



THE LIONS' PRIDE
MEDIA GROUP



Graduation

APRIL

2023

Final letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Alora Peters
Editor-in-Chief

I entered Saint Leo University as a freshman with a plan: attend class, study hard, pass my exams, and graduate. As an incoming college student, it seemed like a straightforward path to success.

However, as I began to progress along my collegiate journey, I realized that college – and life in general – wasn't just about checking assignments off my to-do list. By focusing only on the end goal, I was passing by so many of the incredible detours, sights, people, and road stops that I now realize are what made my Saint Leo journey so meaningful.

Looking back, the most important thing I've learned here at Saint Leo wasn't something that is being tested on any final exam: the most important lesson I've learned – and am still learning – from my collegiate experience is to be open to unexpected possibilities.

In my first year, I took two honors program courses in classical Western philosophy and theology. I enjoyed the classes so much that I added a minor in religion; my studies in theology have been one of the highlights of my academic journey at Saint Leo, but the honors class that prompted me to begin this journey almost didn't happen.

As a newly enrolled

freshman, I was initially skeptical about joining the honors program, and struggled with those classic doubts that every incoming student faces. Would I be able to handle taking additional, more difficult classes? Would I fit in with my classmates? However, I decided to be open to the opportunity, and I am so grateful that I did – not only did I love the classes and the content, but I ended up meeting some of my now-closest friends.

The same is true of my experience with The Lions' Pride Media Group. My advisor invited me to write for the student newspaper, but I was again

hesitant. Would I get along with my co-workers? Would I be able to balance a job with my studies? Would I enjoy journalistic writing?

Now, three years later, I absolutely love my job. I've learned as much – and probably more – from working on the newspaper staff than I have from my classes. The Lions' Pride has been one of my most meaningful experiences at Saint Leo, and it's something I would have missed entirely if I hadn't been open to possibilities.

Looking back, so many of the most significant and impactful parts of my collegiate experience are things I never would have

dreamed of considering before I started at Saint Leo. So many of the beautiful relationships and connections I have forged during the past four years never would have come to be if I had remained focused only on the end goal and closed off to the unexpected opportunities that awaited me.

It might sound cheesy, but, if I can pass along any advice to other students, it's this: try new things, adventure outside of your comfort zone, and be open to possibilities and happiness where you are least expecting it. The future really can be and will be better than you can imagine.



Photo by Ryn Williams

Newsroom

The Lions' Pride Media Group is the student-run publication of Saint Leo University, free from institutional interference from conception to print. We publish in print once monthly, and weekly online at our website and through our social media sites. It is the mission of The Lions' Pride Media Group to provide accurate news and diverse opinions that are important to the Saint Leo community, and our goal is to inform and entertain readers while providing thought-provoking journalism without fear of reprisal. We are located in the Student Activities Building in Office 106.

Letters to the Editor & Advertising:

Send letters to the editor to TheLionsPrideNewspaper@gmail.com. Guidelines: 500 word maximum. Do not use profane or slanderous language. Faculty must include name and rank. Students must include name, major, and graduation year. Include phone number to verify authorship. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, or libel.

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Graduation Issue

Senior Send-Offs

Ryn Williams

Layout Editor

When I came to Saint Leo University, I wasn't entirely sure who I would be.

In the admissions office, I chose the closest equivalent to journalism – English with a concentration in professional writing – before I even knew there was a newspaper on campus.

On the first day of classes, I sat in a Zoom classroom by myself. The first student that joined immediately introduced herself and asked if I was interested in joining the newspaper that I had now seen around on campus.

Since then, I've become layout editor – that other student's previous position – and her future bridesmaid.

At The Lions' Pride Media Group, I've become familiar with the development of an article. It starts as an idea thrown around a meeting room and then blossoms into a piece after editors have had their eyes on it. I find that cycle beautiful.

Jacob Onken

Contributing Writer

My four years at Saint Leo University have gone by in a flash. It felt like a year ago I was living in the tiny dorm rooms in Marmion.

The spring semester of 2020, when COVID-19 hit, was during my freshman year. My first semester was the only normal one that I ever had in college.

I was starting to find my own friend group before we were forced to self-isolate. At first, while being locked indoors, my friends from Saint Leo and I stayed connected. We would have group calls until 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. Then I started to become addicted to being alone in my room. I didn't know at the time, but this would be the start of my anxiety disorder hitting its peak.

When I returned to campus in Fall 2020, my friends and I were neighbors. About a week into the semester, I began to have 11 or 12 panic attacks a day. I tried to keep this secret from my friends. I thought that they would make fun of me or think that I was over-exaggerating for attention. That was a mistake.

