



Global Alumni Spotlight

FRANÇOIS B. RIOUX, CLASS OF 1984

Bachelor's of Natural Science in Chemistry
Bachelor's of Business Administration in
Accounting



President of Group Rioux (located in Canada), François B. Rioux joined the family business as a financial controller after graduating from USF in 1984. Through the years, he has held numerous positions and returned to university twice for a Master's in Project Management and a Master's in Business Administration. A selection of his business successes include re-energizing a real estate division of 700 units, developing and growing a struggling hotel into a regional chain with clients in 20+ countries, and transforming a small development company into a major operation in eastern Canada, serving brands like Canadian Tire, McDonald's, Toyota, Hyundai, Telus, and more.

Always interested in giving back to his community, he has served on local, regional, national, and international boards. In 2015 he founded The Innovation and Development Funds of Matanie, for which he raised 1 million dollars from entrepreneurs and governments to support economic growth – generating over \$10 million in new projects and nearly \$80 million in development. More recently, the Rioux family announced it will give \$150,000 over a 5-year period to promote entrepreneurship through grants to young entrepreneurs.

His greatest success is by far his three children, who all work in the family business in key management positions. As the third generation, they aim to take over the business in the years to come - assuring its continuity.

What was it like to hear from USF?

I was surprised and very happy to hear from USF more than 35 years after graduation! USF is a real leader in higher education, in a way that none of my other alma maters have been.

What are your thoughts on the student global consulting course and our efforts to engage alumni?

The idea of reaching out to international businesses run by alumni is an excellent way to create opportunities for students to learn about a different culture or way of doing things. I really believe that such an experience should be mandatory for every USF program.

What do you think about the trajectory of USF among other public institutions?

I've always followed USF, which is much easier with LinkedIn these days, and I am amazed and proud of all the growth I see on a regular basis. Keep up the great work! Go Bulls!