

# SOAR

fall 2019 | alumni magazine





# Dear Alumnus,

Thank you to the many alumni and friends who joined us for our 2019 Homecoming Weekend festivities! During the weekend, the Alumni Department had the opportunity to honor John ('64) and Karen (Leggott '67) Swedberg; Patrick ('75, Denver '81) and Jane (Power '76) McLaughlin; and Ronald ('82) and Cynthia (Linthicum '83) Haas with the Faithful Servant Award. These men and women were chosen based on their demonstration of Christian integrity and many years of service. More about their valuable ministries can be found on pages 4–9 of this magazine.

With the retiring of several of our faculty (highlighted in our Spring 2019 edition), we want to introduce you to several new faces and some transitioning personnel for this fall. We thank the Lord for bringing just the right people to fill in the gaps! Along with the transitions, Alice will also be moving to a new position as Financial Aid Director. It has been her privilege to serve as Alumni Coordinator.

We hope you enjoy this publication as we seek to inform and connect Eagle Nation!



**Alice Bunjer**  
Alumni Coordinator



**Mark Davis**  
Director of Alumni Relations

# Student Highlight

**ABIGAIL  
VAN EMMERIK**



Abigail Van Emmerik is a freshman from Arizona. She was born in Hawaii and moved to Arizona shortly before her second birthday.

Abigail was raised in a Christian home, learning about the Word of God from the very beginning. At a young age she began asking her parents about salvation and saying she wanted to get saved. When she was six years old, Abigail knelt in her living room and repeated a prayer of salvation she had heard on a Christian CD. She was baptized a few years later.

Over the next five years, Abigail found herself struggling with assurance of her salvation. She had given in repeatedly to sins that she enjoyed and started to see the Christian walk as more of a chore that she attempted from time to time. In eighth grade Abigail realized that she had placed her faith in a prayer rather than the finished work of Christ. She repented of her sin and placed her trust completely in Christ. About two years later, she was baptized again, but this time as a true believer. "Life has not been a cakewalk," Abigail said. "I have faced many challenges and struggles, but God has continued to pursue me and change me more and more into His image."

As a senior in high school, Abigail visited Faith with her church youth group. Though she had not been considering Faith at first, she was impressed with how welcoming the Faith family was to her. Quickly embracing the spiritual culture at Faith, Abigail had applied by the time she left and was strongly considering making Faith her choice. After visiting a second time with her mom, Abigail decided that this is the place that God wants her to be. She is both excited and honored to be a part of the Faith Family and will be studying Organizational Leadership.

# Called To Leadership

JOHN & KAREN SWEDBERG

John Swedberg ('64 OBBC) knew he wanted to be a missionary to Brazil since the fourth grade. For the last 50 years, he and his wife Karen (Leggott '67) have been fulfilling that call to serve as missionaries to Brazil with Baptist Mid-Missions.

"While in Indiana, our family was part of the founding of the Winona Lake Baptist Church (now Fellowship Baptist Church in Warsaw)," said John. "We were missions-minded and had missionaries present their ministries to the church. One of these missionaries, Robert Collins, stayed with our family for a week. I was in the fourth grade and learning to play the trumpet. Uncle Bob played the trumpet and told how he used it to gather crowds in the villages along the Amazon River. At the end of his week in our house, I told him that when I grew up, I was going to be a missionary in Brazil with him. Uncle Bob was one of the speakers at the Missions Conference my freshman year, and that confirmed in my mind God's call into missions."

John met Karen at her church in Lexington, Nebraska, after John's father became the pastor there.

"It was in Lexington where I met Karen, who was a member of the church," said John. "We dated some during my junior year, then she graduated and went to Omaha Baptist Bible College (OBBC). After graduation from high school, I chose OBBC to get my Bible training for the ministry. It was closer to home than other fundamental Baptist schools, so it was an easy choice."

They were married after Karen's sophomore year (John's freshman year) of college at OBBC. Her desire to go into missions was also confirmed during missions conferences at OBBC. Karen considers her education at Faith a cornerstone of her ministry.

John appreciates the lifelong friendships he was able to make (some of which have supported their ministry for more than 50 years), and the training he received in doctrine and Christian education.

