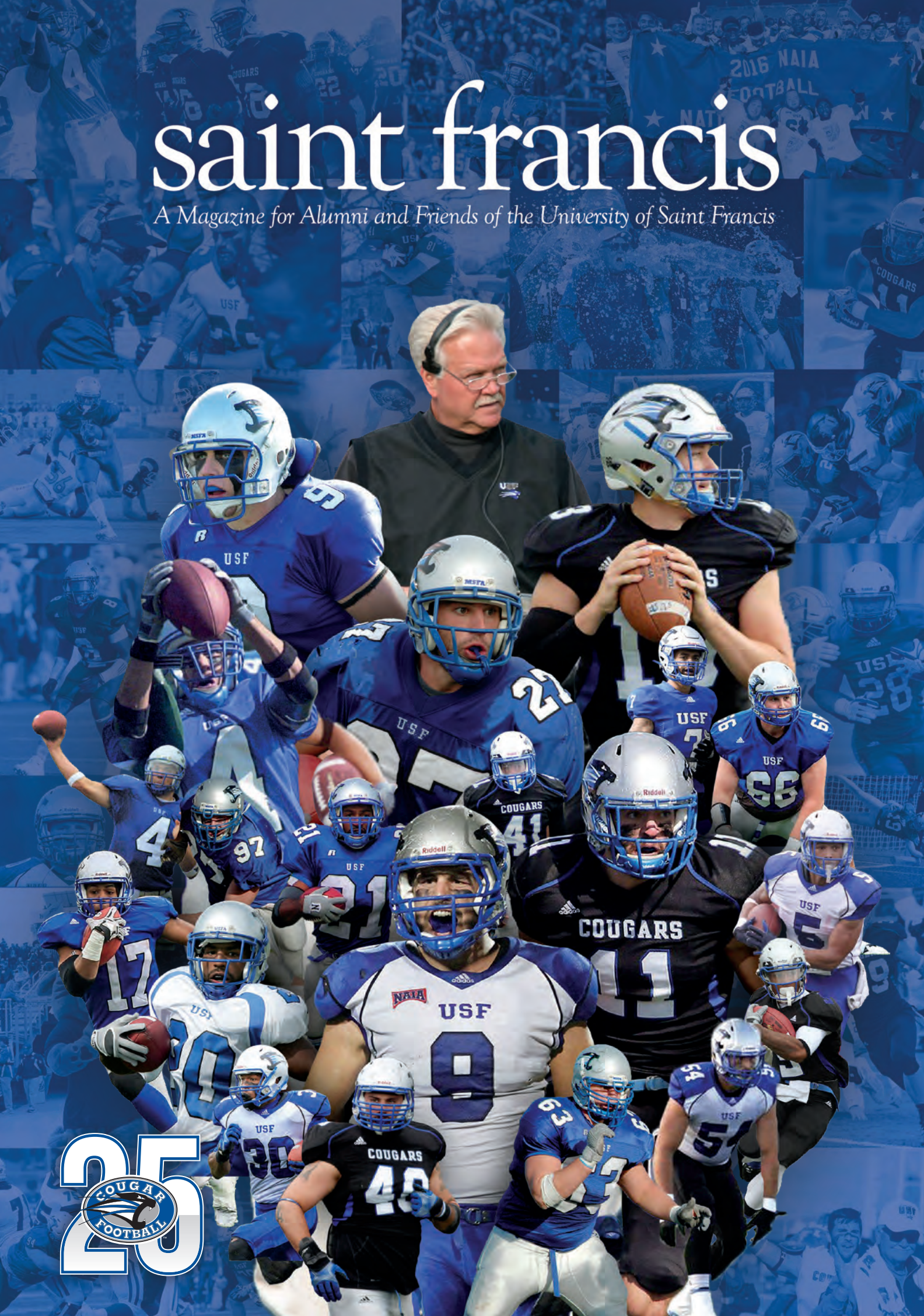
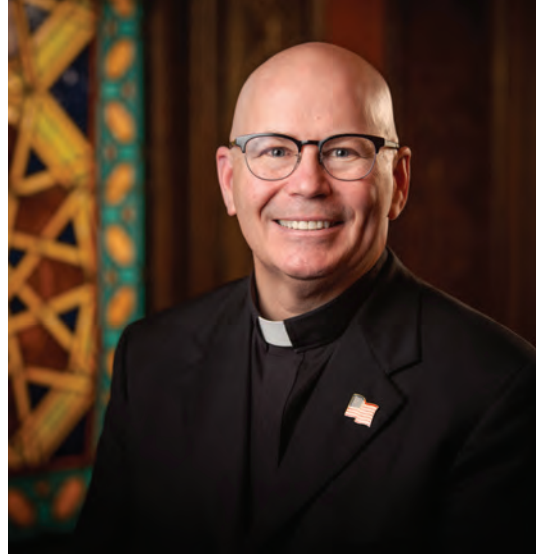


saint francis

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of the University of Saint Francis



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends,

While attending the USF Football reunion this summer in honor of the program's 25th year, I spoke with many of the men who played for Coach Kevin Donley. They shared anecdotes highlighting heartfelt, and sometimes humorous events from their playing years.

They also shared a common belief in the importance of pursuing something bigger than mere victories on the field. They vowed to make a difference in other people's lives. Coach Donley's coaching record as the winningest active college football coach stands alone, but his true legacy shines in the tremendous people who emerged from the program.

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

Coach D, as his players affectionately call him, overcame formidable odds in building the USF football program, starting from scratch and reaching the summit with back-to-back NAIA titles in 2016 and 2017. He strives for still more. We celebrate the football program in this edition of Saint Francis magazine, for its impact on and off the field.

You will find two other athletic-oriented stories in this issue, both about runners. Current record-setting student-athlete Alex Ebetino keeps inspiring others to blossom, and alumna Cadence Faurote uses marathon running—often alongside Franciscan Sisters—to help people in need.

I believe you will also enjoy the story about Dr. Clifford F. Buttram, Jr., the new Division Director of the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. He has retired twice—but found more to accomplish each time. Dr. Gloria Shamanoff and Madeleine Baker demonstrated the importance of quality, caring leadership in guiding children. Audrey Riley expresses how love and appreciation of art enhances every life.

You may have seen Tracie Jones on billboards around town as an inviting face of our Nursing program. Catching up with her isn't easy: Tracie is a nurse practitioner and a traveling nurse pursuing further education, all while teaming with her husband to raise three children.

I could not be prouder of the impact our alumni make within the community and beyond. We revel in cheering them on.

May you have a blessed fall and upcoming winter; we hope to see you on campus soon.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Albert Zimmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr. Eric Albert Zimmer



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2022-2023 FRANCISCAN VALUE
SERVE ONE ANOTHER, SOCIETY
AND THE CHURCH

in this issue

features

- 6 Commencement 2022**
Graduates stayed the course and thrived
- 8 Head of the Class**
USF's trio of valedictorians take their lessons into the classroom
- 10 Compassionate Career**
Madeleine Baker left her mark as CEO of Early Childhood Alliance
- 12 Marketing Success**
Tracie Jones stands out as a familiar face
- 14 Life Imitates Art**
Audrey Riley inspires others through a lifetime of thought-provoking art
- 16 Taking Care of Business**
Dr. Clifford F. Buttram, Jr. looks to lead Business program to new heights
- 18 Hitting Her Stride**
Alex Ebetino is USF's most decorated runner
- 20 Reading into Retirement**
Gloria Shamanoff delighted in a career of encouraging children to read
- 22 A Quarter Century of Football Excellence**
Kevin Donley built a college football juggernaut
- 28 All-Americans Abound**
Jeremy Dutcher soared as USF's first of many First-Team All-Americans
- 30 Running on Faith**
Cadence Faurote combines a love of marathon running with serving others
- 32 Lifelong Love of Saint Francis**
Carol Lupke cherishes memories of her alma mater
- 34 Legacy of Leadership**
Dr. Marsha King and Professor Margaret DeYoung leave impact on USF Crown Point



A lovely way to live. Audrey Riley feels most at home when expressing herself through her art. After achieving great success with her ad agency, she continues to cultivate new ways to tap into her innate creativity.

sections

Campus News	36-39
Alumni News	40-41
Athletics	42-43



Lessons learned and delivered. USF's 2022 valedictorians—Regan Pepler, Victoria Fisher and Rachel Anker—embraced the call to teach elementary children. This fall, they are diving into their profession, feeling well-prepared and full of enthusiasm.



More than a face in the crowd. Tracie Jones first gained notice for her love of nursing as a billboard model for USF. Since then, she has made an impact as a nurse, nurse practitioner and selfless parent. She's not done yet.



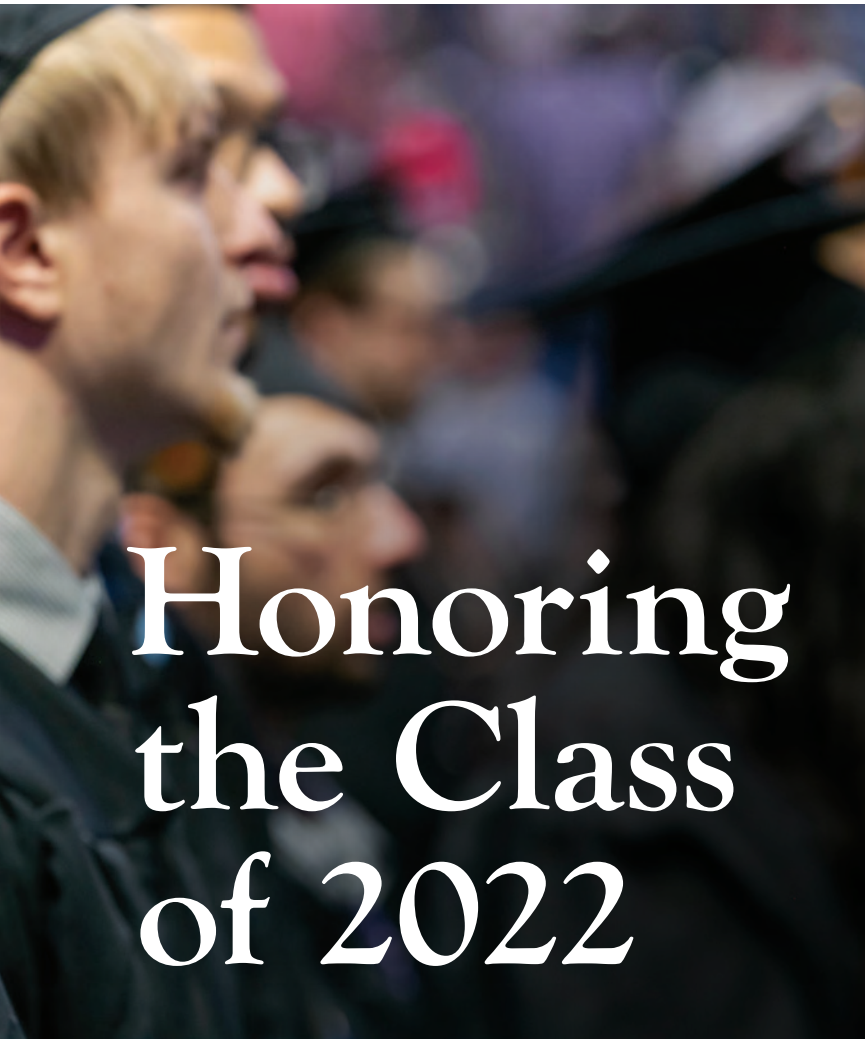
He's all business. Dr. Clifford F. Buttram, Jr. honed his work ethic and determination to solve problems in the military. Now he uses his wealth of experience to lead the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership at USF.



Running and serving. Cadence Faurote loves to join Franciscan Sisters in running marathons, especially when she can help them raise money to improve the lives of others. She also uses her strong faith in her work with the Rescue Mission.

On the cover: Coach Kevin Donley built a legacy of quality USF football by training dedicated young men to succeed on and off the field. The program celebrates its 25th season this fall.





