

FoundationONE

CONNECTION

ONE MISSION. UCA STUDENTS



Louis &
Millie

FIND

Love

... Fifty Years Later!

FROM THE
STREETS OF
HAITI TO UCA

Nov 2022 | Vol. 10 | Issue 3

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Love & Loyalty—It's in Our DNA

FoundationONE came into being because of **love and loyalty**. Our founders realized that the financial structure undergirding our academies was fragile and, desiring to see their alma mater—Upper Columbia Academy—thrive, they determined to assist in bringing people and resources together to meet the needs of students and, thereby, impact the long-term health of the institution.

That same **love and loyalty** still inspires and motivates the FoundationONE board. Our FoundationONE board focused on creating dreams and seizing opportunities. Our board members are courageous and determined and they will not be deterred from their mission—to make a UCA education accessible to any qualifying student. To us, it is about assuring Christ-centered, mission-driven leaders until Jesus comes.

As we have walked alongside Upper Columbia Academy the past 18 years, it has been our privilege to interact with UCA's amazing staff and see the depths of their **love** for our children and their **loyalty** to Christ and His mission. We have marveled at their ability to somehow keep going despite the never-ending challenges. When we've asked what fuels their perseverance, the answer we hear most often is, "It's our calling". Don't miss the article on page 12. We think you will appreciate Chaplain Sid's heart, vision, and action plan.

What an honor it is for us at FoundationONE to be part of the UCA family—to witness, first-hand, the many lives that are transformed, and to share a few of the miracle stories that happen each year on the UCA campus. It is our prayer that your own **Love and Loyalty** will be rekindled as you read the stories in this issue of the *Connection*.



Linda Klinger
Executive Director



ON THE COVER: Jonas Thermitus
(right) with his roommate, Samuel
Lores.

FROM THE STREETS OF HAITI TO UCA

When Jonas was 11 years old, he decided to run away. Living on the streets of Haiti was just too hard. He was hungry too often! So, he and his younger brother started walking. They planned to go to their older brother's home in the Dominican Republic. But as they neared the border, his younger brother decided to turn back. Jonas borrowed a shoeshine kit to earn enough money to send his brother back home.

When he got to the border, Jonas swam under it. "I had to swim hard and hold my breath for two and a half minutes," he says. He arrived in the Dominican Republic without a passport or visa and did not get arrested. "God helped me," Jonas says. "It was a miracle!"

The first night Jonas slept at an orphanage and gladly accepted the food they offered him. The following day he negotiated to borrow another shoeshine kit. This time he saved as much money as he possibly could so that he could buy his own kit. Once he had his





**BUT JONAS
COULDN'T STOP
WORKING. "IF
I DON'T SHINE
SHOES," HE SAID,
"HOW AM I GOING
TO EAT?"**

own shoeshine kit, he started walking again toward his brother's city.

Jonas did not know the way and was not able to read the road signs, so he followed the busses heading toward his brother's city. When he would meet tourists, he would offer to shine their shoes. Thus, he was able to purchase enough food to keep going. At night, he would seek out a place to sleep. Sometimes Jonas slept in a park. Sometimes a family would invite him to sleep in their house. On and on, day after day. Jonas walked.

Finally, after two months of walking, Jonas arrived at Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic capital city. He knew he was close, but how could he find his older brother? Jonas decided to phone his mother to get his brother's phone number. When Jonas' mother heard his voice, she was so happy! She had assumed that he had gotten killed or kidnapped or that something terrible had happened to him.

When Jonas phoned his older brother, at first his brother didn't believe him. There's no way Jonas could have gotten past the border and traveled that far! Finally, Jonas convinced his brother that, indeed, he was close by, and his brother and sister-in-law came on their bikes to meet Jonas. It was a happy reunion!

Jonas went home with his brother, but his brother was not able to feed another mouth. Jonas still needed to shine shoes every day. Each day he would go to a different town. Sometimes he would be gone for several days at a time. One time when he returned to his brother's house, they were very mad. They had become frightened that something bad had happened to him and had gone out looking for him. They told Jonas, "You can't shine shoes in different places anymore!"

