

THE NETWORK

Business Alumni Network (BAN)

Spring 2021

What is BAN?

The **Business Alumni Network** is for all alumni who are part of the business industry, whether 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:

Emily Schrader
*Accounting, Management, and
Supply Chain
Management Major*

For more info or to join:

(877) 811-ALUM or
alumni@stfrancis.edu

stfrancis.edu/ban

Upcoming BAN Meetings & Events

As a result of COVID-19, all meetings are being held in a virtual format. Make sure to register for the meeting in advance in order to have the meeting link sent to you.

Sept. 25, 2021
Nov. 13, 2021
Feb. 5, 2022
April 2, 2022

Meetings are held on Saturdays at 9 a.m. To register for meetings and events, please visit our [events page](#).

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INTERESTING TOPICS

Summary of BAN Webinars

“How to Successfully Apply & Interview in a Virtual World”

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, job candidates and employers need to be open to interviewing virtually to meet social distancing guidelines in this new life after pandemic world. This webinar hosted by BAN, and presented by Caroline Portlock '02, '04 and Maribeth Hearn, Ed.D. '20, highlighted the fact that interviewing virtually is different because while you do not have to worry about driving to a new location, you should instead test your Internet, dress the same way as for an interview in-person interview, and have your documents ready for your online interview. Skype or Zoom are utilized for online interviews, or the employer may ask you to record yourself asking interview questions. One can prepare for online interviews by testing camera angles, recording his/herself, and by adjusting screens so that the person interviewing can see the interviewee properly.

There are various ways one can be more credible when interviewing online, which include:

- taking down any personal pictures, wearing solid colors, and turning off notifications,
- placing your notes to the side and expressing yourself in a more animated way,
- in general, treating online interviews the same way as an in-person interview, and
- researching the company and position beforehand, finding details about who will conduct the interview, developing questions to ask, and providing details to your references.

Finally, the webinar included ways to answer various interview questions, such as “How would you describe yourself?,” as well as questions you can ask the interviewer too. It is important to send a thank you letter after the interview to express your thanks and hopes regarding the position.



[Access the webinar here.](#)

INTERESTING TOPICS

Summary of BAN Webinars Cont.

"How to Save, Invest & Pay Off Debt"

Professor Joseph Ferrallo '85, '06, '07 explored financial concepts, discussed how to establish a financial plan and how this can help someone save and invest for his or her future, as well as how to successfully pay off debt. Some financial terms discussed during the presentation were 401(k), 403(b), traditional IRA, Roth IRA, mutual funds, and Coverdell education savings accounts. Professor Ferrallo emphasized that it is important to incorporate a variety of financial instruments into one's future financial plan, create a financial plan to retire comfortably, and to pay off debt as soon as possible. An important quote that was shared during the presentation was the idea that "you must take care of business today to have a future tomorrow." This can be completed by creating a financial plan for retirement, save, save, save whenever possible, and to eliminate wasteful spending and earn more money if possible by taking on a second job or investing in stock.



Dr. Zordan Retirement

Dr. Anthony Zordan, who is an Accounting professor in COBHA, is retiring from St. Francis after 38 years! The SCALES club threw a surprise retirement party for him and made a booklet with memories from alumni who had Dr. Zordan during their time at USF. BAN wishes Dr. Zordan a happy and healthy retirement! USF will miss him!



SAM Program Experience During COVID-19

Aubrey Knight '04, '07, Director of Alumni and Family Relations, answered the following questions regarding the SAM Program:

How has the SAM Program been affected by COVID, and was there still a strong mentee and mentor involvement even with COVID?

The Student Alumni Mentoring (SAM) Program, though affected by COVID, was adapted for this academic year and continues to be successful. We knew if we offered the program again, it would need to be virtual, but this was new territory for us. Typically, the program brings everyone together in-person at least twice. We gather for the fall Induction Dinner and the spring Etiquette Dinner or Career Networking Dinner (these events alternate years). We also usually offer times for matches to meet on campus throughout the year. We promoted a virtual SAM program not knowing what to expect, but luckily, both alumni and students were still interested and we boasted numbers on par with previous years.

What activities are the SAM Mentors and Mentees still able to do together?

