



*THE VOICE*

SAINT LEO WORLDWIDE STUDENT NEWSLETTER



2019-2020

*Holiday Issue*



# THE VOICE

Holiday Issue

## EDITORIAL

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Dear Readers,

For the past three years, it has been my honor to be a part of the Student Communications Club and contribute to "The Voice."

The holiday issue is an annual tradition that allows us to celebrate this special time of year with one another as a community.

For many of us, especially those who attend online, this is our only break from school in the entire year. We look forward to the extra time spent with family but it our hope that this special issue is one way of pausing for a moment to celebrate as classmates.

As we return from our well deserved break, the entire staff at The Voice will be entering into our last terms as we are all graduating this year. This newsletter is an excellent way to bring the entire Worldwide student body together, and we would love to see this continue. Therefore, we are desperately in need of some new members to continue this important work. If you are interested in editing, writing, art, photography or anything else you would like to contribute, please contact one of the people listed in the "Editorial" section. We'd love to have you join us for our spring issue which will be the final issue for the current staff, so that you can take over and continue this wonderful tradition for the rest of your time at Saint Leo University. Keep an eye out for upcoming meetings of the "Student Communication Club."

We hope you had a Merry Christmas, and wonderful start to the New Year!

Sincerely,

*Timothy G. Robinson*

Timothy G. Robinson  
Student Editor



# MARY: THE PATTERN OF OUR FAITH

BY LISA TORTORIELLO

Years ago I knew an American Christian missionary who went to an undeveloped, primitive country for several years to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When asking him what he remembered the most, he said it was the first Christmas and the stark, yet holy atmosphere of Christmas Eve. Electric lights, decorated trees, and Christmas gifts did not exist; only the natural and serene beauty of the night sky, the permeating silence and the pure and humble faith of Christian Missionaries was present.

What are you reflecting on in your heart this holiday season? Is it the gifts you expect to receive, or the beauty of the Christmas decorations and lighted trees in the town square? Or is it the holiday gatherings with bountiful appetizers and desserts?

Let us reflect on the faith of the Blessed Mary, “who received God’s message by the angel (Gabriel) without a doubt; her patience who endured St. Joseph’s surprise without a word; her obedience, who went up to Bethlehem in the winter and bore our Lord in a stable” (Marr, 2019, p. 80). To have the faith of Mary – the Mother of God – is the greatest gift of all this Christmas season. Mary replied to the angel Gabriel after being told she was chosen to bear the holy, Son of God; “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38, ESV).



The angel Gabriel also stated that “And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren” (Luke 1:36, ESV). Mary had faith that what the angel stated was true. She quickly departed on the long journey to the town of Judah where Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah resided, certainly not a small sacrifice in the ancient period.

While nine months pregnant with the Son of God, in faith Mary traveled to Bethlehem with her husband Joseph, as a census “...went out from Caesar Augustus that all in the world should be registered” (Luke 2:1, ESV). Thus, Joseph was required to make the arduous trip with Mary to Bethlehem, since his lineage was from the House of David. Especially difficult for a heavily pregnant young woman, as it was in Bethlehem that she gave birth to Jesus, “wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7, ESV).

Upon Jesus’ crucifixion, one of Jesus’ seven last words were to his mother Mary and to St. John, the disciple whom he loved. To St. John he instructed “Behold, your mother!”, and to Mary “Woman, behold, your son” (John 19:26-27, ESV). The custom of a woman having male protection in Jesus’ time and centuries afterwards was common, as women who were left without a male protector were vulnerable. In faith, Mary was taken care of by St. John, although not her last act of faith, as it is believed that Mary traveled with him to Turkey, where she resided in a small house on Mt. Koressos, in the area outside of Ephesus (Catholic View, 2012).<sup>1</sup> It was there that she administered to the young church throughout the region, to not abandon “the love you had at first”, states St. John in Revelation 2:4 (ESV) to the Church in Ephesus. Mary’s life included many events that included “terrible anxiety, loneliness, and hurt”, all of which inspired Pope Paul VI to write “She is worthy of imitation because she was the first and the most perfect of Christ’s disciples” (Van Vurst, 2019).

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, a German Augustinian Nun (1774-1824), had visions of Mary in Ephesus. With Blessed Anne Catherine’s descriptions of the area where Mary lived, Priests from Izmir travelled to the Ephesus area in 1891. The Priests found a spring next to a little chapel hidden in a grove of trees, exactly as Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich described. The house discovered was “erected on the foundation of a much older building” and was constructed from materials that were “used in the first centuries of our era” (Catholic Review, 2012). Catholic, Orthodox, and Muslims, who all honor Mary and believe that Jesus was born from Mary who was a virgin, make special pilgrimages to the house of Mary to pray.