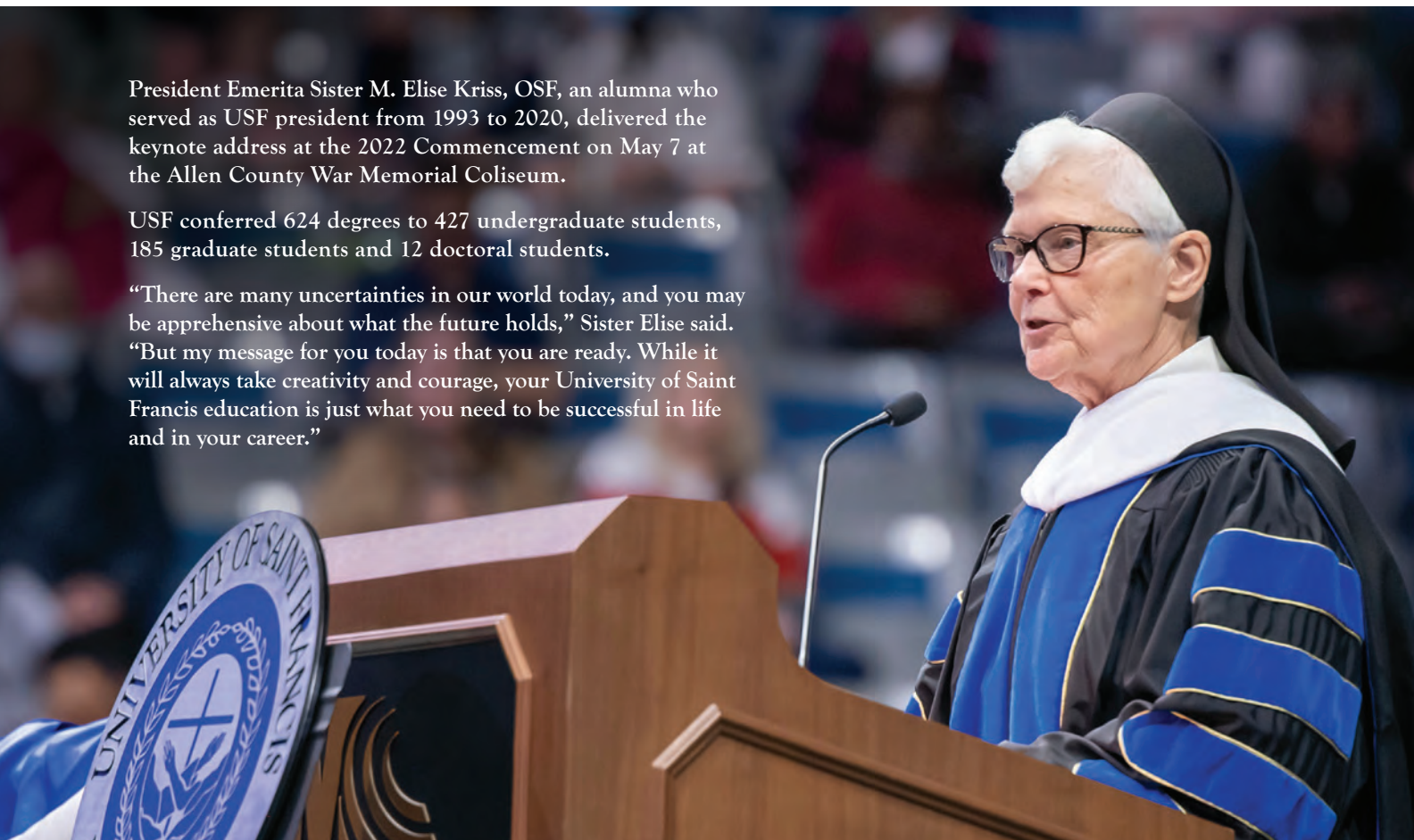
Honoring the Class of 2022



President Emerita Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, an alumna who served as USF president from 1993 to 2020, delivered the keynote address at the 2022 Commencement on May 7 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

USF conferred 624 degrees to 427 undergraduate students, 185 graduate students and 12 doctoral students.

“There are many uncertainties in our world today, and you may be apprehensive about what the future holds,” Sister Elise said. “But my message for you today is that you are ready. While it will always take creativity and courage, your University of Saint Francis education is just what you need to be successful in life and in your career.”





Victoria Fisher

Head



Regan Pepler



Rachel Anker

Class

Elementary Education majors Rachel Anker, Victoria Fisher and Regan Pepler achieved academic excellence throughout their college careers. Now they'll help cultivate a love of learning in elementary school classrooms.

Rachel Anker, Victoria Fisher and Regan Pepler felt called to teach at different points in their lives, but once that epiphany hit, they drove full-steam ahead.

The three Class of 2022 graduates finished their University of Saint Francis degrees as valedictorians and embarked on their immediate futures as elementary school teachers.

"Having three valedictorians from the Division of Education is quite amazing, but knowing the women who earned the title, we weren't surprised," Division Director of Education Mary Riepenhoff said. "Rachel, Victoria and Regan focused on their goals to be outstanding teachers and never wavered from those goals. We know the children they teach will reap the rewards of being taught by a 2022 USF valedictorian."

"We had a lot of courses together," Anker said. "It was really special and I was so excited when I saw Regan and Victoria were valedictorians, too."

All three students were part of the History program, too—Anker and Fisher earned bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and History, and Pepler earned a bachelor's in Elementary Education with a minor in History—so that gave them even more class time together.

"These three ladies were a joy to have in the classroom," Associate Professor of History Dr. Phyllis Gernhardt said. "They came to class eager to learn and prepared to share. They are in the last graduating class of History majors, and they certainly represent the best of the best. We are so proud of them and know they will be fantastic teachers."

The new alumnae's paths to the teaching field may have differed, but their academic success proved how committed they were to reaching their goals.

Anker, a graduate of Norwell High School, wasn't sure she wanted to enter the teaching profession until she received the opportunity to work with a kindergarten class during college.

"After being in the kindergarten class, I thought, 'This is what I want to do,'" she said. "Without that special experience, I don't know what I'd be doing today. The kindergarten kids were so excited to be there, so open to trying new things."

Anker landed a position teaching fourth grade this fall at Fort Wayne's Price Elementary School.

Pepler found her calling to the teaching profession after the urging of a teacher and coach, Brandon Appleton, at Angola High School.

"(Coach Appleton) asked me if I'd ever thought about being a teacher, and from then on, I had that in my head," Pepler said. "It was amazing advice, and it helped that my older sister (Riley) is a teacher as well. I originally thought I'd be a high school teacher until I went to her classroom. I'll stick to my little kiddos."

Pepler is teaching third grade at Fort Wayne's Bloomingdale Elementary this fall.

Fisher first thought she'd like to be a teacher in third grade and that career goal never diminished through her years at Bishop Dwenger High School and into her collegiate career.

"I love helping people and also coaching," Fisher said. "I love seeing students have those aha moments. I never wavered from wanting to be a teacher, and going to Saint Francis only helped me with that decision."

Fisher coaches youth basketball and softball, and hopes to continue doing that throughout her career, too. She teaches third grade at Most Precious Blood Catholic School in Fort Wayne. She also has a sister, brother and aunt in the teaching profession.

"There's nothing quite like being able to stay in your hometown, reach your dream and grow in your faith all at the same time," Fisher said. "The University of Saint Francis helped me achieve that goal."

COMPASSIONATE CAREER



MADELEINE BAKER'S RETIREMENT AS CEO OF EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE IS THE FINAL CHAPTER TO A CAREER SPENT PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE SERVICE TO OTHERS. SHE CREDITS LATE USF TRUSTEE IAN ROLLAND WITH INSPIRATION.

BY YVONNE SCHROEDER

As alumna Madeleine Baker (BA '73) prepares for retirement after more than 20 years with Fort Wayne's Early Childhood Alliance, she looks back upon a journey of compassionate service, complemented by corporate business stratagems learned from a late USF trustee.

After graduating from then-Saint Francis College with a double major in social work and French in 1973, she enhanced her education with credentials leading to a position of corporate human resources officer for Lincoln National Corp., headquartered in Fort Wayne, and led by late CEO and USF trustee, Ian Rolland.

"At Lincoln, under approval and support from then-Chairman CEO Ian Rolland, our HR Department offered expansive work/family benefits focused on childcare services for employees to help manage that challenging task for working families," she said. "Lincoln was among Working Mother Magazine's 100 Best Fortune 500 Companies to offer such family-friendly benefits. Ian believed offering employees these benefits would be returned tenfold by their commitment, loyalty and appreciation. Lincoln Financial was far ahead of its time in providing an on-site childcare center, due to its visionary leadership."

When Lincoln moved its corporate headquarters away from Fort Wayne, Baker made a short stop as the HR administrator with Fort Wayne Community Schools, followed by the opportunity to lead Early Childhood Alliance. She was well prepared.

"My corporate experience and the management of childcare issues enabled me to establish the needed business direction, structure and human resources policies, as ECA positioned itself to expand its footprint," she said.

That footprint expanded to include two state-licensed and nationally-accredited early learning centers which stand as models for other communities. Undergirding this success is the alignment of programs and services to benefit children, families, ECA staff, employers and communities.

"Our work culture supports diversity, inclusion and teamwork," she said. "We ensure every family, regardless of financial challenges, has opportunities to enroll children in our learning

centers. Classroom teachers benefit from ongoing professional development to ensure children receive the high-quality, research-based early education needed for success in school and in life."

Baker is most proud of the professional staff developed during her tenure. "I take great pride in our leadership team," she said. "Their dedication, commitment and combined experiences and knowledge are the ingredients for a successful organization. I know they will help the new CEO expand ECA's impact throughout northeast Indiana."

No leader passes into retirement without stories that touch the heart. "We had a single mom who recognized her son's developing gifts, and this motivated her to take a night class to become a paralegal, a goal she didn't know she could achieve," she said. "Another is a great-grandmother who, through some adversity, paid her great-grandson's portion of the early education tuition because she realized education breaks the cycle of poverty. The little boy continues to achieve high marks in school."

Baker's retirement caps off a lifetime of commitment to community service, reinforced by her family, education and professional experience. "My parents made a practice of paying it forward and instilled it in my siblings and me. We were taught that by doing our part, we are contributing to our community's growth and success," she said.

"USF, as my higher education institution, not only reinforced my passion for giving, but their efforts aligned my personal and professional growth. I am grateful I was able to pass this passion to our grown children, who then passed it on to their children, our grandchildren. The opportunities I had at USF were a major blessing."

She'll stay busy in retirement. "Besides spending more time with my family and granddaughters and catching up with friends, I plan to read, do some baking and cooking and organize my travel plans (a family wedding in New York in September and a Viking river cruise to the Rhine region in October). Toward the end of the year, I will consider project opportunities that have been presented to me. I am completing my board position with Parkview Health Foundation and will continue to serve my last term on the board of Ronald McDonald House Charities. I intend to keep busy, while managing the time on my terms."

MARKETING SUCCESS

Tracie Jones (BSN '11) cultivated her desire to make a difference in people's lives during her time studying nursing at USF. Seeing her (slightly) younger face on a USF billboard reminds her—and others—that everyone can have a positive impact.



Tracie Jones (BSN '11) continues to receive text messages and social media notifications about being the face of the University of Saint Francis nursing program on billboards around Fort Wayne. She hasn't aged much since those billboards debuted—her kids delight in saying, “It's you, Mom!”—and she still enjoys her friends' comments.

But there's something she relishes even more than her relative fame—being an encouragement to others.

“We need minority representation in healthcare,” Jones said. “I have had people see that and ask me, ‘What program do you think would be good for me?’ When we have diverse providers, we have better outcomes with patients. They are less anxious and more open. That's how we were able to achieve high outcomes at the Jane Pauley Community Health Center, working with the underserved.”

Jones, now living in Indianapolis, is married to entrepreneur Perry Pickens, has a full house with three children (Kailah, 13, Layla, 10 and Zayden, 2), works as a nurse practitioner through NC Elder Care and is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing in Advanced Practice Nursing and a Master of Business in

Healthcare Administration. If it sounds like she has a busy life, she does. But Jones has been a go-getter since her days at Snider High School and her undergraduate years at USF. She believes in lifelong learning and using her gifts to help others professionally and personally.

“I've worked in many different settings,” Jones said. “I've been a PACU (post anesthesia care unit) registered nurse, worked in med-surg, dialysis, renal transplantation, and now I've been a nurse practitioner for six years, working with the underserved and geriatric populations. At the beginning of my nursing career, I was deeply involved in underserved communities and that's where I was able to be the change I wanted to see—improving those outcomes.”

Jones made a significant impact in her nearly four years at the Jane Pauley Community Health Center, increasing positive outcomes and community reach at three Indianapolis locations. Unfortunately, her last location with the center closed after being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. She switched her focus, working for Strive Health as a lead nurse practitioner. Earlier this year, she began working with NC Elder Care. Jones is on call from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. weekdays,



advising nurses in assisted-living and long-term care facilities in Indiana and North Carolina. She adds to her experience by also being a travel nurse.

Caring for others is part of Jones' nature, which was nurtured during her time at USF. She had originally planned on pharmacy school, but after she and her mother talked with USF professor Dave Johnson, in his role as a Parkview counselor, she chose USF's nursing program instead.

"Thankfully, I had that connection and the guidance of Dave Johnson to get to that step," she said. "I am very thankful for the foundation I had at Saint Francis and the Franciscan values. Saint Francis allowed me to look into those characteristics of Christ and how we should be exhibiting those behaviors, not only in our professional life, but personally."

A great example of the importance of service came during the pandemic, when Jones and her husband spent a portion of each Saturday taking sandwiches to the homeless community in Indianapolis. She made sure her children accompanied them. "It is important for me to show my kids how to give

back," she said. "Any time we do a health fair or are giving time or observing something like that, I do the same thing my mom did with me, taking my children with me. It's important that they see that connection."