The Swedbergs are currently in a church planting ministry in São José do Rio Preto, Brazil, working with their youngest son, Daniel. John also works as a member of the board of directors of the Editora Batista Regular do Brasil.

*A lifetime of  
missionary  
service to  
Brazil*

While John notes that there are no barriers to sharing the gospel, their lifelong commitment of missionary service to a country that is predominately Catholic has not always been easy.

"When we joined the mission, Dr. Patten, President of OBBC at the time, told us after we were accepted by the BMM council, 'to never doubt in the dark, what He has revealed in the light,'" said Karen. "I have learned that He is faithful and sovereign. He is always in control. I don't need to fret, but it is hard to always practice that."

The Swedbergs have three sons, three daughters-in-law, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Three generations of Swedbergs have attended Faith.

In September, Karen led the fifth annual Pastors Wives Retreat, while also ministering as a Sunday School teacher, and VBS worker. John currently serves as co-pastor of the church and does counseling of younger pastors as needed.

"Though Baptist Mid-Missions has placed us in the emeritus status, we plan to continue to serve until the Lord returns or we are unable to do so physically or mentally," concluded John.





# Called To Leadership

PAT & JANE MCLAUGHLIN

*President &  
Founder of  
The Timothy  
Group*



Pat ('75) and Jane (Power '76) McLaughlin have literally taken the "Word to the World" through their efforts with The Timothy Group in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Timothy Group is a stewardship campaign and financial development organization that works with Christian colleges, universities, seminaries, K-12 schools, churches, non-profits, camps, and rescue missions all around the world.

"In 1990, having moved to Grand Rapids, Jane and I started our company, The Timothy Group," said Pat. "I was intrigued by my study of Paul the Apostle and his disciple in Ephesus named Timothy. We have been honored to serve around the world in New Zealand, China, The Middle East, Europe,

The United Kingdom, Cuba, Honduras, Canada, and the United States. Over four million air miles later, we have served 1,754 organizations and helped raise over \$2 billion for and with our clients. Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary helped me establish a sound understanding of biblical principles, and the Bible has a lot to say about stewardship. A challenge we are always addressing with our clients is the belief that God cannot meet their financial needs. \$427 billion was given philanthropically in America last year. God is not having a cash flow problem."

Pat chose Faith Baptist Bible College after four members of the Faith Chorale stayed in his home in Wichita, Kansas, in the spring of 1970. He enjoyed the professors, classes, chapel, and dorm life. He lettered in cross country and was the MCCC champion in 1972, while also lettering in basketball and tennis. Pat played two seasons on Faith's first soccer teams in 1973 and 1974.

Pat and Jane met as teenagers at a GARBC camp, and Jane turned down a scholarship at Kansas State University to attend Faith. They served four years with Ezell Wiggins at True Bible Baptist Church. They were married in June of 1974 and spent that summer in the United Kingdom as Missionary Apprenticeship Program students with Baptist Mid-Missions.

"After graduation, Jane and I accepted a youth pastor position at Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan, Iowa, where we served from 1975 to 1977," said Pat. "I was able to apply my pre-seminary studies at FBBC to lots of opportunities to teach, preach, lead a choir, counsel, and build a successful youth ministry. I learned firsthand how a church body functions and grows. I began M.Div. studies at Denver Baptist Theological Seminary in the fall of 1977. Jane took Hebrew 101 to help drag me up to a passing grade. I graduated in 1981, and Jane delivered our first son Seth during finals week. Matt would come along in 1984."

Pat and Jane's time in seminary was life-changing. Not only was their first child born, but God's plans for the rest of their lives began to take shape there as well.

"In my final semester of seminary, I was asked if I would ever consider the ministry of stewardship as a place that we might serve," said Pat. "In the fall of 1981, I joined a consulting agency, moved to Portland, Oregon, and began to assist churches and other Christian organizations in their annual capital and endowment funding needs. My consults those first nine years took me all over America and back to Denver for a college merger. The result is Colorado Christian University."