Since we couldn't gather in-person, instead, we hosted a Virtual Induction Reception meeting with members by college. We also offered two virtual, professional webinars focused on "Applying & Interviewing in a Virtual World" and "Financial Literacy: How to Save, Invest, and Pay Off Debt". We also hosted our "Virtual Award Winner Dinner" to celebrate our award winners for the year. These virtual events complement the monthly professional topics of discussion that our matches discuss throughout the year, which keeps them connected on a monthly basis. The Alumni & Family Relations Office also does mid-year check-in phone calls to all members to see how they are doing and offer assistance if it's needed.

Finally, while we know the in-person part of the program is important for establishing a connection, we know we are able to still do this virtually. We intend to incorporate a virtual component in subsequent years hopefully offering a new, hybrid Student Alumni Mentoring (SAM) Program.



This is a Zoom screenshot from the Virtual Induction Reception for SAM Mentors and Mentees

NOW THAT I AM GRADUATING, WHAT CAN I DO?

- Visit the Career Services to take Strengths Finders to determine interest areas.
- Research potential careers/specific jobs to know job requirements of positions in which you're interested.
- Research future trends in job industries with growth potential.
- Establish relationships with USF alumni/industry professionals to network. (If you are a previous SAM member, you would already have started this process.)
- Create resume.
- Created LinkedIn account.
- Create Handshake account.
- Develop elevator speech.
- Purchase interview clothes wisely. (Seek professional, not flashy, clothes.)
- Contact past internship supervisors about possible job opportunities.
- Consider volunteering in the local community for more networking opportunities and general life experience.
- Apply to graduate schools.
- Stay connected with your alma mater! Click the icons below to follow the Alumni Association.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION

- *Dr. Carol Lindee*

- Be sure to gain experience at a job or internship during your junior or senior years.
- There is more to learn than textbook material, such as various “soft skills.”
- Perfect one’s written and presentation skills.
- Know your weaknesses and strengths.
- Research the applicable industry you want to go into and the company where you are applying.



- *Dr. Tony Zordan*

Accounting graduates will be prepared to get a job in public or private accounting after graduation if they:

- get connected with the USF Career Center.
- sign up and attend job fairs at USF.
- have a current resume ready at all times.
- get involved in student clubs—especially SCALES, FREE, and SBA.
- gain work experience through an internship or part-time job.
- ask a lot of questions to their professors and people working in the accounting industry.



- *Dr. Shannon Brown*

- Have a polished resume ready with relevant experience and education.
- Write a cover letter tailored to the job you are applying for.
- Management majors can specifically look for entry level positions in any industry with titles that include “Supervisor,” “Associate,” “Representative,” “Coordinator” and “Analysis.”
- Keep tabs of jobs applied to on an Excel document.
- Ensure your LinkedIn profile is well-crafted and up-to-date.
- Keep in touch with the USF Career Center—as this is offered for life!
- Consider going to graduate school if a job does not materialize.



RECENT NEWS

Virtual Caritas

In this special year, the University of St. Francis Caritas Scholarship Ball went virtual as it celebrated the 64th ball on Saturday, January 30, 2021 to raise scholarship funds for USF students. The event was chaired by Ann '80 & Steve '79 Randich and Corey '97 & Steve Carbery and hosted by USF President Arvid and Anne Johnson. This year's virtual theme was "From Our Home to Yours" and included live entertainment, amazing live and silent auction items, a paddle raise and raffle prize. Caritas has raised almost \$6 million for USF students through its 64 years of history and over \$2 million of that total in just the past seven years. If you would like to donate, visit [aesbid.com/elp/caritas21](https://www.usf.edu/give/caritas21).

Thank you to alumni and friends who joined us virtually and who are committed to keeping our mission strong AND relevant: "Building a Franciscan Future...Together, in Our Second Century!"

Virtual Caritas scholarship ball. (n.d.). stfrancis.edu. Retrieved February 2, 2021, from <https://www.stfrancis.edu/give/caritas/>

USF Centennial Campaign

The University of St. Francis celebrated 100 years in 2020! With the celebration of the 100th year of education at St. Francis came an increased amount of activities for students, families, and alumni! An increased amount of service by students and faculty is another goal of USF, and members of the USF community were encouraged to track their service hours.

