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New Beginnings...

I realize that it may be a little strange for me — one of the newest members of “the family” — to be providing this welcome, but please know that it comes from the heart: Welcome to University of St. Francis Magazine!

In this year of new beginnings, it is fitting that we (re-)launch our magazine to keep you apprised of the many exciting things happening at our University of St. Francis. While I understand that this magazine was published (periodically) in the past, I am pleased to renew USF’s commitment to this communication medium and our critically important connection to you — our alumni, our friends, our parents, our employees, and our supporters … in short, our USF family.

Founded in 1920, our university is approaching its second century of preparing women and men to contribute to the world through service and leadership. Indeed, in this day and age, it has never been more important that you know of our good works and that we know of yours. To that end, I wish to renew and strengthen the bonds that our alumni have formed with their alma mater and that our friends have developed with USF, an institution that makes such a powerful, positive difference in the communities it serves. I also want our parents to know that the futures of their sons and daughters are bright because they have experienced a USF education.

The University of St. Francis has so much to offer, and I am privileged to be a steward of the USF legacy. I have dedicated my inauguration and my presidency to the theme “Called to Serve…Called to Lead” because it encompasses the very spirit of USF — from its founders, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, to the students, faculty, employees and staff who shepherd the institution today.

Together, we serve as ambassadors for the Catholic Franciscan higher education that the University of St. Francis provides. Together, we can ensure that USF has both relevance and impact in its coming second century. I look forward to communicating with you through University of St. Francis Magazine and other means — and to hearing of the difference that you make in the world as a member of the USF family.

I consider myself incredibly blessed to serve as your president and promise to work hard to earn the trust that you have placed in me.

Peace and all good,

Arvid C. Johnson, Ph.D.
President

OUR MISSION

As a Catholic university rooted in the liberal arts, we are a welcoming community of learners challenged by Franciscan values and charism, engaged in a continuous pursuit of knowledge, faith, wisdom, and justice, and ever mindful of a tradition that emphasizes reverence for creation, compassion, and peacemaking. We strive for academic excellence in all programs, preparing women and men to contribute to the world through service and leadership.
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FRONT COVER PHOTO: The USF community gathers for mass in St. Joseph Chapel prior to the inauguration ceremony.
BACK COVER PHOTO: Patrick Brannon of USF’s Music & Performing Arts Department directs members of the Schola choir.
The University of St. Francis community gathered on Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis, for mass in the St. Joseph Chapel followed by the inauguration of the institution’s ninth president, Arvid C. Johnson. The inauguration ceremony was opened by the university’s founders and sponsors, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. They were represented by their president, Sr. Dolores Zemont, who gave the invocation.

More than 100 students participated in an opening ritual depicting “The Canticle of the Creatures,” a poem by the university’s patron saint. They literally set the stage for the newest chapter in the university’s more than 90-year history by processing before the crowd with chairs, cloths, candles, banners and flowers and gracefully transforming a barren platform into a colorful inauguration stage.

Three past University of St. Francis presidents—John C. Orr, James A. Doppke and Michael J. Vinciguerra—were present to “entrust the chain of office” to Johnson. Representatives from some 40 higher education institutions were part of the procession, along with many elected officials.

“Today, I have been formally installed as your ninth president. I have been asked to lead USF forward. However, until I am able to demonstrate that those I serve—which is each and every one of you present today—grow as persons, I will have only positional authority and not the moral authority that only you can grant me. Indeed, I eagerly await the day on which I have earned the trust that you have placed in me.”

—Arvid Johnson

Alumni carrying flags that displayed their class year processed in to welcome the new president; almost every graduation year from 1939 to the present was represented.

Greetings to the new president were voiced by members of the university community. The USF Board of Trustees was represented by J.D. Ross, immediate past chair; the Sisters of St. Francis were represented by Sr. Rose Marie Surwilo ’66, professor emerita; faculty members were represented by William Bromer, professor of biology and environmental science; the administration and staff were represented by Regina Stevens ’12, online program support specialist and president of the USF Administrators and Staff Council. Students were represented by Student Government Association President Nicholas Bond, Class of 2015. Alumni were represented by Shawn T. Walsh ’00, president-elect to the Alumni Association Board, and the community was represented by Illinois State Sen. Pat McGuire ’87, 43rd District.

John Gambro, dean of USF’s College of Education, and Anthony Zordan, professor of accounting, recounted numerous service-oriented projects and initiatives that faculty and student groups in the university’s four colleges have recently completed. They talked about a commitment to helping USF students find not merely careers, but “vocations,” through learning and service to others in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

Johnson, who dedicated the inauguration and his presidency to the theme “Called to Serve...Called to Lead,” spoke of a university poised to meet the challenges of the future. He encouraged the university community to continue to lead in serving the needs of students. The new president promised to “work hard every day to earn the trust” placed in him as leader of the Catholic, Franciscan university.

The inauguration ceremony concluded with the Prayer of St. Francis recited in the languages of English, Spanish, Potawatomi, Chinese, Italian, Polish and French. The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, gave the benediction, then guests processed to the USF Quad for a festive outdoor dinner.

To view a video of Inauguration Day or to read Johnson’s full inaugural address, visit www.stfrancis.edu/president.
“I look forward to working with you to envision and realize what the University of St. Francis can become as it prepares to enter its second century, to define the path by which we’ll get there, and to journey together with you on that path.”

— Arvid Johnson
“But — and this is important — the ‘called to serve’ in my inauguration theme does not simply refer to me. It is a calling that is every bit as applicable to the University of St. Francis, as a whole, and to each and every member of the USF family individually. We are all called to serve.” — Arvid Johnson
Six Months and Counting

Since President Johnson joined the USF community in June, he’s been keeping busy. His daily routines include attending faculty and staff meetings, board meetings, community gatherings, student events, athletic matches and more. Here’s a snapshot of some of his recent activities...

Johnson Joins Senator Durbin and US Representative Foster in Forum for Immigration Reform


Durbin, who worked with a group of eight senators to write a bill to address immigration policies, called the forum. Among other measures, the “Dream Act” would allow qualified immigrant students who were brought to the United States as children to earn legal status.

Johnson was the first panelist invited to address the crowd regarding the university’s views on the issue: “Our stance on immigration reform is twofold and simple,” he said. “As the president of an institution of higher education and a former businessman, I am concerned about the existing and forecasted shortage of highly skilled workers in the United States. U.S. companies will need to compete globally for the best-educated, most talented, most innovative workers. To the extent that our country makes immigration difficult, whether for graduates of U.S. universities who would like to continue to stay in the United States to work, or for other skilled workers who wish to come to the United States, career opportunities in other countries will grow. As a result, in order to reach that talent, many U.S. companies are facing or will face the need to move their operations overseas to meet their workforce requirements. We need to open our doors to these skilled workers in order to maintain a strong U.S. economy.”

Touching on the university’s concern for students, Johnson continued, “University of St. Francis is also a Catholic, Franciscan institution and as such, we are deeply concerned for the aspect of immigration reform that is getting the most public attention—that of undocumented workers and students. We believe that respect and compassion are key to this issue... that families should not be separated... that those who are brought here as children should not be penalized for actions for which they had no control.”

USF students Alejandro Campos and Elisabet Miramontes were in attendance with Eric Ruiz ’07, associate director of Undergraduate Admissions and coordinator of multicultural initiatives.

