



# THE VOICE

SAINT LEO WORLDWIDE STUDENT NEWSLETTER



## Holiday Edition

Celebrating the  
20th Anniversary of Saint Leo University Online!



# FROM THE EDITOR

We are happy to present a special Student in the Spotlight this issue. Peter Smith is a current online graduate student who came back to Saint Leo after completing his undergraduate degree on campus in the 90s. In our next issue we will resume our "Faculty in the Spotlight" Series.

This issue also marks the beginning of our year-long 20th Anniversary celebration of Saint Leo University offering education online. Please enjoy our introduction to this special occasion, and we look forward to sharing more of the story of what we no know as "Saint Leo University Worldwide!"

On behalf of "The Voice" staff, we wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanza. God Bless us all in the New Year!

Sincerely,

*Timothy G. Robinson*

Tim Robinson  
Student Editor

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HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
*Wilton Glenn*

Congrats to Wilton Glenn who just completed his degree. Wilton was a faithful journalist on our staff, and in his last contribution to "The Voice," he wants to wish you all Happy Holidays! Will, thank you for all you have done for us, and we wish you the best!

# Just for Fun!

## Happy Holidays Word Search

Creator-Steve Hirschbein

C	A	R	O	L	L	I	N	G	B	O	T	U	W	G
W	A	J	F	G	I	C	F	G	J	T	P	P	N	A
O	Z	K	W	N	G	K	H	W	I	L	K	I	H	S
H	N	F	Y	I	H	T	B	R	V	V	T	L	L	A
S	A	X	N	R	T	X	S	K	I	A	I	E	W	N
N	W	X	L	E	S	O	T	A	R	S	I	N	T	H
K	K	S	V	E	N	V	O	O	T	G	T	N	G	H
J	O	Q	S	T	E	P	C	S	H	N	E	M	A	F
C	W	G	L	N	I	E	K	W	E	V	A	N	A	K
N	L	R	B	U	D	S	I	Q	D	I	U	S	D	S
F	A	M	I	L	Y	V	N	A	F	K	K	C	I	W
N	Y	J	B	O	F	O	G	T	K	I	L	O	C	S
H	I	C	W	V	I	B	S	A	V	I	K	P	O	D
S	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	L	E	G	N	A	V	C
S	L	J	C	G	U	U	U	R	S	W	C	J	Y	J

ADVENT ANGEL CAROLLING CHRISTMAS COOKIES  
DECORATING FAMILY GIVING HANUKKAH HOLIDAYS  
KWANZAA LIGHTS SANTA SLEIGH SNOW STOCKINGS  
VOLUNTEERING

# For Your Holiday Potluck!

Dessert Recipe from Lisa Tortoriello

## Easy No-Bake Cheesecake

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 8 oz. cool whip
- 1 - 9 oz. graham cracker crust (Keebler is best)
- 1 - 12 oz. can pie cherries (optional)



Directions:

