

THE NETWORK

Business Alumni Network (BAN)

Fall 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 '21 '22
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We want to hear from you!

For feedback or to join,
call Ken Guldenbecker '22 at
877-811-ALUM or email
kguldenbecker@stfrancis.edu



In This Issue

- Tips/Strategies For Effective Work From Home
- Mental Health Tips for Keeping Positive During a Pandemic
- SHRM Article Summary
- Czech Business Students Travel to Chicago
- Recent News
- Alumni and Student Spotlight

INTERESTING TOPICS

Tips/Strategies For Effective Work From Home

1. Try to wake up and get ready for work at the same time as days you travel to the office
2. Find a quiet space in your home where you can work
3. Utilize headphones in order to keep confidential meeting information to yourself
4. Take full advantage of the various ways to communicate with your co-workers when working from home (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Skype, WebEx, etc.)
5. Set specific time aside to take eye breaks from work and for lunch
6. Write down tasks you need to finish during the work week and which ones require feedback from co-workers when in the office
7. Outline times where you can meet with your co-workers to review work and provide feedback



INTERESTING TOPICS

Mental Health Tips For Keeping Positive Habits While Working During a Pandemic

The pandemic has been a difficult transition and a significant change for everyone. It affected every person in a different way and in different areas of their life. In order to keep positive habits while working during a pandemic, it is important to separate the time you work with the time you aren't working. This can be especially difficult when the ability to access work information is at our fingertips. Personally, during my lunch break while working from home, I will step away from my work desk and eat lunch in my kitchen. Simple activities such as taking a walk are great ways to find a balance between work and life too.



How Future Advancements in Technology Affect Human Resources

Maurer (2022) from SHRM emphasizes in his article titled “HR Must Be Vigilant About the Ethical Use of AI Technology” that advancements in the types of technology that HR departments at firms utilize to recruit top talent could have negative ethical implications. For example, an HR division may utilize an AI scanning technology in order to read submitted resumes by candidates for certain positions and then base the candidates they grant interviews to off what the software picks out as positive qualities, such as gender or past experience (Maurer, 2022). Companies need to pay close attention to the rules that their AI software has picked up on because this could lead to bias in the resume picking process and beyond—depending on the type of business. The article recommended that AI should not be utilized and trusted completely, but that with its help, employees can spend more time on tasks of greater importance and higher analysis. Artificial Intelligence software should be audited for both bias and privacy (Maurer, 2022). Moreover, employees should be informed on when AI is being utilized and it should not be used to collect specific information that could be utilized negatively against an individual or a party (Maurer, 2022). Overall, AI software should be tested thoroughly and with a large enough sample size before moving it to full production.

Maurer, R. (2022, September 27). *HR must be vigilant about the ethical use of AI technology*. <https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/hr-topics/technology/pages/hr-must-be-vigilant-about-the-ethical-use-of-ai.aspx>



Czech Business Students Travel to Chicago

Professor Vaughan took MBA students from the Czech Republic sight-seeing in Chicago at the beginning of August. These students also participated in an MBA course while in Chicago. Locations such as Millennium Park, Buckingham Fountain, the Magnificent Mile, and Navy Pier were on the sight-seeing tour.



University of St. Francis. (2022, September 3).
Czech Republic MBA Students. [Images
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RECENT NEWS

Kenny Mason ICPAS Award

COBHA is proud of Kenny Mason for winning an Illinois CPA Society Young Professionals Leadership Award over Summer 2022. Mason earned this award due to his contributions in the accounting community and the local communities where he lives and works. The success of his personal businesses is another large reason for the award. More information on the award and why Mason won it can be found here: <https://www.stfrancis.edu/mason-earns-leadership-award-from-illinois-cpa-society/>



2022 Homecoming

USF Homecoming 2022 was held during the week of September 19th to the 24th. Alumni were welcomed back to campus through a variety of initiatives including the Distinguished Alumni Dinner, Alumni Baseball Game, Saturday's Homecoming Football Game, and Alumni Memorial Mass.



COBHA Distinguished Alumni Awards Winner

Congratulations to Dr. David Schreiner '93 who won the Distinguished Alumni Award from COBHA at the end of September.

College of Business & Health Administration Alumni Award



Dr. David Schreiner '93
President & CEO, Katherine Shaw Bethea
Hospital

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Name: Jordon Smith

Favorite Quote: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it." – Charles R. Swindoll

Why did you choose USF and what degrees have you earned? What year did you graduate?