“We believe that respect and compassion are key to this issue... that families should not be separated... that those who are brought here as children should not be penalized for actions for which they had no control.”

—Arvid Johnson
President Arvid Johnson has dedicated his presidency to serving and leading, and he wants members of the USF community to show the power of service by logging their service hours on the USF website. All are invited to participate: faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, donors and friends of the university. The hours will be tallied and announced at the end of this academic year.

To kick off the service campaign, four “USF Power” videos are being produced. Two have been released and are available for viewing at www.stfrancis.edu/usfpower.

In the first, sent via email to university constituents in September, Johnson engaged in an arm-wrestling match with the spirited Minola Sturm ’39, one of USF’s oldest alumni. In the second video, Arvid (a.k.a. “The Cyclone”) challenged national championship cross country team runner Dylan Reyes (a.k.a. “Flash”) to a race through the Quad. The third video is scheduled to come out in mid-February, and the final in April.
The 57th annual Caritas Scholarship Ball to support University of St. Francis students will be celebrated on Jan. 25, 2014 at the Patrick C. Haley Mansion in Joliet.

“Our emphasis is raising funds to help deserving students achieve college degrees,” said Michael LaRocco, who is chairing Caritas with his wife, Kathy ’81, ’96. Michael is the retired dean of the university’s College of Business and Health Administration and professor emeritus, who worked at USF for 33 years.

The Caritas Scholarship Ball will, for the second year, be held in Joliet’s historic Patrick C. Haley Mansion. “Holding the event off campus has allowed more dollars to go to the scholarship event,” said President Arvid Johnson, who will be host to the event with his wife, Anne. “At the University of St. Francis, 68 percent of freshmen are the first to attend college in their families. USF provides more than $15.5 million in institutional assistance to our students, so the support of Caritas Scholarship Ball sponsors and guests is critical to making the dream of a college education come true for talented and deserving students,” said Johnson.

One of the oldest black tie events in the area, Caritas will provide some new and exciting activities, said Kathy LaRocco. A new live auction of once-in-a-lifetime experiences presented by a professional auctioneer will be featured, along with a raffle of his and her gifts. Wintrust Financial Corp. is a gold sponsor of the event, but additional sponsorships are still available.

Along with the LaRoccos, of Chicago, as event chairs and the Johnsons, of Frankfort, as hosts, Bill and Diane ’77 Habiger, of Joliet, will co-chair Caritas 2014. The Habigers were chairs of the 2013 event. Diane is a member of the USF Board of Trustees. The 2014 Caritas Scholarship Ball Committee also includes Duffy and Rachel Blackburn of Joliet; Cesar and Rose Cardenas of Joliet; Scott and Debra Crowther of Shorewood; Terry and Sue D’Arcy of Shorewood; Ani Johnson of Chicago; Jim and Maryellen Klang of Wheaton; Pat ’87 and Lora McGuire of Joliet; Mike Mikuska of Joliet; Sam and Cindy Panayotovich of Palos Park; Jesse and Phavinee Park of Burr Ridge; Steve ’79 and Ann ’80 Randich of Joliet; Tyler and Stephanie ’05 Qualio of Shorewood; Jay and Willie ’68 Vidmar of Plainfield; and Denise Winfrey of Joliet.

For information about tickets, sponsorships or supporting student scholarships, call (815) 740-5065.

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and Walmart have been working together to teach schools how to identify, recruit and track first-generation students. These students are the first in their families to obtain a college degree. According to the 2013 CIC/Walmart College Success Awards Report, which cites best practices for ensuring academic success for first-generation students, about half of them come from low-income families, and two-fifths of them are students of color — mainly Hispanic and African American. They are not as well prepared as other students academically and often lack support because their family members are not familiar with the college experience.

The University of St. Francis has been taking a special interest in educating these students, and is apparently doing all the right things. The report recognized USF for its efforts to communicate with and recruit students and make them feel welcome. A portion of USF’s first-generation student welcome letter, sent to potential students each summer, was actually printed in the report. To further confirm USF’s commitment, a $100,000 grant was awarded to USF by CIC/Walmart to “strengthen already exemplary programs that support the education of first-generation college students.”
Conference Held for First-Generation College Students

A First-Generation College Student Conference was held at USF last spring. Attendees spent the day participating in workshops to give them an edge in college and life, discover resources for success, and meet other first generation college students. Breakout sessions were led by community leaders and focused on topics including financial literacy, leadership, managing parent expectations and more.

The following day, in conjunction with the conference, the university held its annual achievement ceremony to honor its nearly 60 University Success Scholars (USS). About 68 percent of USF’s new freshmen are first generation students and face unique challenges while earning their college degree.

“First generation students who participate in USS events are retained at higher rates than first generation students who choose not to participate,” said Academic Resource Center Director Christine Zielinski.

Greek Life Expected at USF in 2014

According to Damon Sloan, vice president of Student and Alumni Affairs, USF will welcome Greek life that is focused on service in spring 2014. The university investigated adding Greek life at the request of students, and pending student interest, two organizations — Alpha Phi and Sigma Iota Alpha — may begin chapters on campus.

Focused on Service
First Sister Clare Award Honors Founding Sisters

The university’s founders and sponsors, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, were honored by the University of St. Francis during Women’s History Month for transforming the world in their time. During the university’s first “Sister Clare Award” ceremony, the congregation’s president, Sr. Dolores Zemont, OSF, accepted the award which will be presented annually to “women of light” who walk in the ways of St. Clare. The sisters were honored on the day Pope Francis was elected and chose his name in honor of Francis of Assisi.

The sisters have made it their work to love the poor. Their long history in the Joliet area dates back to 1865. Over the years, they have helped those less fortunate by founding hospitals, orphanages and schools. They have played an integral part in parish life at many area churches. They worked and established missions in five states, and in 1963, heeded a call that led them to Brazil. There, they have established several outreach missions and a novitiate that continues to welcome Brazilian women who are interested in Franciscan life.


For the 10th consecutive year, USF was ranked in the top tier of U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 edition of “Best Colleges,” and for the fourth consecutive year, was given the distinction of being a U.S. News & World Report “A+ SCHOOL for B STUDENTS.” USF is one of only 45 Master’s Midwest schools to receive this distinction.

“While being recognized for our quality in these rankings is exciting, the most important indicators of our success as educators are that our students have a great learning experience, graduate and find jobs that launch their careers,” said President Arvid Johnson.

Earlier in the year, USF was also ranked among the best online education programs in the nation by the same prestigious publication. A pioneer in online learning, USF has been one of the largest providers of online education in Illinois since it piloted its online business program 15 years ago. In the “Best Online Education Programs 2013” edition, USF was 28th of 237 schools nationwide for its online bachelor’s programs and 33rd of 101 schools for online graduate nursing programs. The university also was ranked 65th nationwide of 208 for online graduate education programs and 80th of 213 for online graduate business programs.

Among Illinois schools ranked, USF has the top ranking online graduate nursing programs of any public or private school. Among Illinois private schools, USF has the top ranked online graduate business programs. USF was the second ranked online graduate education program among private state schools.