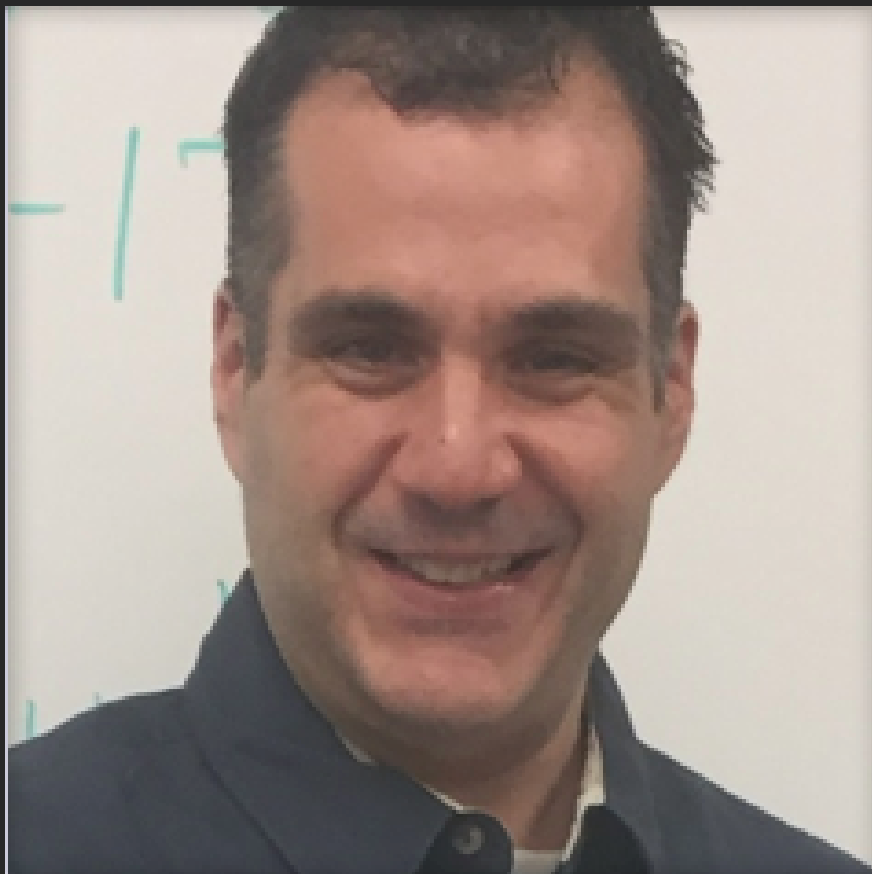
Beat cream cheese and sugar together in a large bowl until smooth. Add sour cream and vanilla. CAREFULLY beat in Cool Whip - if you are not careful, your kitchen may be decorated with the filling :-). Pour into the graham cracker crust - invert the plastic top cover over the filled crust and chill in refrigerator 3 - 4 hours, or freeze for 15-30 minutes (depending on the temperature of your freezer). Top with pie cherries or you can grate a chocolate bar and place chocolate pieces on top.

# SPOTLIGHTS

Student in the Spotlight

*Peter Smith*

*Graduate Education Student*



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# PETER SMITH GRADUATE STUDENT

INTERVIEWED BY TIM ROBINSON

As our holiday issue spotlight, we are honored to have someone who exemplifies the core value of community. Peter Smith, is a Master of Education student with a specialization in instructional leadership. Peter has been a dedicated member of the Saint Leo University Community for his entire adult life.

In addition to our school, Peter has been an active citizen in his hometown of Seaside Heights, New Jersey where he designed the city's Christmas decorations. We are happy to share his story!

Peter, now a Saint Leo University Worldwide Graduate student, began his academic journey on our campus when it was known as "Saint Leo College," and is a proud alumnus of the class of 1995. Peter discovered the school by visiting a friend there in 1989 while the school was observing our centennial anniversary.

The timing of his visit was perfect, and learning the history and values of our institution led him to believe there was no other choice, "I knew from minute one that this is where I was going to college, and I never applied to or considered any other institution of higher learning," Peter said.

The experience of being on campus for the 100th Anniversary had a profound effect on Peter throughout his life. Upon completing his undergraduate degree in 1995, Peter remained involved with our school, primarily studying the history of the University. Peter felt called to continue to tell our school's story, and in addition to conducting his own independent research, Peter read every yearbook and every student newspaper from the 1960s until today.

As a result of his work, Peter started a website, ([saintleohistory.com](http://saintleohistory.com)) where anyone interested can learn the history of Saint Leo University.

One of the benefits of his continued dedication to our school is that Peter witnessed his Almer Mater grow. Of this experience, Peter said, "The Saint Leo College I attended has grown over the past 30 years into a University beyond my most vivid imagination."

Although Saint Leo University has grown tremendously for over thirty years, the basic values and approach to education that first attracted Peter remains the same. He encourages students who might be new to our community to "Remember that this is a loving community of faith. It is not Leo University, it's Saint Leo, and although we accept every faith, we still have that Benedictine Catholic flair to our population. Saint Leo really lives by its Core Values: Excellence, Community, Respect, Personal Development, Responsible Stewardship, and Integrity." These are values Peter used to define his life, especially the importance of community.