Jones believes people should continue to stretch themselves throughout their lives. She said she reached a point where her professional career was busy, but somewhat stagnant, and she pushed herself into exploring new areas of entrepreneurship and providing healthcare.

"I'm still working on defining what success looks like, having more work-life balance, more flexibility and mobility," she said, "and staying focused on what's important and the impact I make."

"My story may have looked a lot different without the support and resources from my mom, Terri Farr, my family, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Dr. Alan McGee, African American Healthcare Alliance, my coach Debra Williams (former Parkview Health Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer), Dr. Dave Johnson, Dr. Megan Winegarden, the University of Saint Francis faculty and the Fort Wayne community. I thank them all!"



LIFE

Audrey Riley (BA '81, MA '09) believes she is her best self when making art. When inspiration strikes, bursts of productivity shine in her medium of the moment. She expresses her artistic vision through encaustics, printmaking, drawing and mixed media.

Riley finds satisfaction in her finished pieces, but even more in living the life of an artist.

“Now that I can look back, being an artist has been a lovely way to live a life,” Riley said. “My world has been filled with interesting and talented characters and wonderful events. Crazy things happened. Beautiful things happened. Smart things happened.”

Riley earned a double major at USF in graphic design and fine art. She employed the former in the first half of her career as an art director and creative director at advertising agency HPN. Riley then thrived as the owner of her advertising agency, Riley+Company.

During more than two decades in advertising, Riley's days were filled striving to exceed client expectations. Managing creative people, mapping campaigns and meeting deadlines kept her hopping as Riley+Company served clients such as Parkview Hospital, Lincoln Financial Services, Kirsch Drapery Hardware, Scott's Food Stores and Hacienda Mexican Restaurants.

“I was fortunate to have had a career where people expected me to be creative every day, and no day was ever the same. I got to work with THE most talented people; there was nothing my team couldn't do. And our clients were

IMITATES

ART.

A LOVE FOR MAKING ART, ALONG WITH INSPIRATION FROM HER USF MENTORS, PLACED AUDREY RILEY ON THE PATH TO CREATE A COLORFUL LIFE.

exceptional,” said Riley. “The highest compliment we ever received came from a prospective client who in vetting us had heard the same two words again and again. Those words were ‘creative’ and ‘trustworthy.’ I thought, we did it! We just won the biggest award there is!”

Riley sold her agency to Ferguson Advertising in 2004 and put her other major, fine art, to work. Unlike some artists who favor one medium, Riley pursues a wide variety of creative expression. “If you look at my body of work, you might think three different artists did it,” Riley said. She embraces the notion that her art is her prerogative and skips around from style to style and medium to medium.

A quote from Truman Capote captures Audrey’s philosophy about the value of immersing oneself in any artform: “The freedom to pursue an aesthetic quality in life is an extra dimension, like being able to fly where others walk.”

Her work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and is available for purchase through the Paradigm Gallery at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Riley works on commission, too. See her work at audreyrileyart.com.

The art Riley focuses on now is abstract and involves manipulating letterforms. “My work takes ideas as its subject matter versus a landscape, a person or a bowl of fruit,” Riley said. “Letters are abstract in shape but become concrete when you realize that the shapes form a letter. My goal is for the art to flicker back and forth between something unknown and known.”

Much of Riley’s work is based on a grid, as are letters, which brings order and rhythm to her art. “My mother was an English and mathematics teacher,” Riley said. “Those are two

systems of order to which I am attracted.” Her father was a chemical engineer. Audrey was five years old when he taught her to draw a three-dimensional cube. “That’s when everything started art-wise for me,” Riley said.

Riley grew up surrounded by books, including those about art. Her family didn’t make art, but did crafts—cross stitch, needlepoint, knitting, lapidary work, mosaics, rug hooking and model making. “Seeing paint-by-number blew me away and still informs my art,” Riley said.

Audrey met her husband, Steve, at Saint Francis when he offered to carry her large art boards across campus. Steve was a USF athlete and taught photography and coached at Snider High School. He turns wood from rescued limbs and still says “yes” to helping Audrey with whatever unique project is next. The couple will celebrate their 40th anniversary this fall.

Describing herself as a lifelong learner, Riley has studied Spanish for seven years. She lives a whole food plant-based lifestyle which involves lots of learning and applying. She is on year nine of maintaining a vegetable garden with her best friend and USF alumnus and professor Alan Nauts.

Audrey continues to be inspired by her time at USF and mentors Maurice “Maury” Papier and Rick Cartwright.

“You can see a bit of Maury in my art,” she said. “And Rick taught me never to apologize for striving for excellence. Time constraints, impatience and people can pressure us to lower our bar. Rick taught me to keep my bar held high. Expecting the best from myself and the people I worked with was not only gratifying and self-esteem building, but also won us larger and more creative projects. I’m not saying it was easy, but it served our clients, my team and me well.”

TAKING CARE

AFTER 20 YEARS IN THE U.S. ARMY,
DR. CLIFFORD F. BUTTRAM, JR.
LAUNCHED A SECOND CAREER IN
HIGHER EDUCATION. HE RELISHES
THE CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
WITH STUDENTS AS THE NEW
DIVISION DIRECTOR OF THE KEITH
BUSSE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP.



OF BUSINESS

Dr. Clifford F. Buttram, Jr.'s first retirement stuck for about half an hour. The second one—not much longer. The reason: Buttram enjoys work. He relishes seeing a problem, finding a solution and implementing a process to success. And his even-keeled, positive attitude brings people alongside him to tackle the task. Perhaps his no-nonsense, no-panic leadership approach stems from his 20 years with the U.S. Army. Perhaps it's simply part of his personality. Either way, it makes Buttram a good fit for his new role as Division Director for the University of Saint Francis Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership (KBSOBEL).

“The military is very structured, but not as structured as people think,” Buttram said. “At the Officer levels, there are a lot of gray areas. Leaders have the opportunity to get the mission done, but there might be 10 ways to do it. As long as you can brief and discuss and plan and strategize with your boss and your boss' boss, you can do it. I'm accustomed to that.”

After serving as director of the USF graduate business programs since 2018, Buttram added the undergraduate program and faculty to his plate, starting with the 2022-23 school year. The programs are all on main campus now—with undergraduate programs moving back from the USF downtown location.

Buttram possesses plenty of experience navigating change, dating back to his retirement from the Army in 2008 after 20 years, a career he capped by directing an Army ROTC program at Eastern Michigan University for two years and then overseeing ROTC programs through several Detroit colleges. After leaving the Army, Buttram took a position as dean at ITT Technical Institute in South Bend, moved to a similar post in Flint, Michigan, and then was recruited to serve as interim dean at ITT Technical Institute in Fort Wayne.

“After that, I retired for real,” Buttram said. “Then I got bored.”

Back to work he went, taking a dean's position for one academic year at Virginia College in Montgomery, Alabama. Buttram moved back to Fort Wayne and started working as an adjunct while serving full time with the Bowen Center. He was a USF adjunct professor from 2014 to 2018, when he accepted the offer to become a full-time USF professor.

“What I like about Saint Francis, and what I've learned to embrace and appreciate, is that it has never deviated from its mission,” Buttram said.

The late Dr. Shawn D. Ambrose first recruited Buttram to USF, introducing him to Dr. Robert W. Lee in the Business program. Buttram said he feels at home at USF as he enters his ninth year in a teaching capacity. “USF sent me to Assisi last October, and I really enjoyed that,” Buttram said. “I'm not Catholic; I'm Baptist. But I've learned a great deal from this institution and the people who are involved and work in it. That draws me to plan and execute the best for KBSOBEL.”

USF's reputation for inspiring student excellence in all areas of their lives is a tremendous selling point for its business programs, Buttram said.

“We're the smallest fish in this pond—in this town—but I think we have the best reputation,” he said. “We have 90 incoming freshmen majoring in business, which is the most in a long time.”

A larger incoming class meant extra work for Buttram, but he welcomes the challenge. He remembers navigating the college landscape with his children when they were in high school and that helps inform him in dealing with parents and students today. He added a freshman-level course to his teaching schedule to have immediate interactions with new students.

“The students I've been dealing with in graduate school are 34 or 35 and mid-level managers, so you talk to them differently,” Buttram said. “A big challenge in my new role is dealing with college freshmen who are so immersed and in depth with technology that they don't read a book. I'm going to have to figure that one out. That's a new challenge, but I feel pretty good about it.”

Buttram enjoys life with his wife, Lisa, and has three children (Darius, Sequoia and Imani), two stepchildren (Jalyn and Amira) and a grandson (Zachary).

He approaches his new position with optimism—his usual starting point on any assignment.

“I don't worry about a lot of things, maybe because I'm older and on my second professional life, so to speak,” he said. “So, I look for the good in things. KBSOBEL has a lot of good things.”

HITTING HER STRIDE

Pressure mounts in the minutes before the big moments, the races where Alex Ebetino excels as the most accomplished distance runner in University of Saint Francis history. Family, friends and teammates expect Ebetino to win, to set records—to soar—and she feels the weight of those expectations.

That's when coach Corey Birchmeier pulls out his phone and shows her some TikTok videos.

"I'll save some funny cat TikToks, something comical to take her mind off the race," Birchmeier said. "Athletes experience anxiety when they feel like they have to perform at a high level. She just needs to go out and 'let Alex be Alex' and that will be more than enough to accomplish her goals."

Ebetino, a six-time NAIA All-American with two years of collegiate running yet to go, knows her pre-race stressful feelings are caused in part by her desire to be the best.

"I'm motivated to keep doing it, but I'm also terrified to keep doing it because I want to live up to how everybody sees me and how I've been doing the last couple of years," Ebetino said. "I get really anxious before races because of a fear of letting everybody down. Once the race starts, then I'm OK."

Ebetino's fears of disappointing others remain unfounded. Not only does she hold school records for cross country and track and field distance running, but she also serves as a team leader, invaluable recruiter and friendly face of the USF women's program.

Ebetino has four career Crossroads League championships and is a 16-time qualifier for the NAIA Championships. Counting three relays, she holds nine USF school records.

As a junior last year, Ebetino won the Crossroads League Cross Country Championship race and finished 15th in the NAIA Championship. In indoor track and field, Ebetino finished second in the 3,000 meters at the Crossroads League Championship and fourth in the NAIA Championships. In outdoor track and field, she won the 5,000 meters in the Crossroads League Championship and finished third in the NAIA Championships. She has two years of eligibility left, thanks to an extra year granted by the NAIA due to COVID-19 cancellations.

Ebetino was an average runner at Bishop Dwenger High School, recruited by only a couple of colleges,

but she blossomed into a champion in college. Her teammates—many of whom had similar high school experiences—follow her lead.

"She sets a great example for the younger runners in how hard she works and how hard she pushes herself," Birchmeier said. "I can trust her to go out and hit her times even when it's a challenging workout. She has worked very hard to become a leader, cheer on those younger runners and provide encouragement and motivation for them."

Work is essential. Ebetino has run 365 days a year since she arrived at USF. Birchmeier estimates she has logged more than 6,000 training miles since her freshman year, whether through drifting snow in winter or stifling heat in summer. When the team's best runner logs the extra miles, teammates follow.

"A lot of people I compete against were good in high school, and I had to really step it up to be there with them," Ebetino said. "Everything in this program came together to motivate me to push myself. When I tell recruits they can get really good running here, they can't say, 'You were already good.' I can relate to them."

Ebetino is pursuing degrees in Art Education and Pre-Art Therapy, with minors in photography and psychology. She plans to be a high school teacher and, most likely, a coach.

She will draw on her own lessons as a runner to help others.

"I think winning cross country at conference would be my biggest achievement so far because I was really struggling during the season and having bad anxiety before every race," Ebetino said. "Corey had me write down the reasons why I could do it. I hadn't beaten this girl from Huntington all year, but we got to conference and somehow, I pulled it out and won."

That win didn't lessen Ebetino's anxiousness during the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons, but she also knows those feelings are tied to the value and rewards she finds in running.

"If you're nervous, that means it matters to you," Ebetino said. "I just try to keep it out of my mind as much as I can until I'm on the starting line."

Once the race officially begins, Ebetino is off and running toward success unmatched in USF history—leaving any pre-race stress in the dust.



ALEX EBETINO WAS AN AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL RUNNER BEFORE BLOSSOMING AT USF THROUGH HARD WORK, INSPIRATIONAL COACHING AND A PASSION FOR SUCCESS. NOW SHE RANKS AS THE BEST RUNNER IN SCHOOL HISTORY.