USF is also one of 155 colleges and universities rated “Best in the Midwest” by The Princeton Review. The “regional best” colleges list constitutes only 25% of the nation’s four-year colleges. The included colleges and universities were selected primarily for their excellent academic programs, but also based on what students reported in a survey about their campus experiences.

Finally, the University of St. Francis has been named a “College of Distinction” by www.collegesofdistinction.com, dedicated to honoring schools nationwide for their excellence in student-focused higher education. It is also recognized as a Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs magazine, and one of the Most Affordable Online Colleges by AC Online.
University of St. Francis Welcomes New Board Members

“Our new trustees bring a wealth of knowledge and experience — from business to theology — to our university, and all are greatly committed to support our mission of preparing women and men to contribute to the world through service and leadership by providing a Catholic, Franciscan higher education,” said President Arvid Johnson.

**Karen Ciarlette ’94, ’97**, of Channahon, Ill., serves as an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees. Ciarlette is USF’s Alumni Association Board President. She holds a bachelor’s degree and an MBA from USF, where she is involved in the Business Alumni Network as a member and past president. She serves as a mentor for students in the Student Alumni Mentor program. She is a senior business systems analyst for RR Donnelley and Sons in Warrenville, Ill. Ciarlette also serves as chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee for the Village of Channahon.

**Brian J. Giegerich**, of Joliet, is senior private banker for Northern Trust in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. He is also part owner of Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonnen Funeral Home in Joliet. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University and a degree in mortuary science from Worsham College. He is affiliated with Senior Services Center of Will County; the Kiwanis Club of Joliet; the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Will County Chamber of Commerce; and the Will County Medical Clinic.

**Joseph T. Mallof**, of Sarasota, Fla., is the retired president and CEO of World Kitchen, LLC. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Purdue University, where he also serves on the Advisory Council for the School of Industrial Engineering. He also holds an MBA from the University of Chicago.

**Michael J. Dowd ’02**, of Joliet, is director of Operations for City Beverage in Markham, Ill. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of St. Francis. Dowd is affiliated with the Will County Boys and Girls Club.

**Sr. Margaret Guider**, of Cambridge, Mass., rejoins the Board of Trustees as a representative of the University’s sponsors, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. She is an associate professor of missiology at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Guider holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Illinois-Chicago, along with a master’s degree from the Catholic Theological Union, a doctor of theology degree from Harvard University, and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology.

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**Michael Turk**, of Plainfield, Ill., is president of the Turk Furniture Co., Inc. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Regis College. Turk serves on the Joliet City Center Partnership Board; the board of directors for the Joliet Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Lewis University Presidential Board; and is a member of the Joliet Rotary Club.

**Thomas J. Vana**, of Mokena, Ill., is president and CEO of Kurtz Ambulance Service and Kurtz Memorial Chapels. He holds degrees from Joliet Junior College as a paramedic and in mortuary science from Worsham College. He serves on the Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center Board of Directors and is a Foundation Board member. He is a board member for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and an Advisory Board member for Peoples First Community Bank. He is also a member of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
University of St. Francis alumna Deborah Sterling '06 generously provided the works of her late husband, noted photographer Joseph Sterling, for the inaugural exhibit at the University of St. Francis Art Gallery in downtown Joliet.

Born in El Paso, Texas in 1936, Joseph Sterling moved to Chicago in 1957 to study at the Institute of Design. After graduating, he had a successful career as a corporate & industrial photographer and educator, teaching at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Institute of Design and Columbia College, Chicago. Of his many artistic projects, Sterling is best known for his work on adolescence that was published in 2005 as *The Age of Adolescence* by Greybull Press. Sterling’s work can be found in many collections including Museum of Modern Art, George Eastman House, The Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago.

The USF Art Gallery is located at the university’s Rialto City Center Campus, 25 E. Van Buren St., Joliet. Call (815) 740-6446 for gallery hours of operation.
Brandon Collofello was named this year’s Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Student laureates are honored for their overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Collofello was officially recognized Nov. 2 at the 39th Annual Student Laureate Award Ceremony in the Hall of Representatives of the Old State Capitol in Springfield. During the ceremony, Gov. Pat Quinn presented Collofello with the Student Laureate Medallion, a certificate of achievement and a monetary grant.

Collofello is completing a bachelor’s degree in biology and a chemistry minor. He plans to attend medical school after graduation. He is a biology and theology/philosophy tutor on campus and is involved in many campus groups and honor societies including University Ministry, USF Sustainability Committee, Duns Scotus Honors Program, National Residence Hall Honorary, Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honors Society, Delta Epsilon Sigma and National Scholastic Honor Society. Collofello is also an Arthur J. Schmitt Scholar.

Service is Collofello’s passion. He volunteers in the emergency rooms at Silver Cross Hospital and Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center.

In November 2012, Collofello became a local celebrity for service when he set a Guinness world record for “Aztec pushups” to help raise money for the Feed My Starving Children organization and its Mobile-pack event at USF last spring.

He is presently helping to plan another Guinness record-setting event, slated to take place in spring 2014.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) organization partnered with students and community members to successfully execute a MobilePack event on campus last spring. Led by the University Ministry staff and a student team, event attendees packed more than 101,000 meals and raised $22,000 for FMSC. Meals were packed by teams of volunteers from USF and the community.

101,000 Meals, $22,000 Raised for FMSC

Guinness World Record-Setting Event
Sunday, March 30, 2014

Join USF students in attempting to set a Guinness World Record in March! The student planning team of Brandon Collofello, Katie Hayes, Chelsea Rimington and Allison Rhodes is working hard to fill the Joliet Memorial Stadium with “the most people doing a hip hop dance” to the song “Bernie Lean” (by hip-hop artists ATM & IMD) to benefit the Special Olympics and Mercy Ships charities. Suggested donation will be $10 per person to participate.

Visit www.stfrancis.edu/bernielean to watch for updates and information, and to register your attendance.
Spanish Community Center Honors USF

USF was honored by the Spanish Community Center (SCC) in Joliet for giving the most service hours and having the largest number of volunteers in 2012. The SCC provides a variety of services to the Joliet community including a food pantry, daycare assistance, immigration services and GED classes.

“A portion of student service hours are required for the students to complete their community-based Spanish class requirements,” said Spanish professor Ingrid Goobar-Szleifer.

Participating students include Ivette Albarran, Ulises Ornelas, Sarah Perkins, Nashdira Rueda Galaviz and Mary Valerugo, who worked as assistant tutors in GED classes, helped in the food pantry and assisted filling out forms for clients, and providing information. Christine Doran, Kristy Garcia, Priscilla Macias, Beatriz Martínez, Elisabet Miramontes, Virginia Rodriguez and Ketura Taylor also helped with projects.

Other USF departments and employees have also been involved in assisting the Spanish Community Center. Digital Audio Recording Arts program director, Jeff Jaskowiak and Information Technology Director Mark Snodgrass facilitated the donation of used equipment to the center, which will help to create a recording studio.

Physician Assistant Class of 2013 Passes PANCE

The University of St. Francis’ newest physician assistants were the first class in USF history to achieve a 100% first-time pass rate on the certifying Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE). Thirty-one students comprised the Class of 2013 and all passed PANCE, a test which assesses basic medical and surgical knowledge.

“Over the last five years, the average pass rate for first-time takers was 87%. This year, the Class of 2013 hit the bullseye,” said College of Arts & Sciences Dean, Robert Kase.