President Johnson has emphasized that "USF is embarking on a Centennial Campaign with strategic initiatives that will help to beautify campus, increase scholarships and honor [USF's] heritage."



Spring 2021 Symposium

On March 24, 2021 The University of St. Francis welcomed Sebastian J. Di Clemente, sustainability developer and team leader for IKEA'S new state-of-the-art, 1.25 million-square-foot distribution center in Joliet, Illinois to give students, staff, administrators, faculty, and alumni an overview of IKEA's worldwide forward-thinking sustainability initiatives to protect the earth and its precious resources.

Partnering with management, other IKEA team leaders, local vendors, and community groups, Di Clemente develops, coordinates, and leads sustainability plans to fulfill IKEA's worldwide commitment to make a better everyday life for people.

Di Clemente develops recycling plans with the goal of 0% going to landfills, coordinates donations and partnerships with local charities and community groups, implements compliance with environmental laws, protects biodiversity on site, and works with other sustainability developers and coordinators worldwide to ensure IKEA's core values and People and Planet-Positive mission initiatives — (1.) Healthy and Sustainable Living, (2) Circular and Climate Positive, and (3) Fair and Equal — are communicated to all co-workers and are integrated into the everyday functions of the distribution center (IKEA, 2021).

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Name: Keagan James '19

Favorite Quote: "In order to succeed your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure."

Why did you choose USF and what degrees have you earned?

I chose USF for many reasons. I was being recruited to play football for the Fighting Saints and after doing some research on the university, I found that a business degree from USF is very highly respected by many companies around the country. When I came on my recruiting visit, I loved the family atmosphere that USF had. From the first time I walked around campus and met some of the faculty, I felt that my education would be a priority, because the class size is much smaller than bigger universities. With education being a big factor in my decision, I also loved the football coaching staff here at USF. Coming from a small high school and having a tight-knit program, it was important to me that my college career was similar in that aspect, and that was something that USF had to offer. I have earned a BBA with a major in Marketing and a minor in Management.

Where are you currently employed and how are you applying your major?

I am currently employed at Dayton Freight Lines, Inc. as an Operations Supervisor. I am currently applying my degree in management by supervising and managing a group of 32 forklift operators. I am a floor supervisor that helps do the planning for deliveries and loading of our city operation into the Chicagoland area.

What have you accomplished since graduating from USF?

With all the uncertainty of COVID, I am forever grateful for the opportunity to work for a company that puts its employees first. After graduating from USF, I was hired as a Management Trainee at Dayton Freight Lines in January of 2020. After completing their internship in the summer of 2019, I was put on a fast-track program to get into a position within the management team. In June of 2020 I was promoted to Operations Supervisor at our Crest Hill terminal. Outside of work, I helped organize a fundraiser for one of my teammates that was recently diagnosed with cancer. It was an awesome experience to be able to have helped organize and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to help a friend.

How did attending USF change your life?

Attending USF helped change my life by getting me out of a small town and experiencing diversity. I made many friends along the way here at USF and I am now proud to call Joliet my home.

Who was your favorite professor and why?

I do not have a favorite professor, but any class that Professor Ferrallo or Professor Vaughan taught were always the classes I enjoyed attending the most. They both have very different teaching techniques, but I believe that they were the two professors that I learned the most from, because they would have us incorporate our real life experiences into our assignments.

What is your lasting impression of USF?

My lasting impression of USF is that it has changed my life forever. The relationships that I have created along the way have created many opportunities for me in my life that I am very grateful for. None of the opportunities that I have been given in the last five years would have happened without USF, and I could not be more thankful for the community that I proudly get to call home.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Taylor Petz

Favorite Quote:

"You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!"

Why did you choose USF for your undergraduate studies?

I chose USF for my undergrad because I noticed that our community holds true to our university's core values of respect, compassion, service, and integrity. I absolutely love our community here at USF. We are such a tight knit group of individuals, all from different backgrounds and life experiences, but at the end of the day, everyone here is willing to help one another and that is something special to see. I also thought the undergrad curriculum fit with what type of education I wanted to receive for my undergrad, and I believe that this program will provide me the skills I will need for my graduate school program.

Why did you pick your major?