USF RECORDS SET BY ALEX EBETINO

**CROSS COUNTRY
(5,000 METERS): 17:50.10**

INDOOR MILE: 5:01.85

INDOOR 3,000 METERS: 10:01.03

INDOOR 5,000 METERS: 17:22.17

**INDOOR 4X800-METER
RELAY: 9:43.61**

**INDOOR DISTANCE
MEDLEY RELAY: 12:17.26**

OUTDOOR 1,500 METERS: 4:38.77

OUTDOOR 5,000 METERS: 17:12.53

**OUTDOOR 4X800-METER
RELAY: 9:29.36**

READING INTO
Festivities



AFTER A LONG CAREER OF ENCOURAGING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TO DELIGHT IN READING, DR. GLORIA SHAMANOFF RETIRED FROM NORTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS IN JUNE. SHE PLANS TO TRAVEL, SEE FRIENDS AND—MAYBE—RETURN TO READ TO CHILDREN SOME MORE.

The number of stories Dr. Gloria Shamanoff (BS '74, MS '78) shared with elementary schoolchildren looms too numerous to count now, much like the number of children she influenced during a lifelong career as an educator.

"My motto has always been, 'Learning to care, and caring to learn,'" Shamanoff said. "Caring to learn' is not just book learning but learning from the people and interactions you have. Children teach you a lot, they really do, even at their most naughty or ornery. I love ornery."

Shamanoff retired in June after 22 years as assistant superintendent for Northwest Allen County Schools (NACS). She enthusiastically embraced her job—working on curriculum, pursuing grants and helping the district grow from five schools when she first started to 11 schools today.

The biggest piece of her heart, however, belonged to the elementary school children. She developed her fondness for that age group through her years as a teacher at Anthony Wayne Elementary, Study Elementary, Whitney Young Elementary and Weisser Park Elementary.

Shamanoff became principal at Huntertown Elementary in 1990, but she never left the classroom completely. She always made it a point to have story time, picking out a picture book and sharing it with children. Her favorite activity as a teacher continued when she became a principal and into her two decades-plus as an assistant superintendent. As an assistant superintendent, Shamanoff visited each NACS elementary school once a month to share story time. One perennial crowd-pleaser was "The BFG," by her favorite author, Roald Dahl.

"When I became assistant superintendent, Dr. Steve Yager, the superintendent, asked me, 'What are you going to do for yourself?'" Shamanoff said. "I told him I always shared books as a teacher. He said, 'You can still do that.' So, I continued with each elementary. It was really a pleasure to end my year with a picture book with students."

Shamanoff grew up on the south side of Fort Wayne. Her father was an immigrant from Macedonia and her mother's parents also immigrated from Macedonia. An only child, reading books became her "go-to" activity. She developed into an excellent student and thrived academically at Fort Wayne's Elmhurst High School.

She wanted to go to a small college and stay relatively close to home. Saint Francis College filled the bill.

"The environment is just soothing and, once there, I can't say enough about the relationships you have with the teachers; it's just amazing," Shamanoff said. "One of my teachers, Dr. (Richard) Avdul, was instrumental in helping me. He opened my mind to actually thinking about things instead of regurgitating facts.

"That helped me to realize that's what I needed to do in the classroom when I was a teacher," she continued. "You want to help children probe a little more with their answers, and why they gave a certain answer. Let them explore their thought process and how they come to a conclusion."

Shamanoff's first job was filling in for a teacher on maternity leave and then working as a substitute. Her first full-time role was as a team teacher with Glenda Spiece at Study Elementary School. The two teachers taught together at Whitney Young and Weisser Park and ran a program, Summertime, for high-ability elementary school students. They remain friends and sometimes travel together. Shamanoff puts her lifelong learning skills—while a teacher, she earned a doctorate from Ball State University—to work through traveling, in which she hopes will be more expansive in retirement. Her favorite is England, but she has visited many places, including France, Africa, and Portugal.

Teachers in the Carroll system have already asked her if she will return to deliver her "story time" readings after retirement. She told them she needs to take at least one semester away for some separation but might be open to sharing her love for reading with students again in retirement. Years ago, Shamanoff developed a signature way of saying hello or goodbye—waving with her index and middle finger crossed—as an alternative to the overwhelming number of hugs children wanted to give her. She encounters adults today who still share that greeting from across a room when they see her.

"My corporation is my family," Shamanoff said. "They have embraced me and been there for the good, the bad and the ugly. It was hard to leave. But I went from a caring environment at Saint Francis and ended up in another caring environment. You can't ask for more in your professional career."



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
COUGAR FOOTBALL





COACH KEVIN DONLEY'S PROGRAM SET A STANDARD FOR EXCELLENCE WITH A QUARTER CENTURY OF SUCCESS.

A QUARTER CENTURY OF FOOTBALL EXCELLENCE

THE USF FOOTBALL PROGRAM TURNS 25 YEARS OLD THIS FALL. THE HIGHLIGHT REEL COULD RUN FOR DAYS. AND THE FACE OF THE PROGRAM—COACH KEVIN DONLEY—KEEPS THE DRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE ALIVE.

Kevin Donley built the University of Saint Francis football program from scratch. No field. No equipment. No players. He brought his vision, his playbook and his unending passion for the game. Then he dove in with a heaping helping of faith.

Twenty-five years later, there's not enough room in the USF football offices to display all the trophies and awards reflecting a quarter century of excellence. Twenty-five years later, Donley ranks among the greats of college football coaching, sitting fifth in all-time wins, ahead of legends like Bear Bryant and Pop Warner. Twenty-five years later, the most important measure of success—in Donley's eyes—lies not in the won-lost record but in the hundreds of success stories written after his players graduated.

"I've always thought the football program had a real responsibility to be a good representative of what the university is all about," Donley said. "We're building high-character kids and teaching them the way to succeed and be the best they can possibly be in everything they do."

This fall marks the 25th year of USF football—still the only collegiate football program in Fort Wayne—and the program will be celebrated for its success in producing quality alumni, winning a boatload of games and generating immeasurable goodwill for the university.

"I hadn't even turned 50 yet when we started this thing, and now I'm 71," Donley said. "These really have been the best years of my life. People ask me, 'How long are you going to keep doing this?' Well, what else would I do—work in the yard? I don't think so. This is what I love to do. As long as the good Lord gives me health, this is what I'm going to do."

Donley's tenure as the only head coach in school history includes the highest of highs, very few lows, and countless Saturdays with a stadium full of fans, whether in the 72-degree sunshine of early fall or the 35-degree snowfall of a late November playoff game.

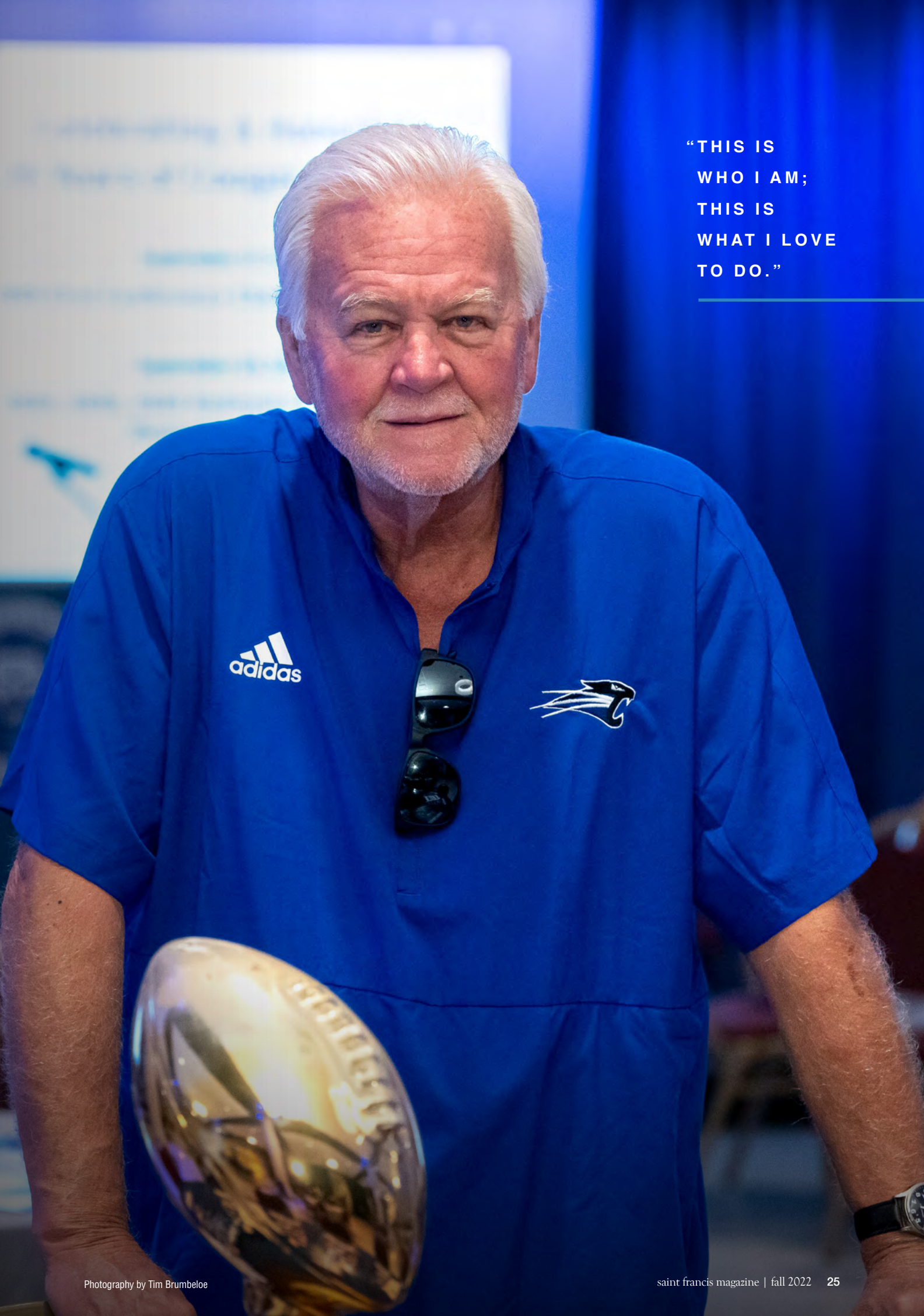
Listing the best players in history would be an exercise in futility. The mention of one inevitably leads to remembering another. While it's fun to recognize the 20 NAIA First-Team All-Americans (including two-time honorees Nick Krinn, Brian Kurtz and Corey Cronk), even that list omits some of the greatest players in program history, including school record-holders in passing (Nick Ferrer), receiving (Jeremy Dutcher) and tackles (Piercen Harnish).

"We went back to pull out film clips of the 24 previous seasons," Donley said. "It brings tears to my eyes to see the years of history and the heart, dedication and character it took to accomplish those things."

"To have that kind of success over that period of time means you're blessed by surrounding yourself with quality individuals," Donley said. "I'm a pretty good coach, but I wouldn't be much without the quality of people—the coaches and players—who have surrounded me."

Donley, who won his first NAIA title at Georgetown College (Kentucky) in 1991, remembers when he first arrived in Fort Wayne and met with local businessmen and USF supporters Tom Jehl, Doug McKibben and Jim Shields. Donley's office was crammed into an old building on campus grounds, a site now consigned to the memories of those who were around. "Tom said, 'Brother, you need help!'" Donley said. "Those guys went to work right away to help us with the program. That trio of 'Three Musketeers' got it going and brought so many other people in."

With the blessing, support and encouragement of then-President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, Donley built the program. After winning two games in the inaugural 1998 season, the Cougars finished 8-3 in 1999 and set a standard for success. After three straight trips to the NAIA championship game in the mid-2000s—with three heartbreaking losses—the Cougars reached the NAIA summit with an NAIA title in 2016.



“THIS IS
WHO I AM;
THIS IS
WHAT I LOVE
TO DO.”



“IT’S ALL ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIPS.”

USF went 13-1 and beat Baker to win the 2016 championship, and then accomplished one of the most difficult achievements in sports—winning consecutive titles—with a 2017 triumph over Reinhardt. The 2017 Cougars finished 14-0, Donley was lauded as the American Football Coaches Association NAIA Coach of the Year and quarterback Ferrer earned 2017 NAIA Football Player of the Year honors.

“That second year was awesome, but it almost felt like a relief because of the expectations,” Ferrer said. “To go back and do it again, and do it even better by being undefeated, was a big challenge. The first one was the best feeling you could imagine and the second one was equally great, but also a relief.”

More than 150 players came back to campus in June to celebrate at a reunion at the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center. Whether it was now-NFL assistant coach James Bettcher or Donley’s son, Patrick, who spent 18 years as a USF assistant coach, the former players expressed their admiration and affection for Donley and his influence.

“We don’t have to know each other or come from the same place or the same era or the same position,” Ferrer said. “The one thing we have in common is our love for Coach D. That binds us together.”

Joey Didier played for the Cougars from 2001 to 2004 and has been part of the coaching staff since 2010. “I remember when I met Coach D as a recruit, sitting in his office, I just gravitated to him as a leader,” Didier said. “I was considering three or four other schools and I walked out of that office and said to my mom, ‘This is where I’m going to play.’ There was a connection there that I wanted to be part of.”

