

SOAR

spring 2019 | alumni magazine



Dear Alumnus,

With a record amount of cold temperatures this past winter comes the hope of a beautiful spring. Despite the six inches of snow that fell the night before our campus-wide “Moving Day,” we were still able to move our faculty, Music Department and IT offices into Domokos Hall on January 23. More information and pictures of the move can be found on page 11. January also marked the beginning of our new Doctor of Ministry program!

We are also excited about another new program starting fall of 2019—**Organizational Leadership: A Biblical Approach to Executive Leadership**. Our goal at Faith is to train humble, discipleship-driven leaders, with a desire to make Christ a priority in their organizations and families. With that in mind, we have asked three of our alumni, who received some or all of their training here at Faith, and have since gone into the business world, to tell us their stories of how God has put them where they are today.

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

**ANNALIESE
GUSTAFSON**

I grew up in Minnesota—the land of 10,000 lakes, or the land of 10,000 ice rinks, depending on what time of year it is. God led me to Faith through visiting Jump Start the summer after my sophomore year of high school. After spending just a day on campus and experiencing the genuineness of the staff and faculty, I called home and told my mom that I was ready to pack my bags and live at Faith for the rest of high school and college!

I have valued relationships with people more than anything else here at Faith. There is nothing sweeter than fellowship with other believers. It is a blessing to encourage others by sharing what God is doing in my own life, and it is also a blessing to hear how God is working in the lives of others.

While at Faith, I have been enrolled in the Elementary Education program. I have also worked in the Admissions Department and have had the privilege of being on two different camp ministry teams—Team Impact and Contenders.

My student teaching experience has been one of the most exciting parts of college! Being in a classroom with fourth graders all day is such a

joy. I love learning their exciting personalities and what makes them smile. Watching those “lightbulb moments” is probably my favorite part of working with the students.

I have learned a lot about teaching during my education classes at Faith, but I have learned how to teach through student teaching. As I work with my cooperating teacher, I have not only learned how to become a better teacher, but I have built a relationship with her that I hope to last a lifetime. She is such an encouragement in my life, both professionally and spiritually.

After graduation, I am hoping to find a teaching position at a Christian elementary school. I am not sure where God will lead me for this, but I am excited for Him to show me as I pray and look for a position. Teaching has been a passion of mine for as long as I can remember.

Someone once said, “To teach is to touch a life forever.” This is my heart and my passion. My desire for teaching is not because I want to teach long division, but because I want to encourage young people in their walk with God.

CALLED TO LEADERSHIP

CHRIS & RACHEL PEARSON
CEO OF AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE

As a college student, Chris Pearson ('96) never dreamed he would one day become the CEO of a \$1.85 billion company with nearly 900 employees.

Originally from southwest Iowa, Chris graduated from Faith with his one-year Bible certificate before moving on to get his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Studies from Iowa State University in 1999. After graduation, he still wasn't sure what direction God was leading him.

"I had always been interested in agriculture, but the opportunity to farm was not there for me, so I just went to work and did my best wherever I went," said Chris. "That led to opportunities that I didn't necessarily expect."

Chris made the most of those opportunities and worked hard to learn as much as he could from the people God placed in his life.

"Eventually I was working for a guy named Roger Koppen at a large cooperative in Iowa, and he really became my mentor," said Chris. "Over the 10 years that I worked for him directly, he taught me about how to look at the business, how to analyze things financially, how to do mergers and acquisitions effectively, how to work with a Board of Directors (or be on a Board of Directors), and he gave me some great training and development opportunities."

After his mentor retired, Chris moved his family to South Dakota to work for another cooperative and became the CEO of Agtegra Cooperative in Aberdeen, which serves farmers in the Dakotas and Nebraska. One of Agtegra's largest commodities is grain, which they sell to local processors and to markets across the United States and around the world.

Even though he was only at Faith for a year, his short time on campus made a lifelong impact on him. He and his wife, Rachel (Holub '96) dated while at Faith and were married the summer of 1996. The Pearsons believe so highly in the foundational importance of Bible College, they require each of their children to attend one for at least a year.

"I think this can be an essential part of them developing into solid, functional, Christian adults that can have a role in whatever God has for them—whether it is in full-time Christian service or a secular job like mine," said Chris. "What better environment to learn that in than a Bible college where the staff is investing in the lives of the kids?"

Chris has been an active participant in Faith's Business Leadership Summit and is excited about the new Organizational Leadership program being offered at Faith for the first time in August 2019.

"I am really excited about Faith entering the business education realm," said Chris. "For those like me that have not been called to full-time service, it has been necessary to seek schooling in other places after Faith—primarily secular universities. What a great opportunity kids will now have to stay in a Christ-centered environment and get a degree that will allow them to pursue a career in almost any field! Congratulations and thanks to Faith for their leadership with this program!"



