

# THE NETWORK

Business Alumni Network (BAN)

Spring 2019

## What is BAN?

The **Business Alumni Network** is for all alumni who are part of the business industry, whether you are a recent graduate or someone with significant experience. We are made up of good, dedicated people, who are proud of our careers, education and the University of St. Francis community.

## Why Join?

This network provides beneficial networking opportunities, social events and fosters relationships between students and alumni. The group assists alumni looking for jobs, changing careers, hiring employees or just looking to reconnect with other alumni. By creating this network, a variety of backgrounds, experiences and talents are made available as a resource to others.

## How Else Can You Help?

Consider hiring fellow USF alumni at your place of business or connect us with your employer for a corporate partnership and tuition discount.

**Editor:** Autumn Lee  
*Marketing & Graphic Design Major*

## Upcoming BAN Meetings & Events

All meetings are to be held at 9 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room (Motherhouse, 3rd Floor) unless otherwise noted.  
*\*Breakfast will be served.*

To register for meetings and events, please visit our events page at [www.stfrancis.edu/alumni/events](http://www.stfrancis.edu/alumni/events)

**For More Information or to attend a meeting,**  
Contact the  
Alumni & Family Relations  
Office at (877) 811-ALUM or  
[alumni@stfrancis.edu](mailto:alumni@stfrancis.edu)



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# RECENT NEWS

## Service Learning Experience

**Center for Disability Services (CDS), Joliet, Illinois Service Learning Experience:** Students in Professor Joseph Ferrallo's research marketing course had a service learning experience with the Center for Disability Services. The project students worked on involved a questionnaire of the CDS three business lines--School, Home Respite Care, and Adult Programming. In addition, they provided performance improvement suggestion to their business in Marketing, Volunteer, and Outreach Activities. The CDS sent Prof. Ferrallo a warm message that read, "Thank you Professor Joseph and business students for providing Consulting Services to better serve our population of individuals with developmental disabilities. Your creative ideas and recommendations are greatly appreciated!"



## Habitat for Humanity

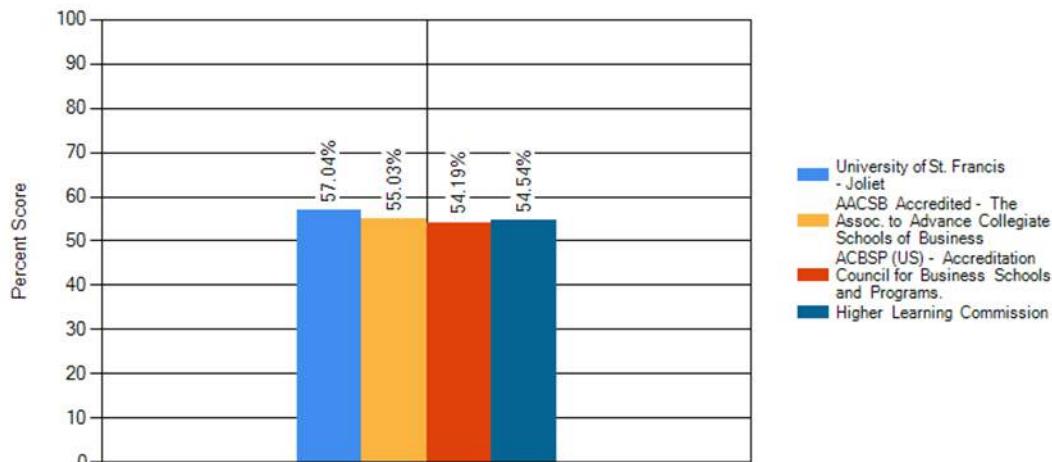
**Habitat for Humanity Contest:** Professor Rich Vaughan's marketing class took part in a Habitat for Humanity advertising contest as part of the class. They took first place out of 7 teams in Illinois with their "Women Build" tri-fold brochure (shown below). The goal was to create the best advertising brochure for 2019 to benefit Habitat for Humanity.



## COBHA STUDENTS OUTPERFORM

In head-to-head 2018 comparisons of outbound testing in business related topics like accounting, finance, economics, and so forth, COBHA students are outperforming (on average) AACSB schools, ACBSP schools, and schools within the Higher Learning Commission. Though not shown here, COBHA students are outperforming every group or region in the United States and international that teaches business—private, public, for-profit, Great Lakes, East, West, and so forth. These results are indicative of the rigor and relevance of COBHA's professors and teaching ability.