“It’s all about the relationships,” Donley said. “You remember the big games—beating Indiana State, winning the national championships—but it’s ultimately about the players and the relationships you had with them. That’s what you remember.”

Those relationships, on and off the field, are what keeps Donley going with no end to his career in sight.

“This is who I am; this is what I love to do,” he said. “I can’t totally turn it off, even when I go to bed. Sometimes I’ll wake up at 2:30 or 3 o’clock in the morning and write down a thought.”

Donley talks to his players every year about “filling your bucket,” a metaphor about how players need to put everything into their “bucket” (effort, commitment, dedication, etc.) so that it overflows and they reach their potential.

“Every day you want to try to win—not just on the scoreboard, although those are fun,” Donley said. “We want to show these players how they’re going to succeed and what they can do with their lives after football. You’re always learning. If you’re not getting better, you’re getting worse. There’s more than just the scoreboard. It’s far bigger than that.”

Twenty-five years in, Donley and USF football prove that last point well.



NFL SUCCESS

BETTCHER’S COACHING CAREER GOING STRONG

After James Bettcher played his last game as a USF Cougar in 2002, he sought out Coach Kevin Donley.

“He had tears in his eyes, came in here to my office and said, ‘I want to be a football coach,’” Donley said. “I told him, ‘You’re too smart for that.’ He’d been accepted to law school. But he said he really wanted to coach. So, I told him, ‘Have at it. I don’t have anything to pay you, but we’ll take you.’ He was around for four years, and I could see this guy was really going to be good.”

Bettcher never veered from his coaching dreams and rose further up the coaching chain than any player or coach to come through the USF program. Now a 10-year NFL coach, Bettcher is in his first season with the Cincinnati Bengals, coaching the linebackers.



EST. 1998

1997

Kevin Donley introduced as football program head coach.

1999

On Sept. 11, USF wins at home for the first time, beating Saint Xavier 42-38. The Cougars go on to win eight games and their first Mid-States Football Association Midwest League championship.

2004

USF reaches the NAIA championship game for the first time, losing a heartbreaker to Carroll (Montana) 15-13. Running back Cory Jacquay named NAIA Player of the Year and coach Kevin Donley named NAIA Coach of the Year.

2006

USF reaches NAIA championship game for third consecutive year, losing to Sioux Falls 21-19. Linebacker Brian Kurtz named NAIA Player of the Year. The Cougars recorded their third-straight unbeaten regular season.

2015

USF finishes the regular season unbeaten for the seventh time.

2017

USF finishes undefeated (14-0) and wins a second-consecutive NAIA championship, beating Reinhardt 24-13. Quarterback Nick Ferrer named NAIA Player of the Year and Coach Kevin Donley named AFCA NAIA Coach of the Year.

1998

First season of USF football. USF records first win on Sept. 12 vs. Saint Xavier. More than 4,000 people attend first home game in history on Sept. 19, a loss to Taylor University.

2000

USF beats an NAIA Top 5 team for the first time, winning 21-20 over No. 3 Geneva in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. USF notches first playoff win, 48-33 over Lambuth.

2005

USF defeats NCAA opponent Indiana State 42-10 on the road to open the season. USF reaches NAIA championship game for second consecutive year, losing to Carroll again, 27-19.

2010

USF finishes 10-2, marking the ninth time in 13 seasons where the Cougars won 10 or more games and their 11th time reaching the playoffs.

2016

USF wins its first NAIA championship, beating No. 2 Baker 38-17 in the title game and finishing the season 13-1. Coach Kevin Donley named NAIA Coach of the Year.

2022

Kevin Donley moves into a tie for 5th place on the all-time college coaching win list.





LEADING SUCCESS

USF'S FIRST ALL-AMERICAN, DUTCHER SHOWED OTHERS HOW TO CHASE THEIR DREAMS

Jeremy Dutcher's name remains prominent in the University of Saint Francis football record book as an incredible wide receiver and the program's first All-American player. Yet he almost never played a down here.

Dutcher's first foray into college football came as a kicker at Michigan Tech University. He made some mistakes, lost his way and ended up leaving school for a factory job. His father, a longtime high school coach, happened to be talking to USF coaches one day about some of his players. They asked if he knew any older players with eligibility left that might be interested in a brand new program in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

"Why don't you take him?" Jerry Dutcher said, pointing to his skinny, 23-year-old son who happened to be in the office.

"He was kind of joking, but three weeks later I was on campus talking to Coach Donley," Jeremy Dutcher said. "I had made some poor choices in college from a character perspective and not everyone gets a second chance. But people can change with the right opportunity. Things happen for a reason. I was meant to be at Saint Francis."

Dutcher's second chance led to incredible heights. In three years of eligibility, he set records that still stand for most career receiving yards, receiving yards per game, and most receptions in a game, a season and a career. His greatest game: In USF's first playoff win over Lambuth in 2000, Dutcher caught 16 passes for 340 yards and four touchdowns as USF came from three touchdowns behind to win.

"Seth (Coate) took a good shot at my other records, and they'll eventually come down, but I don't think anybody

will catch that playoff game record," Dutcher said. "It was like 17-below with the windchill, but such a memorable game. I didn't want it to be my last."

After college, Dutcher earned an invite to compete in the New York Jets' NFL camp and was one of the last receivers to be released. He went on to a successful indoor football career, including playing with the Fort Wayne Freedom. Dutcher says he misses football today and would like to return to the game as a coach at some point, but now his time is full with his position as a BMW dealership sales manager, and with his family. Dutcher has a 26-year-old son, Jordan, who was a toddler when he played at USF, an 11-year-old stepson, Shane, and a 2½-year-old daughter, Charlie, with wife Brittany.

"The biggest thing for me with Coach Donley was just his willingness to take a chance on me, 23 years old and 160 pounds," he said. "I thought I could kick a football and catch a couple footballs. I think I caught five balls for over 200 yards and five touchdowns in the spring game and Coach Donley said, 'I think we might be on to something.'"

"SAINT FRANCIS WAS A GREAT TIME IN MY LIFE AND THE TURNING POINT IN MY CAREER AND IN MY LIFE STORY."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

THE USF FOOTBALL PROGRAM HAS PRODUCED 20 FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICANS OVER THE YEARS. HERE IS A BRIEF UPDATE ON WHERE THEY ARE NOW:

JEREMY DUTCHER WR ('00)

Jeremy is a sales manager at Sharpe BMW in Caledonia, Michigan. He is married to wife, Brittany, and has three children: Jordan, Shane and Charlie.

SCOTT PAYNE DB ('01)

Scott works as an Air Operations Controller II at Amazon in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has a daughter, Poppy.

ALAN GANAWAY DB ('03)

Alan is married, has three children and lives in Fort Wayne.

CORY JACQUAY RB ('04)

Cory is a School Counselor at East Noble High School in Kendallville, Indiana. He and his wife, Sarah, have four children: Emma, Kipton, Jackson and Naomi.

NICK KRINN OL ('04, '05)

Nick has worked 16+ years with Haggard & Stocking Industrial Supplies & Services. He and his wife Caroline Buroker live in Bluffton, Indiana, and have two children, Harrison Buroker and Kamryn Krinn.

JAMIE HOLMAN DB ('04, '05)

Jamie is Director of Rehab at Energize Rehabilitation. He lives in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, with his wife Melody and their 1-year-old son. Jamie also has an 18-year-old daughter. He played professional indoor football after college and now coaches youth teams.

CHRIS VAN HORN DE ('04)

Chris is a teacher and assistant football coach at Lufkin High school and lives in Nacogdoches, Texas, with his wife and three children.

JAROD LEASURE OL ('05)

Jarod lives in Fort Wayne and works as a carpenter. He and his wife, Stephanie, have three children: Hunter, Hudson and Annistyn.

BRIAN KURTZ LB ('05, '06)

Brian is President at KurtzMeo Contractor Solutions in Fort Wayne.

WILLIAM KNEPPER DL ('05)

William is Service Manager at Buckeye Power Sales in Romeoville, Illinois. He is married with two children.

TIM FARRELL DE ('08)

Tim is a special education teacher and assistant football coach. He lives in Powell, Ohio.

DANIEL CARTER RB ('09)

Daniel works in the insurance industry, lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, has twin sons Malcolm and Harper, and is engaged to be married.

COREY CRONK OL ('10, '11)

Corey is a police officer in Mishawaka in the Uniform Patrol Division. He is an instructor with the department and a SWAT operator. He is married to Annie and has two daughters, London and Leighton.

TAYLOR BROWN DB ('12)

Taylor is a business owner with Overland Fleet Logistics LLC, lives in Chesterton, Indiana, is married to Ruta, has a son, Lincoln, and another child on the way. He played and coached football with the Leicester Falcons in England.

CAM EDWARDS OL ('13)

Cam works as a Family Support Specialist for Centerstone Indiana in Bloomington. He is married with two children.

GUS HANCOCK OL ('15)

Gus serves our country and was recently deployed with the National Guard in the Middle East.

SETH COATE WR ('16)

Seth works as a crew lead and operator for a custom pool and spa company in Brandenton, Florida. He and his wife Samantha are expecting their first child in January. After USF, Seth played in the Canadian Football League.

JUSTIN GREEN RB ('17)

Justin lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, and works in financial services. He married his high school sweetheart, Taylor, and they have three daughters.

WILMER COLE DB ('18)

Wilmer drives for Coca-Cola and is preparing a new business, Precision Elite Trucking LLC, with his father and brother-in-law. He lives in Fort Wayne with USF alumna wife, Nikki.

JAMES JAMICICH DL ('19)

James works at Optimum Performance Sports, is married and lives in Fort Wayne.

RUNNING ON FAITH



Cadence Faurote (BA '18) finds meaningful connections through her work at the Rescue Mission and her love for distance running. Her commitment to Christ drives her in both endeavors.

“DRAW ME AFTER YOU, LET US RUN.” (SONG OF SONGS 1:4)

Cadence Faurote’s faith keeps her on the move. She aims to listen for God’s direction at every mile marker, every turn, every stretch of her life.

Faurote (BA ’18) looks for ways to live out her faith, whether in the workplace or at road races. Her love for community centered on Christ motivates her as she gears up for the Chicago Marathon in October.

“We’re made in the image and likeness of God, the Trinity—a communion of persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” Faurote said. “It’s imbued into the fabric of our very existence that we are made for a relationship with God and with one another. We are made for communion.”

Faurote grew up in Decatur, Indiana, and began running about a minute after she could walk. She excelled as a runner at Belmont High School, then chose to further her education and continue her sport at the University of Saint Francis. She blossomed academically and athletically, grew friendships and fell in love with the university. “I was drawn in by the community here,” she said. She enjoyed studying English, theology, philosophy and gaining a liberal arts education while earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Faurote became good friends with Megan Quigley (BA ’18, now USF Assistant Director of the Assisi Program) and Sr. Emmanuel Kurtzweg (BS ’18). They grew spiritually through Bible studies and conversations with Sr. Ignatia Henneberry, Sr. Benedicta Duna and other Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

“It was by God’s grace that our friendships were forged so strongly,” Faurote said. “Saint Francis also gave me a connection with the Sisters, and they demonstrated to me what it is to actively entrust my life to Christ.”

After graduation, Faurote worked as a nanny, a barista and a library assistant, but she felt the stirring for something else. She felt drawn into a sense of mission. “I didn’t know what that would look like. I asked my friends for intercessory prayers to find a new job and to be able to live in Fort Wayne,” she said.

While searching for almsgiving opportunities on Ash Wednesday, Faurote found the Rescue

Mission advertising for a full-time employee. God placed the opportunity in front of her, she said. “It was very clear: Mission right in the name!” Faurote began work with the Rescue Mission’s Treasure House—a thrift store benefiting the Mission and providing vocational training for those in need. “My coworkers are golden. We are a real Christian community aiming to transform others’ lives by sharing His merciful love in simple, everyday ways.”

Faurote remains on the go when her workday ends. She will run her third marathon this October in Chicago as a member of Team Our Lady of the Angels (OLA). Team OLA supports the mission of the same name, the main work of the Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago. “I think I can only run marathons with religious sisters now—it’s the best way to run a marathon.”

Faurote ran her first marathon in 2019 with a group of Franciscan Sisters in Cleveland, Ohio. “I talked with Sr. Ignatia after that first marathon, sharing my strong desire to run another. But how could I just run a marathon, without religious sisters and a team that understands the spiritual benefit that can be applied to the sport?”

Faurote’s friend Angela Pearson told her about Sr. Stephanie Baliga of the Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago who sought to break the record for a treadmill marathon during the COVID-19 cancellation of the 2020 Chicago Marathon. Sr. Stephanie ran to raise funds for Mission OLA, a Catholic outreach to the poor in West Humboldt Park. Mission OLA feeds about 3,000 families a month, provides additional material and support, and brings the love of Christ to a neighborhood in need of hope.