But Jonas couldn't stop working. "If I don't shine shoes," he said, "how am I going to eat?" Day after day,



Jonas shined shoes and eventually, he earned enough money to bring his mother to the Dominican Republic, too. He was so happy to see her! But now Jonas was responsible to not only earn enough money for his own food; he had to earn money to feed his mother, as well.

One day when Jonas was in Las Terrenas shining shoes, he met an American missionary family. He played with their child in the tree swing by the beach and when it was time to eat, they invited him to have pizza with them. Jonas ate until he was full. He was so happy!

When it began to get late, Jonas headed toward the park, but the American

family asked where he was going. "To the park for the night," he said. But they insisted that Jonas go home with them. "The American family liked me. I was different than most of the street kids. I was respectful and I would not steal from them." So, day after day, Jonas shined shoes and stayed with the American missionaries. Finally, after two months, he went back to his brother's home.

As he neared his brother's home, Jonas noticed that there were posters with his pictures on them all over town. He couldn't figure out why. But he soon found out! Once again, he had scared his family. His mother was mad and crying! Jonas promised to not be gone that long again. He didn't want to frus-

trate his mother. . . but how could he help her if he didn't shine shoes?

When Jonas told his mother that he had been staying with an American family who loved him like their own son, that they had fed him well and cared for him, his mother was very happy. The next day she went with Jonas back to Las Terrenas to meet the American family. "Mom asked them if I could live with them," Jonas says, "and they said 'yes!'"

After that, Jonas would visit his mother every Sunday and take food to her. The American family enrolled Jonas in school. At first, school was very hard! He would study and study, and still fail the exams. He became very frustrated and told them "I hate school!" But they encouraged him to keep on trying, and he did. In fact, he tried even harder! Before long he began to succeed. His new family was very impressed with Jonas' determination.

Then Jonas' new American family decided to help him apply for a student visa. The first time they applied, his visa was denied. After that every day Jonas would go to the mountain and pray and ask God to help him get a visa; and on Sunday he would go to church and pray. Two and a half months later they went to the embassy in Port-au-Prince again, and this time he was granted a student visa, no questions asked! "God answered my prayer again!" Jonas says, "Mama Jaci (his new American mom) says it was miracle! So, I know God brought me here to UCA for a purpose. He must have something special in mind for me."

Jonas started school in America in grade 6 at the Peak School in Frisco, Colorado. It was a big adjustment—he had to learn the language, the culture, and catch up on a lot of schoolwork. Mama Jaci was afraid he'd get frustrated and do something bad, but that year he was voted "Best student in class!"

The following year Jonas skipped 7th and 8th grades and came to UCA as a freshman. Once again, he had a lot of schoolwork to catch up on! Now this is Jonas' fourth year at UCA. "Jonas has worked very hard," says Mr. Hartman, UCA's registrar, "the teachers have given him a lot of one-on-one tutoring, and he has overcome a lot."

Jonas confesses, "When I first came to UCA, sometimes I would find excuses not to do my job. Mama Jaci has talked



to me a lot. She has encouraged me to become a responsible person, to learn from my mistakes. She tells me that if I want to succeed in life, I must follow through. She tells me that if I do my part, my American family will continue to help me. So, this year I have been going to work every day."

Regarding Jonas's spiritual life, he shared this story from his early childhood: as the result of a Voodoo curse placed on him by his father's first wife, Jonas became possessed by a demon. For one month, he couldn't talk or eat. His mother, a Christian, would put soup in Jonas' mouth and every day she took him to the mountain and prayed for him. Eventually, the evil spirit left him. "This was another

miracle that God did for me!" he says.

Jonas knows from personal experience the importance of staying close to Jesus. He says, "I was baptized when I was little, but now, this year, I want to be baptized again. I want to be a better person. I need a start fresh. I'm only eighty-five percent close to God now. I want to be one hundred percent close to God."

Jonas wishes to publicly thank his American family for sponsoring him to America and to UCA. And he wishes to thank all the FoundationONE donors who also helped make it possible for him to spend these four wonderful years at UCA. He says, "UCA is exactly what I needed!"

"UCA IS EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED!"



Jonas works as a checker in the UCA cafeteria.

“Igniting the World”

UPDATE

“Igniting the World” is a \$15 million campaign to build sustainability for UCA and grow its mission. It is based on a comprehensive plan and is a partnership venture between Upper Columbia Academy and FoundationONE.



