

Three Join Board of Trustees

Three new members have been elected to three-year terms on the USF Board of Trustees. The new trustees include an environmental activist, Vatican Observatory astrophysicist, and CEO to one of the world's largest real estate firms. Joining the board are:



Michelle J. Skaff '76, president of the Sienna Foundation, which provides support for disadvantaged children, the arts, education, and environmental programs. She is currently chair of the Sierra Club Foundation board and serves on a number of nonprofit boards and advisory councils. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from USF.



Bill R. Stoeger, S.J., staff scientist for the Vatican Observatory Research Group, specializing in

theoretical cosmology, high-energy astrophysics, and interdisciplinary studies relating to science, philosophy, and theology. He holds a doctorate in astrophysics from Cambridge University. Currently, he is an adjunct associate professor at the University of Arizona, and teaches at USF and the Vatican Observatory summer schools.



Brett White is president and CEO of CB Richard Ellis, where he oversees global business activities for one of the world's largest commercial real estate services firms. He is also on the board of Edison International and Southern California Edison. He has been involved in a number of civic and charitable organizations, including the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and Junior Achievement. [USF](#)

Burmese Monks Honored at December Ceremony

USF honored the Buddhist monks of Burma (Myanmar) with an honorary doctorate during a Dec. 14 commencement ceremony. Accepting on behalf of the monks was Sayadaw U Kovida (center), a highly respected senior monk with a history of standing up against the military junta and being jailed for doing so. "This honor gives all of us inside and outside Burma much needed encouragement to carry on with conviction," Sayadaw U Kovida said. USF President Stephen A. Privett, S.J., praised the monks' "courageous, nonviolent demonstrations, their continuing struggle for a fair and representative government, and the selfless leadership that is giving an entire nation a taste of freedom. These are the kind of people we hope our graduates will be."



Inaugural California Prize Awarded



Fritz

Lynn Fritz, founder of the nonprofit Fritz Institute, has won the University of San Francisco's first annual California Prize for Service and the Common Good for his organization's development and deployment of software aimed at improving logistical response during disasters.

The California Prize, which comes with a \$10,000 purse and handcrafted medal, will be awarded each year to a person who creates advancements or innovations in private or public sector service on behalf of underserved populations.

The former CEO of Fritz Companies, a Fortune 1000 world-wide freight transporter, Fritz sold his firm to United Postal Service (UPS) in 2001, then turned his logistical expertise to streamlining humanitarian relief efforts around the globe.

Under Fritz's guidance, the San Francisco-based institute developed the first Web-based software designed to connect all steps of the supply chain and enable real-time matching of a population's needs during a disaster. Locally, the institute's Bay Prep Initiative seeks to advance the ability of the Bay Area to prepare, withstand, and recover from a major disaster, such as an earthquake.

"Lynn's work makes it clear that creating a more just world is not the exclusive preserve of direct service providers—relief workers, social workers, and nurses—but includes those with business acumen, technical knowledge, and research skills who are critical for effective and immediate post-disaster relief," said USF President Stephen A. Privett, S.J.

In sponsoring the California Prize, USF celebrates individuals who personify the ideals of Jesuit education and embody the university's mission of offering a socially responsible and rigorous education while promoting the common good of all.

"Improving the lives of others from behind the scenes is a critical platform for the Fritz Institute," Fritz said. "Thus, it is of particular importance to me to be recognized by a university that encourages and educates students to work for a more humane world." [USF](#)