### Comparison of Outbound Exam Results with Outbound Exam Aggregate Results: **Total**



# RECENT NEWS

## Accounting Case Study

Professor Tony Zordan took a group of his students to compete in the Annual Accounting Case Study Competition. They came in second. Students were required to analyze a complex business transaction, submit a written brief, followed by an oral defense before CPA partners/judges. Below is a photo of USF's accounting team.



## Food Drive



The drive, which yielded a collection of over 1,100 non-perishable items, benefited the local food pantry housed in St. John's Catholic Church, which is located Joliet's Cathedral Area, along with USF.

"The St. John's food pantry serves families in the 60435 zip code," said Dore. "During a typical week, the pantry serves approximately 75 families. Once winter approaches, that number jumps to over 125 families each week. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and staff to make a difference for those in need while bringing to life our university's Franciscan values. This was a true university effort."

## F.R.E.E. Founders Return



The original founders of F.R.E.E. (Financial Research in Education Through Experience) returned to St. Francis to meet the current members of F.R.E.E. (shown below). Edon is a Vice President at Bank of America - Merrill Lynch, and Tim is Assistant Vice President at Wells Fargo. Both returned to campus to discuss why and how they founded F.R.E.E. and to encourage students to continue the organization.

## TedEx Naperville

Students from COBHA attended TedX in Naperville. TEDxNaperville is a community organization and disruptive ideas conference that shares powerful ideas from the Chicago area's most original and visionary thinkers. Below are three of the students who attended.



# Celebrating 20 Years of Online Learning at USF in 2019

Source: University of St. Francis. (2018-2019). Issue

## 2019 marks the 20th year of online learning at the University of St. Francis, and some students couldn't fathom life without it.

Cassandra Cornstubble, a student in the master of social work (MSW) program, is an adult graduate student who is completing her degree in the university's weekend program while maintaining a full-time job as at the Association for Individual Development. Cornstubble, a mom and the proud grandmother of two young girls, feels overwhelmed at times trying to juggle her studies, her family life and her job as a behavioral health case manager, but the ability to learn in weekend and online courses has provided her with peace of mind in spite of a rigorous routine.

"I am up and moving at 4:30 a.m. and leave the house no later than 6:30. I work a 10-hour day and arrive back at home in the evening sometime after 7 p.m. I settle in quickly and immediately begin my schoolwork in order to stay on top of assignments. My workload carries me late into the evening hours and certainly requires a bit of balancing. The online learning platform is designed for convenience, but it still requires a tremendous amount of self-discipline and responsibility," she remarked.

While technology may make life easier for busy adult students, that "online learning platform," also known as Canvas, doesn't just operate on its own. There is a team of USF employees responsible for maintaining the system and servicing both students and instructors with its use. The Department of Academic Technology (DAT) includes Christopher Glenn, who provides faculty consultation on the design and development of online

courses; Glen Gummess, who trains instructors; and Chris Marks, who provides daily support to Canvas users as "the voice on the other end" when individuals call for assistance.

This small team delivers a mighty punch, especially considering there are more than 2,000 adult undergraduate and graduate students at USF who, in most cases, are studying almost completely online. Their work certainly seems to be making a positive impact. USF has been leading the way as a "Quality Matters" institution for two years now. Through this international program, USF joins nearly 1,000 institutions in 47 states and six countries in a commitment to the achievement of established standards and continuous improvement processes for online and blended course design, according to Glenn.

The quality of USF's courses comes not only from the expertise of the DAT team, but also from the dedication of professors who teach in the online learning environment.

"It is the instructor's task to lead by example, model good discussion habits and create presence in the online environment by checking in to the course on a daily basis," explained Gummess. "They make their presence known by responding to what students are saying and asking provocative and follow-up questions, which models an atmosphere of interaction so students are inspired to exhibit the traits that online learning exemplifies."

All three individuals have been working at USF since—or not long after—the inception of online learning in 1999. Other notable individuals who helped bring online learning to USF include Dr. Jim Doppke, former USF president; Carolyn Murphy, former Board of Trustees chair; Jeff McCune and Mark Snodgrass, former data processing teammates; Jerry Kickul and Jeanne Washburn from the then-Center for Instructional Delivery; and Dr. Mike LaRocco, who was a professor in the College of Business & Health Administration who eventually became Dean of the College of Business & Health Administration.

