



## Building God's College in South Florida

The story of South Florida Bible College and Theological Seminary (SFBC&TS) is about obedience to a calling. This inaugural issue of "The Message" is about what God can do when Christians follow His calling. In this case, it's the story of one couple answering His call to follow a journey – and what a journey it has been.

The Founder and his wife, Dr. Joseph and Beatrice Guadagnino, were high school sweethearts and married on May 15, 1958. They have four children: Cynthia Stephan, Joseph Guadagnino, Tina Slaughter, and Anthony Guadagnino. Three of their children and five of their nine grandchildren are in ministry; and they have nine great grandchildren.

God called Dr. Joe and his wife, Bea, to ministry in South Florida in 1971. They began by founding Christian Love Fellowship Ministries in 1980. Shortly after, God laid upon their hearts a calling to start a Bible College. Obediently, they founded South Florida Bible College and Theological Seminary in 1985.

As President, Dr. Guadagnino established the goal to provide an institution of conservative theological education where positive biblical standards of Christian faith and life would be taught and maintained.

In 1990, the first graduating class had 80 students. These graduates set the precedent of these standards, being committed to the ideals of Christian education: the development of the whole person – body, soul, and spirit. This required knowledge of God's Word, development of Christian character, specialized training for service, application of biblical principles to daily life, and the promotion of Christian love and unity. These ideas continue to this day.

When then Florida Governor Jeb Bush spoke to the 1995 graduating class, he commended Dr. Guadagnino and the Bible College by declaring, "The answers to this country's problems will not be found in government. They will be found in the hearts and minds of people like you."

After 25 years, SFBC&TS moved from the original location to a larger facility providing for growth and a more traditional college experience for the students.

An accredited school means it has been approved for high academic standards and adherence to governmental guidelines. In 2013 they were thrilled to have received accreditation from The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). With accreditation for both the undergraduate and graduate programs, they were now positioned for amazing growth.

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*Those from among you shall  
build the old waste places;  
You shall rise up the foundations  
of many generations; and you  
shall be called the repairer of  
education, the restorer of the  
streets to dwell in.  
Isaiah 58:12 (NKJV)*

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# President's Message

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary's (SFBC&TS),

The Message newsletter! When looking for our first cover story, the choice was easy in selecting our beloved Founder, Joseph "Doc" Guadagnino.

This publication is geared toward updating and connecting alumni, student parents and friends of SFBC&TS. To move forward with the vision the Lord has given us, we need an informed and connected base of support. Our goal is to have four issues in 2023, six in 2024 and twelve in 2025 and beyond.

If you receive The Message, you will:

- ✓ Feel connected to what is happening here when you take in the varied content each issue will feature.
- ✓ Be able to plan for activities that may interest you such as graduation, fundraising seminars, special luncheons, mission trips, and much more!
- ✓ Become aware of volunteer opportunities here on campus.
- ✓ Learn about current or future programs or facilities.
- ✓ Bless SFBC&TS financially as the Lord leads you by means of the enclosed envelope or via the website: [www.sfbc.edu](http://www.sfbc.edu)

As we near the close of 2022 and enter the Christmas season, know that God's hand is on South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary! As you read "Doc's" story and if you come for a campus tour, you will know beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God is moving at SFBC&TS.

In closing, as I look at all that God is doing, I am reminded of one of "Docs" favorite Scriptures which appears on the wall in Founder's Hall:

***"Look among the nations! Observe!  
Be astonished! Wonder!  
Because I am doing something in your days—  
You would not believe if you were told."  
(Habakkuk 1:5-6 NASB)***

If you are already a supporter, thank you, thank you, thank you, and God bless you!

If you have not yet become a supporter, please consider being part of what God is doing in our students, staff, and faculty by supporting SFBC&TS financially.

Merry Christmas! (Soon!),

*Dr. Mary Drabik*

Dr. Mary Drabik  
President

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Dr. Guadagnino became the Chancellor in January 2016, passing the day-to-day leadership and presidency to Dr. Mary Drabik. "I am convinced we are entering the most exciting time we have ever experienced as we begin this new era for SFBC&TS," exclaimed Dr. Mary Drabik, the first female president of an ABHE accredited, higher educational institution.

Enrollment continued to exceed projections, and to accommodate this growth SFBC&TS moved again. This time into a larger, more modern, 50,000 sq. ft. facility which is the present-day location. This facility also includes the Steven R. Sylvester Memorial Library providing state-of-the-art educational material.

We continue to grow, raising up Christian leaders, to impact the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The full impact is felt in the community as over 1000 students have graduated throughout the years. These graduates have gone on to found churches, go into missionary work, become leading Christian business leaders and much more.

Today, SFBC&TS continues to be an innovator and resource for equipping 21st century Christian leaders. Examples include some of the programs at the college:

- English for Academic Purposes
- College Academy
- State of the Art Library
- Small Class Sizes
- Ranked in the Top 10 Most Affordable Colleges by ABHE
- Scholarships Available

With a national and global focus that provides an ethnically diverse student body, there are students attending from twenty states and nineteen different countries.

Dr. Joe or 'Doc' as he is affectionally called, serves as a shining example of a man who simply answered God's call. He is our beloved founder and a model to all the students, staff, alumni, and friends of South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary.



A fundraising seminar was held at SFBC&TS on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by more than twenty-two local non-profit organizations. The seminar focused on startup fundraising that included many free tools and tips. Due to popular demand the fundraising seminar will be held on February 2, 2023. **Please contact [crichardson@sfbc.edu](mailto:crichardson@sfbc.edu) to reserve your spot.** This is a \$500 value, but you are only charged \$50.00 and includes lunch and refreshments.



On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> our staff and students traveled to some of the hardest hit areas on the Gulf coast to provide food, water and comfort for the victims of Hurricane Ian.

## SPIRIT WEEK

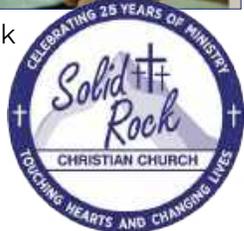
Students and faculty alike enjoyed Spirit Week held September 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 25<sup>th</sup>. Fun was had by all!



*Wacky Tacky Day*



A BIG thank you to Solid Rock Christian Church in Boca Raton for underwriting the Ministry Fair held at SFBC&TS on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Over 150 students and alumni attended.



*Crazy Hat Day*



*Costume Day (M&M)*



*Christian Tee-Shirt Day*



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*Please Remember SFBC&TS in Your Year-End Giving.*

## FALL ANNUAL BRAZILIAN BARBEQUE EVENT!



A big THANK YOU goes out to the SFBC&TS Employee Campaign for underwriting this event! Student Life did a wonderful job including providing worship music. The effort associated with this large, fun event is daunting, but the many workers, volunteers, and contributions made it a success! Thank you all!!

## Come Sail With SFBC&TS Alumni, Staff, Faculty & Friends on the MSC Seascape!

**Join Founder "Doc" & President Mary Drabik for a  
one-week, four port cruise of the Bahamas.**

Sunday, March 5, 2023 through Sunday March 12, 2023.

For more information: <https://www.msccruisesusa.com>. For questions and/or to book your cruise contact our Cruise Counselor Debra Thune at [debra.thune@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:debra.thune@cruiseplanners.com) or 541-8800-0411.

## Mission Statement

South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary is an institution of higher learning where the Bible is central in preparing men and women for ministry to serve Christ and His Church through Biblical thought and Christian life.



Guidestar.org gives donors detailed information about an organization, aiding them in their search for trusted organizations.