After all, what can be more amazing than a piece multiple writers have poured their hearts into?

Since joining, I've written 22 articles on a variety of topics, from politics to a celebration of life to covering the race for the COVID-19 vaccine of 2021. I've developed my skills and broadened my horizons. I've made lifelong friends and learned how to work collaboratively in a group.

My background in The Lions' Pride Media Group has strengthened my confidence as a writer and employee. I've even written for outside publications such as The Dade City Wire.

What I mean to say is this: the newspaper will give you a chance.

I came to Saint Leo University as a nervous teenager who had no idea how to edit journalistic articles, how to use Adobe InDesign to lay out the paper, or even how to make friends.

My time at The Lions' Pride has taught me more lessons than I can put into words. I'm truly thankful for my experience.

There was only one person that I really trusted to talk to during this time, and it was my now-girlfriend, Megan. I already had a crush on her from my freshman year, but my feelings continued to grow in our first semester back. I didn't realize that I was starting to fall in love with her, and I didn't realize that holding back my feelings towards her was adding to my anxiety.

I remember the day that I realized I needed to start seeing someone for my anxiety. It was during the last game of the 2020 World Series. I didn't even get to see the final plays of the game, as I had a major panic attack that caused me to have to return home.

Once I got back, I took advantage of Saint Leo's Counseling Services. I learned different ways to cope: one of the major ones was to actually go out and see my friends.

I should have been more trusting of them. They never judged me; they were more concerned. Back at home in Tampa, I never really opened up to people.

The community that I met at Saint Leo was more understanding than any I have met before.



The Lions' Pride Media Group's class of 2023 pictured from left to right: Jacob Onken, contributing writer; Arthur Cosson, social media manager; Alora Peters, editor-in-chief; Ryn Williams, layout editor; and Emmalee Welch, contributing writer.

Arthur Cosson

Social Media Manager

During my two years at Saint Leo University, I gained a lot of experience. Indeed, coming from France, I had to adapt to a new language and a new culture in addition to a new field of study, as I pursued my Master of Business Administration while, for my bachelor's, I had studied exercise science.

The advantage of Saint Leo is that many students on campus come from all over the world. So, on this small and nice campus of Saint Leo university, you can learn and discover many things from people from all over the world.

Moreover, The Lions' Pride Media Group has been a great opportunity for me to discover myself and develop new skills, thanks to the editors surrounding me.

Furthermore, being promoted to Social Media Manager gave me a chance to have responsibilities that allowed me to expand my resume. I've loved working here and doing projects with Pia Perthen, the Sports Editor, that have helped The Lions' Pride grow its visibility on social media.

Also, as a student-athlete on Saint Leo's cross-country and track teams, it has allowed me to grow in a completely different field and, therefore, to think about other things and have other goals. My job was to

develop The Lions' Pride's presence on the Internet to give it more exposure. Like everything else I do in life – such as studies or sports – it allowed me to have a concrete objective and to give value to my work.

However, my best memory as a student-athlete was the trip to Seattle, Wash., with my coaches and teammates for the Dec. 2022 National NCAA DII Festival. It was an incredible experience as an athlete, where I felt like I was in a sort of mini Olympic Games and where everything was set up for the athletes' well-being. But it was also, in general, an example of all the opportunities sports can give by traveling, succeeding, and meeting new friends.

So, I can say that my Saint Leo experience is what allowed me to grow as a person because of study, work, sports, and all the people I met here. It is unfortunate to leave Saint Leo following the cut of the cross-country and track program for the next semester. I feel bad for all my teammates, friends, and coaches who need to find a new school or job. I hope Saint Leo has a better future and will continue to grow.

Nevertheless, Saint Leo is the best choice I have made in my life by leaving my home country. Here I was able to find a family, and this part of my life will forever be remembered as a successful and rewarding experience.

What are The Lions' Pride's alumni up to?



Bernard Ramos graduated in 2020 after working as arts & culture editor. Now, Ramos is working at Nova Southeastern University as a program coordinator. He will graduate with his Masters in Educational Leadership and Administration in August from George Washington University. Additionally, he tied the knot last year!



Mariana Navarrete graduated in 2022 after working as the arts and culture editor. After a year of working in San Francisco for campaigns, teaching swim lessons and writing for local newspapers, Navarrete will start graduate school at City University of New York's Newmark School of Journalism for the bilingual journalism program.



Haley Robinson graduated from Saint Leo in 2021 after serving as the layout editor and then editor-in-chief for The Lions' Pride. After graduating, she expanded her horizons abroad in Ireland both educationally and politically, resulting in completion of a Masters of Social Science in Human Rights and Social Policy and joining socialist feminist activist group ROSA. Now stateside, she secured a job at Feeding Tampa Bay as a grant coordinator and continues her activist work.