## From Peter: My Christmas Favorites

**Movie: "A Christmas Story," because I saw it in the theatre in middle school and watched it become a classic.**

**Song: "Father Christmas" by the Kinks because of the line, "But remember the kids who got nothing, while you're drinking down your wine."**

**Family Tradition: My brother decorating his house to the nines!**

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Throughout his professional life, Peter has been a community servant. He has worked as a teacher, and for the Borough of Seaside Heights as a 9-1-1 operator, as well as the head of publicity and advertising.

For the last 16 years, Peter has served on the Seaside Heights Board of Education, where he was recognized for his longevity, including a writing and technology lab that now bears his name. As someone dedicated to the community, Peter saw great value in the "Teacher Leader" endorsement recently added by the State of New Jersey, so he knew he would not go anywhere else but Saint Leo University to pursue his Master's Degree. Peter does not want to stop here, he has plans to continue with a Doctorate as well.

In addition to being a leader in education, Peter is known for his Christmas decorating as well. Fifteen years ago, when Peter was working for the Borough of Seaside Heights, the mayor passed by Peter's house and noticed how amazing Peter's Christmas décor was. So as a result, the mayor added some money to Peter's budget and charged him with designing the borough's Christmas decorations. The result was a one mile stretch of extravagant Christmas displays along the main street of one of the most infamous beach-towns in America, all thanks to Saint Leo University's own, Peter Smith.

Although most Americans will know Peter's hometown from movies and TV shows, some do forget the damage Seaside Heights suffered as the result of Hurricane Sandy. Peter recalls, "My entire community was in ruins, including the school, which is my passion as a 16-year member of the Board of Education." Peter's own house was also destroyed in the storm, and after six years of fighting the red-tape to get his house repaired, Peter is finally home.

However, Peter has never given up, he continued his fight and continues to serve his community as a leader forged in Saint Leo University's Core Values. We are honored to have Peter as our "Student in the Spotlight," and we thank him for teaching us to use our Core Values as a compass to navigate life.

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*THE FAMOUS BEACH AND BOARDWALK IN  
PETER'S HOMETOWN. COURTESY OF  
JERSEYBOARDWALK.COM*



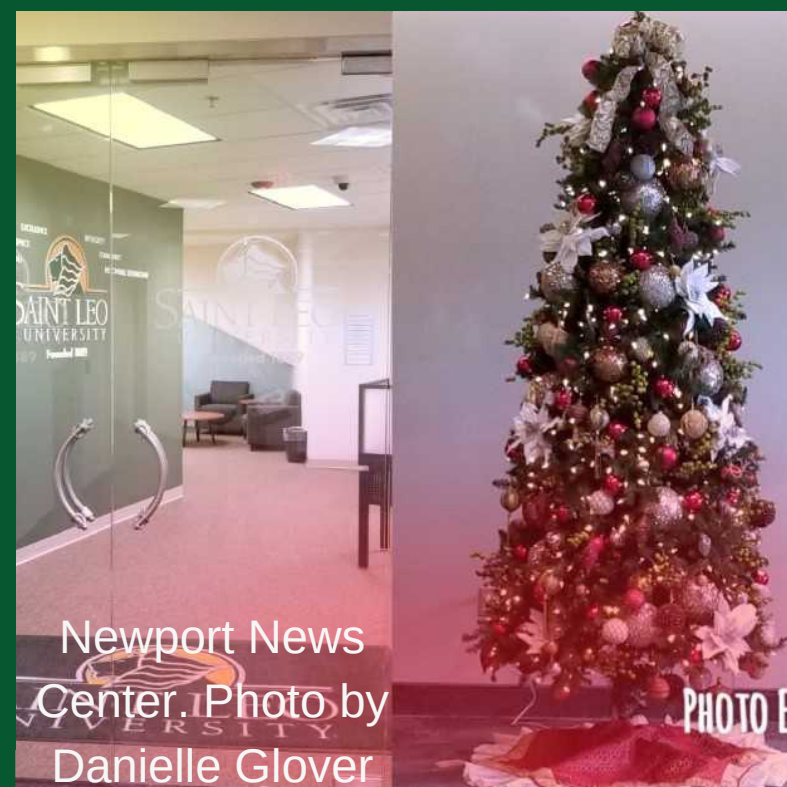
*PETER'S CHRISTMAS DECOR IN SEASIDE  
HEIGHTS, NJ*



