

In this Issue:

A Thought to Ponder

Commitment & Perseverance: A Veteran's Reflection

Inspiration from a Graduate

The Transformation

Professional Interviewer

Photography by Student, Byron Brooks

Become a Member

Word Search

Vision Statement

A Thought to Ponder:

Think left, and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up, if only you try!

-Dr. Seuss

Commitment & Perseverance: A Veteran's Reflection

In August of 1998, I was honorably discharged as an E-4 Aviation Electronics Technician (AT3) from the United States Navy. I will never forget the brotherhood that I was a part of as well as the many experiences and life lessons that came from serving. One lesson that stands out above the rest is self-confidence built through perseverance and commitment. My first day at boot camp was an eye-opening experience (literally). After arriving late the night before, we were startled out of our bunks to start our day only hours later. After a few days of the constant regimented demands of regular boot camp, I was introduced to Aircrew Training. I was designated for training to be able to fix aircraft on the ground and in flight, so we were required to have much more demanding training to be able to deal with hypothetical physical requirements under duress if a plane went down, etc. We had to get up earlier (3:30-4am) than those going through normal boot camp to begin our training hosted by members of our Navy Seal Team at the pool. We were pushed to see who would break and who couldn't endure the physical demands and we were often disciplined as a group required to do additional exercises when one in our group wasn't doing them up to standards. We were pushed through many endurance tests in the pool including underwater swims in full flight gear to simulate what may be required after a crash. I was certain that I would be one of the first to drop out of this training since I felt I was less fit than many others



Inspiration from a Graduate

I pray that my story inspires someone to rekindle their desire to pursue a goal, dream, or vision that was delayed or set aside. Twenty-two years ago, I enrolled in college to start my Bachelor's Degree at Saint Leo University. But after I completed my first year, I became pregnant with my daughter Stephanie and decided to put my studies on hold. My intent was to go back after giving birth and spending some time bonding with her. However, a year off turned into two, and two turned into three, and so on. As life would have it, it was nineteen years before I went back to complete my degree. In the meantime, I took a little detour and enrolled in a local community college that offered a program, which provided me with an opportunity to start a second career after leaving the military. So here's the blessing and what I hope will inspire someone. One day three years ago, I sat with my

around me. After completing Aircrew Training, I had additional training to qualify for Rescue Swimmer School including a 500-yard swim to be completed in 12 minutes. I watched many of whom I was certain were stronger than I drop out of training as I mentally pushed myself to go beyond where I thought I could ever physically go. In the end, I came out stronger, physically and mentally, with the lesson to never see potential limitations with a ceiling, but rather as an opportunity to exceed my expectations.

Stephen Hirschbein, Student Advisor and Student Communications Club Facilitator



husband and expressed my desire to finish what I started 22 years ago. But my desire was to finish my degree without any college debt. As God always does, He opened that door by way of a military benefit, which provided the financial means to do it. So I'm happy to report that I just completed my Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, and will be walking across the graduation stage in April.

I hope my story will help others realize that it is never too late to finish something that you started, no matter how many years have passed. I would even go a step further and say, it is not too late to start pursuing a dream or goal that you want to start. "I promise you; it will empower you!"

It's Never Too Late!

Ivonne Wright, Saint Leo University Graduate

The Transformation

Looking back to when I first became a student at Saint Leo University, I can truly say I have grown in many ways. When I began, I was afraid, afraid of the idea of failure. However, taking on the challenge was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my entire life. Since I have begun, I can tell such a difference in who I am today with only a few classes left before I obtain my AA degree. I am more confident in everyday life, I am brushed up in many different academic areas, I am an inspiration to my kids, and I feel that nothing is impossible. When I began, I was insecure about myself, and now I am bursting with more confidence than ever. I have my good days, along with bad, and I have not mastered every class, but I am doing better than I ever thought that I could.

My advice to all new students would be to keep on believing in yourself. Whether you are just out of high school or going back after an extended period, you got this! It is easy to become stressed when we have a lot on our plates, but in the long run, you will benefit I assure you. The feeling of becoming a sophisticated individual is amazing, and I can say, I am so glad I have become who I am today.

I would love to hear how Saint Leo has changed your life for the greater good. Please feel free to join us at the next Student Communications Club Meeting.