“This is a major accomplishment for the PA program and the university is very proud.”

Over the last five years, the average pass rate for first-time takers was 87%. This year, the Class of 2013 achieved 100%.

A unique aspect of the USF program, which is run from USF’s Albuquerque, N.M. campus, is that it focuses on providing care for the medically underserved. Many graduates provide service in underserved areas. They act as primary providers, conferring with supervising physicians and other medical professionals.
Class of 2014 PA Students Model Service

USF’s physician assistants are strongly united through service activities. The members of the Class of 2014 have completed many community service projects in Albuquerque, N.M., including serving food to the homeless, volunteering at food banks, spending time at hospice facilities, fundraising for special causes and more. The class came together to complete three blood drives, three canned/non-perishable food drives, a stuffed toy drive, school supply and backpack drives for a local children’s home and the collection of three Thanksgiving meals for families undergoing cancer treatment.

As a final contribution before beginning clinicals this year, students participated in a local radio-thon benefiting University of New Mexico Children’s Hospital through the Children’s Miracle Network. Their $500 donation was matched by a local sponsor for a total of $1,000 to benefit the children undergoing treatment there.

Psychology Majors Earn Grant

Psychology majors Princess Clemente, Corey Rios and Jill Sulich, under the supervision of Professor Ling-Yi Zhou, earned a 2013 summer grant from the Provost’s Office for their research project. “Sustainable Development in Higher Education: A Proposal to USF” proposes to develop two liberal education courses that focus on sustainable development. Students will be educated about sustainability-relevant issues while taking action to make positive changes in communities.

USF Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

The Music & Performing Arts Department was host to a Latino Music Immersion Project, funded in part by a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The initiative included three public concerts by internationally known artists and five music workshops for students of Joliet high schools, middle schools and elementary schools — all showcasing music of Latin-American countries. Chicago’s Ondas Ensemble (pictured above) was featured.

History Professor Presents Suffragist Lecture

In conjunction with Women’s History Month, assistant history professor Deb Workman gave a presentation titled “No Name Sweeter Than Liberty: The Untold Story of Suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage.” Workman focused on a protest by the suffragettes on July 4, 1876 at the U.S. Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia. There, a group led by Gage delivered the Declaration of the Rights of Women to the U.S. Vice President and others, pointing out the irony of United States independence that excluded women. A historical re-enactment of the speech took place as part of the lecture.
Students can customize their education by choosing from one of five concentrations.

New Degrees Designed for Adult Learners

A new B.S. in Business Administration will provide adult undergraduate learners with the highest quality of applied management skills. Students can customize their education by choosing from one of five concentrations: Entrepreneurship, Management & Leadership, Managing Human Resources, Marketing and Transportation & Logistics.

New curricula for this program and the MBA include a Logistics concentration. By taking four or five courses, a student can become knowledgeable in the tools of one of the fastest growing segments of the Chicagoland economy.

The College of Business also introduced a new M.S. program in International Trade and Logistics. The new one-year program qualifies as a STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), which makes it especially attractive for international students, who can extend their stay to work in the United States on a job in the field. Joliet and Will County are the third largest logistics center in the country, and employment in the field is experiencing double digit percentage growth over the next decade.

For more information about these programs or other College of Business & Health Administration offerings, call (800) 735-7500 or visit www.stfrancis.edu/COBHA.

USF Offers Computers & Logistics Boot Camp

The first Computers & Logistics Boot Camp was offered in July. The camp was open to high school juniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher that have an interest in computer science or mathematics. Participants were introduced to the exciting, growing field of logistics, which they explored through hands-on simulations and field trips.

Campers also had the opportunity to develop new skills in the areas of teamwork and communication, potentially opening opportunities for paid internships. They also earned three semester hours of college credit that can be applied at the University of St. Francis or most accredited higher educational institutions.

Virtue, Vocation Combined

Faculty members in Theology, Nursing, Recreation and other colleges joined business professors Anthony Zordan, Steve Morissette ’83, Frank Wyrostek, Mari Valle, and Bruce Hartman in a cross-disciplinary faculty initiative entitled “Virtue and Vocation.” The initiative is to help integrate USF values of respect, compassion, service and integrity with such important business concerns as sustainability, fair business practices, concern for workers and ethical behavior. The goal is to provide means for faculty to help students investigate how virtuous behavior defined by theological or moral teachings adds important value to each of our vocations.

USF joins SAP Alliance

USF joined the SAP University Alliance, the world’s most popular Enterprise Resource Computing system used by many Fortune 500 companies to manage their information.

USF students are using a real SAP system in their classes. The new Information Technology concentration in MIS features courses that teach students how to conduct business using this powerful system, giving them a leg up for jobs with such firms as Caterpillar and General Motors.

Professors Anthony Zordan, Bruce Hartman and Frank Wyrostek attended the SAP University Alliance meeting in Milwaukee, where they learned how professors around the country use SAP in the classroom to teach business topics.
Retired Dean Named Illinois Veteran of the Month

Illinois’ September 2013 Veteran of the Month was Michael V. LaRocco, retired dean of the College of Business & Health Administration. The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs names the Veteran of the Month and chooses the recipient based on significant public service contributions made at the local, state or national level and by excellence achieved through action above and beyond the call of duty.

LaRocco, who worked at the university for 33 years and was honored by being named professor emeritus at his retirement, has a long history of serving his fellow veterans, said Bruce Foote, Executive Director of Financial Aid Services and Veterans Certifying Official. “His service and accomplishments are too numerous to mention,” Foote said of LaRocco, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps after serving from 1964-1968.

Hartman Presents Chicago Intermodal Paper in Netherlands

Visiting COBHA Professor Bruce Hartman represented USF at the October OR2013 conference in Rotterdam, Netherlands. His paper, which focused on the Chicago intermodal port area, presented research gathered with COBHA Dean Chris Clott on the problem of container chassis utilization and allocation of the benefits of pooling chassis. The pooling strategy was recently adopted in the United States to assure that each container used for export or import, or for domestic freight, has a chassis available to move it when needed. Some 200 scholars and practitioners from German and Dutch operations research societies attended the meeting.

New Intermodal Transportation Institute Developed by USF Dean

Started this academic year, the USF Intermodal Transportation Institute was developed by COBHA Dean Christopher Clott and faculty members to track Will County and Chicago-area logistics issues, research important practice topics and to be an informative resource. Clott noted that USF is conveniently located for such tasks since “it is in the heart of the largest logistics area in the country, if not all of North America,” and a plethora of logistics, transportation and supply-oriented companies exist in the region.

The university has several course offerings in the area of transportation and logistics including a BBA major, an MBA with a concentration in logistics and an M.S. in International Trade & Logistics.

“Will County is in the heart of the largest logistics area in the country, if not all of North America.”