## REFERENCES

Marr, R. (2019). John Henry Newman. Boston, MA: Pauline Books & Media

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Van Vurst, J. OFM (2019). The loneliness of Mary. Franciscan Media. Retrieved from <https://blog.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit/the-loneliness-of-mary>

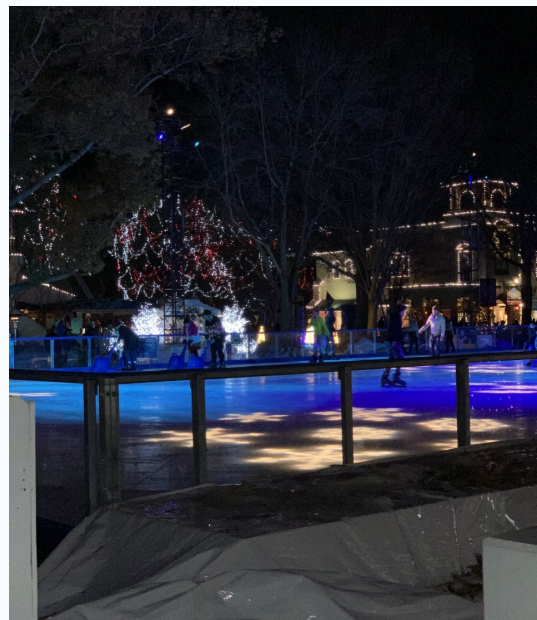


# *Winterfest at Kings Dominion*

Photography by Chesnie Johnson

# Kings Dominion

# WINTERFEST





# Winterfest at Kings Dominion

Photography by Chesnie Johnson







Tis the season to be jolly

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

May the holidays bring you plenty of  
love, joy and peace!







# SPOTLIGHTS

Student in the Spotlight

*Alma J. Cano Baca*

*Criminal Justice Student and Recent  
Military Retiree*

Staff in the Spotlight

*Alexandra Kulawsky*

*Graduate Student Advisor*

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# ALMA I. CANO BACA

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENT

INTERVIEWED BY STEVE HIRSCHBEIN

Alma I. Cano Baca is a Criminal Justice student who lives in Tucson, Arizona. This past October, Alma retired from the United States Air Force in October after twenty years of service to our nation. Alma has managed to balance her military and academic careers well and her performance at Saint Leo University has been exceptional. Oh, by the way, she is also a single mom who cites her eleven-year-old son and nine-year-old daughter as her biggest supporters and primary motivators for her continued success. Despite all of her accomplishments, she most enjoys spending time with her children and watching them excel in sports. She is a proud Lion who has been inspired by her faculty and plans to pursue her Master's degree at Saint Leo as well. We are honored to have Alma as our Student in the Spotlight for this edition of The Voice.

**How many different places have you been in the Air Force? DO you have a favorite duty station or place you visited?**

I have actually had 10 different military assignments. I have been to Florida, Louisiana, Korea twice, South Carolina, Japan, Venezuela, Colombia Virginia, Qatar, Arizona, and now Guatemala. My favorite place was actually Qatar because of the crew I was assigned with. But South America was a close second.

**What was the best part of your military career?**

The best part of my career has been able to provide for my kids on my own. I entered the military straight out of high school and was terrified about being on my own. I often questioned my ability to be successful out on my own especially after a divorce



but the military gave me the opportunity to fall down and pick myself back up.

**What is your MOS in the Air Force?**

I am a 1C571, Battle Management Command and Control.

**In what ways do you feel pursuing a higher education benefits military personnel besides picking up rank?**

To be honest going to school has helped me be better with time management. It's up to me to make sure it gets done so I have to stay on top of it. Yes education helps us get promoted but ultimately it has helped me be a better manager

**Based on your experience as a Military student, what sets Saint Leo apart from other Universities, especially some of the schools that are also popular for military students?**

I think what sets this university apart from others are the professors. I have only attended one other university and it was more popular for military yet it was harder to navigate and the professors were difficult to get in

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in touch with. With Saint Leo, I have always had very understanding professors and the courses are easy to navigate.

*"I think what sets this university apart from others are the professors."*

**Do you share your experience with school with anyone you work with? Do you have anyone in your command that is especially supportive of your educational endeavors?**

I talk about Saint Leo more now than ever. We recently had 7 brand new Airmen come into our office (less than six months in the military) and I let them know of how wonderful this school has been to me. I want them to take advantage of the education benefits from the Air Force but I also want to make sure that they are receiving quality education.

**Did you grow up in Arizona too, or somewhere else? If not, what made you want to stay in Arizona when you get out of the Air Force?**

I did not grow up in Arizona. I actually grew up in Portales, New Mexico since the age of 3 so I called it home. I want to stay in Arizona because I want to give my kids some stability. They have had to move often because of my Air Force career so I want to give them a little break. Plus the people here are really nice.