John Hall Jr. graduated in May of 2020 after serving as layout editor and then editor-in-chief. After leaving Saint Leo in the height of the pandemic, Hall found employment at Baycare Health System. He enrolled in a clinical laboratory scientist program at Hillsborough Community College and graduated in December 2021. Hall's career has been rewarding and allowed for him to travel to other states for training, while allowing him to do his favorite thing in the world: the sciences!

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Stepping stones to success: President Edward Dadez interview

Satyne Doner
Arts & Culture Editor
Sophia Sullivan
Editorials Editor

“This is my last position,” said Dr. Edward Dadez, president of Saint Leo University. “I stepped up when asked to make sure my alma mater was going to get back on track and become healthy. I know what I need to do.”

The last time The Lions’ Pride Media Group spoke to Dadez, it was just 48 days after he assumed the role of Saint Leo’s newly appointed president, on July 1, 2022. This time, nine months have passed, and in those nine months came the arrival of a new era for Saint Leo.

Prior to assuming this role as president, Dadez had dreams of retiring into a quieter life. After 20 years of service as the university’s vice president for student affairs, stepping down would have given him time to be the primary caregiver for his wife, Theresa, who had three back surgeries in 2020.

But when the call came from the Board of Trustees to step up, he answered immediately. The Dadez family has 14 graduates from Saint Leo, and it was his passion for the university that brought him back into the limelight.

However, stepping into this new era has brought with it unprecedented challenges. Budgets and athletic teams alike have been cut to preserve the future of the university.

Dadez hopes this temporary disintegration will soon reconstruct into something beautiful in years to come.



Dadez uses this wooden kaleidoscope as a reminder to always look at issues from all perspectives.

“Now that we’ve made these cuts, we are in more of a position of strength to move back up,” he explained.

However, the prognosis was grim following a Feb. 16 press release that sent shockwaves throughout the Saint Leo community. Among the most notable operational changes were the discontinuation of three degree programs, the elimination of 111 staff and faculty positions, the cessation of six NCAA Division II athletic teams, and the closure of eight satellite campuses.

“We had to get the budget under control,” Dadez said. “I’m not happy that we couldn’t find a silver bullet ... but we’re in great shape to move forward.”

Next, the biggest issue Dadez would like to address is the maintenance issues in the campus dorms and apartments.

Having lived in the halls, he has previously noticed these problems and resolved himself to listen to the students and fix them. From adding a fresh coat of paint to the dorms, replacing the couches, and eradicating the mold, Dadez is determined to get them back into tip-top shape.

Additionally, Dadez is listening to the student’s complaints about the food on campus. He noted that while the food at Saint Leo has not always been bad, the quality has recently declined.

Unfortunately, fixing these problems comes back to the school’s budget concerns. Staffing problems have made it difficult to keep multiple dining locations open and operational.

As Dadez noted, if the pizza cook happens to get sick, there will be no pizza to serve: the wages that the university is able to offer are so non-competitive that there are no backup employees for such situations.

When it comes to dining services, Dadez recognizes that a major revamp is necessary. He reminisces on a time when Saint

Leo’s dining hall occasionally offered new features, such as the pizza station or salad bar, and he would like to get back to that level of innovation. Ideally, he would like to improve the dining hall’s efficiency and consistency, but he understands there are some hurdles he needs to jump through first.

“We always used to try to have what we called the ‘wow effect’ every year,” said Dadez. Hopefully, Saint Leo will see more of these in the future.

After Café 36 closed at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year due to staffing issues, students feel like they need a healthier option for meals.

“The healthy option should and will be replaced,” stated Dadez. Moving into the future, Dadez stressed that the university must hit its enrollment numbers to be completely out of the woods.

As a tuition-driven university, both enrollment and retention are of the utmost importance to Saint Leo.

“It is awful that the retention rate from fall to fall for freshmen tends to be about 54 percent,” Dadez said. “I remember it being as high as 74 percent.”



The Lions’ Pride Media Group pictured with Dadez for their annual presidential interview. Pictured from left to right: Hadassa Ferreira, Sophia Sullivan, Daria Krainova, Alora Peters, Dr. Valerie Kasper, Dr. Edward Dadez, Bao Han, Satyne Doner, Pia Perthen.

President Dadez interview continued

In addition to rising retention rates, Dadez wants to focus on finding new revenue streams and connecting with alumni. For him, connecting with alumni is one of the key issues he would like to fix. He is increasingly concerned with the lack of good communication between alumni and their alma mater.