▲ Dean Kravig

Why I’m Excited About the “Igniting the World” Campaign

I’m excited about the “Igniting the World” campaign because it is giving us an unprecedented opportunity to work together in strengthening

Upper Columbia Academy’s physical infrastructure, financial stability, and academic excellence. More than ever before this world needs the Christ-centered, Biblically based education that UCA has to offer!

FoundationONE is honored to partner with UCA in this venture, yet there are

two more entities: alumni and friends, and most of all, God Himself, who moves on people’s hearts and then blesses and multiplies the gifts. Without all these entities working together, this goal will not become a reality. Please join me in praying about how you can join in supporting the “Igniting the World” campaign, and let’s see how God uses all of us working together to put UCA on a solid footing until Jesus comes.

By Dean Kravig
Associate Executive Director
FoundationONE



◀ L to R: Talea Shup, '12, talks with Dean Kravig at the "Igniting the World" booth.

◀ Dr. Richard Hart, '62, the "Igniting the World" campaign honorary chair, challenged his fellow alumni to pull out their checkbooks or credit cards. "I walked this campus," he said, "these projects are important, and some are urgent. This is not the time for pocket change!"

Promotion of "Igniting the World" Alumni Weekend

New Master Planning & Building Committee

With so many capital projects on the docket, UCA needs a team of experts to prioritize, coordinate, assure quality, and guarantee the efficient use of donor dollars. Therefore, the UCA Board of Directors, at its October 4th meeting, voted Mike Schwartz, a recently retired academy principal, as chair, and Brent Featherston, an attorney, as vice chair. Their first task is to recruit a committee of experts who are dedicated to UCA. They are looking for individuals with project engineering experience, commercial construction experience, and an architect.

A sincere THANK YOU to Mike and Brent for being willing to lead this important aspect of the "Igniting the World" campaign!



▲ Mike Schwartz, '68 & Brent Featherston, '83



Lacey Hall

Girls' Dormitory Renovation

We are excited that Lacey Hall is undergoing positive changes to improve the life of students. Three great examples of this are the first-floor mural, the dorm workout room, and the front lobby.

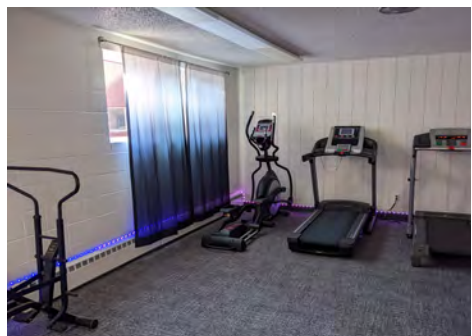
At the end of the summer, the dorm hired a recent alumnus, Mallori Lloyd, '22, to paint a beautiful mural in the main first floor hallway of the dorm. This mural is brightly colored, full of flowers, and brings so much life and joy to all who pass it. On Registration Day, the deans heard many excited gasps of "Wow! That is so beautiful!" and "I love it!" as the girls and their families entered the dorm for the first time this year. Hopefully, it will continue to brighten days and lives for many years to come.

With the help of several committed families, the dorm workout room is being updated and outfitted with new equipment. After the remodel this summer, the room was a large, blank canvas that is being transformed with LED lights, décor, and lots of updated equipment. After an Amazon

Wishlist was shared, many families jumped in to contribute items so that the dorm did not have to take on a large expense to outfit the space. The finishing touches on this space are expected in the next few weeks and the students have already been taking advantage of the room and report being so excited to have the ability to work out in their own dorm.

Finally, the front lobby is slated for new carpet this week! The switch to new, more neutral flooring will brighten and clean up this space tremendously, not to mention open many new possibilities for decoration. The deans plan to continue the refresh of this space over the next year with new curtains, furniture, and wall décor as time and funds allow."

By Dani Rivera, *Head Girls' Dean*



ball field at the highest point on campus. The beloved water tower near the girls' dorm will be retained for nostalgic purposes, but it will be retired from active service.