I came to USF to play football and further my education at a private university. I went on a visit here my senior year of high school and it had instantly felt like home. I graduated in December of 2018 with a double major in Marketing and Management.

Where are you currently employed and how are you applying your major/What have you accomplished since graduating from USF?

I currently work for an IT Staffing firm called OtterBase as a Client Manager. I apply both of my majors everyday through marketing my company and managing personal brand to leverage long-term relationships to potential new and existing clients. Since graduating USF, I have worked for two different companies and have moved from Joliet, IL to Nashville, TN. I have worked with multiple charities such as Gridiron Group which provides a free football clinic to students and with Laundry Project which provides the cost and supplies to wash and dry clothes for anyone in need.

Can you provide an overview of your career path since graduating from USF?

During my time at USF, I interned with Enterprise Rent-A-Car. After graduating and recovering from knee surgery, I began there full-time as a Management Trainee. In just under a year, I worked my way up from a Management Trainee to an Assistant Manager. After a few months of being promoted to a Flagship Assistant Manager, I decided to relocate to Nashville, TN. I transferred with Enterprise but left for an opportunity with my current company, OtterBase, as a Technical Recruiter after a few months of moving. I found I was very passionate about my new career choice with the ability to help people have the opportunity to achieve their dream jobs and goals. After 9 months, I was recently promoted to Client Manager based out of Nashville, TN.

How did attending USF change your life and what is your lasting impression?

USF has positively changed my life in many ways. Not only was it a place where I was able to continue the sport I loved, but it gave me an amazing education to help guide and prepare me for my future career goals. Through USF, I have met many spectacular people who opened my eyes to opportunities that I may not have ever found. I have lifelong friendships and connections with many former colleagues and alumni. While attending USF, I had the chance to service the communities through DayBreak and cleaning up the community with my team. My experiences through these opportunities have inspired me to continue to serve with charities regularly since graduating. Also, coming from out of state, USF taught me to come out of my comfort zone and that trying new things or living new places can truly elevate your knowledge and life. If I could go back and do it all over again, I wouldn't change a single thing. USF has not only prepared me with an education to ensure success in my career but has taught me life lessons that have helped me in all aspects of my life. I have had the privilege to meet some amazing people who are still some of the closest people to me today. USF has given me every opportunity I could have imagined from being a student-athlete to studying abroad in Ireland.

Who was your favorite professor and why?

I don't have a favorite professor. I was blessed that all my professors were amazing and brought different knowledge, experiences, and lessons to help better my future. My favorite part of all my professors is how genuine each and everyone is. If you miss a class, they reach out and make sure you're okay. If you don't understand something or want to learn more, they were happy to offer up their time to help. Even to this day having had graduated almost 4 years ago, they still reach out and keep in contact. You don't find that every day.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Nolan Weis

Graduation Date: 2023

Favorite Quote: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." -Yogi Berra

Why did you choose USF for your undergraduate studies?

I chose USF for a multitude of reasons— mainly because I was offered an opportunity to play for the Men's golf team. Both of my parents also attended USF, when it was College of St. Francis, so that played a role in my decision as well.

Why did you pick your major?

I originally came to USF as a math major, but I switched to accounting my freshman year when I realized I really enjoyed the business aspect of dealing with numbers. I continued with a minor in math and then picked up my double major in finance my junior year.

Who was/is your favorite professor?

My favorite professor is probably currently a tie between Dr. Morrissette and Professor Blackburn. I think they both discuss great personal life experiences that we can all learn from. My former favorite professor was Dr. Zordan. However, he retired from teaching two years ago.

What are some organizations you are involved with on campus and some extracurricular positions you hold?

I am currently apart of the Men's Golf Team and have been for the past 4 years. I am also the President of the SCALES Accounting Club, an officer of the Servant Leaders, the Becker campus representative, and the golf team representative for SAAC. I used to be on the baseball team my Sophomore and Junior year, but it was a hard to keep up with everything. Lastly, I am a member of Delta Mu Delta.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on starting to study for my CPA come January of 2023 and plan on finishing it by December of 2023. I have recently accepted a job offer from Ernst & Young LLP to become an auditor in their FSO sector, starting in the summer/fall of 2023.

What will your lasting impression of USF be?