Said Snodgrass, who continues to work at USF as director of Network Support Services, "The program got started by a donation of an old AT&T server and the purchase of Lotus Notes. The chair of our board at the time, Carolyn Murphy, arranged it for us. It was Jim Doppke's dream, and Carolyn helped to fulfill it."

Doppke and his predecessor, Dr. John Orr, were already hard at work preparing the university for this state-of-the-art move to online learning before the launch in 1999.



Photo above: Dr. Orr (left) and Dr. Doppke (right)



<https://learn.stfrancis.edu/courses>

“Beginning in the late 1980s and continuing through the 1990s, in John Orr’s presidency and then in my own, USF had upgraded computer equipment, created and expanded student computer labs and classrooms, and helped faculty and students develop computer skills,” remarked Doppke, under whose leadership online learning was launched. “Developing classes and programs taught online thus was a natural development for a campus community committed to using computers appropriately and effectively to improve students’ educational experiences. In addition, campus-based students were trending older, becoming more diverse, often working full- or part-time, and having family or other responsibilities. Study of both these student populations made it clear that they had similar needs: both needed access to high-quality education offered in ways that were flexible and convenient and met their complex schedules.”

Another factor that influenced Doppke’s thinking was the opportunity for curricular improvement. Integrating a new delivery system, identifying its strengths and limitations, and evaluating its effects on student learning would allow faculty to rethink individual courses and even entire programs, and thus lead to the strengthening of the overall quality of USF education, he explained.

“That of course was related to what was arguably the most important element in the decision to start an online education program: USF’s continuing commitment to identifying and meeting the changing needs of students for effective, high-quality education,” said Doppke.

It was LaRocco who became inspired at a conference to build an online class for his MBA students, igniting a fire at the academic level. With Doppke’s support, and assistance from McCune and Kickul, the project moved forward.

“Jeff helped me cobble together the framework for an online environment with a bulletin board, email feature, and

tool to upload papers. After that, Jerry set up the actual learning space, and we did a dry run with one of my graduate marketing classes,” said LaRocco. “The students who took the online classes really enjoyed them.”

Overall, the benefits then were the same then as they are now. Ease. Flexibility. Convenience. Sixteen-year USF veteran Sandee Sloka, who has served as director of graduate admissions for 13 of those years, has seen firsthand how important online learning is to today’s adult audience.

“Helping them figure out how to fit school into their very busy lives is key,” said Sloka. “The typical profile of an adult student is an individual who is juggling home, work, school and many other responsibilities. Many of them have been out of school for a while, so they are apprehensive about starting back.”

To ease that worry, she and her team of four graduate admissions counselors are cross-trained to work with all populations, with each counselor having expertise in a specialty area. The graduate staff enrolls approximately 900 new students each year, on six different start dates. They work with many additional students during the registration and application process.

The support doesn’t end there. From their first contact with the admissions office, to academic advising, to

their major advisor, students always have someone they can go to with questions or concerns. Sloka says that adults have many of the same questions that traditional students have—how long it takes and how much it costs. However, they are also concerned about how the coursework and degree will help them in their current positions and with career advancement.

“I would absolutely love to make more money,” Cornstubble says, “but after graduating I mostly hope to find meaningful employment, where I can successfully apply the knowledge and wisdom gained from my education to improve the conditions for those in need.”

Sloka urges interested students and potential students to get started as soon as possible to make the most of their learning experience.

“There’s always an excuse not to get started ‘right now,’ but every semester you wait puts you that much further away from that end goal of getting your degree,” she advised. “Sometimes the best thing to do is jump in, get started and take one or two classes. It will get much easier to keep plugging along.”

For more information about online studies and USF’s graduate programs, visit [stfrancis.edu/admissions/online-students](https://stfrancis.edu/admissions/online-students)

# RECENT NEWS

## 2019 Caritas Scholarship Ball

“From our attendees and sponsors to our chairpersons and Caritas committee, we are extremely thankful to everyone who supported this year’s Caritas with their time, talent and treasure. For the sixth year in a row, the event raised over a quarter million dollars in scholarship funds that will go on to help make a USF education possible for so many students. That’s over \$1.9 million in scholarship support in just six years! What a wonderful affirmation of and support for the University of St. Francis’ mission from the communities we serve”

- Written by Arvid C. Johnson, Ph.D., President



## 2019 Speed Networking Event



The career networking night was a great simulation of life after graduation. The evening provided great opportunities for future scenarios. Attendees were mentees and mentors of the **Student Alumni Mentoring (SAM) program** among other student and alumni participants. Maribeth Hearn from the USF Career Success Center delivered a presentation on what to expect in a networking opportunity. Mentors were eager to facilitate concepts taught in the SAM program. Networking success is about making connections when an employer is seeking possible candidates.

