

# THE NETWORK

Business Alumni Network (BAN)

Spring 2022

## 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: Emily Schrader  
*MBA Student Studying Accounting*

## Upcoming BAN Meetings

September 10, 2022

January 14, 2023

September 9, 2023

To register for meetings and events, please visit our [events page](#).

For more information or to join,  
call (877) 811-ALUM or by email at  
[alumni@stfrancis.edu](mailto:alumni@stfrancis.edu)



## In This Issue

- New COBHA Offerings
- SAM Program Recap
- Business Symposium
- Human Resources Magazine Article Summary
- COBHA International Program Success
- Recent News
- Alumni and Student Spotlight

# INTERESTING TOPICS

## New COBHA Offerings

The College of Business & Health Administration (COBHA) at the University of St. Francis just announced that interested applicants can apply for the Values-Based Management (BBA) degree. The Values-Based Management major will weave USF's Franciscan values into management topics—which is becoming increasingly important in the workplace as businesses face ethical dilemmas everyday. You can read more information about the new management major curriculum at [stfrancis.edu/about-the-values-based-management-degree](https://stfrancis.edu/about-the-values-based-management-degree).

Also, due to the increased demand for workers with supply chain backgrounds, a Supply Chain Management (BBA) degree is now offered completely online. Dr. Carol Lindee, professor of Supply Chain and Transportation & Logistics, stated how excited she is for students to have the opportunity to take supply-chain knowledge with them in various fields of work. The pandemic has helped to emphasize just how important the movement of goods and services along a supply chain is to the economy. More information about the new, nationally-recognized Supply Chain Management program can be found at [stfrancis.edu/supply-chain-management-degree-now-offered-in-online-format](https://stfrancis.edu/supply-chain-management-degree-now-offered-in-online-format).



# INTERESTING TOPICS

## SAM Program 2021-2022

The Student Alumni Mentoring (SAM) program is having another successful year with meaningful alumni mentor and student mentee relationships building as the program progresses. Like every year, the program began in November and will run through April. This year's program matched 56 students with alumni based on similar career paths and interests. The program kicked off with an induction reception, which gave the mentors and mentees the opportunity to connect in person, as well as network with other alumni and students.

Each month is guided by an informative email with resources centered around important workplace topics, such as social media etiquette, networking, interviewing for a job, etc. The mentors and mentees then took that information and discussed it with one another so the student could be better prepared for the workforce.

The alumni office is already recruiting alumni and students for next year's program! If you're interested in participating in the 2022-2023 SAM program, please apply at [stfrancis.edu/sam](https://stfrancis.edu/sam).



# COBHA Business Symposium

The COBHA Spring 2022 Business Symposium was student-led and sponsored by the Servant Leaders group . The featured speaker was Tom Grotovsky, owner of Great American Bagel in Joliet, who shared his experience being a small business owner. He emphasized that we are all called to be servant leaders in our professions and that anyone can give of their time, talent, and treasure to local charities or people in need.

Grotovsky emphasized that he feels his business is a vocation where he accepts all customers into his business no matter their backgrounds, cultures, religions, etc. He enjoys learning and working with his employees despite admitting that running a business is difficult.

USF thanks Grotovsky for sharing his business knowledge and experience with USF students!



# Human Resources Article Summary

The article "Great Expectations" in the SHRM Magazine states that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, company recruiters are emphasizing that prospective job candidates are demanding flexible work, development opportunities, and even greater compensation strategies. Working from home and moving the job application processes to more virtual have been changes for HR, recruiters, and talent acquisition specialists. Also, various industries—like the airline industry— have seen a decrease in job applicants in general. The applicant demands are hard to fulfill amidst labor shortages.

As a result of the changes in employee expectations of total reward offerings from employers and the changing workforce, companies need to ensure they hire HR professionals who are able to create unique ways for employees to both attract and retain employees like assembly-line workers, call-center workers, and customer service representatives. Despite many positions offering sign-on bonuses and higher wages, HR professionals emphasize this is only a short-term fix to various types of workers ultimately not being paid enough at their jobs. Per Maurer (2021), companies are planning on increasing employee pay—specifically 23% of them—in order to entice candidates for job titles that are becoming harder to fill. This situation becomes difficult when employees jump from job to job just to earn multiple signing bonuses—which is the way in which companies have tried to attract candidates as a result of the pandemic.

Overall, the pandemic has caused employers to increase flexible work opportunities, tuition and development opportunities, and child/adult family care options too. Changes that should have been made a long time ago are now at the forefront of employee demands and HR professionals goals for total reward programs.

Reference:

Maurer, R. (2021). *Great expectations. SHRM HR Magazine*, 66(4), 32-39.

# Success of Vietnam Business Program

The University of St. Francis' College of Business & Health Administration (COBHA) formed a relationship with Brno Technical University in the Czech Republic over the last four years. As a result of the pandemic, USF started doing virtual teaching due to travel restrictions to Europe. Despite these changes, the program is currently on cohort #11 with 101 students taking classes under the BBA program.

Besides Brno Technical University, USF was also approached by a technical university in Vietnam in Hanoi. 148 students are interested. The courses offered in the Brno program are taught completely in English and use APA style for business assignments. COBHA is grateful to have formed these relationships with international universities where they can share their business acumen and knowledge with others.



# RECENT NEWS

## COBHA Mural

Roger Carlson '06 painted a beautiful mural in the COBHA hallway depicting St. Francis, Bernie, and various other animals. The mural is very colorful—specifically showcasing the COBHA orange colors behind St. Francis and Bernie. If you want to see the mural in-person, head to the second floor of Tower Hall.