"We need to partner with more educational institutions, businesses and corporations in the area," Dadez explained. "We need to do a much better job at philanthropic support ... I have talked to a lot of alumni recently, and I cannot figure out why they say, 'We haven't heard from the university in years.'"

What Dadez really seeks for the new era of Saint Leo is connection. He wants to plug alumni back into the university, connect students with their community, and find new ways to engage online students.

"We've lost that family feeling," said Dadez. "We must get back to that feeling. This is not a transactional relationship – it is transformational."

One solution Dadez wants to explore is engaging and attracting online students through the prospect of four- and eight-week courses. He would also like to see this applied to on-ground learning as well and sees this as a viable option for athletes and busy students alike.

For example, a student would be able to take extra credits for the first eight weeks of the semester, allowing for more flexibility. This move will allow students to take more control over when they take classes and how they complete them.

Dadez encourages students to speak up about what kinds of offerings they would like to see on campus in terms of an expanded array of online and on-ground classes.

"I've held meetings to talk about where we need to go with online learning," said Dadez. "We need to look at different ways to structure it, and we need to ask students what a better way would be."

By diversifying the school's offerings, he hopes to garner more revenue. Additionally, Dadez has

been focusing on other aspects of campus life that are attractive to prospective students, such as the performing arts programs.

After attending the Saint Leo theatre's "Menagerie" performances, Dadez expressed a special interest in supporting the school's performing arts.

"There's got to be people out there who believe in the theater and arts, so why haven't we talked to these people?" Dadez asked.

He aspires to start small by getting the word out about Saint Leo's art programs, so that the surrounding community will be more aware of them. He wants to encourage the community to support other areas of campus life as well.

Additionally, Dadez mentioned that the university is looking into new academic programs and student jobs on campus, but he reminds the community that funds are required to complete such things.

On April 12, the university hosted its 10th annual Day for Saint Leo, also known as Giving Day. According to Dadez, the goal was to

reach \$300,000 in donations from university supporters. This money will go towards various academic programs, scholarships, athletic programs, military education, and initiatives like the construction of a new Life Sciences building to eventually replace Lewis Hall.

A total of \$521,035 was raised, with Dadez himself donating over \$5,000 to the general scholarship fund and performing arts programs. Notably, the nursing program received \$128,635 in donations and a total of \$184,524 was donated towards the university's excellence programs.

Dadez is rebuilding the school's foundation from the ground up. Each improvement, little by little, will go towards the greater good of the university. While the process will be grueling and riddled with sacrifice, he is optimistic about the future of Saint Leo.

His message for the community is clear: "I would not have stepped into this position if I was coming in to close my alma mater. I have a passion for this place [...] I am not going anywhere else."



Photo by The Lions Pride Media Group

Having served Saint Leo University for 23 years, Dadez points to a needed cultural shift to improve campus morale.

Making a difference in the community: Saint Leo University's '22 Alumni

Alora Peters

Editor-in-Chief

One year later, Saint Leo University's 2022 alumni are still seeking to live out the Core Values of Excellence and Community as they seek to help the people around them through their work, education, and daily lives.

For many '22 graduates, a Saint Leo education was the pathway to a rewarding career serving others.

~

Alumna Hannah Wiand, who graduated with dual degrees in religion and psychology, now applies the skills she learned in the classroom to her work as a campus minister at St. Petersburg Catholic High School.

As campus minister, Wiand is responsible for planning class retreats, for coordinating Mass and the sacraments, for building connections among students through prayer and community discussions, and for leading off-campus trips with students, including the March for Life and a mission trip over spring break. She also teaches two sections of an honors theology class, in which she mentors seniors in order to help them become leaders in the school community and to practice missionary discipleship.

Wiand stated that both of her areas of study at Saint Leo influence her work, with her degree in religion helping her to speak about the "various aspects" of theology and her degree in psychology helping her to "actively listen" to the high schoolers she works with.

"Overall, I am here for the students," said Wiand. "I am here to journey with them, to be there for them, and to love them. My goal is for students to know that they are seen, known, and loved by Christ, and that holiness is attainable for them."

Extracurricular involvement through Residence Life, University Ministry, and the Student Ambassador program during her time at Saint Leo also prepared Wiand for her current role.

"I feel as though I received a plethora of skills that I have been able to use in this job, such as effective communication, a spirit of hospitality, and administrative organization," she said.

Wiand's advice for current students at Saint Leo is to focus on strengthening relationships within the Saint Leo community.