I have always been influenced by the business world. For as long as I could remember, I wanted to be a lawyer and, then in high school I eventually thought accounting was my path because I was in accounting and marketing courses in high school and I really did enjoy accounting, but I think at the end of the day, I made the right choice of going down the management path. In high school, I managed our school merchandising store. I focused on all area of logistics, marketing, accounting, etc., and if the teacher was busy, students would come to me as the person in charge of running the whole operation. So, I think that experience helped me realize that I can manage a successful business. I also chose management as my focus because I love to help people and give them real, true advice on what they are doing, and I also love to listen to people and learn in any way I can, and I think a job in managing a corporation or a Fortune 500 company offers all these attributes and many other attributes as well.

Who was/is your favorite professor?

This is a difficult question. Many professors in the college of business have taught me many valuable lessons, but I think Dr. Zordan has made a lasting impact on me. He reminded me about the value of accounting in the business world for all different job titles but also made accounting fun by mentioning how and how not to drive and his philosophy on buying overhyped coffee every day. I will miss him once he retires but I know he has made an impact on an enormous number of students!

What are your plans after graduation?

My plan after graduating from USF with my undergrad in Management is to attend MBA school. I have been looking at multiple programs in New Hampshire, Boston and here in Illinois, so I am still deciding where I would like to go for my MBA. During graduate school, my goals are to further develop my skills, meet several different people who are as passionate as me to receive their MBA and hopefully spend time traveling to other countries to educate myself about businesses around the globe.

What are some organizations you are involved with?

I am a women's varsity golf student athlete, president of Student Activities Board, Servant Leader for COBHA, publicist for Saints in Action and Executive Board Member for Fellowship of Christian Athletes. This is also my second year of being a part of the SAM program offered at USF.

What is your role as the BAN Student Representative and what are you looking forward to in this new role?

As the BAN Student Representative, I represent the student body of USF and help guide the relationship between the current student body and alumni. I further help students understand the alumni-related programs that are offered on campus and I also keep alumni up to date on events occurring around campus for our current students! I am excited to help other students network with our great number of alumni from USF and I hope that I can also make a lasting and influential impact with the local community that we have here at our university!

CONTINUE YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY WITH A

Master of Business Administration (U.S. MBA)

A University of St. Francis Master of 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 in 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 in Health Administration (MSHA)

The Master 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 stfrancis.edu/admissions-aid/graduate-students/

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 Health Care
- 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

For more information, visit 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 [was] spring, 2020.

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 [was] summer 2020.

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 into Europe, Central, and South America.

- *Orlando Griego, Dean of College of Business*

BUSINESS CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



The College of Business and Health Administration's Servant Leaders are a welcoming community of students dedicated to enhancing a supportive and compassionate learning environment and sharing the message of work as a vocation.

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

June 2021

Pat Sullivan Golf Outing

Details to be released at a later date at gofightingsaints.com.

June 4, 2021

July 2021

Yoga on the Quad

Start your morning with a relaxing yoga session on the Quad, led by Jessica Monu, Ph.D., assistant professor of Recreation and Sport Management. No experience is necessary, and Dr. Monu will show modified versions of each position. Please bring your own mat and face mask. Social distancing will be practiced.

Saturday, July 10

8:45 a.m. check-in | 9-10 a.m. yoga

USF Quad | Rain Location: San Damiano Hall

Complimentary; Registration Required

Limited Tickets Available

Drive-In Movie

Drive on over to your University of St. Francis for a family-friendly movie! We'll be showing a popular flick the whole family will enjoy. Pop the popcorn, pack the snacks and a cooler, and snuggle up in the safety of your own vehicle.

Saturday, July 17

Movie starts at 8:30 p.m. | Come as early as 8 p.m.

St. Clare Campus Parking Lot (1550 Plainfield Road, Joliet)

\$10 per vehicle

(\$5 of each transaction is a donation)

Limited Tickets Available

August 2021

15th Annual Mystery Progressive Dinner

Hop back in time to the days of traditional dining and social clubs. We will travel together to tour three different mystery supper clubs for a three-course meal, taking in their relaxing but upscale atmospheres. Transportation is provided, so all night you can sit back and relax – and eat! 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 to secure your spot!

Saturday, August 14

5 p.m. USF shuttle departure/return 11 p.m.

\$60 per person

(\$5 of each transaction is a donation)

Limited Tickets Available