I hope that my lasting impression will be through all the hard work and efforts I have made during my time here. I currently still have a 4.0, and that has been one of my goals throughout college. I was an all-conference golfer my sophomore year and hope to repeat again this senior year. USF also hasn't had many accounting majors acquire an internship or job with a Big 4 accounting firm, so I am hoping I can help start something bigger for the accounting program. Finally, I hope my legacy as a servant leader continues to live on and I hope that others decide to walk in my footsteps as a servant leader on campus as well as life after St. Francis.

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

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 <https://www.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.

- 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.

USF continues our existing MBA partnership at Brno Technical University in Brno, Czech Republic. Recently, USF started an undergraduate business degree, and graduate business degree programs in partnership with a university in Vietnam. With the addition of Vietnam, USF is looking at future expansion opportunities in Asia, Europe, Central, and South America.

- Dr. Shannon Brown, *Dean of College of Business*

UNIVERSITY OF
ST FRANCIS

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

January 2023

Business Alumni Network (BAN) Meeting (TBD)

Join fellow business alumni, whether you graduated with a business degree or now currently work in a business field, to share ideas, offer feedback, and network with others. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP for the Zoom link to attend virtually.

February 2023

Alumni Board Committee Meetings

Alumni Board members are asked to join us for six spring committee meetings focused on different alumni engagement efforts. A light breakfast will be served.

Scholarship & Nominating 8:30 a.m.
Engagement & Young Alumni 9:45 a.m.
Constitution 11 a.m.

Saturday, February 4
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Alumni Center, Motherhouse 2nd Floor
Complimentary | RSVP Required

Alumni Board Executive Meeting

Elected executive board members come together to discuss committee efforts and prepare the agenda for the next full board meeting.

Saturday, Feb. 4
1 – 2 p.m.
Alumni Center, Motherhouse 2nd Floor
Complimentary | RSVP Required

March 2023

No Scheduled Events

ALUMNI EVENTS

April 2023

Bunny Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

Hop your way to the front of the line for our annual Easter holiday tradition with fellow alumni families. Guests will enjoy a delicious breakfast and can take photos with the Easter Bunny followed by an egg hunt on the quad rain or shine! Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!

Saturday, April 1

8:30 – 10 a.m.

Sullivan Recreation Center & Quad

RSVP Required | \$20 per person; Age 3 and under free

[Click here to register now!](#)

Alumni Board Meeting

We invite our alumni board of directors to bring their ideas and committee notes to participate in the last board meeting of the year. Election of new leadership will take place. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, April 15

9 – 10:30 a.m.

Board Room, Motherhouse 2nd Floor

Complimentary | RSVP Required

Caritas Scholarship Celebration—Sponsorships available

Saturday, April 15

Patrick Sullivan Center, University of St. Francis

RSVP Required

May 2023

Class of 1973 50th Reunion at Commencement

Congratulations on your upcoming 50th reunion from the University of St. Francis in 2023! We have a wonderful tradition at USF and would love to include and honor you at our May Commencement ceremony. You will process down the aisle with the graduating class of 2023 in full graduation regalia with an "alumni" banner. President Arvid C. Johnson, Ph.D. will also formally recognize your group during the ceremony. It's a very memorable experience and reflection of the legacy you've left at St. Francis and we hope you'll join us for this special event.

Saturday, May 6

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Brown Science Hall & Sullivan Recreation Center

Complimentary | RSVP required at stfrancis.edu/commencement-programs

About the Editor



I was initially drawn to USF for my undergrad studies because of the small campus and class size and my ability to commute to campus. I fell in love with the close knit campus filled with professors that I connected with and felt valued as a person. I graduated from USF with my BBA in Accounting, Management, and Supply Chain Management in December 2021. Also, I made the decision to continue into the MBA program at USF because of the three-to-degree COBHA program and my ability to complete the program in three semesters. I graduated in December with an MBA with a Concentration in Accounting. My learning experience at USF is something I will always cherish. I was able to form great relationships with all my professors—both in COBHA and other faculty members— as well as become very involved on campus. Having been taught the Franciscan values of respect, integrity, service, and compassion in all my classes helped me to “contribute to the world through service and leadership” in the accounting profession and my current job as a Staff Accountant. Having completed the BAN Newsletter for seven semesters, I discovered that the transition from USF student to alumni can be seamless. USF does not just value their students, but seeks a connection with alumni for years to come. My goal is to remain connected with the university through the Business Alumni Network or the Alumni Board. Hopefully one day I can give back to a business student at USF through mentoring with the SAM Program and financial contributions.

Emily Schrader '21 '22