"I ... learned how important good community is, and how crucial it is to surround yourself with people who encourage you and challenge you to be constantly growing," said Wiand. "The



Karl Nyman hopes to use his research experiences at Moffitt to help with the crafting of his dissertation. "I learned a lot of really important techniques there that I can apply throughout my project," he said. (Photo provided by Karl Nyman)

community is absolutely incredible and you have so many people who love and care for you."

Wiand also emphasized the importance of continuing to rely on the community for help and support even after graduation.

"The transition from college to working is not always the easiest, so be sure to give yourself some grace as you figure it out and make sure you surround yourself with good, supportive people," said Wiand. "You are constantly learning, especially in your first year of your job. It's okay to be uncertain ... Be open to growth and don't be afraid to ask questions."

~

Alumnus Karl Nyman, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a minor in chemistry, is currently a Ph.D. student studying cancer biology at the University of South Florida (USF) and Moffitt Cancer Center.

At Moffitt, students rotate between various research labs on a cycle of ten weeks. Each lab has a specific focus; Nyman currently is working in a lab that focuses on metastatic melanoma, a type of skin cancer that spreads to other organs.

"We're trying to identify why cancer cells want to grow in the brain," he said.

Nyman hopes his work and studies will contribute in some

small way to the ever-growing body of cancer research.

"Cancer is a very, very difficult disease," said Nyman. "Allocating research, time, and resources to contribute [and] to reduce the instances of cancer-related deaths is immensely important. And, from a personal perspective, it is very interesting to learn about this. There is so much more we need to learn."

Nyman felt his education and experience at Saint Leo prepared him for success in his current field.

"I think Saint Leo offers some pretty advanced classes, actually, in the science field, and it's definitely ... underrated," said Nyman, who emphasized, in particular, courses offered at Saint Leo in cancer biology and immunology.

Another foundational experience for Nyman was an opportunity to be a research lab assistant with one of his professors, Dr. Sergiy Borysov; it was here, he said, that his scientific interest really started.

"It was really beneficial to do your own hands-on research," Nyman said.

For current students, Nyman advised becoming more active on campus by joining a student organization, honor society, or athletic team, and by taking advantage of the resources available at Saint Leo.

"I don't know if it sounds



In addition to working as campus minister, Hannah Wiand is also pursuing her master's in catechetics and evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville. (Photo provided by Hannah Wiand)

Making a difference... continued

cheesy, but get involved," said Nyman. "Saint Leo offers a lot of opportunities ... Take initiative and build friendships and collaborations."

For Nyman, the community was one of the most impactful parts of his time at Saint Leo.

"I think the community at Saint Leo is something that I really hold close to my heart," he said. "There are so many professors that I am immensely grateful for – not just for their ability to teach, not just in school or in a certain subject, but also to teach in life. I came here as a kid, and I left as a man. I mean, I'm still getting there, [but] that's something I'm really grateful for."

Alumna Danae Jones, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Clinical Psychology, began working at Sunrise of Pasco County after graduation, where she interned during her senior year. She now works at The Spring of Tampa Bay in Hillsborough County; both locations are shelters for victims of domestic violence.

"I work primarily with the moms and kids, helping them get resources for school, clothing, daycare, [and] childcare," said Jones.

She also provides safety training and regularly hosts group activities and outings for the children in the domestic violence shelter, to help them during this difficult transition period.

"If I can put something [together] so that they don't have to think about where they are right now for just a little bit, it makes me happy," said Jones.

In addition to working, Jones is also pursuing a master's in social work at USF. Even though her graduate field of study is different from her undergraduate field of study, she feels her education at Saint Leo provided a strong foundation.

"I hadn't realized ... how much psychology was in social work," Jones said. "It's helped me a lot, because we study human behavior ... and interacting with other people."

Jones also finds the lessons



"I wouldn't have done it differently," said Danae Jones, reflecting on her decision to study psychology at Saint Leo. "It was the best route for me." (Photo provided by Danae Jones)

she learned in the classroom applicable to her personal life.

"I think studying psychology helped me out in life in general," she added. "It's helped me when I'm transitioning between different jobs ... [or] how to manage my work environment and balancing school and work."

Jones shared that one of her favorite parts of her Saint Leo experience was the opportunity to build connections with faculty and staff.

"My professors are probably the reason I finished

school," said Jones. "The staff there became my family and they supported me in so many aspects of my life ... Their support is what I remember the most."

Jones said that the best advice she received upon graduation was to remember to take her time and be patient with herself during the transition period, so she offers similar words of encouragement to the graduating class of 2023.

"You have time to learn who you are, to figure out what you are truly passionate about," said Jones.