## College of Business and Health Administration Award

USF has always been an important part of Brian’s life, as it gave him the opportunity to be the first person in his family to earn a college degree. Brian has been a proud Local 174 Carpenter since 1999. He graduated from USF in 2002 and has worked at Citgo Refinery as a Union Carpenter since 2009, following ten years of working in residential construction. His degree in business management has allowed him to follow his true passion: making a difference in the lives of children through youth sports. Brian took on the position as president of the Tri-City Wolverines Youth Football and Cheer program and credits USF for giving him the training and knowledge he needed to make this non-profit organization successful. This year, the program has grown to include over 200 athletes. Brian has also partnered with USF Head Football Coach Joe Curry to offer USF/Wolverines Youth Football & Cheer Camp for the past three years. The camp is run by USF football players/coaches and Wolverines coaches. This past Spring, Brian partnered with Plainfield Central High School to start the Under Armour “Under the Lights” Flag Football League as a way to prepare Wolverines players for the fall tackle football season. The league is already the largest of its kind in the State of Illinois. Brian hopes that he can continue his passion of coaching and developing young athletes in sports, while also preparing them for the real world. He takes great pride in knowing that everything he has put into the organization provides an opportunity for his own kids and hundreds of others young athletes to have a successful youth sports experience. Brian resides in Joliet, Ill.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



## Autumn Lee

Double Major in Marketing and  
Graphic Design

Graduating May 2019

### Favorite Quote:

*"Make your life a masterpiece; imagine no limitations on what you can be, have, or do."*

- Brian Tracy

### Why did you choose USF for your undergraduate studies?

I began my collegiate career at Joliet Junior College and had heard many great things about the university. My aunt attended USF for her undergraduate degree and spoke highly of the program and university. I am also a bowler and was able to pursue an athletic career at USF in addition to a dual bachelor's.

### Why did you pick your major?

After learning of USF's Graphic Design program, my passion for art and the interest in turning it into a career pushed me toward transferring. After my experiences with Marketing, thanks to a few wonderful professors, I learned that I had a passion for that as well and chose to pursue a creative career in both fields.

### Who was/is your favorite professor?

It's hard to pick just one, as I have had so many wonderful professors who have pushed me to become a better student, as well as a better person. Professor Ferrallo has always been a favorite of mine because he has helped me through all four years of my college career. From my first marketing class with him to my last semester at USF, I have always known that I can count on him to be there for any advice, or even if I just need someone to listen, and I cannot thank him enough for all the help and support he has offered through the years. He truly sees the best in each of his students and gives them every tool necessary to become successful in their futures.

### What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to pursue a career in either marketing or graphic design. Ideally, I will find a position which utilizes both degrees. My long-term goal would be to become either an Art Director or a Creative Director for an advertising, publication, or design firm.

### What are some organizations you are involved with?

I am involved with S.C.A.L.E.S., the University's Accounting Club. My role with S.C.A.L.E.S. deals with graphic design and marketing. I was also on the Girl's Bowling Team where we won the NAIA Nationals in 2017.

# STUDENT ALUMNI MENTORING (SAM)



## Become a mentor today!

This program was established in 2012 to bring students and alumni together to help pave the way for students to succeed at USF and beyond. It also provides our alumni with great reason to stay engaged with their alma mater! We hope you can share what you learned as a USF student and in your professional career to those students following in your footsteps.

SAM runs seven months (October through April) during each academic year and partners with our [Career Success Center](#) creating a robust program for both students and alumni. View our ["Road Map to Success"](#) to see what kind of relationship this fosters and events we host.

[SAM Award Nomination Form](#) | [Business Card Request Form](#)

### Alumni Mentors

An alumni mentor is a guide, friend, and resource who shares educational and professional experiences to provide career guidance and professional contacts. Alumni mentors are partnered with students based on similar career paths, interests, and goals.

