo graduate but has demonstrated qualities and accomplishments that are in accord with the Saint Leo philosophy and Benedictine principles.

The last day to submit an award nomination for the 2009 Alumni Association Awards is on Monday, September 1, 2008. To nominate a fellow alumnus or alumna, please go online to <http://alumni.saintleo.edu/AwardsRecognitionForm.php>. If you have questions or would like more information, please call (352) 588-8667.

2008 Alumni Association Awards

Many Saint Leo University alumni dedicate themselves to making the world a better place. This year, twelve outstanding individuals were honored with awards by the Alumni Association. Here they are.



Kim Ann Callan '80 (*photo left*) was honored with the Service to Saint Leo Award for serving as an exemplary volunteer and supporter of the university and its endeavors.

Jim Chitwood '88 was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award for exemplifying the ideals of the university through extraordinary leadership, outstanding achievement, and dedicated service.



Isell Denson '82 (*photo left*) was honored with the Community Service Award for outstanding dedication and service to his community.

Konstantine Goanos '78 was honored with the Military Service Award in recognition of his outstanding record of military service.

Jim Jacobsen '70 was honored with the Professional Achievement Award for his outstanding professional accomplishments that reflect the ideals of Saint Leo University's core values.

Norman D. Kaye was proclaimed an Honorary Alumnus in recognition of his many achievements on behalf of Saint Leo University and for reflecting the values associated with the university and the Alumni Association.



Charles McCarthy '67 (*pictured left with wife Mary Pat*) was honored with the Church Service Award for his dedication, leadership, and service to his church.



Dennis McFadden '85 (*photo left*) was honored with the Military Service Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and dedication to our nation and for his professional accomplishments that reflect the ideals of Saint Leo's core values.

George Paulson was proclaimed an Honorary Alumnus in recognition of his dedication to Saint Leo University and for reflecting the values associated with the university and the Alumni Association.



Kathleen M. Reidy '71 (*photo left*) was honored with the Distinguished Alumna Award for exemplifying the ideals of the university through extraordinary leadership, outstanding achievement, and dedicated service.

Michael J. Sciarini '94 was honored with the Professional Achievement Award for his outstanding professional accomplishments that reflect the ideals of Saint Leo University's core values.

Gary Whittacre '03 was honored with the Military Service Award in recognition for his dedication and service to our nation through his military service.

Leo Williamson '39 was honored posthumously with the Military Service Award for his distinguished record of military service reflecting the ideals of Saint Leo's core values.

The Spirit of Giving

Share

Share a measure of the assets you have worked a lifetime to acquire.

Pass

Pass on the life values that have guided you to future generations of students.

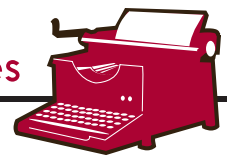
Remember

Remember the place Saint Leo holds in your life and your heart.

Leave

Leave your philanthropic legacy by including Saint Leo in your estate plan.

For more information about how you can include the university in your estate plans, please contact Dawn Parisi in the Development Office by telephone (352) 588-8483 or email development@saintleo.edu.



Sheila McDevitt (HNA) '60 has been inducted into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame.

Michael Lannon '68, Superintendent of the St. Lucie County Schools, was named the 2007 Florida Superintendent of the Year.

Mike Scourby '73 was awarded the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors Gold Award of Excellence for sales in 2007 and the RE/EX 100% Club Award.

Terry Callahan '80 has been named vice president of property management at Phillips Development and Realty in Tampa, FL.

Joann Criscuolo '83 is currently involved in a mission program in Ecuador where she helped build a school, and medical and dental clinics.

Jim Porto '85 serves as an advocate for the Rape and Abuse Crisis Service of the Finger Lakes in Geneva, NY.

In April 2007, **John Joyce '89** was promoted to the rank of lieutenant with the Plymouth, MA, Fire Department.

Danny Hunley '92 recently was named vice president of operations for Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding's Newport News shipyard.

Joseph Kieras '93 has been appointed patrol supervisor for the Knox County (Maine) Sheriff's Office.

Gregory C. Harris '94 was elected vice president of the South Carolina Campus Law Enforcement Association.

Rhonda Sturgis '94 authored a chapter in a new book titled the *Disaster Management Handbook*. Rhonda is an adjunct instructor at the Fort Eustis Center.

Jennifer Rey '95 was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2007. She is now an associate with the Hogan Law Firm in Brooksville, FL, specializing in commercial transactions and employment law.

Michael Lafrato '97 has been named director of hotel operations for the Tubac Golf Resort and Spa in Tubac, Arizona.

Theresa Ludwig '97, a military wife and mother of five, spent 31 years working for six different government agencies. She graduated summa cum laude at age 66, with a B.A. in management and business administration.