“I thought that was really neat, and was even more delighted to later discover that these Franciscans build a team to run and fundraise every year. I am excited for my second go with Team OLA this October,” Faurote said. “God plants these good desires in our hearts and, if we stay on the vine, He brings them to fruition in His good and perfect time. He’s so good.”

“The main purpose of running this race is to draw souls after Christ. We aim to be a witness to Him, offering up our sufferings and our joys through our running, recognizing the sacrifice He made for us.”

LIFELONG LOVE of Saint Francis

Carol (Krull) Lupke (BA '52) calls the University of Saint Francis “one of my great loves.” Her continued dedication to promoting and supporting USF sounds like music to the ears of those who share her passion for the university. Along with husband Duane and son David—who serves as a University Trustee—Carol continues to be a tremendous USF ambassador.

Carol recalls some memories of her time at Saint Francis College and her family’s love for USF:

Carol became a dancer as a young girl and went on to hone her craft in New York City before returning to create the Fort Wayne Ballet. She then invested an incredible 68 years as a dance instructor.

“It was important for me to get a degree, and then go to New York and get some further dance study. My mother (M. Florence Krull) was a Guild member, and she said, ‘Why don’t you talk to Saint Francis?’ So, I came and talked to the Sisters here and they opened their arms to me. They said I could live here and go off campus for my dancing classes. I thought maybe I’d stay a year. After a year, I wanted to stay a second year. After my second year, I wanted to stay a third. I was hooked on Saint Francis.”

Great memories come to Carol’s mind about her time on campus. She lived in Trinity Hall and vividly remembers one challenging night on Chapel duty; the Chapel was then in the Bass Mansion (now Brookside) and offered 24-hour adoration.

“My dear friend Martha and I had Chapel duty and that meant we had to stay up all night in the Chapel. We were so tired, and we decided the only way to stay awake would be to say rosaries. Finally, we fell asleep leaning on each other. One of the Sisters came in and said, ‘Ok, children, go to bed. I’ll take over.’”





Carol (Krull) Lupke (BA '52)
and University Trustee
David Lupke

Carol and her classmates helped design a unique class ring, first worn by the Class of 1951.

“We wanted it to be a ring that was classical in its design, that you would want to wear for the rest of your life. It ended up being a very simple ring, with the hands of St. Francis on the side, an onyx set and my idea for the shape of the ring, which was a slightly squared-off oval. I wore mine for many years.”

Saint Francis helped inspire the confidence in Carol to go to New York City after graduation and further pursue her dancing career. She started the Fort Wayne Ballet in 1956 while still studying in New York.

“Becoming an educated person at Saint Francis made it possible for me to do things I never would have been able to do elsewhere. I didn’t want to be a ‘has-been’ or ‘never-was’ without an education, so I had to get my degree first. I went to New York and studied there and intended to come back and be part of the foundation of a ballet school here. I felt I needed those credentials and to be better technically to come back and teach. I always knew, even from a child in grade school, that I was going to be a teacher. By the time I had been dancing for my first number of years, I knew that dance was what I wanted to teach.”

Carol married her husband Duane in 1957 and their family has supported USF through financial gifts, art donations and scholarships, primarily within the Division of Creative Arts. She remains proud of the university’s connection to the Fort Wayne Ballet.

“Not only is the Fort Wayne Ballet an asset to the community, but also an asset to the University. It has become internationally well-known.”

David joined the Board of Trustees in 2010 upon the invitation of then-President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF. He enjoys the connection his family maintains with the university. His father was on the Lutheran Hospital board and played a key role in suggesting USF purchase the Lutheran College of Health Professions.

“I have a strong passion for education,” David said. “As a trustee, I see the role of USF in this community—as an educational institution, an economic development driver and part of the quality of life of the community. There is an enormous number of people with Saint Francis degrees running businesses in the community and making an impact as prominent citizens. I see the need and the value of the University of Saint Francis.”

The Lupke family’s fondness for Saint Francis never wanes, Carol says.

“I’m very proud to be an alumna of Saint Francis College, and I’m delighted to see what it has become. I’ve thought I’d like to come back and study art again because there’s so much more available. I could not be happier that my granddaughter Millicent is now a junior art major here at Saint Francis.”

Legacy of Leadership

BY YVONNE SCHROEDER

DR. MARSHA KING AND PROFESSOR MARGARET DEYOUNG REFLECT ON USF CROWN POINT'S SUCCESS AS THEY ENTER RETIREMENT. THEY HAVE SPENT THE LAST DECADE-PLUS HELPING THE SITE GROW.

Two iconic University of Saint Francis Crown Point leaders retired at the end of spring semester. Dean Dr. Marsha King and Nursing Program Director Margaret DeYoung, with 10 and 16 years, respectively, at the university, helped propel USF Crown Point into one of northwest Indiana's best healthcare education choices. Here are their stories:

**Marsha King, DNP, MS, MBA, RN, NEA-BC
Dean, USF Crown Point**

One look at the USF Crown Point site in 2012 convinced Marsha King she was standing at a place of great promise in northwest Indiana.

"My first impression was USF Crown Point was the best-kept secret for education in northwest Indiana," she said. "I felt a calling to be part of this university. I truly felt it was divine intervention coming here."

She had good reasons for her optimism. The school's location for Crown Point, Rensselaer and Chicago students, and the opportunity for clinical experiences in the area, made it an ideal fit. A base of diverse and adult working students benefited from smaller class sizes. With faculty in touch with students' needs, professors could better direct their time to helping students become successful.

Dr. King became part-time lab director and was promoted to dean near the completion of her doctorate in 2013.

"What a difference 10 years makes," Dr. King now says, looking back at the school's development.

Two large classrooms, two smaller classrooms, a second biology lab, a student testing area, office space for additional faculty, a dedicated lactation room for students, two conference rooms and a chapel area were added, along with a 13-bed Nursing Resource Center.

The new building brought new programs to add to the certified nurse aide and phlebotomy programs already started: radiologic technology, surgical technology and diagnostic medical sonography, with dedicated classrooms and labs.

"We are giving our community compassionate, knowledgeable caregivers with Franciscan values embedded in their education and practice."

Dr. King's retirement years will be spent with her family, but human service will still claim special time. St. Vincent DePaul food pantry at her home church, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, will receive her attention, as will homeless and at-risk people at St. Teresa Avila's Café Mana. She also hopes to volunteer at St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart, where her sons are connected in their medical careers.



DR. MARSHA KING



MARGARET DEYOUNG

**Margaret DeYoung, MS, RN, CNS
Nursing Program Director, USF Crown Point**

Margaret DeYoung didn't know if she could teach, but as an adult health CNS (clinical nurse specialist), she had clinical knowledge and a rich background in starting new programs and services. As USF Crown Point's nursing program director, she put aside her doubts and consulted her heart.

"My career approach is finding the way I can best serve my profession and society with my skill set. I decided that providing an opportunity for people to complete an ASN (Associate of Science in Nursing) and increasing the number of RNs (Registered Nurses) would be a good way to serve," she said.

That was 16 years ago, and reaching her service goal is her biggest achievement, she said.

"I am most proud of the over 400 nurses—graduates of the USF Crown Point ASN program," she said. "Moving to the current location in 2010 cemented our position in the community. The addition of other healthcare majors brought depth and breadth to academic choices and has given the campus more of a community feel."

DeYoung worked hard to make an ASN degree more accessible.

When, in 2006, Indiana Department of Education moved two-year programs to community colleges, she saw an opportunity. "I started my career as an ASN-prepared nurse from Purdue Calumet. It still is a vital workforce entry point, with the prospect of advancement in a fulfilling career."

Students were attracted by small classroom sizes, the affiliation with Franciscan Health and the school's Catholic, Franciscan identity. Full- and part-time options for working adults, scholarships and the possibility of paid internships with Franciscan Health and other healthcare facilities sweetened the deal.

"Our students can begin working with our healthcare affiliates while still attending school, and our graduates all have a job waiting for them," she said.

DeYoung has some retirement plans, and plans to keep giving back.

"I look forward to new freedoms, to travel with my husband and to spend more time with my children and my family. I am looking forward to gardening and tackling some overdue home improvement projects. I am seeking a new way to continue to contribute to my profession and society with my nursing skill set, be it clinical or academic nursing."

USF places 71 students on Scholar-Athlete list

Seventy-one athletes from USF's NAIA sports earned the Daktronic's Scholar-Athlete honor for academic excellence during the 2021-22 year. Candidates are nominated by their schools and must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher:

- **Baseball:** Aidan Armitage, Kevin Brown, Alec Brunson, Sean Ferguson, Chase Franz, Mike Jovanovic, Collin Landrum, Tyler Prince
- **Basketball (Men):** Dan McKeeman, Ridley Zolman
- **Basketball (Women):** Cassidy Crawford, Sidney Crowe, Meleah Kunkel
- **Cheer:** Madalyn Bopp, Sedona Purdy
- **Cross Country (Men):** Justin Gephart
- **Cross Country (Women):** Alex Ebetino, Leah Hall, Ariana Moran, Kelsey Peck
- **Football:** Zane Fisher, Will Homan, Jack James, Isaiah Lacey, Brandon Lockwood, Connor Price, Jackson Rhoades, Derek Robb, Jay Segal
- **Golf (Men):** Brent Trela, Bryce Turner
- **Golf (Women):** Amara Eckert, Sydney Heinbaugh
- **Soccer (Men):** Nick Cachia, Josh Pedretti, Daniel Vaides
- **Soccer (Women):** Maria Givens, Haley Miller, Amber Morgan, Katie Schier, Mallory Turnbow, Aubrey Vince, Kaitlynn Welker
- **Softball:** Regan Pepler, Grace Renbarger, Elandra Shafer, Dory Thompson, Paige Warneke
- **Tennis (Men):** Tannon Dishman
- **Tennis (Women):** Maddy Deroo, Regina Faber, Elizabeth Gomez, Tyra Grischke, Jessica Henline
- **Track and Field (Men):** Justin Gephart, Jordan Konstanty, Braden Melchi, Clayton Sheehan
- **Track and Field (Women):** Yami Diaz, Alex Ebetino, Hannah Gibbons, Leah Hall, Haley Moore, Ariana Moran, Kelsey Peck, August Pengelly
- **Volleyball:** Madison Candler, Eliana Serdynski, Kylie Topp



Busse/Fabini Cougar Classic attracts strong response

USF alumni, supporters and friends gathered at the Busse/Fabini Cougar Classic golf outing for the great cause of student-athlete scholarships. The event, held at Bridgewater Golf Club in Auburn, Indiana, raised approximately \$75,000 for scholarships, reflecting the generous nature of those who participated.

“Coming out of the 11th Annual Busse-Fabini Cougar Classic, I continue to be amazed at the response we receive year in and year out from our alumni, friends and supporters,” USF Athletic Director Mike McCaffrey said. “It was another great two days, and many student-athletes will benefit from the generosity displayed.”

USF and Parkview Heart Institute collaborate on new sonography program

USF and Parkview Heart Institute announced their collaboration on an innovative program designed to attract, educate and train sonographers in advanced cardiac imaging. The program will be called the Echo Academy at USF. The new program will offer educational incentives to sonographers interested in specializing in echocardiography, and develop staff who are committed to learning and caring for patients within the community. The Echo Academy complements USF's newly established A.A.S. in Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree and provides educational advancement opportunities for sonographers in the region.

USF Crown Point receives two federal grants

USF Crown Point celebrated the awarding of two federal grants to help students who are filling healthcare needs in northwest Indiana. The site received a \$385,129 grant as part of the Economic Development Administration's Economic Adjustment Assistance program through the American Rescue Plan Act and a Community Project Funding grant of \$225,000.

“USF Crown Point continues to grow and respond to the needs of northwest Indiana, both in terms of developing citizens and developing healthcare in this area of Indiana,” USF President Rev. Dr. Eric Albert Zimmer said. “We're expanding our facility and outreach to the community and all these things show a bright, bright future—not just for USF Crown Point, but for this part of our great state.”



USF medical and veterinary students visit Dominican Republic

Professor Dr. Amy Obringer’s annual trip to Haiti (temporarily shifted to the Dominican Republic for safety reasons) provided students with hands-on experience and fresh perspective on life in another part of the world. In both respects, students returned with newfound appreciation for the need to help others.

Obringer’s group, which spent May 9-13 in the Dominican Republic, included pre-med students, nursing students, pre-physician assistant students, pre-veterinarian students and a psychology student. The students were Cydney Christensen of Swanton, Ohio; Eliana Serdynski of Waukesa, Wisconsin; Elana Mann of Bluffton, Indiana; Jasmin Hoot of Kendallville, Indiana; Tianah Stuff-Kelso, Tyra Grischke and Maria Solis Valtierra of Fort Wayne; Josh Pedretti of Ontario, Canada; and alumna Olivia Obringer of Decatur, Indiana. Dr. Nate James (a USF alumnus), nurse midwife Michelle Hileman, veterinarian Dr. Paula Johnson, USF Professor Dr. Monica Heller and fourth-year veterinary student Floyd Johnson from Purdue University provided valuable guidance on the trip.