#### \* For current mentors:

[Mentoring Agreement](#) | [Mentor Binder Content](#)

#### \* Apply to be a mentor:

New Mentors: [Online Form](#) | [PDF Form](#)

Returning Mentors (applicable to this year's mentors only): [Online Form](#) | [PDF Form](#)

### Alumni mentors make a difference in students' lives. As a mentor, you will be:

**A motivator** – Express belief and confidence in the mentee's abilities and encourage the mentee to try new things.

**A resource** – Teach and advise the mentee about making professional contacts and introduce them to new people, places, or ideas.

**A supporter** – Encourage open and honest dialogue. Listen and respond to the needs of the mentee.

**A coach** – Help the mentee develop and find ways to achieve realistic and meaningful goals.

### Mentor Requirements:

- Attend up to three events per academic year
- Attend mandatory Induction Dinner
- Commit to a minimum of one conversation a month in person, via email, phone, text, etc.
- Must be a USF graduate
- Must be currently employed or recently retired

**You can mentor from any location and mentoring requires less than an hour a month!**



# CONTINUE YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY WITH A USF GRADUATE BUSINESS DEGREE!

## Master of Business Administration (U.S. MBA)

A University of St. Francis Master in Business Administration (MBA) provides an innovative customized format that prepares students for the increasingly competitive, technological, global world of management.

Concentrations in:

- Accounting
- Finance
- Management
- Business Analytics
- Health Administration
- Human Resource Management
- Supply Chain Management
- Training & Development

*"The MBA program has taught me to develop better critical thinking skills while learning about real world topics that relate to my field. My professors were supportive and invested in my professional development."*

**- Isabela Valentin MBA 2019**



## Master of Science Management (MSM)

The Master of Science in Management is appropriate for professionals who want to remain in their specialty field (social work, research and development, engineering, nursing, etc.) but who want to step into a managerial role or enhance their leadership abilities.

**Concentrations in:**

- ◆ Health Administration
- ◆ Logistics
- ◆ Management
- ◆ Training & Development

## Master of Science Health Administration (MSHA)

Masters of Science in Health Administration is designed for students who have knowledge and experience in specific areas of health care, and are seeking a broader understanding of the field.

**To learn more about our graduate degree, and certificate programs, please visit [www.stfrancis.edu/academics/graduate-masters](http://www.stfrancis.edu/academics/graduate-masters)**

# UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS

## GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Graduate professional certificate programs are designed for those with bachelor's or master's degrees who seek to add a professional credential, and maybe change career direction. USF Graduate Professional Certificates can be obtained quickly, are low cost (just \$399 a credit hour), and are flexible. Completion of certification can be applied toward a graduate degree.

### Certifications are available in:

- Accounting
- Data Analytics
- Data Science in Healthcare
- Finance
- Health Administration
- Human Resource Management
- Instructional Design in Online Learning
- Management of Long-Term Care
- Management of Training and Development
- Population Health
- Performance Improvement
- Quality Improvement in Health Care
- Supply Chain Management
- Training Specialist

For more information, email or visit <https://www.stfrancis.edu/academics/certificates/>

## Business Graduate International Program Expansion

Good news! USF's master's degree programs are building international influence. Recently, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved expansion of USF's MBA program. The HLC is an organization tasked with the regional accreditation responsibilities for post-secondary education institutions in the central United States.

The HLC approved the Master of Business Administration degree at two universities in Vietnam. Scheduled degree start date is summer, 2019.

Additionally, the HLC approved expansion of our Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Health Administration degree for the Education Ministry for the government of Egypt. Anticipated start date is summer, 2019.

USF continues our existing MBA partnership at Brno Technical University in Brno, Czech Republic. With the addition of Egypt and Vietnam, USF has a presence in three international countries, with more expansion planned for the future.

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# BUSINESS CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

## Acceleration Club for Entrepreneurs

(ACE) helps members create businesses of their own by fostering collaboration in the creation of business and marketing plans, budgets and more.



**Delta Mu Delta**

**Delta Mu Delta** is a national honor society in business administration with a growing members across the United States and Europe. The Delta Kappa Chapter of Delta Mu Delta is chartered at USF to recognize outstanding achievement in business administration.

**F.R.E.E.** (Financial Research and Education through Experience) is dedicated to providing USF students and the community learning opportunities about personal financial matters through research and experiential learning activities.