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Saint Leo University's Career Services: Helping students achieve their personal and professional goals

Isa Riaño

Advertisement Manager

The Career Services department, located in the Student Activities Building Room 203, is an excellent resource for Saint Leo University students. Its staff offer resume reviews, tips, mock interviews, job search advice, and more.

Career Services stood out for its involvement with students through multiple activities this year.

"We held our first gaming, multimedia, and entertainment Career Fair on Oct. 28, 2022," said Michael Bailey, the Director of Career Services and Accessibility.

The department also helped to organize Saint Leo's annual Business Day, a successful networking event held on March 1 on University Campus, where faculty encouraged students to network and learn from employers through a career fair and breakout sessions.

"It was such a fun and exciting opportunity for us to get out of our shells and learn about life after college," said Corbin Jordan, a junior majoring in cybersecurity.

Apart from organizing events for students, the Career Services staff also focused on building new partnerships with employers.

"Some highlights we had this year include a new, customized internship program with Lexus; experiential learning opportunities with Chick-fil-A; and building connections with employers just moving into the region, such as Rapid7, PGIM, and Moffitt," said Bailey.

When asked what he was most excited about, Bailey explained that he thought the new Career Closet would be very helpful for students.

"It is a common issue to be prepared for a job and stress out because you do not have the right outfit," said Bailey. "We would like to provide students with a helpful solution."

According to Bailey, students must log in to their Okta portal this school year to rent clothes for free and stop by the

Career Services office to pick them up. However, the department is hoping to be able to deliver clothes to students starting next fall.

The Department of Career Services will support every student as best as possible.

"Whether we help students explore how their major connects to their career goals, review professional documents, or help them look for a job, there is something we can offer to all our students," said Bailey.

Additionally, Career Services helps students attending all of Saint Leo's education centers and is also open for alums, regardless of when they started coming to Saint Leo.

Students can choose whether to have meetings virtually or in person. Students can schedule a Career Services appointment through Handshake, which they can find in their Okta Portal. Through Handshake, students can also register for networking events and find job and internship opportunities related to their major.

Throughout the years, the Career Services department has also worked closely with the Accessibility Services department.

"Accessibility Services is really about understanding and responding to the needs of individual students, and that ethos carries over into what we do in Career Services, as well," said Bailey.

Additionally, Accessibility Services supports students with disabilities. According to Bailey, statistics have shown that students in this group usually struggle to find a job, graduate from college, and accomplish their professional and academic goals. Therefore, the Career Services offices focus on practical ways to connect students to resources and employers that are helpful for them.

Students have found the services provided by Career and Accessibility Services helpful.

"It is challenging to live with a learning disability," said



The Career Services department has organized several giveaways with shirts, tumblers, and other items.

Amanda Philips, a junior majoring in education. "However, having resources that help us use our potential makes things fair."

The Career Services department also has programs focused on students with disabilities.

"We have an Accommodations in the Workplace program and our annual participation in the federal Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP)," said Bailey.

The Career Services staff describe their job as an enriching opportunity to serve students.

"It is priceless to hear students thanking us because they got a job after we helped them with interview preparation or to see how much they learned in their summer internship," said Bailey.

The Career Services department will continue to support students in their college journey.

"One of our goals is to help students stay engaged on campus, which usually increases retention," said Bailey.

Whether you are a freshman trying to get started on finding a job, or a senior looking for internships and debating what to do after graduation, the Career Services department is here to help you. Students can contact michael.bailey@saintleo.edu if they have any questions or want additional information about the department.



On April 5, students began to raise awareness about the new Career Closet located in the Student of Activities Building, room 213. The Career Closet app was launched on Okta after students returned from Spring Break.

Athletes on Air – Jake Nash – Men’s Golf

Pia Perthen

Sports Editor

Golf fans and curious spectators might have seen an incredible student-athlete hitting a white ball around the field close to Saint Leo University. This field is the Lake Jovita Golf course, and the talented young golfer that hits the golf ball close to the hole is Jake Nash.

Nash is originally from Sarasota, Florida, and is a senior at Saint Leo University majoring in business management with a minor in accounting. In addition, Nash is a valuable asset to the Men’s Golf team; however, it was not always clear which sport he would pick up and pursue a college career in.

Growing up, Nash has always been connected to being outdoors, and he has played a variety of sports, including golf, baseball, football, soccer, basketball, and tennis. Some of his favorite memories and best friends to this day were from playing different sports as he was younger.

“There would be no better feeling than waking up on a Saturday morning knowing you had a big game, whether it was football, baseball, or basketball; I enjoyed it all,” said Nash.

However, Nash decided during his sophomore year in high school to completely focus on golf and started practicing a lot in hopes of playing college golf as he gets older. This ambitious mindset has paid off, as Nash is facing his fourth year in college, pursuing his golf dream under the beautiful palm trees in the Sunshine State.