University of St. Francis. (2022, February 6). A grant from the Wheeler Family Foundation. [Image attached]. [Post]. Facebook.

## 2022 Caritas Scholarship Ball

The 2022 Caritas Scholarship Ball was hosted online with Dave DiLorenzo as the master of ceremonies. With the support of our generous sponsors, over \$200,000 was raised for USF scholarships! More information regarding the Caritas can be accessed at [stfrancis.edu/give/caritas](https://stfrancis.edu/give/caritas).



University of St. Francis. (2022, January 28). We're rehearsing for tomorrow's Caritas event [Image attached]. [Post]. Facebook.

## Alumni-Owned Business Spotlight Dr. Whyte

Dr. Stephanie Whyte joined the BAN for our January meeting and she shared information about her medical practice with all members in attendance. We encourage you to visit her alumni-owned business called The Doctor Is In, located in Minooka, Illinois. More information about her direct primary care practice can be found at [minookadpc.com](https://minookadpc.com). Direct primary care practices do not require insurance, but individuals instead pay a monthly membership fee.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Name:** Tom Jeffries

**Favorite Quote:** "Don't let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."

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

I chose USF to pursue a finance degree and to also compete on the USF Fighting Saints baseball team as a pitcher. I earned a BBA in Finance and also a MBA in Finance from USF. My mother [Jennifer (Glovack) Jeffries '90, '13] is also a USF graduate.

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

I am currently employed at Freddie Mac working as an associate in the multifamily loan division. I underwrite multifamily loans in all 50 states for apartment buildings ranging from 5 to 100 units. I am applying my finance background every day at work.

**What are you excited for in your new role as the Business Alumni Network (BAN) president?**

I am excited to continue to give back at USF and hope to grow the BAN group and number of members. I am also on the Alumni Board and have been a mentor in the SAM program for a number of years.

**What have you accomplished since graduating from USF?**

Since I graduated from USF I have continued to grow personally and professionally. My background at USF has given me an edge in the banking industry and finance world.

**How did attending USF change your life?**

Attending USF was a chance to attend a local university and earn a college degree. USF gave me a chance to attend a college with smaller class sizes and be able to play baseball collegiately and give back to the community.

**Who was your favorite professor and why?**

My favorite professor at USF was Dr. Steve Morrissette. He opened my eyes to a career in finance and banking, and to this day we still stay in touch.

**What is your lasting impression of USF?**

My lasting impression of USF is that it is a great university in Joliet and the college provides ample opportunities to grow and make a difference in the world.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Nicole Kulon

Favorite Quote:

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love." -St. Therese of Lisieux

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

When researching schools, USF's College of Business & Health Administration (COBHA) accreditations impressed me. I've also always been around the university through different programs in high school, so all the paths in my life were leading me here.

**Why did you pick your major?**

All my life I have always been interested in business management. I love to lead teams and know what's going on behind the scenes. My first job in high school helped me understand how to manage a business. From there, I discovered that I love working with people, networking, and creating success in business.

**Who was/is your favorite professor?**

This might be cheesy, but I've appreciated every single one that I've learned from. Our business college is very fortunate to have such intelligent, proactive, and organized professors. As students I hope we all recognize this and retain everything they teach us. Every encounter is a learning opportunity. Being a senior this year, I have been able to apply everything I've learned in these 4 years in my classes, conversations, and career ventures. Listen to the details our professors mention in classes...those are the hidden secrets to success.

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

I love being involved at USF, it ties into my passion for management. Being involved helped me practice the management and leadership skills I learned in the classroom. Here's a breakdown of everything I have been involved in that helped me gain experience in business: Chair - Servant Leader Organization in the College of Business and Health Administration (2.5 years), Manager - USF Women's Volleyball Team (4 yrs), Alumni & Family Relations Student Worker (2.5 years), Distinguished Leader - Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (2 years), Vice President - Delta Mu Delta Honors Society (1 year), Student Representative - Alumni Association Board (1 year), Liturgical / Music Peer Minister - Campus Ministry (3 years), President - Fellowship of Christian Athletes (2 years), Former Intern - Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**What will your lasting impression of USF be and what are your plans after graduation?**

USF as a whole is a home away from home - a family community. All faculty, staff, USF members, and peers that I have encountered have been supportive, resourceful, optimistic, and kind. Some ideas are in the works for after graduation! Hopefully pursuing my master's degree and looking for my first job.

**How has your experience been with Servant Leaders?**

Incredible. The organization has truly become a passion of mine. I appreciate all the past and present Servant Leaders I've worked with. All of our faculty shepherds have been great representations of servant leadership. We are a team driven to help and serve others in COBHA. Being one of the first students recommended and brought into this organization when it was created, it's inspiring to be a part of something that will be making a difference for decades. The servant leadership concept is a great representation of what our business world could look like one day. With that, I've discovered what my work is as a vocation - a mission to help others succeed. I'm forever grateful to Bob and Pat Wheeler for wanting to instill this organization into the College of Business and Health Administration.

# 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 '19



## 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)

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](http://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 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

For more information, visit [stfrancis.edu/academics/certificates](http://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. The scheduled degree start date was fall 2021!

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.

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 and Central and South America.

- *Orlando Griego, Past Dean of College of Business*

ST. FRANCIS UNIVERSITY OF

# 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 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.

