

SOAR

faith baptist bible college
and theological seminary

spring **2018**
alumni magazine



DEAR ALUMNUS,

If you have not heard already, there are a lot of exciting things happening at Faith! Our 2018 year kicked off with the most applications Faith has received in 20 years, and we are on track to have another year of student growth on our campus! We are also thankful to be breaking ground on a new faculty and music building this month. More info on this building project can be found on page 11.

Amidst the busyness of spring, we would like to slow down and acknowledge families that have had multiple generations attend Omaha or Faith. While there are many families who fit into this category, we have selected the Nichols, Nihart, and Stilwell families to highlight. These "Generations of Faith" are featured in this spring edition to honor their many years of support of Faith and service for the Lord.

As we look forward on the calendar, we hope to see you on campus for this year's Homecoming Weekend, September 14–15, 2018. Come with your family and friends to reconnect with past classmates and see our many campus improvements including Alumni Hall and Shipp Hall. Many area hotels provide discounted rates to Faith for this weekend, so mark your calendars and email alumni@faith.edu with any questions. More about the weekend's events can be found on page 13.



Leanna Acree
ALUMNI
COORDINATOR



Mark Davis
DIRECTOR OF
ALUMNI RELATIONS



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

WILLIE FELDERMAN

Willie Felderman is a senior in the Secondary English Education program at Faith and is completing the second placement of his student teaching. Willie grew up in Chariton, Iowa, and from a young age desired to be a teacher. Willie felt privileged to have been raised by two teachers, and he saw first-hand the impact that teachers can have on students.

"I saw the impact that my parents had on their students, so I was keenly aware of the vast influence that a teacher possesses," Willie explained.

Willie was familiar with Faith after having two older brothers attend, and he came to Faith looking forward to playing basketball for the Faith Eagles. After attending Faith, Willie participated on the Eagles basketball team for three years, the soccer team for two years, and the track and field team for one.

"I came for sports," Willie recalled, "but my heart was captured by the rigorous academics and the ministry mindset of the school."

When asked what he valued most about his experience in Faith's Elementary Education program, Willie said, "The most valuable lesson that I was taught in the Education program was the concept of gospel-based discipline and classroom management—the idea that each conflict with a student or between students presents an opportunity to model the gospel. It changed the way that I view conflict."

Willie thoroughly enjoyed his first student teaching placement at Grand View Christian School in Des Moines, Iowa. He discovered that he appreciated the discipleship opportunities teachers have in a Christian school environment.

"I didn't get hooked on Christian school education until I actually set foot into my first student teaching placement. There is nothing quite like being able to take time each day to exhort a student or share a devotion with the class," Willie shared. "It's exhilarating!"

As he looks toward graduation, Willie explained, "The biggest lesson I learned while attending Faith is that life is ministry. All my life I thought that I would graduate school to get a job that paid the bills and live my life, while leaving Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings open to 'minister.' I could not have been more wrong. God is too good, and He has done too much for me to offer Him a small slice of my life. I don't know if I've been called to full-time vocational ministry, but I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I have been called to minister with my whole life."



GENERATIONS OF FAITH

CHUCK AND JOAN NICHOLS

Not only did Chuck ('56) and Joan (Miller '55) Nichols begin their family's history with Faith Baptist Bible College, but they also began a family history of missionary service in Brazil. The Nichols, alumni of Omaha Baptist Bible Institute (OBBI), have seen both their children and two of their grandchildren graduate from Faith, as well as both of their children follow them in missionary service in Brazil.

Both Chuck and Joan attended OBBI at the individual recommendations of ministry leaders in their lives—Chuck by his pastor and Joan by a missionary. The couple met while attending school, and they were married after Joan graduated in 1955.

The Nichols moved to Dunlap, Iowa, for a year and a half, and their daughter Debbie ('80) was born during that time. In 1958, First Baptist Church of Spearfish, South Dakota, called Chuck to become their pastor. It was there that Chuck earned a degree in secondary education, and their second daughter, Becki ('84), was born. After seven and a half years in Spearfish, God redirected the Nichols family to move south—very south.