Business Students Travel to Panama

Nineteen students traveled with Associate Professor of Business Administration Rich Vaughan to Panama for the annual COBHA trip. While there, the group met with large companies and organizations including Caterpillar, Dell, 3M, Panama Pacífico and the Pan American Chamber of Commerce. They also enjoyed a boat tour of the Panama Canal, a hike through the Soberania National Rain Forest and visited both the ruins of Old Panama and the Panama museum. Because 27 percent of Panama’s population lives in extreme poverty, students also visited and made a donation to the Casa Esperanza charity to aid at-risk children.
Ortiz Selected as First MERIT Scholar

Recent Joliet Central High School graduate Jose Ortiz was selected as the first scholarship recipient in the Multicultural Education Recruitment in Teaching (MERIT) program. MERIT is a partnership between the University of St. Francis, Joliet Township High School District 204, Joliet Public Schools District 86 and the Joliet business community. It is intended to help recruit, prepare, place and induct a new generation of teachers of color for Joliet’s schools.

The MERIT project provides full-tuition scholarships for qualifying minority students who major in education at USF.

Said College of Education Dean John Gambro, “We believe that this program is a tremendous step toward developing a diverse teaching force that more nearly matches the demographics of Joliet’s student population. The future teachers in this program have significant advantages and support that will allow them to be successful college students — and eventually great teachers.”

Ortiz has enrolled at USF and will follow the education track. During his final two semesters at USF, he’ll complete a year-long internship as a student teacher at a Joliet partner school, where he will be fully immersed in a school culture. To bring the MERIT program full-circle, Ortiz will then make a commitment to teach in Joliet Township High School District 204 or Joliet Elementary School District 86 for five years after graduating.

“This is a very prestigious scholarship, awarded to students who demonstrate the potential to be exceptional teachers. The MERIT steering committee was impressed with Jose’s personal character and his insight regarding teaching and learning. We believe that he has the potential to be an outstanding teacher and a great role model,” said Gambro.

When asked on the application what qualities he feels are necessary for excellent teachers, Ortiz’s list included being fun, knowledgeable and never giving up.

Ortiz, from Mexico, also mentioned his favorite teacher there who told Ortiz that he would have a really big opportunity to succeed in the United States.

He also noted that he is the oldest of four children and will be the first one to attend college. “I feel pretty excited actually, knowing that in four years I could even be the teacher of my friends’ brothers or sisters and that I could even teach in the same schools I went to,” he said.

ISBE Recognizes College of Education as Exemplary

For the third consecutive year, the College of Education was commended by the Illinois State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board of the Illinois State Board of Education for the high quality of its annual program reports which are required for accreditation. The board noted that all 10 of USF’s program reports were exemplary.

Alumna Receives Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

Jill (Rietveld) Krysinski ’02, was honored with a prestigious Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2013.

Krysinski teaches biology, environmental science and physical science at Bloom High School in Chicago Heights, Ill., where she resides. She was surprised by the news, which was relayed to her in person by Golden Apple representatives and College of Education Dean John Gambro, who visited her in her classroom in early May.

Golden Apple is a non-profit organization that works to inspire, develop and support teacher excellence in Illinois, especially in schools of need. Ten Golden Apple Awards are given each year.
New Graduate Education Programs Offered

The College of Education will offer new graduate programs designed to enhance the professional experience.

The M.S. Educational Leadership with two concentrations has been designed to prepare educators to become ethical decision-makers and leaders who can articulate a clear vision and sense of identity and purpose within a community. The Principal Preparation concentration is for educators who want to assume a principal or assistant principal role in a school. This degree replaces the old Type 75 certificate. The program culminates with students earning a Master of Science in Education degree and a P-12 Educational Endorsement. The Teacher Leader concentration leads to students earning a Teacher Leader Endorsement.

The M.S. in Teaching & Learning provides the opportunity for a school district or a cohort of teachers to select a concentration of courses designed to meet specific areas of interests and academic needs. The program assists teachers and administrators to address the issues and needs which schools face in a climate of evolving standards, curriculum change, school improvement and strategic planning efforts. A new TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) track provides coursework that includes an analysis of English language and explores the relationship between language and culture. It will help students develop strategies for successful ESL teaching, particularly teaching adult second language. This program is scheduled begin in January 2014.

An M.S. in Higher Education will be launched in summer 2014 for individuals who aspire to become leaders in higher education administrative positions, as well as higher education professionals who seek career advancement. The degree will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop a values-based foundation for leadership in higher education institutions.

The Doctorate in Education is expanded with a new concentration in Stewardship, Leadership & Learning. While the Superintendent Certification concentration was designed for educators interested in becoming leaders in their schools and districts, the new Stewardship, Leadership & Learning concentration teaches the importance of ethical and moral decision-making as it applies to various constituents, including non-educators who want to continue their quest for lifelong learning. It promotes the concept and practice of “servant leadership” as viewed through the Catholic/Franciscan lens, resulting in quality education based on respect, integrity, service and compassion. All of this is done via an applied research experience. This program is planned to begin in January 2014.

For more information about these programs or other College of Education offerings, call (800) 735-7500 or visit www.stfrancis.edu/COE.

African American Read-in Celebrated

The College of Education celebrated its fifth year of participation in the National African American Read-in, a multicultural project sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English. The spring 2013 read-in sought to promote literacy while celebrating the works of African American writers. This year’s featured author was Zora Neale Hurston. Education honor society Kappa Delta Pi organized the tribute, extending participation from other student organizations such as the Council for Social Activism, Spectrum and the Augustus Tolton Honor Society.
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program Offered

In response to the lack of mental health services, the Cecily & John Leach College of Nursing rolled out a unique post-master’s certificate this summer. The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program is intended for registered nurses with a clinically based graduate degree in the mental health field who wish to attain their Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) certification.

This program is especially intended for Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialists (PMH CNSS) who would like to ensure their future by re-specializing as PMHNPs; this is important since the American Nurses Credentialing Center is retiring the certification for the PMH CNS. Qualified individuals will be able to complete the 500 required clinical hours over one summer. This intensive practicum experience will exemplify what PMHNPs are capable of, and will meet the needs of students who are able to complete a full-time immersion experience during the summer. In addition, the MSN degree for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner will begin accepting students this fall. This is for the more traditional student who is interested in completing a master’s degree in psychiatric mental health nursing.

PMHNP students will develop specialty expertise in the care of vulnerable populations and develop outcomes based comprehensive psychiatric/mental health programs of care. Online distance learners will have their clinical practica arranged in healthcare settings in their locale with specialists who may be PMHNPs, psychologists or psychiatrists.

PMHNPs can significantly impact the treatment of mental illness in Illinois by providing direct diagnostic evaluation and treatment, psychotherapy, consultation, case management, program direction, clinical research, education, and liaison services. Board certified PMHNPs are licensed Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), registered nurses with a graduate degree in nursing, who are prepared for advanced psychiatric/mental health practice in primary care throughout the lifespan in accordance with the ANA’s scope and standards of psychiatric and mental health nursing.

For more information about this program or other Leach College of Nursing offerings, call (800) 735-7500 or visit www.stfrancis.edu/LCON.

LCON Partners with Community Colleges

Collaboration between University of St. Francis and both Joliet Junior College and Kankakee Community College is helping to pave the way for students on the nursing track.

The new partnerships, developed by former USF President Michael Vinciguerra will enable licensed RNs who have completed their AAS degree at the community college to transfer all relevant credits to USF to more efficiently earn their BSN. This convenient arrangement allows students to begin USF coursework while still learning at the community college. Subsequent courses at USF are online.

USF administrators are talking with other regional community colleges about similar programs, according to Vice President for Admission & Enrollment Services Chuck Beutel.

