

FoundationONE

CONNECTION

ONE MISSION. UCA STUDENTS

I can go
all
through
Christ
who
strengthens
me
Philippians 4:13



Persistent Prayer Opens Doors to UCA

The Story of Lova McLeod

A QUINTESSENTIAL PHILANTHROPIST

Nov 2021 | Vol. 9 | Issue 3

PUBLISHED 3 TIMES PER YEAR

President's Message

FoundationONE joins with the Upper Columbia Conference in welcoming Pastor Jeff "PJ" Deming to Upper Columbia Academy to serve as its 29th principal.

Pastor Deming graduated from Union College with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology with an emphasis in Youth Ministry and from La Sierra University with a Master of Arts in Administration and Leadership. He has previously served as a campus chaplain, development director, youth director, lead pastor, and most recently as principal of Monterey Bay Academy. He and his wife, Amy, have three grown children, Robert, Sabrina, and Tanner. PJ enjoys sports, reading and an occasional trip to Dairy Queen.

We at FoundationONE see our role as walking alongside UCA, upholding the hands of its leaders through prayer and dialogue and creating sustainability through growing endowment and awarding scholarships. Since PJ's arrival this past July, we have had many conversations in this regard, and we are currently formulating a plan to permanently solve the affordability issue and empower UCA to reach the highest levels of service.

We are excited about this new partnership venture and look forward to sharing the details with you soon. So, please stay tuned and keep praying. . . God is on the move at UCA!

A portrait of Mindy Weber, the President of FoundationONE. She is a woman with short, wavy brown hair, wearing glasses and a dark turtleneck sweater. She is smiling at the camera.

Mindy Weber

Mindy Weber

President



I can see that UCA has been tremendously blessed to have the partnership of FoundationONE. UCA would not be experiencing the level of success we have today without this partnership. Approximately fifty percent of our student body is able to attend because of the gifts that come through FoundationONE. What a blessing it would be if all our boarding schools had a lay-led supporting organization such FoundationONE!

Pastor Jeff (PJ) Deming, Principal





Persistent Prayer Opens Doors to UCA

“I was so certain it was God’s plan,” says Dmitry Kozakov. “All of my family, friends, and local church in Moscow had been praying about this since 2019, and now suddenly my dream was falling apart.”

Dmitry was eager to get an Adventist education, which was not available in his region of Moscow, Russia. On April 30, 2021, Dmitry went to the US Embassy to apply for his student visa. The interviewer pummeled him with many difficult questions, and to Dmitry’s great dismay, denied his student visa. He couldn’t believe it!

Dmitry’s dad said, “We need to try one

more time,” and endeavored to get another appointment, but was told that the only opportunity to meet with the US Embassy consulate would be in March 2022.

Dmitry was terribly disappointed! All his hopes and dreams and plans had been focused on coming to the USA. Now what? Eventually Dmitry accepted that a Christian education in the USA was not pos-

Finally, the long-awaited, much prayed for, student visa arrived! Within hours Dmitry found himself boarding an airplane to come to America.

sible until at least his senior year, and perhaps he would have to complete all his high schooling at the public school in Moscow. Nevertheless, Dmitry and his family kept the prayers ascending.

Dmitry discontinued his intensive study of English and reengage in his local community. He thought about his love of music and considered possibly becoming a praise team leader at church. When summer arrived, Dmitry was invited to serve as bass guitarist at camp, which turned out to be a great experience. And all summer Dmitry and his family continued praying.

This past July, Dmitry's parents made a trip to America to visit family and friends. While they were visiting Pastor Volody Nesteruk in Spokane, Dmitry's dad got a 3:00 a.m. phone call. It was from a fellow minister, Pastor Taras, in Moscow. Pastor Taras said, "I looked for an appointment for my son at the US Embassy, and I found an opportunity to get an urgent interview in Ukraine. Maybe you could get an urgent interview for your son too!"

Of course, Pastor Kozakov immediately placed a call to the Ukraine Embassy. Miraculously, he got through and, by the time he hung up, he had an appointment for an interview for Dmitry. The date was August 19, 2021.

Providentially, one week prior to the 3:00 a.m. phone call, Dmitry's father had

rescheduled their return flight home. Had he not done this, there would have been no way they could have made the August 19 appointment, because Pastor & Mrs. Kozakov's original return date was after August 19. They returned home on August 18 and their appointment at the Embassy was on August 19, 2021. Another miracle!

When Dmitry heard the news, he had mixed feelings. What if his request should be denied again? That would not be good! If denied twice, it would be a long time before he could apply again. Should he go for it?