The medical portion of the group treated nearly 100 people—primarily women and children—and the veterinarian portion of the group treated more than 230 animals, including dogs, cats, goats, sheep, horses, mules and pigs.

“From a student perspective, it was an interesting experience because we could have significant interactions with patients,” said Grischke, now a student at Indiana University School of Medicine. “They definitely needed help, but they were so optimistic and so joyful and grateful. That community was happier than any community I’ve seen in America. It definitely made you feel like you were doing a good thing, surrounded by good people.”



President Fr. Zimmer visits Poland with Mayor Henry

A photo exhibit illustrating the destruction caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine struck an emotional chord with University of Saint Francis President Rev. Dr. Eric Albert Zimmer on his recent visit to Fort Wayne’s sister city of Plock, Poland.

“The exhibit, ‘The Sky over Zhytomyr,’ showed pictures of Zhytomyr, Ukraine, before the war and after it had been bombed,” Fr. Zimmer said. “One picture showed a part of the town where a maternity ward had been destroyed and other buildings had been destroyed. It was extremely sobering.”

Fr. Zimmer traveled to Poland as part of Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry’s delegation, which also included Deputy Mayor Karl Bandemer and City of Fort Wayne Head of Digital Engagement John Felts. The group spent May 12 through May 15 in Plock, joining delegations from Zhytomyr, Darmstadt, Germany and Beltsy, Moldova.

Mayor Henry, a USF alumnus, invited Fr. Zimmer to be part of the delegation several months ago.

“I wanted to support the city in this, and I wanted to represent the University in what is traditionally a very Catholic country,” Fr. Zimmer said. “I had never been to Poland and that was an attraction to me, in addition to being able to support Ukraine.”

The group visited several sites, including a center for supply distribution to help Ukrainian refugees. At the center, each member of the delegation put a handprint, using paint, on a wall to mark their support.

Early in the trip, the group participated in a discussion session about the challenges posed by the war in Ukraine. During the discussion, the deputy mayor of Zhytomyr and news reporters shared their experiences of the war’s impact.



USF staff members travel to Assisi

Three university representatives traveled abroad in May as part of the annual Assisi Pilgrimage. Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Robert Pastoor, Assistant Vice President for Mission Integration Sister Anita Holzmer and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Allen Machielson spent 10 days in Italy, visiting historic and meaningful sights while growing their friendship and faith.

USF welcomes new academic leaders

The following leaders have joined the university or moved into new positions for the 2022-23 academic year:

- **Dr. Clifford F. Buttram, Jr.**—Division Director of the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. Buttram also serves as Assistant Professor of Management, Graduate Business Instructor Coordinator and MBA Program Director.
- **Lori Caudill**—Director of Simulation. Caudill also serves as Assistant Professor of Nursing.
- **Miles Fulwider**—Associate Division Director for Creative Arts. Fulwider also serves as Associate Professor of Music Technology, and Music Technology, Digital Media Management and Dance Programs Director.
- **Julie Gardner**—Assistant Dean of USF Crown Point.
- **Gwen Hefty**—Director of Institutional Research.
- **Heather Jeffries**—Division Director of Psychological and Social Sciences.
- **Dr. Michael J. Levan**—Interim Director of the John Duns Scotus Honors Program. Levan also serves as Associate Professor of English.
- **Rodney Maley**—Interim Registrar.
- **Alison Miyauchi**—Interim Division Director of Creative Arts.
- **Dr. Juanita Oberley**—Assistant Division Director for Education. Oberley also serves as Program Director for Undergraduate Special Education.
- **Dr. Lewis T. Pearson**—Interim Division Director of Humanities. Pearson also serves as Associate Professor and Course Coordinator for Philosophy.
- **Patricia Rinker**—Program Director for the Associate Degree of Nursing at Fort Wayne and USF Crown Point.
- **James Smith**—Site Director of USF Crown Point.
- **Dr. Louise Weber**—Interim Director for the Division of Computer Arts and Technology. Weber also serves as Director of Sciences and Biology Programs Director.



USF friends plant tree in honor of late Paula Avila

Friends, family and colleagues of the late Paula Avila (BS '00) gathered in May to plant a tree in her honor on the USF campus. Avila died in December 2021 after a battle with cancer. USF also set up a scholarship in her name. Avila, who earned biology and chemistry degrees, worked as a lab assistant at USF and a lab tech at the Fort Wayne Medical Laboratory, and spent the last six years in research at Manchester University. She served as president of the Hispanic Leadership Coalition of Northeast Indiana, taught citizenship classes and held local government officials accountable. USF professors Jenny Maldonado (BS '04, MS '10) and Dr. Amy Obringer (BS '91)—friends of Avila—led the drive to establish a scholarship in her name.

USF professor, students recognized on rock album release

USF Music Technology Director Miles Fulwider felt extra satisfaction when he read the liner notes for the album he produced for his friend Scot Little Bihlman. The notes within the album, “The Legend of Hipster Billings,” single out USF alumni David Detwiler (BS '21) and Kibwe Cooper (BS '13) and current USF student Haley Sorg.

They all contributed—in Detwiler’s case, with his skills as a musician—to the production of the album. “The Legend of Hipster Billings,” released on June 17, charted on the Billboard Mainstream Rock Chart and received positive reviews, along with airtime on radio stations around the country and online outlets. Much of the album was recorded in USF’s studio last summer.

USF launches CIPHER to address public health issues

Combining the healing and educational work that defined the University of Saint Francis’ founders’ ministries, USF announced the Center for Integrated Public Health Education and Research (CIPHER). As the first step in the process, USF hired Dr. Amelia Clark as Executive Director. Embedded in the College of Health Sciences, CIPHER will train the next generation of public health professionals for northeast Indiana, as well as provide health sciences students with additional training in the fast-growing area of public health. CIPHER will be located at USF Downtown and also serve as an academic research center, a think tank for the public health community.

USF achieves record-high post-graduate success rate with Class of 2021

USF announced in May that a record-high 99% of its 2021 graduates are employed, enrolled in additional education or serving in the service/military. USF recorded its three highest success rates over the last three years.

The Career Outcomes study included 86% of the Class of 2021 graduates, with 618 of 715 graduates responding. Of those, 84% are employed and 14% are enrolled in additional education.

“Our record-high success rate illustrates the commitment of our graduates and the quality of instruction they received from our dedicated faculty,” USF President Rev. Dr. Eric Albert Zimmer said. “The Class of 2021 ranks as the largest graduating class in USF history and the most immediately successful, and I could not be prouder of this winning combination.”

Top employers of the Class of 2021 include Parkview Health, Lutheran Health Network, Franciscan Health, IU Health, Fort Wayne Community Schools, Steppin’ Up Physical Therapy, the University of Saint Francis, Community Healthcare System, Ascension Health and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



USF dedicates golf simulator at Presidential Event Center

Creating an opportunity for student-athletes to practice year-round led USF to invest in a state-of-the-art golf simulator. The men’s and women’s golf teams joined in the dedication of the Trackman Golf Simulator at the USF Presidential Event Center in May.

“Having the Trackman studio is huge because in years past our golfers would have had to go to numerous places to practice in the winter or on rainy days,” USF Golf Coach Corey Potts said. “Now they can drive a minute from campus to practice. Students get immediate feedback with accurate results on every swing they take. That allows them to adjust parts of their swing to keep improving.”

The Trackman Golf Simulator combines radar capability with high-end optics to track and display the full trajectory of shots, from short putts to 400-yard drives, pinpointing the landing position with superior accuracy. It also maps the shot’s 3D trajectory in real time, along with impact and launch data. Golfers can virtually play at iconic courses such as Pebble Beach, Valderrama, Royal Birkdale and St. Andrews.



YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At the University of Saint Francis, our dedication to serving others and “paying it forward” are part of our culture as we look outward in sharing Christ’s love. When you provide a gift to USF through the Annual Fund, you are helping deserving students learn to make the world a better place. Those students will, in turn, share our Catholic, Franciscan values in the years ahead. Your gift makes a difference. You make a difference.

Learn more or make a gift at giving.sf.edu.



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class notes

keeping connected with alumni and friends

1970s

Madeleine Baker (BA '73) retired as CEO of Early Childhood Alliance. ■ **Gloria Shamanoff (BS '74, MS '78)** retired as assistant superintendent of Northwest Allen County Schools.

1990s

Joe Steensma (BS '93) took a visiting professorship with the Engineering & Design Institute-London. He is a professor in public health and social entrepreneurship at Washington University in St. Louis. ■ **Theresa (Schenkel) Schlegel (BS '99)** has joined Summit Vet Associates as an associate veterinarian specializing in dentistry. ■ **Adam Swinford (BS '99)** became the principal at Northrop High School. ■ **Brandi Wallace (BS '99)** is now a Wing Inspector General at the Indiana Air National Guard.

2000s

Brooke (Stauffer) McGee (BA '05) was promoted to Supervisor, Senior Designer at Cambia Health Solutions in Portland, Oregon. ■ **Adam Blakey (BSW '08)** delivered the keynote address for Manchester University's Day of Service event. Blakey continues to support the community with his Adam Blakey Holiday Foundation. ■ **Kristin Miller (BA '09)** is the Communication Manager at Frostburg State University.

2010s

Travis Bowersock (MA '11) became Director of Design at Trine University. ■ **Eric LeCount (BSN '11)** and **Sarah (Arnett) LeCount (BSW '12)** became parents of Layla Diane Rose in October. ■ **Paige Adamo (BS '12)** is a Learning Facilitator at the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business. ■ **Drew McCool-Solis (BS '12)** and **Cassie McCool-Solis** welcomed their third child, Levi, in February. The couple lives in Berea, Kentucky, with their other children, Noah and Caiden. Drew works as a physical therapist and agency administrator for Select Rehabilitation. ■ **Tatiana Walzer (MBA '13)** won the 2022 University of Saint Francis Staff Excellence award. ■ **Claudia (Cuatopotzo) Avila (BA '14)** joined Ferguson Advertising as a graphic designer. ■ **Dzenana Sakinovic (BS '15)** is an Associate Manager at Roundel, Target's Reimagined Media Company. ■ **Zack Kittaka (BA '16)** is a Lead Designer for My Subscription Addiction.

2010s, continued

■ **Nicole Yates (BA '16)** is a Patient Access Manager at Ensemble Health Partners. ■ **Drake DeMuyt (BA '17)** is a software developer at Cypress Mills Co. ■ **Katie Dwyer (MOL '17)** is the Marketing Project and Office Manager at USF. ■ **Dr. Connor Holcomb (BS '17)** graduated from IU School of Medicine and received the Dr. Franklin Bryan Award for obtaining the highest score in the anatomy, cell biology and physiology course. Connor will move to Sparrow/MSU in Lansing, Michigan, for a residency in obstetrics and gynecology. ■ **Cassandra Mitchell (BA '17, MBA '18)** and her husband Zach welcomed a son, Wyatt Allan, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 20 ¼ inches. ■ **Terry Miller (MBA '17)** is the owner of East of Chicago Pizza in Warren, Indiana. ■ **Austin Mannan (BS '18, MS '20)** is the baseball coach at Northrop High School. ■ **Anne Clark (BS '19)** is a senior medical education associate with Stryker Spine Enabling Technologies. ■ **Malia Ross (BA '19)** is a Graphic Designer at Levitate. ■ **Whitney (Schlie) Cox (BS '19)** is a medical technologist at Dupont Hospital.