In 1965, Chuck and Joan met with Baptist Mid-Missions (BMM) about working in a school in Fortaleza, Brazil, and they were accepted as missionary appointees. Beginning in 1967, the Nichols family would begin 18 years of ministry at Fortaleza Academy, from where both Debbie and Becki graduated. The Nichols also helped start three churches and a Bible institute. Both of the Nichols' girls returned to the U.S. for college at Faith, while Chuck earned his master's degree and Joan her bachelor's degree.

After their 18 years in Brazil, Chuck was offered a position at BMM's home office as the field administrator for Latin America. Chuck and Joan moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1985 and continued their ministry with BMM until 2000, when they retired to Silva, Missouri. God called Chuck home to heaven in 2010, two years after moving to Ankeny, Iowa.

The Nichols' daughters carry on their parents' legacy through missions work and their support of Faith. Debbie married David Thompson, a missionary kid from Brazil. They returned to Brazil as church planters, and they continue to serve there today. Becki married Mark Lounsborough ('82), a Faith alum, and they served for 19 years in Brazil. Mark and Becki currently serve at Faith Baptist Bible College—Mark as the chair of the Missions Department and Becki as a faculty assistant. The Lounsboroughs had two children graduate from Faith.

When asked why so many family members attended Faith, Joan replied, "I attribute it solely to the great faithfulness of God in leading in the lives of my children and grandchildren." She continues to live in Ankeny and is a faithful and active member at Community Baptist Church.

Marlin ('56) and Ruth (Smith '55) Nihart started a legacy when they began attending Omaha Baptist Bible Institute (OBBI) in 1953. Sixty-five years and two generations later, Marlin and Ruth have seen 17 family members become alumni of Faith and currently have one grandchild enrolled.

Marlin and Ruth both attended OBBI from out of state—Marlin from Minnesota and Ruth from South Dakota. They were individually seeking God's direction for their lives, and God sovereignly placed both of them at OBBI. Marlin was influenced by informational pamphlets from OBBI given to him by a woman in his church. Ruth, however, decided to attend OBBI after interacting with a ministry team from the school that served at her church camp in South Dakota.

While attending OBBI, they both participated in music and evangelistic ministries. Marlin was also a member of one of the first recognized men's basketball teams. They began dating, and they were married in 1955.

After leaving OBBI, God led the Niharts to Aberdeen, South Dakota, where they were instrumental in helping start Melgaard Park Baptist Church. They served in church music, teaching, youth, and leadership. After seeing several family members attend OBBI and Faith, the Lord led Marlin and Ruth to Huron, South Dakota, where they continue to minister today.

Faith is still benefitting from the Nihart's impact. All four of their sons are alumni, two of which married alumni as well. Two of those sons, Lanny ('77) and Kevin ('99), are currently employed by Faith. Lanny and his daughter, fellow alum Erin Davis ('02), coach the Faith women's volleyball team. Kevin supervises the Security Department and his wife, Kim, is the Director of Health Services. Marlin and Ruth's grandson-in-law, alum Mark Davis ('03, '07), currently serves as the Vice President of Student Life and Enrollment, as well as the Director of Alumni Relations. Their grandson, Dakota, is a current freshman at Faith.

Marlin and Ruth recognized the importance and value of Christian education. "We were encouraged by our parents to gain a foundation in our lives by attending a Bible college, which OBBI provided," they explained. "We always encouraged our sons to consider at least one year of training, then allowing the Lord to lead in their lives—whether that resulted in full-time or lay ministry. We desired to provide our sons with a strong base to serve the Lord. We are blessed over the years to see several family generations attend and work at the school we love."



GENERATIONS OF FAITH

MARLIN AND RUTH NIHART



GENERATIONS OF FAITH

STEPHEN AND EVELYN STILWELL

With 14 graduates and three current students, the Stilwell family has been—and continues to be—an active member of the Faith family. Stephen ('67) and Evelyn (Hogg '65) Stilwell, who currently serve with Baptist Mid-Missions (BMM) in Peru, began the Stilwell legacy at Faith in 1962.