Meanwhile his parents were traveling home from America. Once they arrived home, they had only five hours to recover from jet lag and get repacked for the trip to Kiev. As they drove along, Dmitry's older sister coached him on what to say and what not to say to the consulate. "It was all very stressful and exhausting," Dmitry says.



Dmitry and his parents arrived in Kiev and checked in. His number was A-45. After about a half hour of waiting Dmitry was called to the window. He went, with fear and trembling, to speak with the officer. But this time instead of three minutes of hard questioning, it was 40 seconds of friendly conversation. Dmitry walked away feeling optimistic. . . but he would have to wait eight days to know for sure.

After the Kozakov's got back home life shifted into high gear. UCA was starting in just a few days. There was a ton of paperwork to be completed, clothes to be packed, travel arrangements to be made, and goodbyes to be said. All this was done in faith, because they were still awaiting final approval of Dmitry's student visa. At this point the UCA staff started praying too.

Finally, the long-awaited, much prayed for, student visa arrived! Within hours Dmitry found himself boarding an airplane to come to America. Following a good night's rest at Pastor Nesteruk's home, Dmitry arrived at UCA. It was one week after school had begun, but the welcome mat was still out.

Dmitry says, "In Russia, if you were a new student your teacher would say, with a serious face, 'You're a new student? Take a seat.' But here in America everyone talked to me. They asked me about my trip. They hugged me and treated me like I was their best friend, even though we were just meeting for the very first time. I loved the welcome I got at UCA!"

"Now my whole life is in English. Every day it takes all my energy just to understand what is going on around me. I currently understand about eighty percent of what people say. I needed adventure, and now I have it. Every day is more interesting than the day before, and I'm just very happy to be in a Christian environment!"

Dmitry is planning to complete his education at UCA and then go to college. Some of the careers he is thinking about are linguistics, medicine, audio and video creation, and media. Already, Dmitry is a force for good on the UCA campus, and with continued prayer and determination, Dmitry will one day soon be a UCA World Changer!





1 The FoundationONE board has allocated \$130,000 in grants for the 2021-2022 school year. That money has been distributed to 102 qualifying students.

2 During the school year we will distribute another \$83,000 from our 13 Named Scholarship Funds.

3 The total in student aid that we plan to distribute this 2021-2022 school year is \$213,000. (That is \$48,000 more than we distributed last school year). It is a thrill for the FoundationONE board to see this growth, but what's most important are the young lives that are impacted because of our work.

4 We are currently managing \$4 million in assets. Our goal is to build the endowment to \$10 million so that we can cover **all** the legitimate financial aid needs of students who wish to get a Christian education at UCA

5 We praise God for our philanthropic partners and our professional fund managers who have made this level of success possible. And we are eager to connect with more individuals who believe in Adventist education, who wish to pass on the boarding school experience to future generations.

A New Award: The Anderson/Wilkens Family Scholarship

Keith Wilkens, a Family Medicine Physician, and his wife Joyce (Anderson) Wilkens, an author/artist and 1973 UCA graduate, recently established a new endowed fund named the Anderson/Wilkens Family Scholarship. They said, “We just want to help as many students as possible get an Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) education.”

Connection recently visited with Keith and Joyce, and here is what we learned:

Q Why did you choose to initiate a Named Scholarship?

A Joyce: We are establishing this fund to honor our parents who were strong supporters of UCA for more than 50 years. My parents, Barbara and James Anderson, both worked tirelessly to put my two brothers and me through UCA and have, through the years, supported in other ways as well. For example, Mom volunteered her time to help organize and implement the annual golf tournament.

Keith: My father, as the treasurer of the Upper Columbia Conference, worked hard to build up UCA's facilities and programs. My parents, John and Edith Wilkens, willingly sacrificed for Adventist education. My older brother and I attended Garden State Academy in New

Jersey. Then, when our family moved to Spokane, my younger brother, Carl, attended UCA. In 2005 Garden State closed its doors. This loss made us recognize the tenuous financial situation that our schools are up against, so that's why Joyce and I want to do what we can to help keep UCA strong. Also, we like the idea of endowment—a gift that grows into the future—and we appreciate the fact that FoundationONE has professionals managing the funds.

Joyce and Keith: We were originally inspired to do this as, in recent years, we watched other families establishing their family funds. We thought it would be something fun to work on together, as a family. We want to carry forward our parents' legacy and we welcome family and friends to join us in growing the fund.