Total Raised to Date

The "Igniting the World" Campaign officially opened on July 1, 2021. As of September 30, 2022, we have received \$3,803,444 in cash and \$279,400 in pledges for a total of \$4,082,844. We praise God for His blessing and thank our partners for their interest and investment.

Parker photography

Next Most Urgent Need – New Water System

For 76 years, the water tower has served UCA, but now, it is wearing out. The inside coating on the walls has worn away and the walls are becoming pitted. The maintenance crew has had to repair a few leaks, and the State Health Department has given UCA until 2025 to have a new water system up and running.

The proposed new water system will be a 500,000-gallon maintenance-free pre-stressed concrete water storage tank. It will be located northeast of the

GOAL: \$15,000,000



For More Information About "Igniting the World" or to make your gift or pledge:

- 1) Go to www.ignitingtheworlduca.org.
- 2) Text GIVEFD1 to 44-321.
- 3) Checks may be mailed to: PO Box 744, Post Falls, ID 83877 (for a 2022 tax deduction, be sure your gift is postmarked on or before December 31, 2022).

- 4) To discuss details, you may call or text Linda at 509-939-1716; Dean at 509-516-9924; PJ at 509-559-2744; or Joanna at 909-801-0273.

THANK YOU! And God Bless you!!!

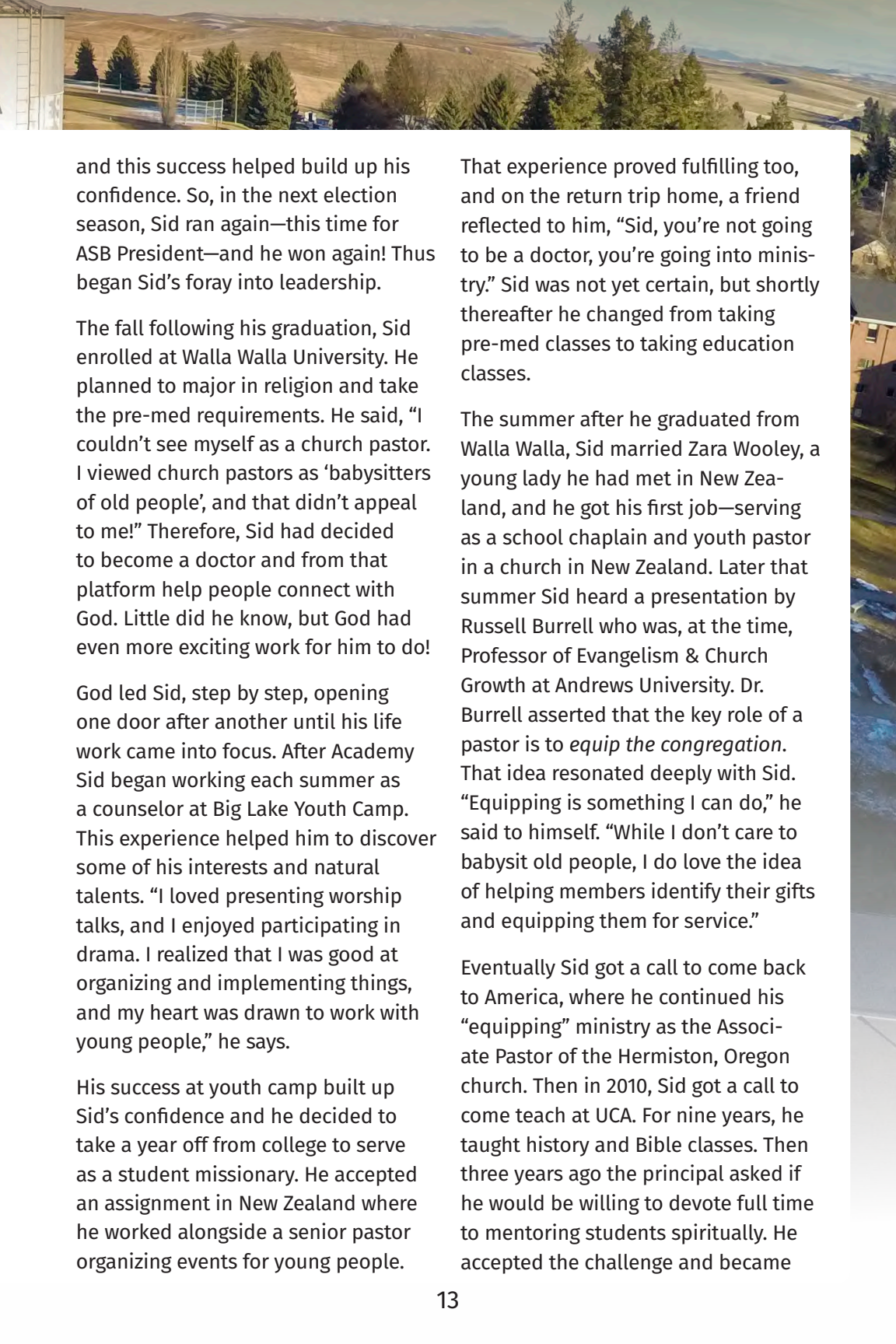


Sidney Hardy, '95, Called to Mentor Young Leaders

I was very awkward as a teen,” Sid says. “My dad was the UCA Bible Teacher. The summer before my freshman year I was diagnosed with Burkitt Lymphoma, and my chemo treatments prevented me from beginning school on time that fall.” Finally, in mid-October, Sid was well enough to join the 1991-1992 freshman class. He was a shy, skinny kid with a bald head.

Sid’s body healed—a miracle story for another time! And he overcame his timidity—but the latter was a long, difficult process.

Toward the middle of Sid’s junior year, his Chemistry teacher—Gary Thayer—the ASB sponsor, encouraged Sid to run for ASB Vice President. The idea seemed incredible to Sid, and he responded, “Well, who would vote for me?” Mr. Thayer replied, “Everyone! There’s no one else running. Your student body needs you. You would make a great VP!” Sid decided to run and won! He was great at planning events



and this success helped build up his confidence. So, in the next election season, Sid ran again—this time for ASB President—and he won again! Thus began Sid's foray into leadership.

The fall following his graduation, Sid enrolled at Walla Walla University. He planned to major in religion and take the pre-med requirements. He said, "I couldn't see myself as a church pastor. I viewed church pastors as 'babysitters of old people', and that didn't appeal to me!" Therefore, Sid had decided to become a doctor and from that platform help people connect with God. Little did he know, but God had even more exciting work for him to do!