Two of Stephen's siblings attended Omaha Baptist Bible College (OBBC). When it came time for Stephen to choose where he would receive training for ministry, God led him to OBBC. Evelyn's family had enjoyed the ministry of hosting Dr. Patten, the president of OBBC at the time, in their home several times. That fact, coupled with the influence of OBBC ministry teams at her church and camp, made her choice to attend OBBC an obvious one. Stephen and Evelyn met while at OBBC, and they were married in 1964.

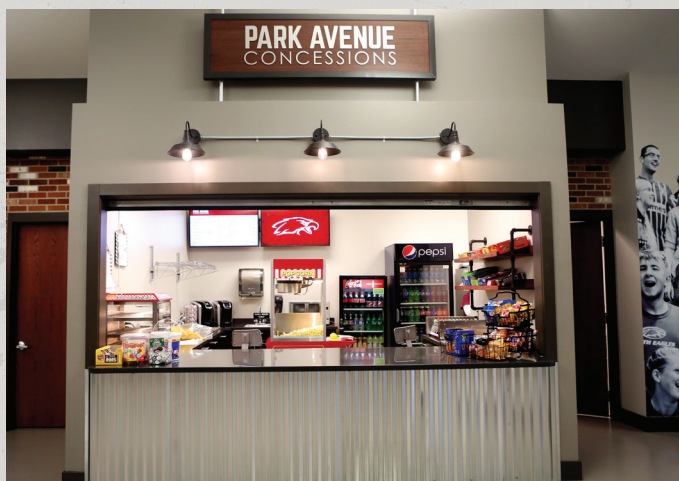
Both Stephen and Evelyn came to OBBC having dedicated their lives to serve God on the mission field. When a visiting missionary presented missions in Latin America in an OBBC chapel, Stephen was struck with the desperate need for missions in Peru. After they were married, Stephen and Evelyn followed God's leading to Huaral, Peru, where they served as church planters as well as camp staff at the BMM camp ministry. They moved to Lima and were instrumental in helping start Fetzer Memorial Christian Academy for missionary kids. After years in Lima, the Stilwells moved north to Trujillo to serve in a Bible college ministry.

The Stilwells have seen all five of their children graduate from Faith, and four of their grandchildren. Three more grandchildren are currently enrolled at Faith as well.

"We did not tell our children where to go to Bible college," Stephen and Evelyn explained. "They all chose Faith on their own. Our love for Faith probably helped in making that decision, and we were content to see them go to a Bible college of like faith and practice."

Four of Stephen and Evelyn's children returned to Peru as missionaries and are currently serving the Lord there. Their granddaughter Rebekah ('17) currently serves as the Assistant Dean of Women at Faith.

"We praise the Lord for working in the hearts of so many of our family to attend a Bible college that is still staying true to the Word of God. God has been very gracious to us, and we trust He will use us all and the excellent preparation we have received and are receiving at OBBC/Faith for His glory."



PARK AVENUE CONCESSIONS

Alumni Hall's second phase, Park Avenue Concessions, was completed at the end of January 2018, and is regularly being enjoyed by the concessions volunteers, students, campus visitors, and alumni during sporting events and other special occasions at Faith. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this exciting renovation!



NEW FACULTY AND MUSIC BUILDING

You have probably heard Faith is growing and is in need of a new building! This new office building will house faculty, staff, the Music Department, complete with eight practice rooms, and the IT department. Almost \$600,000 has been raised and the Board has approved starting the building process this year! Both employees and students are looking forward to the benefits this campus building will offer.

"Our professors' offices are currently scattered around campus, making it difficult to locate and remember where the different offices are. This new faculty building in the middle of campus will make it easier for students and visitors to locate their offices!"

–Emmy Caves, Freshman, Secondary World History

"The convenient location of the newer faculty offices, coupled with the updated space and equipment of this new campus building, will be more accommodating for student meetings and discipleship opportunities."

–Andy Stearns ('05, '08), Bible and Greek Professor

"This new building will feature an isolated wing devoted to the Music Department that will not only house our teaching studios, but eight dedicated, soundproofed practice rooms for our music students. Currently, our practice rooms are classrooms that have only limited availability for practicing."