The program design was spearheaded by Cecily & John Leach College of Nursing Dean, Carol Wilson.

Said Wilson, “It is clear since the last Institute of Medicine Report in 2010 that nursing must increase the education of its nurses so we can provide the highest level of care for our patients and communities. Many hospitals and other health care agencies are mandating that their nurses obtain a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in nursing.”

“Over the years these community colleges have provided the foundation for most of our transfer students in our baccalaureate nursing program and they come well prepared to be successful in our rigorous BSN curriculum,” said Wilson. “This partnership features drastically reduced tuition rates for our community college Associate Degree in Nursing graduates to obtain their baccalaureates in nursing and, if they choose, to get a head start on their graduate degrees in nursing. It represents a respect for what each entity brings to the table and will result in enhanced health care for Joliet and surrounding communities.”
The Leach College of Nursing welcomed international visitors to the Joliet campus. Representatives from a Japanese nursing association traveled from Japan to spend an afternoon to learn about online nursing courses.

Three USF graduate nursing faculty members met with the Japanese Nursing Association’s Institute for Graduate Nurses executive officer, Aiko Ko, and other guests to answer questions about how to design online courses that meet the needs of graduate nursing students in nurse practitioner programs. Catherine Ferrario, associate dean of graduate programs, focused on designing curriculum that prepares students to meet examination, certification and regulation requirements. Lola Prince, clinical experiences coordinator for the Family Nurse Practitioner program, answered questions about the legal, technical, instructional and documentation issues involved in offering an advanced practice nursing e-learning program. Finally, Deena Nardi, director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, served as moderator and presented the benefits, issues and challenges inherent in graduate nursing e-learning programs.

“I believe we all came away with a renewed appreciation of the global nature of nursing practice and education, and the goals and values we share as health care professionals,” said Nardi.

LCON Dean Carol Wilson said it was an honor to be contacted by the Japanese Nursing Association. “The group was interested in having our graduate online nursing program serve as a well-designed, systematized model for them when they convert their traditional style classroom training and certification courses into an online format. They are especially interested in how to deliver the clinical practicum component to include coordination, close and frequent interaction with students, feedback, and effective evaluation methods over an extended period of time. These are all things at which we excel and we are happy to help them raise the level of education of their nurses,” she said.

For more information about the Leach College of Nursing, call (800) 735-7500 or visit www.stfrancis.edu/LCON.

Japanese Educators Learn About LCON Programs

LCON Faculty Members Receive $10,000 Fellowships

Faculty members Annette Mattea and Lola Prince joined 20 other distinguished educators from Illinois in receiving Nurse Educator Fellowship Awards from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Each will receive $10,000 to be used for professional development and continuing education. The program is in its 8th year, and a total of 117 fellowships have been awarded over that time, including one to USF’s Doris Van Byssum.
A Year of Service  •  2013-2014

USF Cross Country Teams Place at Nationals

Led by senior All-Americans Dylan Reyes and Mike Blaszczyk, University of St. Francis came close to a repeat of last year’s first place win by placing fourth at the 2013 NAIA Men’s Cross Country Championship on Nov. 23 in Lawrence, Kan. Oklahoma City University won the national title.

Finishing less than a full second apart, Reyes and Blaszczyk crossed the line in 16th and 17th place, respectively, among a field of 313 runners. Reyes covered the 8-kilometer course in 24:57.33, followed by Blaszczyk at 24:57.75. Blaszczyk earned the second All-America certificate of his career, while Reyes garnered his first.

Freshmen Joey Santillo and Jake Fitzgerald were the Saints’ third and fourth finishers. Santillo placed 35th overall (25:19), while Fitzgerald was 70th (25:38). Junior Danny Bahret rounded out the USF top five with a 75th place showing (25:40).

In the women’s championship, senior All-American Hilary Halford led University of St. Francis to a 12th place finish. She clocked a time of 18:29 on the 5-kilometer course to finish 20th among 319 runners. She collected her second All American, after placing 17th a year ago and garnering her first.

Sophomore Brooke Johnson was the Saints’ No. 2 finisher, crossing the line in 66th place with a time of 19:00. Junior Kaitlin Hoy was next for USF in 112th place (19:18), followed by senior Erin Suttman and junior Anna Kassuba in 151st (19:36) and 154th place (19:38), respectively. University of British Columbia won the women’s national title.
Polus, Masterson lead USF Womens Soccer Team to Postseason Tourney

Senior forward **Brooke Polus** and sophomore defender **Trish Masterson** were selected to the All-Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference women’s soccer team.

Polus, the fourth-leading goal scorer in the CCAC with 17 tallies in 19 matches, earned her third straight appearance on the league’s postseason honor roll and her first on the all-conference first team. She scored 11 times in 11 conference matches, including an overtime goal in the Saints’ 1-0 victory over Saint Xavier University on Sept. 25. Polus finished her career as the second-leading goal scorer in USF history with 42 tallies during the past four years.

Named to the All-CCAC team for the first time in her career, Masterson garnered second-team recognition. She helped lead a USF defense that held opponents to fewer than two goals in 13 of 19 matches with six shutouts.

USF (11-8) qualified for the CCAC postseason tournament for the second straight season after finishing in seventh place with a 6-5 mark in league play during the regular season.
White Leads USF to 7-4 Campaign

Led by senior quarterback, E.J. White, the Saints notched their fourth consecutive winning season and came within one game of capturing the Mid-States Football Association Mideast League title. USF, which earned a No. 24 ranking in the final NAIA regular-season poll, posted a 7-4 overall record and finished as the MSFA Mideast League runner-up with a 4-2 mark in conference play.

White established himself as one of the top quarterbacks in the history of NAIA football. The holder of 10 school records, he finished his career in third place among the NAIA all-time total offense leaders with 12,980 yards. Starting every game the past four years en route to becoming USF’s career leader with 10,053 yards passing 103 passing touchdowns, he led the Saints to four consecutive winning seasons, a 30-16 overall record and an NAIA national quarterfinal appearance in 2011. White finished the 2013 regular season ranked fourth in the NAIA in total offense (3,593) and fifth in yards passing (3,021).

10,053 yards passing
103 passing touchdowns

Shaw Named CCAC’s Top Defensive Volleyball Player

One of four Saints selected to the All-Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference volleyball team, senior Breanne Shaw was honored as the league’s Libero of the Year. Shaw led the CCAC and ranked eighth in the NAIA with 739 digs this past season. She logged double-digit digs in 35 of 40 matches, collecting 30 or more on eight occasions. Her 14 digs in the Saints’ final match of the year marked the 100th double-digit effort of her career.

Sophomore right side hitter Megan Mowery joined Shaw on the All-CCAC first team, while senior outside hitter Mallory Frankovich and senior middle hitter Kate McIlvanie both garnered All-CCAC second-team accolades.

USF posted a 29-11 overall record and finished second in the CCAC during the regular season with a 15-3 mark in league play.
Candice Rosen ’88

Presidential Alumna of the Year Award

Candice Rosen ’88 is a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Francis, a master's degree in Social Work from Loyola University and certification in Health Counseling from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. Rosen has spent her life's work focusing on improving the wellness of both her clients and her community. Her experiences as a clinical therapist and as a nurse give her a unique perspective when it comes to nutrition counseling.