"Our job is to do the best we can and follow God's leading. In reality, this is God's business, and my job is God's job."

CALLED TO LEADERSHIP

MATT & KRISTY GILLILAND
CO-OWNER OF BG BUILDERS

As a new-home builder, Matt Gilliland ('04) knows the importance of a solid foundation. If it is not built correctly or strongly enough, a bad foundation results in a problem known in the construction world as “compounding defects.” The foundation has to be done right.

Before Matt entered the business world as a partner for BG Builders in Southwest Iowa with his father-in-law, Terry Boswell, his spiritual and ethical foundations and principles for running a business were primarily set during his formative years as a college student at Faith Baptist Bible College.

Growing up, Matt wanted to be a farmer and had no intentions of attending a Bible college, but God grabbed the attention of his heart after his junior year in high school.

“I was familiar with Faith through the Contenders at Iowa Regular Baptist Camp, and I had a few older cousins who had gone to Faith as well. I saw the value of a Biblical foundation, so I committed to attend Faith for one year,” said Matt. “Although my intention was to attend Faith for only one year, I quickly saw the value of what I was learning in and out of the classroom. Eventually, I changed again to a four-year Biblical Studies program with an emphasis in counseling.”

Matt met his wife, Kristy (Boswell '05), at Faith during a group outing. They were married over Christmas break Matt's senior year. They have been blessed with four children: Brittney (12), Bria (10), Blake (6), and Bradley (3). It was during their dating years that Matt gained an interest in the construction business.

“When Kristy and I were dating, I was able to spend the summer working for her dad in construction,” said Matt. “I really enjoyed that work. After we were married, I worked for a family business in Ankeny doing electrical, plumbing, and heating trade work. Both of those jobs provided valuable work experience.”

Following a one-year appointment to South Africa to work in a Bible camp, the Gillilands came back to Iowa. Their plan was to work construction, temporarily, to raise support to return to South Africa.

“In the meantime, we got involved in our local church here in Mt. Ayr, and were asked to start a youth ministry,” said Matt. “Honestly, I was hesitant at first because we didn't plan to stay in Iowa. But as we followed the Lord's leading, over time it became evident that small-town Iowa is where the Lord wants us, at least for now. We love our church and have enjoyed serving here since 2006.”

As the Gillilands work to build a solid foundation in the lives of young people, their work in the construction industry provides an income for their family along with plenty of opportunities to share the gospel.

“We work alongside many other crews, and it is clear that the construction world desperately needs the Lord,” said Matt. “Opportunities to make an impact for Christ are endless.”

Matt says his time at Faith helped form a Biblical foundation and worldview that is invaluable—in his church, working a secular job, being a husband, a father, and a friend. He tells the same things to his youth group and encourages them to build a solid foundation in their lives as well, no matter what profession they are pursuing.

“I tell our youth group often that one thing you will NEVER regret is a decision to serve the Lord. Faith prepares you for a life of service. When you're 18 and heading off for college, you might not have a clue what career you want to be in for the rest of your life. That's OK! Attending a college like Faith will give you a strong Biblical foundation and tools that God can use no matter where He has you.”



CALLED TO LEADERSHIP

JONATHAN & SARAH BUNJER
CEO OF KASA SOLUTIONS

The servant-leadership model is a hallmark of the new Organizational Leadership program at Faith. One of the best examples of how the Lord blesses a servant-leadership approach to business is Faith graduate Jonathan Bunjer ('07).

Jonathan was born in Kansas City, but spent most of his younger years in Germany as a missionary kid. His parents and many of his relatives attended Faith, so the decision of where to attend college was a fairly easy one for him. During his time at Faith, he became involved in leadership positions as a resident advisor and on summer ministry teams. He was also part of the Faith Chorale, where he met his wife, Sarah (Eilers '07). He graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies.

Jonathan and Sarah were married in 2007 after they both graduated. Using his passion to counsel and serve others, they moved to Cedar Rapids where he began working for an in-home counseling organization. It was there that God opened some bigger doors for him.

"The company I worked for was developing a software solution for their own organization, and I was asked to lead that effort," said Jonathan. "This eventually turned into a separate business that I am now the CEO of."

Jonathan is the CEO of KASA Solutions, a tech-enabled service company that provides practice management services to mental and behavioral health practices.

"This includes phone answering services, billing services, and web-based software for practice management," said Jonathan. "KASA began in 2012 and has grown to serve customers in over 40 states. We were recognized as the fourth fastest-growing company in Iowa last year by Inc Magazine."

Utilizing his training in Biblical studies, Jonathan has been able to incorporate another of the hallmarks of the Organizational Leadership program at Faith: A Biblical approach to executive leadership, which is the tagline of the new program that launches this fall. Even though Faith did not offer a business program when Jonathan was in undergraduate school, he has incorporated the Biblical training he received at Faith into his corporate philosophy and also into leadership roles in his local church.