Nash can profit from his all-around athletic experience and connect these skills on the golf course (Photo courtesy of Saint Leo Athletics).

Nash has had success, especially in his junior year, as he won the Griffin Invitational in September 2021 in Petersburg, Virginia as an individual and helped to score the team win. Nash secured his first collegiate win with an impressive score of four shots under par (212) over 54-holes. In addition to that, Nash showed great skills during the Sunshine State Conference in 2022 at the Grasslands Golf and Country Club in Lakeland, Florida, as he competed in a playoff for first place and just came short as runner-up in the individual category with a total score of seven under par.

“Even though I have experienced some ups and downs during my golf career here at

Saint Leo, I have had some good tournaments throughout my college golf career. Winning the Griffin Invitation was even more special because we were able to win it as a team as well, which added up to a fantastic experience,” said Nash.

When asked about his favorite memory at Saint Leo, Nash did not hesitate to mention the van ride back from the Griffin Invitational from Virginia.

“This might sound weird that I think of my favorite memory as sitting in a van for 11 hours; however, the amount of fun, jokes, and laughs we shared as a team during the ride is unforgettable and definitely memorable,” said Nash.

Nash’s biggest goal is to make the PGA Tour someday, which he knows is extremely hard to do, but with hard work and a bit of luck, he hopes to achieve it. He is currently having four to five team practices a week, plus early morning workouts on Wednesdays and Fridays. The practices can differ in length, as some days it can be 3 hours, and others we play 18 holes which can last up to 5 hours on a slow day. Golfers might relate to Nash’s reasoning that golf can be tough and mentally draining, but on the flip side, nothing can beat the satisfaction when you are playing well and feeling connected to the golf game.

When asked about his motto, he said, “Never regret a day in your life; good days give happiness, bad days give experience, worst days give lessons, and best days give memories.”

Supportive of his mature mindset are his idols- his mom and dad. Nash looks up to them and expresses his gratitude and love for all they have done for him. His dad encouraged him when he was younger to pick up different sports since it would benefit him in many ways when he grows older.

“I am not able to choose one over the other as my ultimate idol; the things they have taught me and have done for me to get me to where I am today are unrepayable,” said Nash with a big smile on his face.

As a senior, Nash advises incoming or younger student-athletes to enjoy their time, make memories, and not take everything too seriously. He states that college is about more than just sports, and he hopes that others can make the most out of their experiences and enjoy their time with friends and teammates at this beautiful campus.

This finished up a truly inspirational insight into Jake Nash, who is not only an accomplished golfer with a bright future ahead of him but also a true testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and a love for the game.



Nash is extremely focused on the golf course to achieve great success (Photo courtesy of Saint Leo Athletics).



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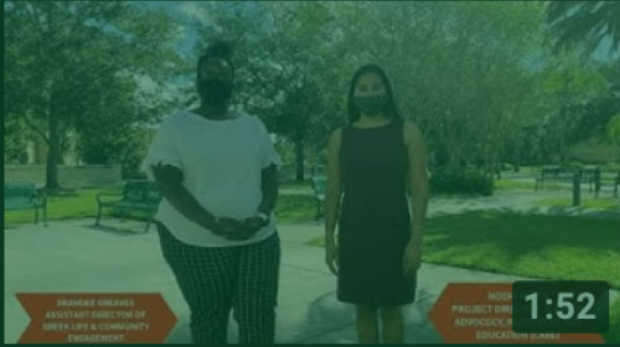
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Aliyah Hamid
Kelsey Eve Hamm
James Douglas Hansel
Alexandra Paige Hare
Cynthia M. Hargraves
Kristian Simone Hargrove
Jasmine Marie Harvin
Molly Camryn Hauser
Andrew David Christophe Hazell
Austin K. Heard
Christopher Neal Hebson
Shartarius J. Hector
Noah Henry
Kali Marie Hensley-Durham
Ashley Danielle Herling
Keith Marcus Herron
Destiny Nicole Hess
Hannah Hester
Kristin Elizabeth Higgins
Amelia Hill
Ciana Nicole Hill