**You mentioned you want to eventually go for your Masters, what would you like to study? Any chance you'll be back at Saint Leo?**

I do want to try for my Masters. Never thought I would actually say that but I see how close I am to my Bachelors and I just want to keep going. Not sure what I want to pursue yet but it will definitely be with Saint Leo.

**Where do you plan on attending graduation?**

Not sure where I plan to graduate. I honestly had not thought about that! I'm just so focused on getting there lol!

**What should the American people know about the importance of education benefits for active duty service members?**

The Air Force has amazing, amazing education benefits. 100% tuition assistance is the reason why I am able to be where I am now. It has killer programs such as nursing. There really are a lot more opportunities....so many that it's hard to put all here.

**You are a Single mom and active duty Air Force, but you have maintained a pretty good GPA, how did you do it?**

Honest answer....I'm super tired all the time so I am not sure how I pull it off sometimes. I try my best to take care of assignments during work if I'm not too busy that way I'm not staying up too late or I try to just break out requirements piece by piece every day. I just really want this and when I want something I fight tooth and nail to get it. My desire to make my kids proud gives me the energy to get things done.



Do you know a classmate, faculty or staff member you want to be featured in a future issue?

Please email  
[timothy.robinson@email.saintleo.edu](mailto:timothy.robinson@email.saintleo.edu)



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# ALEXANDRA KULAWSKY GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISOR

INTERVIEWED BY DIANE GIEWAT

Alexandra Kulawsky is a graduate level academic counselor at Saint Leo who has been nominated as deserving of staff recognition and featured in the spotlight. Her seemingly tireless dedication to her students and, professional yet personal demeanor allows her students to feel comfortable with a process which otherwise is a typical catalyst for headaches and stress. In this interview, Alexandra is asked about her role with students and how she manages to keep on top of things with such efficiency and effect.

**Q: Can you tell me how you came to be an academic counselor at Saint Leo?**

A: I was working at another college prior to SLU that unfortunately closed down and had applied to SLU at the suggestion of a friend. I interviewed and was hired within a couple of weeks. 2 years later here I am still!

Q: You seem to always be readily available for your students. Surely you don't work 24/7. What is a typical day as an advisor like for you?

A: Thank you! I try to be flexible to accommodate my students and their schedules but there is no typical day, lol. I set daily tasks/reminder to my student's files to prioritize so when I check my calendar I know what needs tending to first. I check in with students on different things - did they log into class, have they ordered books, would they like to register for future term, etc. I usually will check my messages and emails and prioritize the critical situations (adding/dropping classes, addressing financial matters, etc.) and then it's usually around lunchtime already and then I revisit my schedule again in the 2nd part of my day.



**Q: What soft skills transfer well to a career as an academic counselor?**

A: Communication. Empathy. Patience.

Q: Are there any aspects in your career that maybe most people aren't aware of?

A: My master's is in counseling. I worked for many years as a Career Counselor and in Employer Relations. The skills I've learned from my training and in previous jobs I try to apply daily here. While many of my students already work in their desired field, I also have many career changers. Having the background in career counseling is great for advising as I can communicate with students on potential career outcomes from their degree. I have worked in other colleges in a face-to-face environment which is a world of difference. I have to make sure with the Online platform that what I am communicating is understood so trying to speak with student or at least send emails so things are documented is important. Being able to see someone face makes a world of difference so I try my best to make sure I give all necessary info (sometimes hence my lengthy emails, lol) and ask student to confirm they understand.

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**Q: You are very resourceful, follow up quickly with student concerns and never seem to miss a beat. Surely, there is quite a bit on your end that goes into this process. What can you share about the things that you do behind the scenes to make this all happen for your students?**

A: I have definitely made mistakes before (if you are my student at some point you likely receive an email from me with a typo, lol). With over 300+ students it can be challenging but I try to treat every student as if they are my one and only. Rapport building is important to me. I try to keep great notes to keep a student on track, especially for students that have classes that don't run regularly. I understand the majority of my students are working adults with families and busy schedules so I try to be flexible with my communication methods (I have some students, especially military/overseas ones) that I have never spoken with at all). I pride myself in trying to assist the student as best as I can and if I can't, get them to who can, or provide resources to them. Sometimes I am here as a sounding board and may times as the person a student can vent to. I am one spoke on a wheel and often have limitations on what I can do. But I also tend to be the one consistent person throughout a student's program. I often call myself part advisor, part cheerleader. I will do my best to be there to support you and see you to graduation.



*"Keep your eye on the prize. I am here to support each and every student. No doubt this degree is a labor of love but I tell all my student in our welcome call, in a blink of an eye I will be registering you for your last class."*

**Q: Your students only know you as an academic counselor. What are three fun facts about you that your students might not know?**

A:

- 1) My father was born and raised in England so I traveled abroad a lot and have visited many great countries
- 2) I skydived from one of the highest tandem facilities in the world, near the Kennedy Space Center
- 3) I despise seafood or anything for the ocean EXCEPT I can eat tuna fish straight out of the can!