**enactus** is a community of student, academic, and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to transform lives and shape a more sustainable world.

## The Student Business Association

(SBA) provides learning opportunities and awareness of the business world that supplement classroom experiences. Workshops, seminars, lectures, panel discussions, and service programs are just a few of the activities offered.



**SCALES (Students Collaborating in Accounting, Leadership, and Education to be Successful)** SCALES is providing a variety of resources for accounting students to prepare for their futures and their careers.

**Upsilon Phi Delta** is a national academic honor society for students in health care management and policy. The society recognizes, awards and encourages academic excellence in the study of health care management.



# ALUMNI EVENTS

## May 2019

### **Broadway in Chicago Series: "Chicago" & Lunch at Italian village**

Join us on this day trip beginning with lunch at the iconic Chicago landmark restaurant, Italian Village, open since 1927. Then we'll make our way to the Cadillac Palace Theatre for "Chicago," set amidst the razzle-dazzle of the 1920s, where a housewife/nightclub dancer murders her lover. Desperate to avoid conviction, she dupes those around her by hiring Chicago's slickest criminal lawyer. Take the USF transportation or meet us there!

#### **Wednesday, May 8**

Departure from USF at 10:45 a.m.; return to USF at 6 p.m.

Italian Village & Cadillac Palace Theatre, Chicago

\$60 per person, includes lunch

(\$5 of each ticket is a USF donation)

Limited Tickets Available

## June 2019

### **White Sox Game & Patio Party**

Join alumni and friends as we host a Patio Party before the White Sox play the New York Yankees! The party includes an all-you-can-eat baseball buffet with wine and beer and provides an excellent field-view view from the right-center field warning track. It's a great place to watch batting practice and the first-half hour of the game. Then, we'll move to our seats to enjoy a night of baseball and friends.

#### **Saturday, June 15**

3:15 p.m. (USF Shuttle Bus Departure); Party 4:40 p.m.; Game 6:10 p.m.

Guaranteed Rate Field, Chicago

\$75 per person, includes food and transportation

(\$5 of each ticket is a USF donation)

Limited Tickets Available

### **68th Annual Football Outing**

Calling all football alumni, coaches, fans, parents and anyone who wants to support St. Francis football! Join your friends and reserve your space today for the annual football golf outing that gets better each year. The outing includes 18 holes with a cart, lunch, dinner and giveaways. Contact Jason Fiske '09, '10 at 815-988-7822 or John Goolsby '08, '09 at 630-796-9202 with questions or to reserve your spot by June 15.

#### **Saturday, June 29**

9:30 a.m. registration

Inwood Golf Course, Joliet

\$115 per person

## June 2019

### **Wisconsin Day Trip**

*Mars Cheese Castle, Brat Stop Lunch & Jelly Belly Factory*

Join us as we travel by bus north to Wisconsin on a trip that begins at the legendary Mars Cheese Castle, where you can sample and shop for cheeses, meats, and wines from around the world. We'll then head to lunch at the Brat Stop, also known as "The Bratfather," world famous for all things brat and cheese related. Our trip will end at the Jelly Belly factory for a guided tour, free samples, interactive exhibits and games, a walk through the Jelly Bean Art Gallery, and a visit to the candy store and fudge counter.

#### **Saturday, July 20**

Departure from USF Motherhouse at 8 a.m.; return to USF at 5 p.m.

\$25 per person, includes transportation and lunch

(\$5 of each ticket is a USF donation)

Limited Tickets Available

### **Football Kickoff Smoker**

Join the USF football team alongside alumni, family, and friends as we host the 2019 season kickoff smoker. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Coach Joe Curry at 815-641-5961 or [jcurry@stfrancis.edu](mailto:jcurry@stfrancis.edu).

#### **Saturday, July 27**

2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Jameson's Pub, Joliet

\$25 per person

## August 2019

### **14th Annual Mystery Progressive Dinner—Breweries**

Join us as we tour three different mystery breweries for a three-course meal. Beer samples will be included. Games and prizes will be included on the bus! If you have a dietary restriction, please contact our office for accommodations. This event sells out quickly so be sure to buy your tickets early and join in on the fun!

#### **Saturday, Aug. 10**

Shuttle departure from USF at 5 p.m.

\$60 per person, includes food and transportation

(\$5 of each ticket is a USF donation)

Limited Tickets Available