God led Sid, step by step, opening one door after another until his life work came into focus. After Academy Sid began working each summer as a counselor at Big Lake Youth Camp. This experience helped him to discover some of his interests and natural talents. "I loved presenting worship talks, and I enjoyed participating in drama. I realized that I was good at organizing and implementing things, and my heart was drawn to work with young people," he says.

His success at youth camp built up Sid's confidence and he decided to take a year off from college to serve as a student missionary. He accepted an assignment in New Zealand where he worked alongside a senior pastor organizing events for young people.

That experience proved fulfilling too, and on the return trip home, a friend reflected to him, "Sid, you're not going to be a doctor, you're going into ministry." Sid was not yet certain, but shortly thereafter he changed from taking pre-med classes to taking education classes.

The summer after he graduated from Walla Walla, Sid married Zara Wooley, a young lady he had met in New Zealand, and he got his first job—serving as a school chaplain and youth pastor in a church in New Zealand. Later that summer Sid heard a presentation by Russell Burrell who was, at the time, Professor of Evangelism & Church Growth at Andrews University. Dr. Burrell asserted that the key role of a pastor is to *equip the congregation*. That idea resonated deeply with Sid. "Equipping is something I can do," he said to himself. "While I don't care to babysit old people, I do love the idea of helping members identify their gifts and equipping them for service."

Eventually Sid got a call to come back to America, where he continued his "equipping" ministry as the Associate Pastor of the Hermiston, Oregon church. Then in 2010, Sid got a call to come teach at UCA. For nine years, he taught history and Bible classes. Then three years ago the principal asked if he would be willing to devote full time to mentoring students spiritually. He accepted the challenge and became



UCA World Changer



UCA's Chaplain and Bible Teacher.

In senior Bible class, Pastor Sid teaches the students how to BE THE CHURCH:

- How to give Bible studies (they make their own appointments, prepare the study, interact with the interests, etc.)
- How to visit the elderly
- How to organize and acquire supplies to meet the needs of the community (food baskets & clothing for the poor, etc.)
- How to plant churches, etc.