▲ The new Anderson/Wilkens Family Scholarship will carry forward the legacy of Jim & Barbara Anderson (left of center) and John & Edith Wilkens (John is right of center). Keith and Joyce Wilkens (seated in center) are the visionaries and benefactors behind the new Anderson/Wilkens Family Scholarship. Other UCA alumni: Fletcher Wilkens, '07, and his wife, Laura (Dick) Wilkens, '07—far left; Taylor Wilkens, '02, and his wife, Nilmini—next to Grandpa Wilkens; and Emily (Wilkens) Poole, '04, and her husband, Tommy Poole, '06—far right.

Q What to you is so special about UCA?

A Joyce: In a boarding school, there is just a special bond that forms. I made many friends when I was at UCA and now, more than four decades later, I still have those same friends! Also, UCA inspired my love for languages, writing and art. I loved German classes and German choir under Mrs. Werth. She was just one of the many great teachers who cared not only about quality education, but also for students' hearts and souls.

Keith: Our three children had similar experiences—extraordinary friendships with classmates and teachers, and they received an outstanding education. The community service, mission trips, music, arts, sciences, sports, industrial arts, work program—all are important

to developing well-rounded young adults. UCA's balanced education is somewhat unique in today's world. We love UCA because UCA reinforced our values and helped our children choose to use their talents to bless others. This is why we are doing what we can to preserve and extend UCA's mission—we want UCA to be strong for our grandchildren and great grandchildren, and for your grandchildren and great grandchildren as well.

Family and friends who wish to support the Anderson/Wilkens Family Scholarship Fund may do so by sending a check to FoundationONE, PO Box 744, Post Falls, ID 83877, or by going to <https://foundationoneuca.org/give-now/>. A notification of every gift will be sent to Keith and Joyce Wilkens.



Esther (Jorgensen) Castle, '49

“I never had so much fun in my life as I had at UCA!” says Esther (Jorgensen) Castle. “I only wish I could have gone to school there all four years!”

Esther Jorgensen was the youngest of 13 children. Her parents were devout Christians—pioneers of Adventism in Grandview, Washington.* Esther attended Grandview Junior Academy through 10th grade, and then attended her final two years at Upper Columbia Academy (UCA). “UCA is my

all-time favorite school!” she says as she hugs her UCA directory.

Following graduation Esther moved to Coos Bay, Oregon, to live with her brother and his wife. She planned to work and save up money for college. The same day she arrived, the church



had a roller-skating party and at the party Esther met Chuck Castle. Chuck was ten years older, and he had been looking for just the right woman for some time. He saw Esther and invited her to skate with him.

As Chuck and Esther skated round and round, they got acquainted. “Chuck was so much fun!” says Esther. “I loved his humor and the way he related to people. When the evening was over, Chuck asked if he could take me home. The only problem was, *I didn’t know the way home!*”

That week Esther saw Chuck again—this time it was for a walk along the beach. The following Sabbath, Chuck came and sat with Esther in church. The Jorgensen family had planned to have a picnic at the beach following church and Esther’s sister-in-law said, “Why don’t you invite Chuck to come to the picnic?” Of course, Chuck eagerly complied!

One date followed another . . . and the rest is history. Esther Jorgenson became Mrs. Chuck Castle on December 27, 1949—six months after Esther graduated from UCA.

Chuck and Esther spent their working years at Adventist boarding schools. Chuck served as the maintenance director at Laurelwood Academy, San Pasqual Academy, and Holbrook Indian School. At Laurelwood Esther ran the



▲ Esther’s senior portrait



▲ Esther & Chuck’s wedding



▲ Esther & Chuck Castle – 25th Anniversary

laundry; at San Pasqual she worked in the business office, and at Holbrook, she ran the food service. Esther enjoyed working with young people. She still fondly calls her student workers, “My girls.”

After Esther and Chuck’s two children—Jacque Romero and Charles Castle—graduated from college, Esther decided it was her turn to get a degree and she enrolled at Northern Arizona University, 90 miles from their home in Holbrook. “We had a weekend marriage for a few years,” she says, “but Chuck was one hundred percent supportive! Thirty-two years after I got my high school diploma, I completed my Bachelor’s Degree.”

Esther had planned to use her new degree to teach Home Economics, but Holbrook needed someone to teach Special Ed, so Esther embraced that challenge. Five years later, when her husband decided to retire, Esther was still teaching Special Ed.

After Chuck retired in 1987, Esther and Chuck decided to go back “home” to Grandview. They purchased Esther’s folks’ old home place, which by this time had been rented for several years. “The house was in shambles,” she says, “but Chuck remodeled it, making everything just the way I wanted it.”