**Q: Is there anything else that was not asked that you'd like to share?**

A: I've been in your shoes before. With my masters in counseling I had to do a year+ of internships so I interned from 7am-12pm, worked my job at the college from 1-8pm and took classes from 8-11pm. I get what you are going through! Keep your eye on the prize. I am here to support each and every student. No doubt this degree is a labor of love but I tell all my student in our welcome call, in a blink of an eye I will be registering you for your last class. It flies by!

# AROUND CAMPUS.....





# *A Christmas Tradition*

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL OSWALT, AN ONLINE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION STUDENT FROM SUMMERFIELD, FL

I want to share my family tradition that we have done since my brothers and I was little.

On December 6th, we do stockings filled with candies, treats, and small items that we love. It could be a book, lotion, knives (for the boys), etc.; Anyways, there is a story of a small town that was stuck inside their homes due to a massive blizzard. One older man, with a long white beard wearing a large velvet coat and snowshoes, went out into the snow to deliver goods and food to those in the town.

This story was told so many times it has become what Santa Claus is in today's world. My family would celebrate December 6th, also called St. Nicholas Day, to keep the history alive and keep Santa out of Christmas and Christ in Christmas.





# Artwork

CREATED BY COLBY RILEY, AN ONLINE CRIMINALISTICS STUDENT  
FROM GRESHAM, OREGON



# Career Services

From the Desk of Nancy  
Cheek



The Career Services team assists students with all phases of career development from career guidance and job search training to resume advice, interview skills, and professional networking. We support the

mission of Saint Leo University by offering a practical and effective model for life and leadership in a challenging world.

Even though you are an online or education center student, you still have access to career services. The Career Services team can be reached at (352) 588-8346 or by email at [careerservices@saintleo.edu](mailto:careerservices@saintleo.edu). Remote appointments via phone or video conferencing, as well as sharing documents via email, allows you to work independently with a career advisor even though you never meet face to face for an appointment. Your specific program, industry, geographic location and individual career goals can be discussed in these sessions. Career Services also hosts 3 - 4 virtual events each month, related to general career topics or industries of interest, that you are invited to attend from the comfort of your living room.

It is never too soon to begin researching, networking and paving the path just right for your career goals. We encourage you to reach out to Career Services today!

Need help? Contact Career Services at (352) 588-8346 or email [CareerServices@saintleo.edu](mailto:CareerServices@saintleo.edu).



Career Services encourages you to take full advantage of our newest career resource. Handshake is our online career management system for all students and alumni of Saint Leo University.

In addition to being the place where you can search and apply for internships, part-time and full-time jobs, students and alumni can also use Handshake to:

- Personalize and maintain an online career profile that recommends jobs, events and employers to you based on your career interests and other factors
- Schedule appointments with Career Services
- View upcoming local, on-campus and virtual skills development workshops and career fairs
- Upload and update your resume for employers to view

Handshake is a combination of some of the best tools on the web today, taken from services like Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. It's designed to help you precisely target career information, internship and employment opportunities as well as career events related to your specific major, degree type and interests.

To learn more about Handshake, go to <https://www.saintleo.edu/career-services-handshake>. Students may login to Handshake at [login.saintleo.edu](http://login.saintleo.edu). Alumni should contact [careerservices@saintleo.edu](mailto:careerservices@saintleo.edu) to request an account.



SAINT LEO  
UNIVERSITY.  
Career Services



# ONLINE CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Pacioli Online Accounting Club  
Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesday  
Time: 3pm-3:30pmET

Business Association  
Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesday  
Time: 7:30pm-8pmET

Computer Science Association  
Meetings: 1st Wednesday  
Time: 7:30pm-8pmET

Criminal Justice Association  
Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursday  
Time: 7pm-7:30pmET

Healthcare Management Association  
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday  
Time: 7:30-8pmET

Human Resources Association  
Meetings: 4th Wednesday  
Time: 7pm-7:30pmET

**Join Today!**

<https://www.saintleo.edu/worldwide-club-membership-application>

# ONLINE CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Liberal Arts Association  
Meetings: 1st Tuesday  
Time: 7:30pm-8pmET

Military & Families Club  
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday  
Time: 6:30pm-7pmET

Psychology Association  
Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesday  
Time: 7pm-7:30pmET

Sociology Association  
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday  
Time: 7pm-7:30pmET

Student Communications Club  
Meetings: 1st Tuesday  
Time: 7pm-7:30pmET

Student Peer Mentoring Club  
Meetings: 4th Tuesday  
Time: 7:30pm-8pmET

**Join Today!**