The entire class is involved in implementing the above activities. Students help each other identify and use their unique talents and spiritual gifts. Every class member ends up getting the same grade because this is a GROUP activity, and everyone is expected to get involved in at least three activities. If a student seems reluctant or hesitant, it is the group's responsibility to encourage and involve that student.

Pastor Sid's Chaplain duties include organizing the Student Week of Prayer, Sabbath School, and Vespers. He coaches the students, and the students do the bulk of the work—the behind-the-scenes planning and the up-front



“ When a student hears a testimony regarding how God is working in another student’s life, the students really listen up!”

leading. They implement every aspect of Student Week of Prayer, Vespers, and Song Service for Church.

“The past few years, we have learned just how effective peer leadership is,” says Pastor Sid. “When a student hears a testimony regarding how God is working in another student’s life, the students really listen up! The past few years—since our students have been leading out in the spiritual activities on campus—we have seen exponential growth in the number of students desiring baptism. So far this school year (as of October 21), thirteen students have been baptized.”

Yes, God’s Spirit is alive and well on

the UCA campus! Our FoundationONE team praises God for the students God has reached through the equipping/mentoring ministry of Pastor Sid Hardy. May God continue to bless your ministry, Pastor Sid! Thank you for being willing to share your journey with our *Connection* readers.

And to our *Connection* readers: please never stop praying for UCA! As you know, Satan is a roaring lion. He hates it when our kids commit their lives to Jesus. If there were any way he could gain entrance and stop the positive spiritual trend at UCA, he would most certainly do it! Your prayers are essential. Thank you!

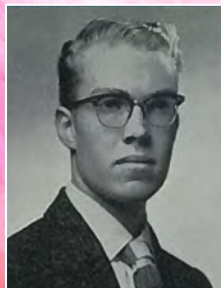
Louis & Millie FIND Love

... Fifty Years Later!

"I noticed Louis when he was at Upper Columbia Academy (UCA)," Millie says, "but Louis didn't notice me. He was popular—he played in our Junior Saxophone Trio. I wish I had had a crush on him then. But, no, I was hung up on a guy from back home."

"If Millie would have taken the right classes—like auto mechanics—I would have noticed her!" says Louis, with a twinkle in his eye.

Louis Williams, '59, grew up on Greenbluff—a popular pick-your-own-produce farming community located 15 minutes north of Spokane. He attended UCA one year—his junior year. "I was an only child," he says, "and I rebelled



▲ Louis's Junior picture.



▲ Millie's Senior picture

at the restrictions. The summer before my senior year, some of my friends climbed the water tower and painted an uncomplimentary comment on it, and I was with them. So, we were asked to find another school."

Louis went to Laurelwood Academy for his senior year; then he went on to Walla Walla College (now University) where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. After completing college, Louis got a job at the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan. "I've always been a car nut," he says, "I worked there for 39 years!"

Millie Durham, '59, grew up on a dairy farm in Deer Park, WA. Her father expected a lot of his three daughters. At the age of 10, Millie was milking cows every morning before heading off to school. She also helped with logging and bailing hay and other heavy farm work. So, UCA seemed like a perpetual vacation to Millie. She loved living in the dorm, and she made a lot of friends. "I still keep in touch with several of those friends—what a blessing they have been to me through the years!" says Millie.

After UCA, Millie stayed with her roommate's family in Pendleton, and worked at Harris Pine Mills. It was there she met her first husband. They were married for 20 years and had three children. After her children were grown Millie went back to school and took nursing. She did psych nursing and in-home care for special needs children for 25 years.



▲ The 1958 Saxophone Trio: Gary Schoepflin, Louis Williams, Duane Hasse



▲ Sandra Paulson, Louis Williams, Millie (Durheim) McKern at alumni weekend 2009.

“We’ve got to support the students who promote the values we want in this world!”

In 2009, Sandy Ratliff was rallying the class of 1959 to come for their 50th UCA homecoming. She twisted Louis's arm and he finally agreed to come. Then Sandy (Gibson) Paulson called Millie and they decided to drive up together from Walla Walla. At the Saturday night dinner that homecoming weekend, Louis and Millie sat at the same table. They enjoyed each other's company and a few weeks later, Louis asked Millie to join him for dinner, as he was traveling back to Spokane, following his Laurelwood Academy reunion. Then, in the summer, they met again in College Place where they walked the campus in 105-degree heat!