Brittany Sampson, Student Writer

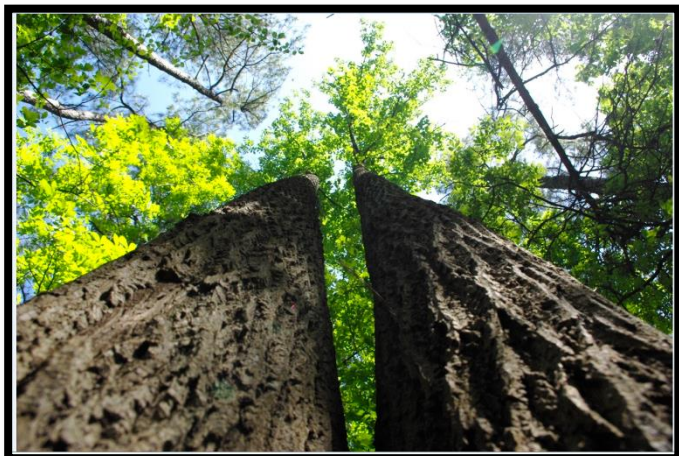
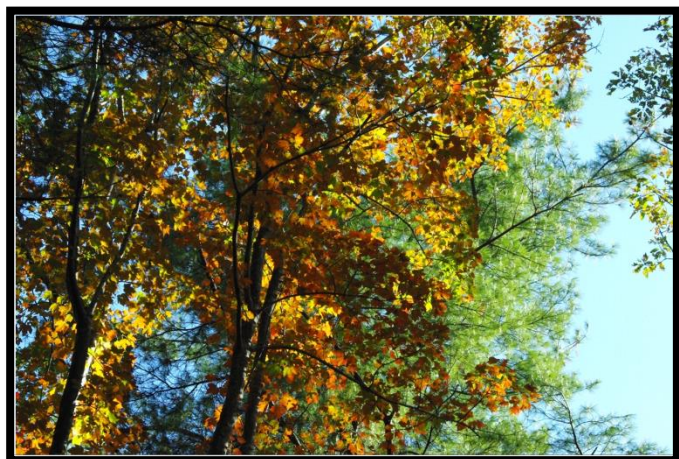
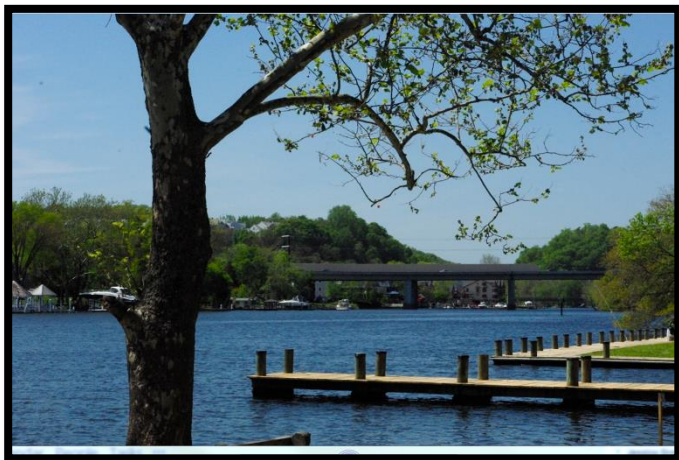


Professional Interviewee

How did you get the job? Was it because you qualified for it or was it strictly because you knew how to prepare for the interview? The answer to those questions may vary; however, not many people want to discuss their experience after a job interview has concluded. So, I decided to give my personal experience as someone who has been on a lot of interviews. I want to share with you the many things I have noticed during an interview.

Donning a professional outfit does not guarantee a greater chance of getting hired, it requires much more than that. It requires the right attitude, the right communication skills, and the right mannerisms. At the beginning of the interview, the interviewer will ask to the most dreaded question; **"Can you tell me about yourself?"** That is the question no one likes to hear, but unfortunately, that is the opening question the majority will ask. The question sounds simple enough but not many will prepare for it and will fail. The best tip is to never share a personal history, a complete job history, or all of your experience. Instead, one may give their present employment position and duties. For example: "Well, I'm currently an account executive at Smith, where I handle our top-performing client. Before that, I worked at an agency where I was on three different major national healthcare brands. And while I really

Photography by Student, Byron Brooks



enjoyed the work that I did, I'd love the chance to dig in much deeper with one specific healthcare company, which is why I'm so excited about this opportunity with Metro Health Center." This is the simplest and quickest way to give the interviewer a quick insight about yourself and your current position which will eliminate the possibility of being asked about current job positions later.

They will proceed to ask; **"How did you hear about the position and what do you know about the position and the company?"** This is a three part question, and you can use this opportunity to show them how interested you are in the job and the company. First, share the methods you used to discover the position. It is also vital to explain your association and interest in the company. You want to show that you specifically want to work for the company by doing your homework on the company regarding their achievements and job positions. Be specific about the information you have researched for the company and the position you are applying for in order to show that it was not a random choice.

We seek better opportunities to better our lives in many aspects and to be happy. One question that is a tough one to answer is; **"Why are you looking to leave your current job?"** No matter how you try to answer this question, remember to be positive. Being negative will not give you the result you are trying to achieve. Instead, focus on how eager you are to take on new opportunities and challenges. Reiterate your interest in the role you are interviewing and discuss why it will be a better fit. Then, let the interviewer know and see the reason you are a good fit. Basically, outsell yourself to persuade them into hiring you.

Lastly, you may encounter the question; **"How would your current boss and co-workers describe you?"** I do not have issues with my co-workers and management team; therefore, I speak with truth, and I assume that many of you do the same. The reason for this question is to find out if you are truthful as a person because they will call your current place of employment for reference and the truth will always come out. Once again, during this part of the interview, it is a reminder to share your strengths, personality, and skills.

A final tip: The interviewer's body language is one of the most important things to pay attention to because that is the key in knowing whether he/she is interested in you (the candidate).

Best of luck out there!

Kendall Brutus, Student Writer

Become a Member

Do you like to write or take pictures? Interested in journalism or marketing? Join the Student Communications Club to have your voice heard in THE VOICE. The Student Communications club meets the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7pmET in an online classroom. Click here to become a [Member](#) or e-mail Jessica.schuckert@saintleo.edu for more information.

Spring Has Sprung

by Robin Carneke-Green, Student Writer



WORD BANK

BREAK
BASEBALL
CAMPUS
EXAMS
FRAGRANT
GROWING
LACROSSE
PLAYING

BLOOMING
BOOKS
CHIRPING
FLORAL
GOLF
HATCHING
OUTDOOR
PLEASANT

ABLOOM
BUZZING
DISCUSSIONS
FLOURISHING
GRASSY
INVIGORATING
PLANNER
REBIRTH

REFRESHING
SEASONAL
STUDIES
TERMS
VIBRANT

RENEWING
SOFTBALL
SUNSHINE
TRACK
VOLLEYBALL

SCHEDULE
SPRINGTIME
TENNIS
VERDANT
WARMING

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to provide a community forum as a means of communication that connects the online student body and embraces Saint Leo's core values.

***The VOICE* is brought to you by the Communications Club and is intended for all Saint Leo Center for Online Learning Students.**