



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2025

Saint Leo University's Annual Brain Bowl Pits 8 Area Catholic, Private Schools in Academic Battle

*Clearwater Catholic High School's team wins championship with
Jesuit High School's Team B as runner-up*

ST. LEO, FL – It was a battle of the brains as Saint Leo University and its College of Arts, Sciences, and Allied Services hosted its annual Brain Bowl competition for seven area Catholic high schools and one private school on Wednesday, March 26, in the university's Wellness Center. The event was sponsored by the San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union.

The Brain Bowl tested the students' knowledge of languages, the arts, popular culture, sports physics, math, biology, history, food, and more in a trivia-type contest. The teams battled in sessions throughout the day. It was a full day of competition and fun, including a pizza lunch.

Teams competing included: **Santa Fe Catholic High School**, Lakeland, FL; **Clearwater Central Catholic High School**, Clearwater, FL; two teams from **Jesuit High School**, Tampa, FL; **St. Petersburg Catholic High School**, St. Petersburg, FL; **Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School**, Shady Hills, FL; **Tampa Catholic High School**, Tampa, FL; and, **Academy at the Lakes**, Land O' Lakes, FL.

The final round was moderated by political science instructor Frank Orlando, who also served as the "chief question writer" for the Brain Bowl.

Topics ran the gamut, from the most popular flavor of ice cream (mint chocolate chip!) to what vice president replaced Spiro Agnew when he resigned (Gerald Ford). They included a quick quiz on homophones, the names of playwrights, and questions about the 13 original states.

"Ho, Ho, Ho, answer these questions about films featuring Santa Claus," Orlando said, announcing one of the categories.

Orlando, who also competed in quiz bowls when he was in high school, said the teams were made up of students who love trivia. “And it’s great to see these students committed to scholarship,” he added.

Dr. Susan Kinsella, vice president of Academic Affairs, congratulated all the teams. “There are lots of really intelligent kids here today,” she said. “Thank you for coming and participating.”

Finally, it was time to announce the winner: Clearwater Catholic High School claimed the top honor with Jesuit High School’s Team B as the runner-up. Clearwater Catholic has claimed several Brain Bowl titles since Saint Leo began hosting the event.

In the fall, Saint Leo University will host a Brain Bowl Boot Camp for high school teams interested in sharpening their skills and preparing for future competitions.

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Photo Cutlines:

Photos by Samantha Mioduszewski, Saint Leo University

Frank Orlando, who teaches political science at Saint Leo University, was the moderator and “chief question writer” for the university’s annual Brain Bowl, quizzes students. Saint Leo student Paul Vitaliti and Dr. Cheryl Kozina officiated.

Clearwater Catholic High School claimed victory in Saint Leo University’s annual Brain Bowl. The team includes front row: Claire Probst, Isa Belongie, Sarah Yoston, and Clara Zouan; back row: Jovan Tran, Talia Spataro, Andrew Massaro, Christopher Sodana, and Alex Dulzaides and coach Michael Clark.

Runners-up are Jesuit High School’s Team B of Rhys Marriott, Graham Wills, Gabriel Louk, and Rogan McLaughlin

Academy at the Lakes students at the 2025 Brain Bowl, hosted by Saint Leo University and sponsored by San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union.

Photo by Marc Butts Jones, Saint Leo University

Drs. Marissa Rhodes and Steve Okey and Academy at the Lakes and Jesuit competing in the semifinal round

About Saint Leo University

Saint Leo University is a Catholic Benedictine university dedicated to helping learners of all backgrounds and ages gain the competence and courage to be more. Offering more than 55 degree programs to more than 13,000 students each year, the nonprofit university is known for providing a values-based education in the liberal arts tradition and a community of belonging for those who seek a greater purpose in life. Saint Leo is regionally accredited and offers a campus in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, regional education centers, and several online programs. The university is home to more than 106,000 alumni. Learn more at saintleo.edu.

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