The NFCC Club Expo is an event that Saint Leo University’s Madison Education Center staff looks forward to each semester where the various clubs and organizations on campus come together to invite new members to join. The theme of the 2015 Fall Club Expo was “Red, White, and Blue.” The Madison Center staff donned their blue Saint Leo shirts and got the table ready for the festivities by decking it out in red and blue pom-poms. Red and blue goodie bags were also given away to anyone who stopped by the table. Financial Aid/Degree brochures were on hand as well at the Saint Leo table to inform attendees of the options available to them through the Madison Education Center. The ice-cream bar, one of the most popular features of the expo, was back again this Fall! Attendees had the option to build their own ice cream sundaes, choosing from toppings such as sprinkles, nuts, caramel, chocolate, cherries, and whipped cream. The event was an overall success, and all involved really appeared to enjoy themselves. Saint Leo University Madison Education Center staff certainly look forward to the next Club Expo and the fun it will bring.
Joyce Marshall is a Junior at Saint Leo University’s Madison Education Center where she majors in Human Services. Joyce is originally from Orlando, Florida, but has called Live Oak, Florida “home” for some time. She resides there with her husband, dog, and two frisky cats. When asked about her hobbies, Joyce stated that she and her husband enjoy planting and growing their own food. Joyce graduated from North Florida Community College in May of 2015 with her Associate of Arts degree. When asked why she chose Saint Leo University’s Madison Education Center to further her studies, she responded, “I chose Saint Leo University because they have such a warm inviting spirit to everyone. I was taken with their hospitality from the beginning, when I was at North Florida Community College. They want everyone to succeed, and they seem to be in a constant recruiting mode, which I like. Also, I chose Saint Leo because of its proximity to home.” I spoke with Joyce regarding how Saint Leo prepares the adult learner for the workforce. “Saint Leo University has a unique way of dealing with educating its adult learners. They help the adult learner choose only the courses that will result in the BA degree of their choice. Also, students may minor in related fields to their major. Saint Leo also offers internships which prepare adult learners to be immediately ready for job placement upon graduation, which is great, as the internship becomes part of the students’ resumes.” Joyce stated that it is never too late to begin your education. Having had a full career in Nuclear Medicine Technology, she stated that she wanted to try focusing on a career which showed a little more compassion.

Mrs. Joyce is a student in the Human Services program here at the Madison Education Center. Among her favorite aspects of this Education Center is the guidance given by both office staff and instructors. “Saint Leo offers kid-gloves treatment in planning, studying, and instructing its courses. The Madison Center has the best instructors for human services, whether face to face or distance learning. Dr. Cashwell is intense yet practical with her method of instruction. Professor Christmas is another excellent instructor, because he, as well, focuses on preparing you for the workforce. I enjoyed learning from him. In addition, I will say the office setting is excellent as well. The staff members work well as a team.”

We are so proud of Mrs. Joyce and all of her accomplishments! We can’t wait to watch her go on to achieve her goals, and we take pleasure in being a part of her educational journey.
Alumni Spotlight: Peggy Hasty

Sometimes, a career isn’t something you discover, but something that discovers you. This was certainly the case with Peggy Hasty, a 2010 graduate of the Madison Education Center and a 2012 graduate of Saint Leo’s University Campus with a Masters of Educational Leadership. When she was just five years old, she entered her Kindergarten classroom, and under the teaching of Ms. Deone McPherson, the love of being an educator began to be imprinted on her heart.

Peggy Hasty is originally from Daytona Beach, Florida. Her family moved when she was just four years old to Madison County, where she continues to live with her husband, Jeffrey, and their children. When asked why she chose Saint Leo University’s Madison Education Center to further her education, Peggy replied, “One of the greatest aspects of Saint Leo was the availability and convenience. I chose Saint Leo University as my college of choice because the Madison Center was close to where I lived and the classes were offered in the evenings and on weekends. This was beneficial to me due to the fact that I worked full time.” She further stated that she felt Saint Leo University prepared her fully for the workforce by offering many assignments which were both beneficial and great experiences to prepare for working in the field. “The instructors were very helpful and ensured that students knew the material. There were many hands-on activities that prepared me for a career in education. When taking the required state exams to become a teacher, I felt very confident and prepared, which was largely due to the quality of the instructors.”

When asked what her driving force was for success, Peggy simply stated that her childhood experiences were what pushed her to achieve her goals. “I grew up on a small farm in the rural city of Lee. My family was hard working and often times struggled. I did not have a lot of material things growing up, but I had family and love. At a very young age, I made a promise to myself to get a quality education and work in a career that I loved. I vowed that I would never spend my life working in a career where I did not wake up every morning excited to go to work. I have fulfilled my goal. I get up and embrace each day with open arms, and I love what I do.”

Finally, Peggy mentioned that she would definitely recommend Saint Leo University’s Madison Education Center to anyone. “I always jump at an opportunity to share my wonderful and rewarding experience that I had at Saint Leo. The instructors are exceptional educators that care about you on an individual basis. The office staff is very welcoming and readily available to help in any way possible. My college career at the Madison Educational Center has left a lasting imprint on my life. We are so proud of Peggy and her many accomplishments!
The New Year and the promise of Spring is a great time to turn over a new leaf. There is just something about the clean slate of a new beginning that makes it seem like anything is possible. Many people find themselves starting new resolutions and setting new goals for themselves. But, oftentimes, it doesn’t take long for the newness to wear off and those same goals that a few months ago seemed so important begin to fall at the wayside. Sometimes we just lose track of time. Sometimes we just get lazy. Other times it’s an issue of just being forgetful.

However, often what holds us back from doing the things we most desire to do is fear. What a powerful emotion fear can be! It has both a physical and emotional effect on our bodies, leaving our minds reeling and our hearts racing. But, what if...what if you weren’t afraid? What would you allow yourself to do if you just let go of that fear? I can’t tell you how many times I have heard, “Oh, I’m too old to go back to school,” or “I would like to go to school, but I’m just not smart enough for college,” or finally, “College is for rich people. I could never afford to go to college.” Let me tell you, all of these issues can be tackled! As you can see from reading this edition of From the Lion’s Mouth, you can see that education is something that is feasible at any age, given the right passion and drive. We offer a number of services to accommodate both the adult student and the student who just needs a little extra help understanding various concepts. Saint Leo University offers online tutoring at no additional cost to the student, and our instructors truly care about the success of our students. They are here to watch our students succeed, not set them up to fail.

Saint Leo University also accepts ALL forms of financial aid, including the PELL grant, Florida Bright Future’s scholarship, Florida Pre-Paid/Take Stock in Children scholarship, Veteran’s Assistance/GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance, and Stafford Student loans! Also, as a Saint Leo student and Florida resident (of at least a year), you will receive the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) which is currently $3,000 per year! Many students who receive full PELL along with the FRAG have their tuition and books covered, with a little money left over in their pockets.

So, I implore you– try something new this year. Give yourself the chance to take on a new challenge, and see what happens. You’re stronger and more capable than you think. We believe in you. Won’t you believe in you too?

Liz