Esther did substitute teaching for the public school system in the area. And each Sabbath she and Chuck would invite church guests or members home for Sabbath dinner. How they loved entertaining! During the summer months Sabbath dinner was often a picnic under the big shade tree in the yard. “I learned,” says Esther, “that if I would sit there and talk the guests would stay. But if I would get up and clear the table, they would leave. So, I always just sat there. We had many delightful Sabbath afternoons!”

In 1998, after 48 wonderful years together, Chuck had a massive heart attack and died. It was a devastating blow. But, true to her nature, Esther just kept going.

Esther was a member of the hospitality committee at church, and one evening when her turn was coming up to entertain guests, Esther prayed the Prayer of Jabez— “Lord, please enlarge

my territory.” Three minutes later the phone rang. It was the pastor’s wife saying that the guest speaker was bringing seven guests with him. So, Esther prepared Sabbath dinner for eight. But, when she got to church, there were many other guests who had come to hear the guest speaker, and she ended up feeding 18 people! Esther says, “Suddenly my prayer changed from, ‘enlarge my territory,’ to ‘please stretch the loaves!’”

Esther is now 90 years old. She lives at Wheatland Village, a retirement community in Walla Walla, Washington. Her body is not as agile as it used to be, but her spirit is as vibrant as ever. These days, instead of making home-made gluten steaks, Navajo fry bread, and pies to brighten people’s lives, she spends her time creating beautiful embroidered towels. And when she gets a few extra dollars, she supports the Grandview Pioneer Scholarship Fund.

Few UCA alumni would describe themselves as World Changers, but many, like Esther, are in fact change agents. I can’t help but wonder how many

of “Esther’s girls” still recall her kind words; how many of her students succeeded because of her patient teaching; how many of her guests went away, not only with a full stomach, but also a full heart because of her acceptance and love.

Yes, Esther, the ripples you created will continue to be felt here on planet earth. We proudly induct you into the UCA WORLD CHANGER family!

If Esther’s life touched yours and you would like to reconnect with her, or if you’re interested in ordering one of her embroidered towels, you may reach her at ecastle13@gmail.com or connect with her on Facebook.

**Connection* readers will recall that the Grandview Adventist Church initiated a Named Scholarship Fund a few years ago. The Grandview Pioneer Memorial Scholarship honors the early pioneers who worked and sacrificed to establish an Adventist presence in Grandview. The Jorgensen family is one of those pioneering families.

▼ Esther’s towels



The Story of Lova McLeod

A QUINTESSENTIAL PHILANTHROPIST

When people think of philanthropy, they often think of six- or seven-digit gifts and they envision people who live in luxury, with maid service and exotic cars. But philanthropy is not about wealth. It is about love for humanity. Lova McLeod, a widow for 49 years, is not wealthy, but she is a philanthropist!

As I approach Lova's mobile home, I enjoy her colorful, blooming flower baskets, her freshly mown lawn, and her neatly trimmed shrubs and trees. Inside, everything is well organized and spotless too, but her furnishings are not new.



▲ What a joy to spend an hour with Lova McLeod—a sweet Mother in Israel.

"I don't spend money on myself," she tells me. "I only buy what I really need. If I weren't careful with my money, I wouldn't be able to give to FoundationONE and the other ministries I love. The Lord's work is most important." We sit down in Lova's sunny living room to get acquainted.

Lova first met Al McLeod when she was in 6th grade. "Al and I attended the same public school," she says. "His family was Adventist, and I attended the Friends church. When we got into high school, we started dating and Al gave me Bible stud-

ies. Eventually, I joined the Adventist church. We got married shortly after we graduated."

For the first seven years of marriage Al worked various jobs. Then Lova and Al moved to Walla Walla, Washington so he could enroll at Walla Walla College. After

earning degrees in accounting, education, and religion, Al began working for the church. His first job was as treasurer of Walla Walla Valley Academy. While they were living in Walla Walla, Lova and Al welcomed Kim, a daughter, and four years later, in Spokane, their son, Terry.

Eventually Al became treasurer of the Mountain View Conference and the family moved to West Virginia. It was there, in 1972, that tragedy struck. One day as Al was driving to a speaking appointment, he fell asleep at the wheel and lost his

life in an automobile accident. Lova found herself, at age 36, a widow with two children, ages eight and four.

Lova moved her family back to Walla Walla and she got a job working as the treasurer of the Village Church. Later, as the needs of the family grew, she transferred to Walla Walla General Hospital to earn higher wages. "Somehow we made it," she says. "I was able to keep the kids in church school."

Today, Lova's daughter, Kim, teaches ultrasound at Delta College in Midland, Michigan, and Terry (UCA class of 1986) is the Youth Pastor at Summit Northwest Ministries in Post Falls, Idaho. Both "kids" love the Lord and are active in their churches. "I'm very grateful," she says. "Our Adventist schools helped me raise my kids, and now I just want to give back."

