

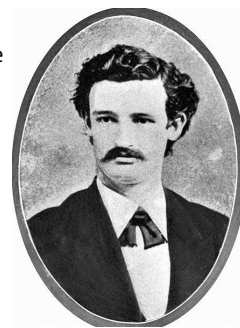
The History of Student Diversity at the University of San Francisco

Published by:
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www.usfca.edu/oir

The University of San Francisco, founded in 1855, had a diverse student body from the beginning. Although most American institutions of higher education partly reflect our nation's immigration experience, St. Ignatius College (as USF was then known) was the immigration experience during the nineteenth century. Most of the students at St. Ignatius College, during its first decades, were first- or second-generation Irish or Italian Catholics, a partial reflection of the population of San Francisco. After the Gold Rush of 1849, the Irish came to San Francisco by the thousands, making up nearly one-third of the city's population by the 1880s. Throughout the mid-nineteenth century, and especially in the 1880s and 1890s, Italians also immigrated to the United States, and to San Francisco, in ever increasing numbers, swelling the population of San Francisco and expanding the enrollment of St. Ignatius College to 650 students by 1880. In the 1880 national census, the population of San Francisco was 233,959, 44.6 percent of whom were foreign born. In that year, San Francisco was the ninth largest city in the United States, but first in the nation, even ahead of New York City, in the percentage of its population that was foreign born. In addition to the Irish and the Italians, large numbers of Germans and French immigrated to San Francisco in the last decades of the nineteenth century, some of whom sent their sons to St. Ignatius College, further adding to the European diversity of the institution by the turn of the century. By 1900, students with Latino names also began to appear on the enrollment lists of the school.



Chan Chung ("C.C.") Wing graduated in USF's first law class, and in 1918, became the first Asian American to be admitted to the bar in California history. He founded a successful law practice specializing in immigration law.



Richard McCabe, the first student enrolled at St. Ignatius Academy, renamed St. Ignatius College in 1859.

During the first three decades of the 20th century, students of Asian ancestry began to enroll at St. Ignatius College. In 1912, the Law School was established, and among the members of its first class was Chan C. Wing, who became the first Asian American to be admitted to the bar in the history of California. By the 1920s, Filipino students began to be part of the ethnic diversity of the institution, and in 1929, an organization named the Filipino Ignatians was founded in the College of Arts and Sciences. St. Ignatius College changed its name to the University of San Francisco in 1930, the same year that one of the starting tackles for the football team, Isaiah Fletcher, became the first of many African Americans to play on a varsity intercollegiate team for the school. This was decades before most universities and colleges began to integrate their athletic teams or their campuses. In 1936, Earl Booker, another African American, won the Intercollegiate Boxing Championship, while earning his bachelor's degree in history.



In 1929, an organization named the Filipino Ignatians was founded in the College of Arts and Sciences. The photo is of the officers of that organization.



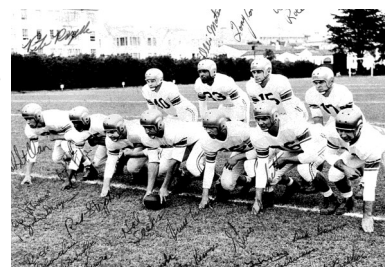
In 1930, Isaiah Fletcher became the first of many African American to play on a varsity intercollegiate team for the University of San Francisco.

After World War II, college enrollment rapidly expanded in the nation's institutions of higher education, thanks in large measure to the G.I. Bill of Rights. Segregation and discrimination were still widespread in the United States in the immediate post-war years, but not at USF, whose integrated athletic teams often faced racism when they traveled to other cities. On New Year's Day in 1950, the USF soccer team met Penn State in Saint Louis for the first annual intercollegiate soccer bowl game in the United States. The Dons had spent the prior three nights sleeping on cots in the living room and dining room of a Saint Louis college fraternity house because none of the city's hotels would provide accommodations for the team's black player, Olufumni Osibogun, an exchange student from Nigeria. The team elected to stay with its black player rather than acquiesce to racist attitudes, a harbinger of the moral stand taken by the USF football team the next year. On the day of the soccer game, USF and Penn State battled to a 2-2 draw, and the teams were declared co-national champions.



Earl Booker, who received a bachelor's degree in history from USF in 1941, won the intercollegiate Boxing Championship in 1936.

The 1951 USF football team, with its shoulder-to-shoulder African American and white players, was rare by contemporary 1951 intercollegiate standards, but reflected a long-term value system on the hilltop campus. The finale to the 1951 football season revealed just how unique that value system was in the United States. The USF football team of 1951 was arguably the best intercollegiate team ever. The team compiled a perfect record of nine wins, with no losses or ties. The team saw nine of its starting players drafted directly into the National Football League, five of whom went on to play in the NFL Pro Bowl, with three of those eventually inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. No other collegiate team ever had this many of its players so honored. Ollie Matson, one of the two African American players on the team, won silver and bronze medals in the 1952 Olympics before launching his spectacular career in professional football, culminating in his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Burl Toler, the other African American on the team, was drafted by the Cleveland Browns, but was prevented from playing professional football by a knee injury. Instead, he became the first African American to become an NFL game official. Mr. Toler later obtained a master's degree in educational administration from USF and in 1968 became the first African American junior high school principal in San Francisco's history when he was named principal of Benjamin Franklin Junior High, after having taught at that school for several years. Despite the Dons' perfect football record in 1951, the team was not invited to any post-season bowl games, which should have been a given for a team with USF's spectacular season. Other teams with inferior records went to bowl games. The reason the USF team was not invited soon became clear: racism. In the benighted days of 1951, teams with black athletes simply were not invited to play in post-season bowl games. Finally, the organizers of the Orange Bowl did express an interest in having the Dons play, but only if they left their two black players behind. The team players adamantly refused this offer, stood on principle, and became known as the team that was "undefeated, untied, and uninvited."