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Melissa Ann Hite	Koffi Kenneth Kouadio	Taylor Mackenzie McCray	Kylie Michelle Neary
Cherish Holdorf	Lucy Kovach	Daytona Leshay McDonald	Geordante Shapero Neely
Emma Jane Horner	Justin Patrick Krier	Shannon Marie McDonald	Taylor Renee Nemcovic
Luke Oliver Houin	Jacqueline Kritzer	Jacob McDonnell	Karlos M. Neymour
Edward James Hudson	Katherine Lynette Kropinak	Zachary Michael McElwain	Morgan Rhea Nichols
Michael Scott Hudson	Kia Kyser	Natalie Ruthann McFadden	Emma Lindsey Nieman
Simuel Labrian Hudson	Khamille Labbe	Kyle Michael McGraw	Patricia Nieves Vargas
Jesse Lee Huff	Lia Joan Lamendola	Lisa McIntyre	Jeremiah Nunez
Taylor Drew Hutchinson	Emily Blaine Lampasone	Alvera Jawon McKnight	Omar Arismendi Nunez
Davondre Huyler	Ashley Paige Landry	Savannah McKoon	Anna Sile O'Connor
Helen Huynh	Leslie Carol Lankist	Emily McLoughlin	Britney Angely Oliveras
Isabella Isin	Kristie Ann Lau	Brendan P. McNab	<i>Jacob Onken</i>
Crystal Ann Jackson	Max M. Lauder	Tareva Jean McNeal	Alexia Michelle Orellana
Jasmine Tahera Jackson	Elvin Eduardo Laureano	Shade Jerrinique McPhee	Carlos Enrique Ortiz
William Jackson	Morgan Grace Leadens	Graciela Medina	Danielle M. Oshon
Marterius Deandre Jackson	Marissa Rose Lee	Lanni Laurayne Meek	Thalia N. Pabon
Stanley M. Jacobs	Nijah Nyraee Lee	Urian Jelani Mejia	Daria Lilah Pacheco
Alondra Lizbeth Jaimes	Christian Nichols Legault	Deiry Melendez	Eric James Padilla
Sahil Varun Jain	Abigail Rose Lehman	Maria Guadalupe Mendez	Nathan Wilhem Parisot
Navarra'Alii Ruddae James	Dana Lauren Leiva	Arbizu	Malcolm Jerome Parker
Carrie Anne Jamison-Glass	Chelsea LeMire	Katelyn Elizabeth Menendez	Sidnie Parks
Anna Leigh Jansen	Brooke Catherine Liebchen	Peyton Gregory Meredith	Khristian Zachariah Parrish
Victoria Jarriel	Avielle Adrienne Liles	Candace Nicole Merrill	William Alfred Pasco
Imari Dawan Jenkins	Madeline Hayes Lindsley	Scyler Merriman	Latravious Lavon Patrick
Kenneth Jennings	Kylie Ann Liotine	Nina Lynn Michelangelo	Paige Shelby Patterson
Nicholas Anthony Jennings	Brooke Lee Liske	Whitley Middleton	Kelseia Jaden Paul
Leonaja Telay Joe	Angalena Renee Little	Leisha Milfort	Stacey Peacock
Daisha Alexis Johnson	Kennedy Alyssa Litvinoff	Jenna Kathryn Miller	Jonathan Scott Pearl
Kelly Ann Johnson	Annmarie Lobos	Erika Millett	Amanda Pearlman
Leitha Johnson	Rowan Natalie Loftus	Daniel Gerard Miner	Jennifer Pearson
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Johnson	Joao Victor De Oliveira Lopes	Danielle Kiara Mitchell	Cherish Joanna Pennerman
Quenisha Johnson	Nancy Lopes	Francoise Stephane Moise	Kaleigh Margaret Pensavalle
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Meghan Kennedy	Janilsa Martinez	Jasmine Morris	Mandy Pinckley
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Gannon Vance Key	Yilton Martinez	Nigia Alexis Morris	Nicole Placco
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Amanda Koon	Leeann Marie McCarthy	Vanessa Navarro	Jack Prieto

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Emily Rector
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Carmen Irene Reyes
Emely Lisbeth Reyes
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Remounda R. Rezk
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Briana Marie Ricks
Shaunda Nichole Ridley
Domenic Tyler Riley
Tierra Alexis Riley
Omar Rios Mejia
Alexis Rivera
Velma Marie Roberts
Crystal Nicole Robinson
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Caleb Alan Ross
Courtney Route
Megan Rowe
Drew Kurtis Rudsinski
Julia Marie Ruggiero
Morgan Elaine Runge
Michelle Renee Russell
Shekariah Jaimie Russell
Karl Ryan
Julicia Yvette Saez
Ava Victoria Salvi
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Yorel Smalls
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Taylor Lourdes Smith
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Kristie Snyder
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Jake Alfredo Solms
Rosibeth Sosa
Cyaraydalyz Dyamond
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Daphne Sparacio
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Jacob S. Stevens
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Valerie Yvette Stewart
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Hannah Kay Strong
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