In 2017 Lova attended the FoundationONE Awards Banquet where her granddaughter, Elisabeth McLeod (UCA class of 2020), received an Olin Peach Memorial Scholarship. "I was so impressed when I learned what FoundationONE does!" she says. "And then I remembered how Olin Peach had mentored my son when he was at UCA, so I started giving. I can't make large donations—all I have is a small pension and social security—but I do what I can. It makes me feel good to do my part, even if it is small."

We pray that Lova's example inspires you, as it has us. Her frugality and determina-

tion to help others is heartwarming, and her consistent support *does* make a difference. Yes, even widows, single parents, and those living on fixed incomes can find joy through giving and have a part in helping grow the endowment for UCA students.

If FoundationONE had 100 Impact Partners who each gave \$30 per month, the endowment would grow by \$36,000 in one year. The investment income from that one year of giving would generate enough to help two new students enroll at UCA next year, *and every year thereafter!*

We at FoundationONE cherish *all* philanthropic partners and we invite *everyone* to help us grow the endowment for UCA students. Our goal is to grow the endowment to \$10 million over the next three years. When we reach that goal, UCA's doors will be open to *all* our children, regardless of family income. *What could be a more important goal than that?!*



▲ Lova McLeod with son, Terry, and daughter, Kim. Photo taken in 1984.

There are three ways to sign up to become a FoundationONE Impact Partner:

- 1. Use the envelope stapled in the center of this *Connection*. Be sure to "Automate your giving!" by signing your name in the gray box. OR . .**
- 2. Go to <http://foundationoneuca.org/givenow/> and click on the Monthly Donation tab. OR . .**
- 3. Call Linda Klinger (509-939-1716).**

BOB LARRABEE

MEMORIAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Eighty-four golfers participated in 18 holes of scramble golf at MeadowWood Golf Course on Friday, September 24th in support of the important mission of FoundationONE—growing the endowment for UCA students.

The tournament honors Bob Larrabee, '53, a FoundationONE charter board member. "When Bob, in 2004, joined the UCA alumni group that was considering establishing a foundation, he was a tremendous blessing!" says Susan Davis, '78. "His entrepreneurial background helped FoundationONE get off on the right foot."



▲ Congratulations went to RJ Henneberg's team who took first-place. L to R: Brandt Hay, RJ Henneberg, '01; Mindy Weber, the FoundationONE president; Jon DeBooy; Kevin Schultz, '01.



▲ Summit Northwest, as is their custom, came in costume: this year they were garden gnomes!

◀ It was a gorgeous day, and everyone had a great time!

FoundationONE thanks tournament sponsors:

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5. To learn more, go to <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>.
6. To get the FoundationONE Scrip Enrollment Code contact Linda: 509-939-1716 or linda.klinger@foundationoneuca.org.

When you purchase thru **AmazonSmile** and you choose FoundationONE as your charity, FoundationONE gets a rebate... and that means another young person gets to go to UCA!





Consider a Charitable Remainder Trust

Do you have appreciated property or stock? Are you asset rich and cash poor? Facing formidable capital gains from these appreciated assets?

If so, and you also want to make a difference at Upper Columbia Academy, consider a Charitable Remainder Trust. By gifting the asset into your trust you may eliminate all capital gains while giving yourself a lifetime stream of income at a predetermined percentage of trust assets.

It's likely you will also realize a large income tax deduction that can be carried forward for several years, if needed. You may even have more money than if you had sold it yourself and paid taxes. And when you die, the remainder will advance God's work at UCA.

If interested, or to receive a personal illustration to fit your situation, contact FoundationONE's Planned Giving Specialist, Don Klinger: 208-288-1260 or donald.a.klinger@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

We apologize that we were unable to follow through with the UCA Conversations (regional reunions) we had planned when we published the July 2021 issue of the *Connection*. With the recent surge in the number of Covid-19 cases, we felt it best to postpone our get-togethers. Be assured, we miss seeing you, and we will reschedule as soon as it is sensible to do so.

Dec 5, 2021	UCA's Music Department performs for Day of Hope on Hope Channel
Dec 16, 2021	UCA's Christmas Concert at the Fox - Martin Woldson Theater, Spokane
Apr 1-2, 2022	UCA's Alumni Weekend (honoring classes that end in 0, 1, 5, and 6)
Apr 7-8, 2022	UCA's Academy Days
Jun 3-5, 2022	UCA's Graduation Weekend
Oct 14-15, 2022	UCA's Alumni Weekend (honoring classes that end in 2 and 7)



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