Rosen has an innate understanding of the medical and psychological components that must be addressed in order to achieve health goals and targeted weight loss results. As the founding member of Gilda's Club Chicago and its first executive director and program director, Rosen created and coordinated a diverse array of wellness-related programming. Now chair of Healthcare Initiatives for Chicago's Sister Cities International Program, she works to advocate preventive medicine, increase maternal and infant healthcare, improve disability access, promote nourishing diets, and to bring awareness to the obesity and diabetes epidemics that now affect populations on a global level.

The originator and director of the Pancreatic Nutritional Program (PNP), Rosen aims to educate the general public as to the crucial role the pancreas plays in overall health, wellness and maintaining an optimal weight. She was inspired to write her second book, *The Pancreatic Oath* (summer 2011), based on her many clients with conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, metabolic syndrome, polycystic ovarian syndrome and kidney disease. She has helped many to manage and often reverse their symptoms through the innovative PNP, while focusing on the underlying causes (specifically pancreatic abuse) and treating the source of illness rather than the consequences. While Rosen stresses that there is no such thing as a “one size fits all” diet, her program benefits all who practice it.

Rosen's husband of 37 years, Steven, is director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University Medical Center. Their four children are Melissa, Jennifer, Natalie and Nicholas.
Mary Jo Moran ’69
College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Award

Mary Jo Moran ’69 graduated with a B.S. in mathematics and chemistry. Among her many responsibilities as Student Government president, Moran served on the search committee for the first lay president, Dr. Francis Kerins.

Moran earned her first master’s degree in 1972 from Governors State University in Cultural Studies (Language and Literature). She taught math and English and worked as an administrator in Catholic secondary education for 17 years in Illinois and Ohio. She earned her Ph.D. in Human and Organizational Systems in 1996 from Fielding Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, Calif.

After leaving secondary education, Moran worked as program director for the Office of Community Health at the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. There, she developed a program for service providers that earned both state and national recognition for people with developmental disabilities. She served two terms on the leadership team of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary in Villa Maria, Pa., where she played a significant role in congregational hospital and health facilities becoming part of Catholic Healthcare Partners—an largest nonprofit health systems in the U.S. Moran was also self-employed as a facilitator and consultant for religious congregations across North America for more than 15 years. She worked with Ford’s senior North American leadership team as a senior organizational development consultant and team effectiveness coach from 1999-2005. Since that time, she has served as the executive director of the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators, a 44-year-old nonprofit organization with the mission of ensuring justice in the workplace where the Church is the employer.

In her spare time, Moran teaches in the MBA program at the University of Phoenix Online and serves as a mentor for new online faculty. She has authored several books and many journal articles and is a frequent speaker at national conferences on human resource issues.

Moran is the oldest of the seven children of John and Rosemary Moran. She grew up in Riverdale, Ill. and is the product of a Catholic school education.

Her mission in life is to contribute to the global community so that the world is a little bit better for her having spent time here.

Rita Guzman ’02, ’10, ’11
College of Education Alumni Award

Rita Guzman ’02, ’10, ’11 is originally from and continues to reside in Joliet. She graduated from USF with a bachelor’s degree in Education. She continued studying at National-Louis University and received an endorsement in Bilingual and English as a Second Language, then returned to USF to pursue a master’s degree in Educational Leadership (Type 75) and a second master’s degree specializing in Differentiated Instruction with a minor in Special Education.

She has worked for Valley View School District 365U for the past 13 years — first teaching first grade bilingual classes, then teaching ESL. While she misses having her own classroom, Guzman enjoys being an ESL teacher because it allows her to work with students who speak 37 different languages! It enables her to learn more about cultures and customs, which makes her job extremely interesting. She is currently furthering her studies in a doctoral program, pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership.

Guzman enjoys being an ESL teacher because it allows her to work with students who speak 37 different languages.

When she is not working or studying, Guzman most enjoys spending time with her family: her husband, Alex, and their two beautiful daughters. Brittany, 10, is currently attending fifth grade, and 5-year-old Lindsey attends kindergarten. Guzman delights in listening to her daughters talking about their days. Her short term goal is to finish school and enjoy her family life more completely. In five years, she sees herself pursuing an administrative position.
James Ostrom ’07
College of Business & Health Administration Alumni Award

Jim Ostrom ’07 found his University of St. Francis experience to be “absolutely life-changing!” While attending USF, he had the opportunity to take a trip overseas to France and Germany, and participate as part of the team that managed the Global Logistics Summit in Will County, Illinois. Since graduating with a Master of Business Administration degree, Ostrom has enjoyed success both personally and professionally.

Professionally, Ostrom was the project manager for the $144 million Campus Master Plan project at Provena (now Presence) St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet. His next contribution was as project director for the $240 million children’s hospital addition at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Ill. He is an executive director at OSF HealthCare System in Peoria, and is completing a consulting engagement in Western Asia as part of the largest project in the world totaling $100 billion.

Even though he keeps busy with work, Ostrom feels fortunate to participate in the Student Alumni Mentoring Program at USF, which has allowed him to continue to meet new people and grow while also helping others in their education.

Jacqueline Edmonson ’63, ’88, ’94
Leach College of Nursing Award

Jackie Edmonson ’63, ’88, ’94 is a three-time USF graduate with a degree from St. Joseph School of Nursing in 1963, a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Arts in 1988 and a Master of Science degree in Health Services Administration in 1994. Jackie is also a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society. She is the retired director for surgical services for Presence) St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Edmonson, a registered nurse, has a wealth of experience as a leader and clinical expert in the areas of critical care, surgical services and women’s and children’s health. She has led several initiatives to enhance the medical center’s professional practice by guiding the nursing division in the areas of education, regulatory body compliance and accreditation through The Joint Commission of Hospitals. She has participated in the Ethics Committee at the medical center, providing support and leadership in decisions affecting the poor and under-served of our community.

Edmonson has two sons and a daughter — all professionals — who also contribute to their communities through their careers. Edmonson is involved in her local parish activities, providing support and leadership within the church. Her hobbies include a love for gardening, reading, traveling and caring for rescued puppies (her daughter is a local veterinarian).
Giving Back: Donor News

USF Mourns Loss of Great Friend: LaVerne Brown

Trustee Emeritus LaVerne “Bitz” Brown, one of the longest serving trustees for the University of St. Francis, died Nov. 9 at the age of 89.

The University of St. Francis, in 2011, named its library in honor of Brown and his wife, Dorothy, “Dottie,” pictured above with USF’s Sr. Mary Elizabeth Imler, OSF.

Community leaders and philanthropists, the Browns have supported the university with nearly $1 million in lifetime giving. They were among the founders of the annual Caritas fundraiser, which annually supports student scholarships, and worked tirelessly on the event’s committee over the years. The Browns were honorary chairs of the successfully completed capital campaign “Continuing the Tradition—Living Our Mission.”

LaVerne Brown served as a University of St. Francis trustee from 1974 to 2010, when he was named trustee emeritus upon his retirement. He served as chairperson of the Board of Trustees from 1978 to 1981. While a board member, he oversaw the establishment of the university’s first master’s degree and co-founded the Center for the Study of Contemporary Ethics. He has been recognized by the University of St. Francis with the President’s Medal, an honorary doctorate degree and two Caritas Awards.