The Bunjers have one son, Aaron, who is eight years old, and they have also been fostering two children, ages four and five. The Bunjers' willingness to serve as foster parents is another example of their desire to serve in whatever capacity the Lord calls them. It is also another example that leadership does not always mean high-profile positions of authority. Godly leadership begins by serving others.



Faculty News



MISS KARIS COLE

Office Administration Instructor

Miss Karis Cole has been named Instructor in Office Administration, replacing Mrs. Sally McFarling, who is retiring.

Miss Cole began working part-time at Faith while she was a student, and graduated from Faith in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Local Church Ministries with an emphasis in Office Administration and Biblical Counseling. She is currently an administrative assistant, receptionist, and housing coordinator at Faith, and is continuing her studies through the Business Education program at Ball State University.



MRS. FAITH EARNEST

Christian School Department Instructor

Mrs. Faith Earnest will begin as full-time instructor in the Christian School Department upon the spring retirement of Mrs. Mary Jo Brown.



DR. CHRISTOPHER ELLIS

*Chair of the Music Department
Director of Choral Activities*

Dr. Christopher Ellis has been named Chair of the Music Department and Director of Choral Activities upon the conclusion of Dr. Irv Van Hooser's formal teaching ministry at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.



PASTOR JARED BALDWIN

Chair of Organizational Leadership, funded by the Love Foundation

Pastor Jared Baldwin has been named Chair of Organizational Leadership, funded by the Love Foundation, and will begin teaching in the fall 2019. Pastor Baldwin comes to us with experience not only in church ministry, but also through his time spent in the military and secular business realm. He is presently ministering at Harvest Ministries in Guam.

He and his wife, Tammy, have three children: Kayla, Andrew, and Zachary.

You can find more information on each new hire on our website at faith.edu/about-faith/faith-news



JANUARY 23

What a day it was! Truly, a historic day at Faith. Over 300 students, staff, and faculty teamed up and seamlessly moved boxes of books and belongings into Domokos Hall from the duplexes and switched out the Music Office, Communications Office, and Student Life Offices...all in less than two hours! We have set aside time during Commencement Services on May 10, 9:30 a.m., to dedicate the building. We trust you can plan to join us and praise the Lord for all He has done!

REFRESH CONFERENCE 2019

Refresh 2019 may be remembered as the most "refreshing" experience yet! Some of the coldest weather on record didn't stop pastors, their wives, and other Christian leaders from a great time of encouragement, great food and fellowship, and inspirational messages from each of our speakers. One attendee said, "I didn't realize how much I needed this!" Mark your calendars for next year's Refresh Conference, January 28-31, 2020.



RETIREES

We will be saying goodbye to seven faithful servants with combined teaching careers of over 150 years! Please join us Commencement Weekend, May 9–10, as we honor these servants of the Lord.



Mrs. Mary Jo Brown



Mrs. Elizabeth Gifford



Mrs. Sharon Gutwein



Dr. Myron Houghton



Dr. Don Long



Mrs. Sally McFarling



Dr. Irv Van Hooser

Get to know the 2019 Contenders!



They're working hard to memorize skits and preparing their hearts to minister to campers of all ages at the Iowa Regular Baptist Camp (IRBC) this summer!

pictured left to right:

JENNA TOOMEY / *sophomore*
Office Administration

ANNA CHUNG / *freshman*
Office Administration

MOLLEIGH ADAMS-FREUND / *freshman*
Elementary Education

SAWYER GOGERTY / *sophomore*
Secondary World History Education

CARSEN HANSEN / *freshman*
Elementary Education

JACOB STILWELL / *sophomore*
Pastoral Studies

Alumni Opportunities

GARBC Faith Reception – June 26–27

The GARBC National Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Des Moines - Airport/Conference Center this year. Come join us Wednesday evening, June 26, for a dessert reception and/or a tour of campus on Thursday afternoon, June 27 (light supper included). RSVP to alumni@faith.edu (space is limited).

Homecoming Weekend – September 13–14

This is a great time to visit campus and reunite with other alumni. Look for more details in our monthly alumni emails, on our website, and our Facebook page.

Faithful Servant Award

It is time to send in your nominations for our 2019 Faithful Servants. Alumni will be chosen for this award based on their contribution to their current ministries and their demonstration of Christian integrity. Please send your nominations before June 1, 2019, to alumni@faith.edu.

Missions Conference – October 28–31

It is not too early to plan to join us for our annual Missions Conference. This is a great time to be challenged by the Word of God and hear of the great needs from around the world.

Refer a Student

As an alum of the school, 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.



Like

FACEBOOK PAGE

Like us on our Faith Facebook page for up-to-date information and photos of events.

Read

MONTHLY ALUMNI EMAIL

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

Connect

FAITH.EDU

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

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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and theological seminary

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