



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

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**Fr. John Lo Schiavo
Legacy Society Newsletter**

Summer 2018

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Bringing USF to You is published by USF's Office of Gift Planning. For more information about the stories featured in this issue, or to share your story about why you made a legacy gift to USF, please contact:

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BRINGING USF TO YOU

Fr. John Lo Schiavo Legacy Society Newsletter
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USF Professors Create Lasting Legacy
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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018

Meet Natalie Watson '18 Finance Major in the School of Management



Campus was abuzz in May when 2,500 students received their diplomas at spring commencement and stepped out into the world as USF alumni, prepared to lead and inspire change. We were fortunate to sit down with one of these recent graduates, Natalie Watson, to reflect on her journey and what she loved most about USF.

Can you tell us about your journey to USF?

I was tempted to stay in Everett, WA, but I didn't want to do what felt comfortable — I wanted to branch out and spread my wings. My grandparents lived in California and I always loved visiting them. During my senior year, a recruiter from USF visited my high school. It was really nice to get one-on-one time with him; he talked about how inclusive USF was and about the financial aid that was available. My parents didn't have the funds to send me to a private college and I was supposed to stay local. Receiving financial aid was an absolute must. I never visited campus but I felt a sense of belonging and community already, so it was an easy decision to apply. Receiving financial aid all four years allowed me to follow my dreams and I'm so grateful.

What did you love most about your time at USF?

I would often visit my friends at Santa Clara University and one day I realized that I needed to be brave and start building my own community. There were so many opportunities and experiences I was missing out on. I loved playing volleyball in high school so I decided to join the club team at USF. The best part about being on the team had nothing to do with win-loss records; the best part was forming strong relationships with my teammates. It was an environment of constant support and encouragement — I had finally found my community. I'm very thankful for all of the amazing professors that enriched my school experience. I've seen myself grow while rising to a higher level of performance. My professors prepared me for the real world and made me ready to take a professional job even while finishing my degree.

What are you plans for after graduation?

I started working at Starbucks during my freshmen year. It was there that I met Amy Blodgett '91, the founder and CEO of Boom Planning. One day I shared with her that I was a student at USF studying business administration. Soon after our conversation, she offered me an internship. I enjoyed my internship so much that I changed my major to finance. She was incredibly flexible with my schedule and provided me with the opportunity to grow and learn. I'm excited and extremely grateful to continue on at Boom Planning after graduation full-time as an Associate Adviser. But before I start, I'm headed to Spain for the summer, then to Everett to spend some time with my family.

LEGACY CORNER

USF Professors Create Lasting Legacy For Biology Students

In their 40-plus combined years of teaching, Dr. Mary Jane Niles, professor of Biology, and Dr. John Higgins, professor of Media Studies, have profoundly influenced the lives of countless USF students. But their commitment to the university goes beyond the classroom; they recently made a legacy gift to support future biology students.



“USF has given us the opportunity to do what we love to do — teach in fields for which we have great passion, and bring that passion into our classrooms and labs. My students are smart, sincere, hard-working, and they are a pleasure to work with. We are part of the USF family.” As we approached estate planning, there was no question that we would include USF in our plan in some way,” says Mary Jane.

John and Mary Jane have also served as officers of their respective unions: John as President of the University of San Francisco Faculty Association (USFFA) Part Time, the union representing more than 1,000 adjunct faculty, and Mary Jane in various officer positions with the USFFA-Full Time. When asked how they met, they both remember the moment. John recalls, “we met at the Tonga room in 1996 at an informal faculty pub night. When I saw her, I immediately introduced myself, and the rest is history. USF is a full-service employer.”

Over the years, they have made connections on many different levels at USF and one is their union work. Having a voice through collective bargaining has been integral to their time at USF. They believe the faculty-librarian unions are part of what makes USF such a special place.

John says, “Any working relationship has its bumps. What I find at USF is even if I were to disagree with some of the decisions, at least I know that they are ethically based decisions rooted in the Jesuit tradition.”

Mary Jane and John delight in constantly learning from their students who often challenge their way of thinking. Over the years, they have witnessed the university evolve as the student body has diversified. These students bring with them a range of perspectives and approaches to the world. As a result, they have grown as teachers.

“I went to graduate school because my dream was to teach college students, so I am grateful,” says Mary Jane. She cherishes the connections she makes with students and enjoys when alumni drop by to say hello. And, she adds, “it’s been fun to witness the changes USF has gone through since I started teaching here 25 years ago.”

“We were able to create an estate plan that benefits our nieces, nephews, and USF students. It’s wonderful to know that our gift is going to impact the lives of future students. The process of expressing our values through charitable giving feels right. We’re changing lives one scholarship at a time.”

USF NEWS AND EVENTS

Day of the Dons 2018: Inspiring the Next Generation of Donors



On April 18, 2018 USF kicked off its fourth annual 24-hour giving campaign known as the Day of the Dons. This was a day to celebrate the power of our community coming together through a display of generosity to make USF an even better university.

In just 24 hours, more than 2000 alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends helped unlock USF's largest matching challenge gift ever — \$350,000, raising a total of \$760,609. The Day of the Dons campaign helps cultivate and energize future generations of USF donors!

Upcoming Events Selected Just for You

Alumni Weekend Sneak Peek

November 2-November 4, 2018

- Alumni Mass at St. Ignatius
- Alumni Awards Gala
- Alumni & Family BBQ
- Class of 1968 Golden Graduates Reunion Reception

Revel in the Natural Beauty of Ireland with Alumni and Friends of USF

August 7, 2018 - August 18, 2018

Discover the Burren and experience the magical Cliffs of Moher, towering above the sparkling ocean.

For more information about these events, contact Gift Planning by email at giftplanning@usfca.edu or by phone at (415) 422-4163.

USF Purchases Star Route Farms

In July of 2017, USF purchased the oldest continuously operating organic-certified row-crop farm in California. The acquisition of Star Route Farms provides a unique opportunity to expand USF's mission of high quality Jesuit education paired with environmental and social justice, teach our students about their relationship with the environment beyond the classroom, and engage USF students and faculty in ongoing research and sustainability work.

"The excitement connected with this purchase is matched only by the multitude of opportunities we envision for students, faculty, and the local community in years to come. We are grateful to Star Route Farms founder Warren Weber and his wife Amy for entrusting this resource to the university and enabling us to enhance USF's commitment to environmental and social justice."

- President, Rev. Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J.

Please Welcome Our Newest Legacy Society

Members:

John Calaway, Staff
Janice Cantu '70 and Grant Ute '60
Timothy Kohn '04
Maureen O'Hara '72
Frank Schubert '81



Pictured left: Legacy society member Tony Graham '77 on Giants opening day as the Ball Dude!

Congratulations, Tony!

Thank you for your support!