The USF football team of 1951 was undefeated on the gridiron and had nine of its players drafted by the National Football League. Despite fielding, perhaps the best collegiate football team of all time, the Dons were not invited to play in any post-season bowl games unless they left their African American players (Ollie Matson and Burl Toler) at home. The team refused, stood on principle, and transcended the segregated and racist temper of the times.

Just as the undefeated 1951 USF football team was far ahead of most of the nation in fully integrating its team, the 1954–1955 USF basketball team became the first major university basketball team to win a national title with three African American players (Bill Russell, K.C. Jones, and Hal Perry) among its five starters. Many college teams throughout the nation, especially in the South, did not integrate their teams until the late 1960s or early 1970s. The segregated nature of various regions of the nation was underscored by a trip that USF took to Oklahoma City to play in a tournament during the 1954–1955 season. Upon arrival in



The 1954–55 Dons exiting their flight with championship trophy in hand after winning the NCAA tournament.

the city, the team's black players were denied hotel accommodations. The team voted unanimously, however, to stay together in an unoccupied college dorm, thus buttressing a growing sense of team unity in the face of discrimination. The 1955–1956 USF basketball team continued its victories from the prior season, won every game in the regular season, and their second straight NCAA championship. During the summer of 1956, the basketball team accepted an invitation to travel on a good-will tour to Central and South America as part of the United States International Educational Exchange Program. The team put on exhibition games in numerous countries, including Venezuela, El Salvador, Panama, and Paraguay. Wherever the team traveled, it received glowing reports on its sportsmanship, good will, and exemplary conduct on

and off the court. The embassy staff in Paraguay, for example, wrote, "the visit of the Dons to Asuncion was a real success and the Americans conducted themselves like true American Ambassadors of Sport."

The 1960s witnessed the full integration of men and women into the traditional undergraduate programs at USF and further growth in the minority student population. The Black Student Union was formed in 1968. By 1970, the university moved toward an affirmative action policy, actively recruited minority students, established an ethnic studies program, and increased the number of programs connected to the surrounding community. During the 1970s, USF saw a significant increase in the number of ethnic minority students on campus, a fact reflected in the growth of student organizations such as the Black Student Union, La Raza, and the Philippine Club. By the fall of 1979, the USF student body was comprised of 5,644 students, of whom 357 (6.3 percent) were African American, 696 (12.3 percent) were Asian, 354 (6.3 percent) were Latino, 1,329 (23.6 percent) were international, and 2,886 (51.1 percent) were White.



During the 1970s, USF saw an increase in the number of ethnic minority students on campus, a fact reflected in the growth of student organizations such as the Black Student Union (top), La Raza (middle), and the Philippine Club (bottom).

Today the University of San Francisco continues to be one of the most diverse universities in the nation. USF was rated 11th in undergraduate student ethnic diversity among 280 national universities in the *U.S. News & World Report 2012 Ranking*. Among the nation's 28 Jesuit universities and colleges, USF is ranked 2nd in its undergraduate student diversity, behind Saint Peter's College of New Jersey. USF's School of Law is also among the 20 most diverse in the nation, with more than 33 percent of the 2011 entering class comprised of students of color. In 2009, 2010, and 2011, *Hispanic Business Magazine* ranked the USF School of Law as among the top 10 law schools in the nation for Hispanics. In its final report in March 2010, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) noted in reaffirming USF's accreditation for ten years, that USF has "one of the most ethnically diverse student bodies in the country, even when compared to other Jesuit colleges and universities with a similar mission."

Among the total USF student population in the fall of 2011, 20.6 percent were Asian American, 4.8 percent were African American, 15.6 percent were Latino, 1.9 percent were Native American, 0.5 percent were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 12.0 percent were international, and 40.6 percent were white. There has been a 29.4 percent increase in the overall student enrollment from the fall of 2001 to the fall of 2011. By ethnicity, the number of Latino students has increased by 114.8 percent during this time period, the number of Asian American students has increased by 53.8 percent, and the number of international students has increased by 63.8 percent. The African American student population has increased 6.7 percent since 2001, while the overall white student population has increased by 20.3 percent during the past decade. All student ethnic groups, except Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, have increased in actual numbers since 2001. The ethnic composition of all USF students in the fall of 2011 is displayed in Table 1.



Today USF continues to have one of the most diverse student bodies in the nation.

Table 1: USF Total Student Population, by Ethnicity, Fall 2011

Ethnicity	Number / %
Asian	2,022 (20.6%)
African American	476 (4.8%)
Latino	1,538 (15.6%)
Native American	184 (1.9%)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	50 (0.5%)
International	1,179 (12.0%)
Unspecified	399 (4.1%)
White	3,989 (40.6%)
Total	9,837

Source: USF Office of the Registrar

In the final analysis, the University of San Francisco continues to live out its *Vision, Mission, and Values Statement*, to "enroll, support, and graduate a diverse student body, which demonstrates high academic achievement, strong leadership capability, concern for others and a sense of responsibility for the weak and the vulnerable."

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