Marie (Doyle) Rushlo '00 writes: "We recently adopted a baby boy from Russia, Bryson Aleksandr."

Maureen Riser '02 received her MBA from Saint Leo this spring. She is the new regional director for the LifePath Hospice in South Tampa.

Jaime Gerding '02 is the new principal of Apollo Beach Elementary School.

Jennifer Brown '03 special agent accountant/professor for the Virginia State Police, has been chosen for inclusion in the 2008-2009 Princeton Premier Registry.



John Semeraro '05 recently was named director of external operations for the Peach Belt Conference, an NCAA Division Two Conference.



Maeghan Morris '05 is the 2008 Putnam County Teacher of the year.

In Memoriam

Sister Mary Ann Carollo, O.S.B.
May 5, 2008

Jose Perez '48
April, 2008

Donald Edward Storch Sr. '51
April 14, 2008

LCD Frank Charles Koch III '58
March 16, 2008

Gladwyn Hartley Forrest '80
Feb. 24, 2007

William C. Malkemes '80
April 2, 2008

David E. Waliczek '81
Jan. 31, 2008

MSGT "Bart" B. Jones '82
Oct. 20, 2006

Walter Charles Williams '84
Aug. 12, 2007

Ret. SFC Thomas E. Parris Sr. '96
Jan. 2, 2008

Engagements and Marriages

Dustin Fetz '07 and Stephanie Robinson have announced their wedding will be held on September 20, 2008.

Joseph Canova '07 and Rebekah Schmidt were married on April 5, 2008.



Homecoming 2008

Thanks!

Allison Seaburn Newlon '92 and **Beth Dempsey Moore '74** dedicated hours of hard work to help make the Homecoming 2008 celebration a success. More than 400 alumni returned to campus to reunite with fellow classmates.

Julie Toby Jenkins '84 was auction chair for the Homecoming 2008 celebration. Because of her hard work and dedication, the auction raised almost \$10,000. The proceeds from the auction will be used to enhance the educational experience for all Saint Leo Students.



Alumni Association Board of Directors

nominations now being accepted

The Association and Board Development Committee of the Saint Leo Alumni Association is soliciting nominations for the Board of Directors for its 2009 – 2012 term. Nominees must have attended Saint Leo University, Saint Leo College, Saint Leo College Preparatory School, or Holy Name Academy.

Members of the Board of Directors, the Alumni Association, and the Saint Leo community are encouraged to nominate individuals who are active and committed to the university, and are willing to serve on the Association's Board of Directors for a three-year term. Sitting directors may be nominated for a second consecutive three-year term.

The Board Development Committee considers the following qualifications essential for nomination to the Board of Directors:

- dedication and active service to Saint Leo University,
- current service to the Alumni Association,
- ongoing involvement in Alumni Association programs, and
- leadership through support of the Saint Leo University Annual Fund.

To be considered, each nomination package must consist of a completed nomination form, a letter of support from the person nominating the candidate, and a personal statement from the candidate.

Prospective candidates should review the *Mission Statement* of the Saint Leo Alumni Association and *Statement of Board of Directors Responsibilities* before accepting nomination.

These documents are available on the university Website in the "Alumni" section.

Nominations may be submitted year-round, but the deadline for 2009 board elections is **August 31, 2008**. If the deadline is missed, the nomination will be held for the following year.

To nominate a classmate, friend, or even yourself, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (352) 588-8667 or <http://alumni.saintleo.edu/BoardNominationsForm.php>.

To view the documents listed above please go online to <http://alumni.saintleo.edu/index.php>.



Class of 1958 Reunion

Friday, June 6 – Sunday, June 8

Saint Leo Prep and Holy Name Academy graduates came back to Saint Leo University to celebrate the passing of 50 years since their graduations from their respective schools. Volunteers from the class of 1958 began planning this reunion more than a year ago. The events took place at Saddlebrook Resort and on the university's main campus. The weekend was filled with great opportunities for the alumni to reunite with each other, several of their faculty members, and with Saint Leo as it is today.

Alumni have the power to touch the lives of every student
with their gifts to the Annual Fund.

THE POWER OF ONE ^{56,162*}

ANNUAL GIFTS = MORE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Financial aid
Lab equipment
Cutting-edge technology
University speaker series
Athletics and intramurals
Library resources

Your gift, when combined with the support of 56,161 other alumni, makes a difference to more than 14,000 Saint Leo students every year, worldwide. Every gift has an impact—including yours.

To make your gift, please call us at (888) 752-2586 or (352) 588-8824, or give online at saintleo.edu/powerofone, or send a check payable to Saint Leo University. Mail to: Saint Leo University, University Advancement – MC2354, PO Box 6665, Saint Leo, FL 33574-6665.

*Official number of alumni as of 5/19/08



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