Brown was a graduate of Joliet Township High School Class of 1942 and Northwestern University. He proudly served with the United States Navy during World War II. With his good friend, Paul Lambrecht, he founded Brown & Lambrecht Earthmovers, which became a nationally recognized company. He served as a director of Amerifed Savings; trustee of the Operating Engineers Pension Fund; and as a member of Lewis University President’s Council, Joliet Rotary, Joliet Country Club and Old Marsh Golf Club.

He was also an associate of the Joliet Franciscans. He was the recipient of many civic and charitable awards for dedicated service and thoughtful generosity, and will be remembered as a skilled pilot, world traveler, avid sportsman and enthusiastic card player.

Gifts in memory of Mr. Brown can be made to the University of St. Francis at www.stfrancis.edu/support or sent by mail to the Advancement Office, University of St. Francis, 500 Wilcox St., Joliet, IL 60435. For more information, call the Advancement Office at (815) 740-5065.

Scholarship Established in Memory of Alumna

Many students are supported in their studies by generous alumni and friends of the university who have left their legacy through a scholarship. One such scholarship was established by Duane Walker of Darien, Ill. in honor of his late wife and alumna MaryAnne (Krawchuck) Walker ’70, who passed away in January 2012.

MaryAnne Walker was a dedicated teacher who worked for 10 years at Jefferson Junior High School in Woodridge, Ill., followed by 25 years at Romeoville High School. Her accomplishments include co-authoring two calculus textbooks.

“The MaryAnne Walker Memorial Scholarship will provide financial aid to eligible juniors and seniors who are majoring in mathematics or education with a concentration in mathematics. One student will receive a $5,000 scholarship each year as long as a GPA of 3.0 or higher is maintained.”
Give Something Back Foundation Dedicates $3 Million for Educating Will County Students

The University of St. Francis (USF), Lewis University and Blackburn College each received $1 million from the Give Something Back Foundation (GSBF), founded by Lockport native Robert Carr. The funds will be used for full-tuition scholarships for qualifying students.

GSBF representatives held a press conference at USF in spring with representatives of the three colleges and high school principals and counselors from throughout Will County. At the gathering, Carr talked about the success his scholarship program has seen.

“We’ve tried eight or 10 different models of how to do these scholarships to get the most bang for our buck and now we have these tremendous school partners... University of St. Francis, Lewis and Blackburn,” said Carr. “We’re so thrilled to be able to put this new program together with them.”

GSBF and the colleges worked together to assess the costs associated with higher education and created a partnership to leverage resources. Through the prefunding of students by GSBF, and cost reduction by the partner schools, 52 students a year will have the opportunity to attend college at no cost through the scholarship program — 20 each at USF and Lewis and 12 at Blackburn.

Students with high academic achievement who are Pell Grant eligible and who attend one of the following schools may qualify:

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- Providence Catholic High School
- Reed-Custer High School
- Romeoville High School
- Wilmington High School

Because the process begins so early, Carr explained that this is not merely a scholarship opportunity. “It is a way of life, and there will be high payoffs,” he said.

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Both your time and money are valuable to USF students. Volunteer by helping others, or donate financially to allow USF to grow and prosper. Your gifts of time and treasure will help USF continue to offer a colossal education to students who desire to learn, grow and be educated in the Franciscan tradition.

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Mrs. Ruth (Kramer) Tomala ’74
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tonelli
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Mrs. Patricia H. (Harrigan) Tierney ’89
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Mrs. Maggie Tobolaski
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Mr. and Mrs. Ron Zier
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University of St. Francis Magazine 39
Ways YOU Can Give to USF

Francis Annual Fund: Through the Francis Annual Fund, alumni, friends and parents can support USF with an annual gift. Our direct mail & phonathon campaigns help USF secure the resources needed to fund the university’s most immediate needs and provide financial aid and scholarships for students.

Matching Gifts: Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations — sometimes matching 100 percent or two or three times the value of your contribution.

Planned Giving: Estate planning enables donors to leave a legacy at USF and support future generations of students. Planned gifts also allow our alumni and friends to fulfill their financial and estate planning goals. Planned Giving is an opportunity for charitable giving in circumstances that may not otherwise allow a donor to make a gift to the University of St. Francis. By taking advantage of incentives the IRS provides in formulating a plan that delivers benefits to you the donor, your heirs in certain instances and USF. Planned giving offers great tax savings and can provide an income stream for life.

Common Types of Planned Gifts:

- Estate Planning/Will – Bequest
- Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)
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- Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)
- Life Estate Reserved (Gift of Remainder)
- Bargain Sale
- Real Estate
- Personal Property
- Life Insurance

For more information on ways to support USF, contact the Advancement Office at (800) 822-8280.
DECEMBER 2013
To kick off the Christmas season, President Johnson served as grand marshal for the City of Joliet’s Light Up the Holidays parade in downtown Joliet and then held a Christmas lighting on campus.

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>To kick off the Christmas season, President Johnson served as grand marshal for the City of Joliet’s Light Up the Holidays parade in downtown Joliet and then held a Christmas lighting on campus.</strong></td>
</tr>
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2014

**JANUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td>Business Alumni Network Meeting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **18** | Women’s Basketball Alumnae Game  
Men’s Tennis Alumni Reunion |
| **24** | Recreation, Sport & Tourism Management Alumni Gathering |
| **25** | Caritas Scholarship Ball |

**2014 continued**

**FEBRUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Career Networking Progressive Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td>Music at Moser: Jim Stopher Benefit Piano Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td>Sunny Hill Nursing Home - Alumni Service Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td>Bernie Day for freshmen (10 a.m. or 2 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td>Open House: transfers, adult undergrad &amp; graduate students (5-7 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td>Parents’ Network Night with Mission IMPROVable</td>
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**MARCH**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Nursing Alumni Reunion Brunch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Alumni Blackhawks Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td>Business Alumni Network Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td>Music at Moser: Rembrandt Chamber Players</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MARCH continued**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td>Open House: transfers, adult undergrad &amp; grad students (5-7 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>USF’s Spring Musical</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td>USF’s Spring Musical</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td>Speaker &amp; Book Signing – Former USF coach and athletic director, Pat Sullivan, presents his new book: Attitude – The Cornerstone of Leadership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td>Music at Moser: Volcano Radar with Elbio Barilari</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td>Guinness World Record-Setting Attempt (see page 13)</td>
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**APRIL**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Education Alumni Network Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Music at Moser: Vocal Jazz Ensemble</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **12** | Breakfast with the Bunny & Easter Egg Hunt  
Music at Moser: Concert Chorale |
| **15** | Music at Moser: Guitar Ensemble |
| **25** | Music at Moser: Schola Cantorum & Singing Saints |
| **26** | Relay for Life of Oak Lawn & Alumni Service Day |
| **26** | Joliet Symphony Orchestra at the Rialto Square Theater |
| **27** | Music at Moser: Joliet Symphony Orchestra |

**MAY**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td>Business Alumni Network Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>Relay for Life of Milwaukee &amp; Alumni Service Day</td>
</tr>
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For details or to register for alumni events: (877) 811-ALUM | alumni@stfrancis.edu | www.stfrancis.edu/alumni/events
For athletics information or game schedules: (815) 740-3464 | www.gofightingsaints.com
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