

"Alumna" in Netflix's "House of Cards"

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Meet Catherine Durant, fictional secretary of state in the Netflix hit “House of Cards” and an “alumna” who’s a fan favorite in the Tulane nation. Actress Jayne Atkinson portrays Durant.

Kevin Spacey’s portrayal of the ruthless and manipulative Francis Underwood in Netflix’s “House of Cards” has not only earned the show a slew of Emmy nominations but also legions of binge-watching viewers. After Season 3 of the online drama was released Feb. 7, a member of President Underwood’s cabinet became a fan favorite among the Tulane University faithful.

Tulane students and alumni took to social media to express their excitement during episode 3 of the new season as Secretary of State Catherine Durant laughs with the First Lady about the fun she had during her college years at Tulane University.

Tweets from Tulane followers included “Love this Tulane shout-out on “House of Cards!!”” and “See you at Homecoming, Madame Secretary.”

When the series first began, viewers were introduced to Durant as a Democratic senator from Missouri. As the plot progressed, Durant (portrayed by actress Jayne Atkinson) rose to new heights while playing a major role in the ascension of Francis Underwood from majority whip to President of the United States.

Now, Tulane fans are hoping the character will use the tact and political know-how she learned during her time at Tulane to avoid the cruel pitfalls many characters on the show experience.

While many viewers have been excited to watch this fictitious alumna maneuver the tumultuous political world of “House of Cards,” Tulane has a rich history of real-life alumni serving honorably in our nation's capital. Most notably, Newcomb alumna Lindy Boggs was revered for her services as a congresswoman and champion of women's rights. Similar to the fictitious Durant, Boggs went on to serve in foreign policy, appointed as the ambassador to the Vatican in 1997 by President Bill Clinton.

Non-fictional alumni can stay up to date with this and other Tulane alumni news by following the Tulane University Alumni Association on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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“See you at Homecoming, Madame Secretary.”