2020s

Carrie Compton (MBA '20) is the Executive Director of Admissions at USF. ■ **Emily Napier (BS '20, MOL '22)** is a resident director at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. ■ **MaKenzie Barger (BS '21)** is a Clinical Research Specialist with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Trauma Division at IU Health Methodist Hospital. ■ **Nate Conder (BA '21)** is a judicial intern to Judge Melissa Blackburn at Davidson County General Sessions Court, Division II: Mental Health and Veterans Courts in Nashville, Tennessee. ■ **Nick Lucas (BS '21)** and **Maria Pelak (BS '21)** were married in June. ■ **Irish Starkey (BS '21)** completed a Master of Science in Medical Science degree at IU School of Medicine. ■ **Tess Steffen (MOL '21)** is a Communications Manager at USF. ■ **Bryce Turner (BS '21, MBA '22)**, a financial planning analyst for Summit Financial Group, serves as the lead overseeing the summer internship program. ■ **Rachel Anker (BS '22, BA '22)** is a fourth grade at Price Elementary School. ■ **Morgan Bair (BS '22)** is a Pricing Analyst at Do it Best Corp. ■ **Abigail "Abby" Betten (BSN '22)** is a nurse in labor and delivery at Memorial Hospital in South Bend. ■ **Allyson Black (BSN '22)** is a nurse at Adams Memorial Hospital in Decatur. ■ **Sam Blanchard (BS '22)** began a position with Science Central in Fort Wayne. ■

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2020s, continued

Madalyn Bopp (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the pediatric intensive care unit at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. ■ **Cydney Christensen** (BS '22) will attend Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lillington, North Carolina. ■ **Xiaoxue Cui** (BSN '22) began a nursing position with Parkview Health. ■ **Amber Deno** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the cardiovascular intensive care unit at Lutheran Hospital. ■ **Brianna Engelman** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the Lutheran Hospital downtown emergency room. ■ **Victoria Fisher** (BS '22) teaches third grade at Most Precious Blood Catholic School in Fort Wayne. ■ **Stephanie Garduno** (BSN '22) began a nursing position with Lutheran Health. ■ **Alissa Gerka** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the emergency room at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis. ■ **Christina Gillmore** (BA '22) will attend graduate school at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville. ■ **Tyra Grischke** (BS '22) will attend Indiana University School of Medicine. ■ **Colin Hahn** (AS '22) started a new position at Community Memorial Hospital in Hicksville, Ohio. ■ **Veronica Hare** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the emergency room at Parkview Hospital. ■ **Dustin Heath** (DNP '22) joined the PhyMed Anesthesia Group of Lutheran Health. ■ **Twyla Herron** (BA '22) began a position with Turnstone Center for Children & Adults with Disabilities. ■ **Veronica Hudson** (BS '22) began a position as a residential specialist with Sycamore Services. ■ **Maggie Jones** (DNP '22) joined CCI Anesthesia Group at Marion General Hospital in Marion, Indiana. ■ **Taylor Jones** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the Lutheran Hospital cardiac intensive care unit. ■ **Jordan Konstanty** (BS '22) will attend Kansas City University Medical School. ■ **Isabella Kryder** (BSN '22) began a nursing position at Lutheran Hospital in the medical surgical intensive care unit. ■ **Elizabeth "Libby" Laker** (BS '22) joined USF as an admissions counselor. ■ **Danielle Lewis** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the Parkview Regional operating room. ■ **Rachael Liberty** (AS '22) began a position at Indiana Physical Therapy in Angola, Indiana, and a PRN position at Community Memorial Hospital in Hicksville, Ohio. ■ **Molly Luther** (BSN '22) began a nursing position at Lutheran Hospital in the medical surgical intensive care unit. ■ **Ashlie Martz** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the Parkview Health new nurse rotation program. ■ **Nicolette Merker** (BSW '22) became a case manager with Parkview Regional. ■ **Dayna Miller** (BSN '22) began a nursing position at Lutheran Hospital in the pediatric intensive care unit. ■ **Vanessa Murrillo Vallejo** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in Parkview Regional in the surgical trauma intensive care unit. ■ **Tabitha Musser** (BS '22) became a physical therapist assistant with Parkview Therapy Services. ■ **Andrew Nash** (AS '22) began a position with Indiana Physical Therapy in Huntington. ■ **Liseth Nino** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the Parkview Regional neonatal intensive care unit. ■ **Regan Pepler** (BS '22, BA '22) teaches third grade at Fort Wayne's Bloomingdale Elementary. ■ **Emma Perkins** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the Parkview Regional neonatal intensive care unit. ■ **Holdden Pier** (AS '22) started a new position with Chateau Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. ■ **Dylan Regan** (DNP '22) joined the staff at Adams Memorial Hospital in Decatur, Indiana. ■ **Grace Renbarger** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the Lutheran Hospital cardiovascular intensive care unit. ■ **Joseph Renner** (BS '22) began a position with the Indiana State Board of Accounts. ■ **Delaney Richard** (BSN '22) began a nursing position at Parkview BridgeWays. ■ **Tyler Rickert** (BS '22) started a new position as investment operations analyst at Credent Wealth Management. ■ **Amber Root** (BA '22) started a position as a graphic designer with Hoffmaster Group, Inc. ■ **Kyle Stevens** (DNP '22) joined the PhyMed Anesthesia Group of Lutheran Health. ■ **Morgan Stuut** (DNP '22) joined CCI Anesthesia in Coldwater, Michigan. ■ **Ethan Theurer** (BS '22) began a position with Steel Dynamics. ■

in memoriam

1940s

Jean M. Kober ('48)

1950s

Jean C. (Miller) Winans ('50)*

1960s

Bonnie Joy Flueckiger ('60)*

Lynn Jo (Carroll) Knee ('64)*

Bernice (Steinert) Aspacher ('64)*

Neva L. Beerbower ('67)

Robert F. Spitler ('68)

1970s

Audrey Osterholt Woods ('70)

Gayle Louise Linnell ('71)

Keith (Bill) William Scranton ('71)

Colleen M. (Cain) Daves ('72)

Dawn (LaRue) Miller ('72)

Michael A. Schnurr ('73)

Myrtle (Knecht) Cook ('74)

Jane Eachus ('79)

1980s

David Lynn Moser ('87)

2000s

Chad Michael Cluts ('06)

* From Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing —
Lutheran College of Health Professions

Keshon Thomas (AS '22) joined the staff of Steppin' Up Physical Therapy. ■ **Brent Trela** (BSN '22) began a nursing position in the surgical intensive care unit of the Detroit Medical Center at Harper University Hospital. ■ **Andrew Weatherington** (DNP '22) joined the PhyMed Anesthesia Group of Lutheran Health. ■ **Rebecca Wetzel** (BSN '22) started a nursing position at Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology. ■ **Madaya Wheeler** (BA '22) began a position with Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana. ■ **Aisha White** (DNP '22) joined the staff of Parkview Ortho North.

COUGAR SPORTS RECAP



BASEBALL

After winning a school-record 34 games in 2021, the baseball team had its ups and downs in 2022. The Cougars opened conference play with a 6-2 record, including a four-game sweep over Goshen, but then hit an eight-game losing streak. The Cougars steadied the ship and made the Crossroads League Tournament for the second straight year. Opening the tournament, they took a thrilling opening-round win against No. 1 seeded Mount Vernon but fell short to Huntington and Marian to end the season. The Cougars finished 27-28.

Senior designated hitter David Miller hit .344 with a slugging percentage of .656 while smacking 14 home runs and driving in 64 RBIs to lead the team in all four categories. Senior first baseman Tyler Prince racked up 57 hits for a .315 batting average and had eight home runs and drove in 42 runs. Freshman Sam Pesa was runner-up behind Miller in home runs with nine during his rookie season, while junior left fielder Alec Brunson hit .317 with 60 hits. Freshman pitcher Cory Wolter finished 7-3, averaging 8.4 strikeouts per nine innings pitched while striking out 68 batters against only 23 walks. Sophomore Casey Henry finished 6-2 with a team-leading 72 strikeouts while allowing just four home runs.

GOLF | MEN

The Cougars recorded an early highlight when they played in the Indiana Wesleyan Invite and placed first out of seven teams. Led by senior Bryce Turner, the Cougars finished with a total of 611, finishing six strokes ahead of runner-up Holy Cross. Turner was the individual champion as he shot a 66 and 77 for a 143 total. Senior Brent Trela finished second for the Cougars and seventh overall with a score of 154, sophomore Levi Follett finished one stroke behind Trela at eighth place overall, junior Gabe Schenk finished with a 159 and freshman Jacob Niedbalski finished with a 170.

Three of the five Cougars competing finished in the top 10 with Turner's 66 in the first round being the best of all 41 golfers in either round. At the Crossroads League Championship, Turner capped off his stellar collegiate career by scoring an eagle on the 18th hole in the final round to tie for seventh as the Cougars finished fourth in the conference out of nine schools.

GOLF | WOMEN

The women began the spring season at the Taylor Purgatory Invite and sophomore Melissa Francis led the team with an 84, tying for 13th out of 36 golfers while senior Sydney Heinbaugh finished one stroke behind Francis. At the Crossroads League Conference Championship, the Cougars shot scores of 340, 329 and 326 to place seventh out of nine teams. Junior Amara Eckert led the way with 83, 83 and 78 for a 244. Eckert will return in the fall for her senior season, looking to propel the Cougars toward the top of the conference standings.

SOFTBALL

The Cougar softball team finished 25-25 in the 2022 season. The Cougars opened with a 5-4 record in conference play, capped off by three consecutive shutouts—two by junior pitcher Mackenzie Rust and one by sophomore Erika Turpin. The Cougars finished conference play with a 17-19 record, qualifying for the Crossroads League Tournament. Their season came to an end in a hard-fought 5-4 loss against Spring Arbor; several players earned individual awards.

Junior catcher Tori Miller earned First-Team All-Crossroads League as she led all Cougar batters with a .372 batting average, slugged eight home runs and drove in 31 RBIs in 49 games played. Her slugging percentage of .634 led the team by over 30 points. Freshman second baseman Anna Smith earned a spot on the Crossroads League Softball All-Tournament Team while Rust made the Second-Team All-Crossroads League after going 13-11 with 16 complete games and 106 strikeouts against just 34 walks. Junior third baseman Dani Karr also made Second-Team All-Crossroads after hitting .356 with 23 RBIs, and freshman shortstop Brooklyn McCord was an honorable mention with a .363 average.

TENNIS

The Cougar men's team improved to 2-3 in the spring, with wins coming at Kalamazoo College and against Dickson College to open their Florida trip during spring break. The Cougar women's team finished 0-8 and look to show significant improvement in the 2022 fall season.



TRACK AND FIELD | MEN

During the winter and spring track seasons, the Cougars put together a season for the ages with records shattered, rising stars and tremendous honors. Their big freshman phenom of the year was Spencer Carpenter, who rewrote the record books in his rookie season. On January 23 at Indiana Wesleyan, Carpenter finished first out of 12 runners in the 1,000-meter run with a time of 2:32.67, besting the runner-up from Grace by just .29 seconds. His time set a school record. Carpenter continued his success two weeks later when he earned NAIA A standard at the Midwest Classic by winning the 1,000-meter.

The indoor season wrapped up with two Cougars placing first in their respective events at the Crossroads League Conference Championships: Carpenter and senior Jordan Konstanty. Konstanty threw for 18.99 meters in the weight throw on his last attempt to win the league title while also setting a school record, breaking his own record from the previous week. The senior finished first out of 21 throwers, beating the runner-up by 0.27 meters. Carpenter won the 1,000-meter run with a new conference record of 2:28.77.

In the outdoor season, the Cougars set three school records at the Little State Invite hosted by Indiana Wesleyan: the 4x800 meter run, the 3,000-steeplechase and 800-meter run. At the Crossroads League Conference Outdoor Championships, Carpenter once again became the individual conference champion, this time at the 1,500 meters, with a time of 3:52.90, placing first out of 35 runners. Sophomore Joe Painter won the pole vault at 4.55 meters.

The year concluded in Gulf Shores, Alabama, when the Cougars traveled down for the NAIA National Championships. Konstanty set a program record at the hammer throw by improving to 58.97 meters at the NAIA championships. He improved by 21 meters during his collegiate career, setting a record and earning All-American honors to cap off his collegiate career.

Konstanty, Carpenter and Painter earned NAIA All-American honors during the 2021-22 track & field season.

TRACK AND FIELD | WOMEN

Fresh off becoming the cross country conference champion, junior Alex Ebetino took her performance straight into the indoor season, recording the then-top 3,000-meter time in the NAIA at the Mastodon Opener to begin the season. Junior Leah Hall also stepped up big during the indoor season, winning the mile at the Reggie Thomas Collegiate Classic and earning an NAIA B standard at the IWU Midwest Classic.

At the Crossroads League Conference Championship, the team of Hall, freshman Audrey Zeigler, Ebetino and senior Hailley O'Neil finished second out of nine teams with a time of 12:17.26, shattering the previous school record of 12:31.71, also finishing nearly 16 seconds faster than the NAIA A standard. Throughout the indoor season, the team of sophomore Kristina Baum, Ebetino, Hall and O'Neill had the fourth-fastest mile squad in the NAIA with three individual national qualifiers.

Ebetino and Hall earned NAIA All-American honors for the indoor season.

Heading into the outdoor season, Hall had another breakout performance at the conference championships by winning the 10,000 meters and setting a USF and Crossroads League record. Her time of 36:37.99 in the 10,000 meters was almost one minute faster than the NAIA A standard, placing her top 10 in the NAIA. At the conference championships, Hall, freshman Mariah Maley, Ebetino and O'Neill earned 2022 All-Crossroads League Performer honors.

At the NAIA National Championships in Gulf Shores, Alabama, Ebetino earned her sixth collegiate NAIA All-American Honor and second in outdoor track and field. Her time of 17:36.89 in the 5,000 meters placed her third out of 18 runners, and her time was also 19 seconds faster than her time of 17:55 at the Crossroads League Championship, where she won that event by over 10 seconds. Since being at Saint Francis, Ebetino has captured two All-American honors apiece in cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field.



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