The McLaughlins are members of Kentwood Community Church and have used their Faith education in a variety of positions (elder, teacher, youth volunteer, and mentor) since 1986. They have two children, Seth and Matt; two wonderful daughters-in-law, Renee and Kristen; and four grandchildren ages 2 to 9. Seth and Renee and their two boys are in the process of resettling in West Michigan after serving as missionaries for five years in La Ceiba, Honduras. Matt is an executive with Priority Health in West Michigan and is actively involved with Kristen and their two children in their local church.



# Called To Leadership

**RON & CYNTHIA HAAS**  
**VICE PRESIDENT OF THE TIMOTHY GROUP**

The Timothy Group (a stewardship campaign and financial development organization based in Grand Rapids, Michigan) has a motto that states, “The joy of the Lord is literally on our faces when we roll up our sleeves to serve you.”

Rolling up their sleeves and serving others is something that Ron ('82, '84) and Cynthia Haas ('83) have done for four decades as a pastor, the Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary, the education director of the Salt & Light Foundation, and as a fundraising consultant to Christian organizations with The Timothy Group.

“I responded to God’s call to serve him as a junior high camper at the Iowa Regular Baptist Camp,” said Ron. “The Lord led me to Faith where I witnessed genuine servants like Dr. Robert Domokos, Dr. Dave Warren, Mr. Don Anderson, and many others. At Philadelphia Biblical University (now Carin University), I pursued a Master of Organizational Leadership, and was introduced to ‘servant leadership theory,’ but I learned the basic principles at Faith many years earlier.”

Ron and Cynthia met when she visited his home church while attending Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. After graduation, Cynthia enrolled at Faith and completed her B.S. in Bible and Theology ('83). Together, they served at First Baptist Church in Farmington, Iowa, and Bethel Baptist

Church in Oskaloosa, Iowa. The Lord then led them back to Faith where Ron served in the administration, and Cynthia taught as an adjunct music instructor.

“God used my time serving at Faith to prepare me for my work today,” said Ron. “In addition to all the practical experience I gained, I met Pat McLaughlin, of The Timothy Group, who became my fundraising mentor and eventually my business partner. I love serving many different Christian ministries to help advance the Kingdom.”

Ron is the author of *Ask for a Fish: Bold, Faith-Based Fundraising* and *Simply Share: Bold, Grace-Based Giving*.

Cynthia has expressed her servant leadership as a music instructor, professional accompanist, and now as a worship coordinator at a Grand Rapids church. Ron and Cynthia instilled servanthood in the lives of their three boys. Stuart served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is a software developer living in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ethan actively serves in his local church and designs menswear for Original Penguin in New York City, and Jared is serving as a middle school pastor at Island Evangelical Community Church in Hong Kong.

“I appreciate how Faith grounded me in my Biblical understanding to prepare me for life and ministry. I pray that Faith will produce many more servant leaders ready to serve the Lord wherever He leads them.”







**TAMMY BALDWIN**  
*Admissions Administrative Assistant*



**KATIE BARRON**  
*Assistant Women's Soccer Coach  
ESL Instructor*



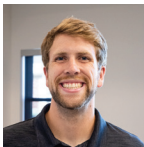
**ZACK BARRON**  
*Assistant Athletic Director  
Women's Soccer Coach*



**DANA BLOMBERG**  
*Music Department Administrative Assistant*



**NOAH BRANUM**  
*Admissions Traveling Representative*



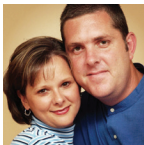
**WILLIE FELDERMAN**  
*Admissions Traveling Representative*



**KATRINA HOLYFIELD**  
*Christian School Department Administrative Assistant*



**KATHLEEN HOWELL**  
*Administrative Assistant/Main Receptionist (Jordan Hall)*



**LINDA KAUFMAN**  
*Assistant Women's Basketball Coach*



**MONTY KAUFMAN**  
*Youth Ministry Instructor  
Head Women's Basketball Coach*



**JAKE KIRKWOOD**  
*Admissions Traveling Representative*



**DR. LES OLLILA**  
*Campus Chaplain*



**JEFF BUNJER**  
*Registrar*

*Some of our present staff/faculty  
are moving into new positions:*



**KYLE CLINE**  
*Admissions Traveling Representative*



**DR. PAUL HARTOG**  
*Chair of the Seminary Theology Department*



**RACHEL PALMA**  
*Executive Administrative Assistant to Dr. Marty Herron*



**ROSE YOUNG**  
*Assistant Dean of Women*



During Commencement Weekend, **Sandra Capon** was given the Honorary Alumnus Award. Sandy has been in ministry with her husband, Tim, since 1986, and has been a helpmeet to him in the pastorate, and as IRBC State Representative. Sandy presently serves as Dean of Women here at Faith.