For the next several months, Louis and Millie kept the airlines busy between Walla Walla, Washington and Detroit, Michigan. Finally on April 16, 2010, Millie and Louis were married.

FoundationONE recently visited Louis and Millie in their home and asked them why they loved to give to FoundationONE. Louis said, "At the time we began giving, my grandson was in public school, and I couldn't help noticing how very different the kids at UCA were. They were respectful and wholesome. They related well to adults. Being on the UCA campus and being at the public-school was like two different worlds! Our kids are our future! We've got to support the students who promote the values we want in this world! And as for the endowment—it just makes a lot of sense to leverage the dollars."



“We never
would have
met without
UCA!”
—Millie



CREATE A BETTER FUTURE. IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK.

SUPPORT THE FOUNDATIONONE ENDOWMENT AND YOUR GIFT WILL LAST LONGER.

Because endowment gifts are invested permanently, your giving to Foundation ONE will impact students generation after generation. It's a way to perpetuate your values and create a lasting legacy.

Consider becoming an Impact Partner (monthly Donor). You may set up your monthly donation online and give via credit card or eCheck. Go to www.foundationoneuca.org.

Remember FoundationONE when someone dies and consider designating Memorial Donations to FoundationONE. We will provide donation cards with your loved one's photo on them.

Reduce taxes by donating your RMD. If you are 70 ½ or older and do not need the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA for living expenses, you may contribute up to \$100,000 an-

nually to FoundationONE and thereby reduce your taxable income. Here's what you need to do:

- 1) Act before December 31 to transfer the RMD funds directly to FoundationONE.
- 2) Call 509-939-1716 for assistance. We will send you a letter with instructions to give to your IRA administrator.

Consider giving Stocks, Bonds, or Mutual Funds. If you have securities that have appreciated in value, if you donate them to FoundationONE you'll receive a charitable deduction for the full, fair market value and thereby avoid capital gains tax.

Consider a Planned Gift. There are many planned giving vehicles that can provide you with significant benefits and, at the same time, benefit the Endowment for UCA students. Call FoundationONE's Planned Giving Specialist, Don Klinger, at 208-288-1260.



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A GLIMPSE OF UCA, 2022-2023



272

Number of Students
Enrolled as of
October 30, 2022



\$20,995

Basic charge for a Dorm Student

 **\$260,000**

Estimated amount of money that FoundationONE
will distribute to UCA students this school year



106

Number of Students Receiving
Grants/Scholarships from the
FoundationONE Endowment



INFINITE

Our gratitude for the wonderful support of alumni & friends!



YOU'RE INVITED TO A

Christmas Concert



At the Fox Theater in Downtown Spokane

Thursday, December 15, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

*Featuring the UCA choral & instrumental groups
Performing your favorite Christmas classics*



Thank you

***This Thanksgiving, we're
thankful for your support!***

▲ Danerose Sanford,
a junior, is a grateful
scholarship recipient!

Because of your love, loyalty, and generosity, FoundationONE has been able to assist more than 1600 students in their quest of a Christian education at UCA. Their lives were changed, their characters built, and their eyes directed toward their Creator.

Upper Columbia Academy is about growing God's kingdom—first of all in the hearts of our own children, and then through them extending God's kingdom to every person on planet earth.

None of this would be possible without you. THANK YOU!

Correction to the August 2022 Connection:

On page 9, we reported on only three of the five Londa (Slawson) Raines 2022 Scholarships. The two students we failed to acknowledge were Christine Chapman and Calina Prouty. They did not attend the awards ceremony and therefore were not pictured, but they did receive a Londa (Slawson) Raines 2022 Scholarship.





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FoundationONE's Mission

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Enhancing UCA

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One School

Upper Columbia Academy

One Method

Endowment

One Process

Grants/Scholarships

One Goal

Future Leaders

Contact Info: Email: linda.klinger@foundationoneuca.org • Phone: 509-939-1716 • Website: foundationoneuca.org