# Holiday's Around America



Clifton Mill Christmas Lights (2018)  
courtesy of [daytonlocal.com](http://daytonlocal.com)



Newport News Center. Photo by Danielle Glover



Saint Augustine, FL. Courtesy of [visitsaintaugustine.com](http://visitsaintaugustine.com)



# Holiday's Around America



Rockefeller Center, NY courtesy of [rockefellercenter.com](http://rockefellercenter.com)



Washinton, D.C. Courtesy of [washington.org](http://washington.org)





**20TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY  
ONLINE**

# ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE PART I

BY TIMOTHY ROBINSON

As Fall II concludes, this marks a special time in our school's history, the 20th Anniversary of Saint Leo University offering "Online" education. At "The Voice," we would like to observe this special occasion throughout the upcoming year. We invite you to join us in our celebration by monitoring "Lions Share" for opportunities where you can participate.

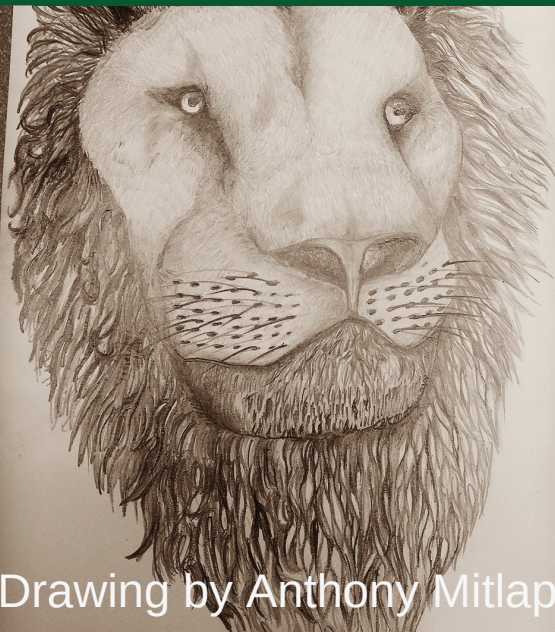
We start by recognizing the recollections of our "Student in the Spotlight" this issue, Peter Smith. Peter was an undergraduate student at Saint Leo College just before the internet came out and recalled that the institution was already providing distance education for military students. As a matter of fact, Peter was involved in this process himself and recalled, "I worked at the Canon Library in the Audio Visual Department and one of my jobs was to film classes for the Distance Learning Program. Shortly after Peter graduated in 1995, the internet came out and in just a few short years Saint Leo College would grow to Saint Leo University, and would become pioneers in online education

Saint Leo University has continued the tradition of educating America's warriors and has been ranked by the Military Times as one of the top institutions for active duty military students and veterans to achieve their educational goals. Joining the thousands of servicemembers who have attended Saint Leo University are scores of other working adults who would not have had the opportunity to pursue higher education if it weren't for Saint Leo University's initiative twenty years ago.

However, something different occurs at Saint Leo University, as not only do we have the Center for Online Learning, but now we have grown to include learning centers all around the country. The reason for the success is most likely the quality of the academic programs and a firm commitment to our Core Values. It does not take long for a new student to realize their experience at Saint Leo University will be like nothing they imagined. They quickly realize the educational goals they had planned are challenging but achievable. Inspired by the faculty that leads them, students realize their full potential and set out to exceed their own expectations, and set their education bar a little higher. Many of them stay at Saint Leo University to pursue graduate degrees.

Consider, for example, Doctor of Business student Amber Loring. Amber started her education at the Center for Online Learning and completed both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Amber describes the online programs at Saint Leo University as "amazing" and stated, "The programs continue to grow and develop." One of the ways Saint Leo University is growing is by expanding Doctoral programs, including a new DBA program of which Amber is among the first cohorts.

Peter and Amber are just two examples of the thousands of students who are accomplishing extraordinary things thanks to Saint Leo University offering academic programs online. Over the next year, we invite you to check out our future issues for more stories from the students, faculty, and alumni and join us in celebrating what we now know as "Saint Leo University Worldwide."



Drawing by Anthony Mitlap

DBA student Amber Loring and the reason she is a Lion for life.



# 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.



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.



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).



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.

# 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!**





# Merry Christmas

from our family to yours