## Domokos Hall Dedication



What a privilege it was to honor Dr. Robert Domokos and dedicate Domokos Hall on Friday, May 10, 2019, during Commencement Weekend.

Faith students, staff, and faculty, along with friends and family of Dr. Domokos were in attendance to honor “Dr. Bob” and give recognition to the donors, architect, and building contractors for their efforts on the completion of the building. Domokos Hall is adjacent to the Nettleton Center and houses twenty staff and faculty offices, the information technology office, and the Music Department. It also features eight music practice rooms, a large and a small conference room, and two waiting areas.

Dr. Domokos served as president at Faith from 1988-1993 and was the head of the Pastoral Training Department for decades. He was also the voice of Faith Eagles basketball and has served in many other capacities during his 44 years at Faith. You can still see “Dr. Bob” on his lawnmower caring for Faith’s campus.

## New Programs

We are excited about the new programs beginning this fall! Our cohort class for Organizational Leadership has begun with 18 students. The One-Year Biblical Worldview Certificate is still an on-campus program but is also now being offered completely online! In our Education Department, we are now offering ESL (English as a Second Language) either as a K-12 Endorsement or ESL Certificate. Praise the Lord with us for these expansions!



## Homecoming Weekend 2019

Here are some pictures of our 2019 Friends and Family Homecoming Weekend. Mark your calendars to join us next year – September 18–19, 2020!







# Alumni Opportunities

## BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT OCTOBER 17-18, 2019

This conference is designed to motivate and encourage Christian business leaders in the service of their organizations and within their local churches. Visit [faith.edu/events](http://faith.edu/events) for more information.

## ENLIST OCTOBER 22-23, 2019

This free event provides Christian organizations the opportunity to connect with the student body about their ministry needs and opportunities. Please RSVP by October 7. An online registration form can be found at [faith.edu/events](http://faith.edu/events). Questions can be emailed to [studentlife@faith.edu](mailto:studentlife@faith.edu) or by calling **515.422.5651**.

## MISSIONS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 28-31, 2019

Let the Peoples Praise You from Psalm 67:3-5, is the theme of this year's Missions Conference, which exhorts us to praise God and rejoice in His work. To view the conference schedule, visit [faith.edu/events](http://faith.edu/events).

## FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

DECEMBER 6-7, 2019 • 7:00 PM

The concert features a variety of sacred Christmas selections presented by the Faith Chorale, the Handbell Ensemble, and the Faith Community Orchestra. Guests can join in singing several of their favorite Christmas carols. Stay after Friday evening's performance to participate in the campus-wide Open Dorms activity!



## REFRESH CONFERENCE

JANUARY 28-31, 2020

Life in ministry is filled with joyous peaks, but it can also have its exhausting valleys. Refresh Conference is designed specifically to encourage ministry leaders who are currently serving in the trenches and to refresh them in their ministry. Registration opens October 1!

## REFER A STUDENT

How can you as an alum partner with Faith? By referring a student! You can be our greatest advertising tool by recommending a high school student to come to Faith. Any alumni who brings a prospective student or youth group for an official campus visit will receive a complimentary Faith t-shirt.





# Connect

## FAITH.EDU

Visit the alumni page of our website to learn about alumni awards, benefits, and how you can get involved.

# Read

## MONTHLY ALUMNI EMAIL

Don't miss out on our monthly alumni story, announcements, and reminders about upcoming events or opportunities.

# Like

## FACEBOOK PAGE

Like us on our Facebook page (Faith Baptist Bible College) for up-to-date information and photos of events.

# Update

## UPDATE YOUR INFO

We like to stay connected to our alumni. If you are not receiving alumni publications or emails, be sure we have your current information.

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