–Irv Van Hooser, Chair of the Music Department

"I am so grateful to those who made the decision to make Faith's next building project a music building. I'm looking forward to not having to worry about a place to practice during conferences and meetings."

–Brenna Hawk, Sophomore, Missions Major and Music Minor

Faith currently has 50% of the funds needed to complete this building project. All gifts toward this project are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Donations can be made as a one-time gift or in monthly payments over the next two years. We are excited for how God is growing Faith and hope you will consider being a part of this exciting building project! Visit faith.edu/give-to-faith to donate today.

RECENT HIRES



DR. MARTY HERRON

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Marty Herron is a graduate of Bob Jones University (B.A., L.H.D.) and has served as senior pastor of Harvest Baptist Church in Barrigada, Guam, since 2000. Before moving to Guam, Dr. Herron and his wife, Tami, served at Northland Baptist Bible College for 18 years, where he served as Dean of Students and later as Vice President of Student Affairs.

"My wife and I are looking to continue our lifetime pursuit of building young disciples for Great Commission living. We are honored to be a part of this fine team." –Dr. Herron



ANDREW GOGERTY

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Andrew and his wife, Jennifer, live locally in Huxley, Iowa. Andrew worked as a sales representative for Iowa Prison Industries, a position he held since 2014. Andrew is a graduate of Iowa State University, where he graduated with a marketing degree. He and his family are active members at Community Baptist Church in Ankeny, Iowa, and he has one son who is a current student at Faith.

"Joining the staff at Faith as the new Communications Director is an answer to many years of prayer about how God can use my passion for writing in a full-time capacity and ministry. Jennifer and I can't wait to get involved in the lives of young people at Faith, and we look forward to serving alongside everyone in the Faith community." –Andrew Gogerty



In addition to the usual weekend activities, the Department will be hosting a Summer Ministry Reunion and an Alumni & Friends Rook Tournament Friday, September 14, 2018.

A full schedule of the weekend will be available on our website this summer. Email alumni@faith.edu if you have any questions about this family-friendly weekend.

ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

Faithful Servant Award

Contact the Alumni Department before June 1, 2018, to submit your suggestions for the 2018 Faithful Servant Award recipients who will be honored on Homecoming Weekend this September.

Sponsor an Alumni Hall Brick

Bricks are still available to be sponsored for \$50. Leave your mark in Alumni Hall or honor a loved-one! Email alumni@faith.edu for more info.

Upcoming Seminary Modules

We have several modules available this summer. Visit faith.edu/modules-and-online-courses to learn more!

Gear up on Faith Apparel

Visit shopfbbceagles.com to preview the various types of Faith Eagles apparel, drinkware, and accessories!

Follow us on Facebook

Be sure to follow our Alumni Facebook page for announcements on alumni deaths, ministry transitions, birthday drawing winners, and much more!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sports Camp

JUNE 13–16, 2018

High school athletes have the opportunity to learn new techniques and put them into practice through scrimmages and competitions, while being encouraged to make Christ the center of athletics. Take advantage of the early registration discount and register your student or team by June 1, 2018.

Jump Start

JUNE 17–22, 2018

High School students can earn credits toward their college education, and a seminary module is available for pastors and sponsors! Get \$50 off Jump Start when you register for our Summer Sports Camp.

Music Camp

JUNE 24–27, 2018

Student musicians (9–12 grade) will receive personal training from our music faculty and guest instructors, as well as sit in on workshops for both students and teachers. The registration deadline is May 15, 2018.

Alumni Work Day

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018

Our annual Alumni Work Day is just around the corner! Come to campus from 10^{AM} to 4^{PM} and get your hands dirty while visiting with other alumni. Lunch is provided. Email alumni@faith.edu with any questions!



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and theological seminary

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Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary is seeking comments from the public about the institution in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The institution will host a visit November 26 and 27, 2018, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary has been accredited by HLC since 1996. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public may submit comments regarding
the institution to the following address:

Public Comment on Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on HLC's website at
hlcommission.org/comment.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing. All comments must be received by October 29, 2018.