Foundation**ONE**

CONNECTION

ONE MISSION, UCA STUDENTS

A "Melting Pot" Family Story

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Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe, but my time at FoundationONE is fast coming to an end. In late January, I shared with our board leaders that I felt the time had come to pass on the leadership responsibility to the next generation. June 30, 2023 will be my last day as Executive Director of FoundationONE.

What a privilege it has been for me to stand on the shoulders of the visionaries who established FoundationONE. They were so far-sighted, so wise in how they put together every detail of this organization. And I am delighted to pass the torch of leadership to someone who also appreciates the vision and uniqueness of this organization.

As I write my final letter to you, I reflect on our ten-and-a-half years together with gratitude, satisfaction, and a hopefulness about the future. The year I joined FoundationONE, we awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to UCA students. Each year, because of your generosity, the endowment grew, and we were able to help a few more students. Now, we are awarding in scholarships more than \$250,000 each year. . . and that growth will continue because, I know the commitment of this community.

Working with all of you has been the most fulfilling job imaginable. In fact, I never thought I was working. Sharing the vision, interacting with you, . . . it was just fun, fun, fun!

So, thank you for the opportunity! My prayers will continue to be with all of you who have been so supportive, and with the next leaders as they protect and continue the vision.

Linda Klinger

Kindest regards,

Linda Klinger

ON THE COVER: Alia Smith is one of 91 students receiving a FoundationONE grant this school year. Read her story on page 6.



ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 29–30, 2023

You Are Invited

We look forward to welcoming you home!

Honored Classes: 1953 and prior, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003, and 2013.

Friday Evening Vespers 7:30 p.m. Friday September 29 UCA Gymnasium

Sabbath Services 10:00 a.m. *Sabbath, September 30,* UCA Gymnasium

Haystack Lunch, UCA Gymnasium (Donations welcome) Class reunions, class photos, and campus tours following lunch, Campbell Administration Building



In 2004, FoundationONE founders had a vision to help families make Adventist education more affordable. They could see the difficulties families were facing and wanted to make a difference for their beloved school, Upper Columbia Academy.

Nine years later, when Linda Klinger became the Executive Director, FoundationONE was still a young endowment trying to grow its donor base. Now the endowment has grown to over \$6 million and has helped hundreds of students be able to attend UCA. Our donor base has grown significantly as people can see the good work FoundationONE is doing, and so much of that is a result of Linda's passion for Adventist education, her faith, loyalty, and inspiring leadership. If you ask Linda why she is so passionate, she will say, "if you visit the campus and meet the students and staff, you immediately realize that this is one of our church's largest and most important ministries." Her passion has influenced alumni, students, parents and donors alike.

Personally, I have been so blessed by Linda and her husband Don's friendship. They have led by example, teaching me about integrity, trust, prayer, and hard work. Working together, we have seen many miracles happen for UCA and FoundationONE. There have been times I have found myself "walking and leaping and praising God"!

Now that the organization is almost 20 years old, we have settled into our role as passionate champions for UCA students. We have weathered many changes. As FoundationONE goes through this transition, I am confident in God's continued leadership. As I write, the board is actively working on a succession plan. Looking to the future, the endowment will continue to grow, and we will support the next generation of UCA students.

> Please join me in wishing Linda and Don the amazing retirement they so richly deserve.

Numbers 6: 24-26 says, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." This is my prayer for the Klingers and for FoundationONE.

Mindy Weber

Mindy Weber, President FoundationONE



prizes, & BBQ

Field limited to the first



▼ Alia with her roommate, Elise Colburn

ALJA MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME!

Recently I was reading through the 2022-2023 FoundationONE Grant Applications and Alia Smith's application jumped out at me. In it, she wrote, "I want to come to UCA because I want to keep my heart turned toward God." The application further indicated that Alia lives with her grandparents, is a Christian (not a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church), and she has some physical disabilities. I decided to interview Alia. Below are excerpts from the conversation.

CONNECTION: Alia, tell our readers about your childhood.

Alia: I've lived with my grandparents since I was 18 months old. My parents were addicts and I was born at 28

weeks with hydrocenhalus. My mother

weeks with hydrocephalus. My mother left when I was about a year old. Dad was trying to raise me by himself, but it was too much. Finally, he called Grandma and I've lived with my grandparents ever since. By the time I was eleven, I had had 42 surgeries. The biggest surgery was when I was five—I had a 10-centimeter mass on my brain stem. Essentially, I feel like my childhood was stolen from me.

CONNECTION: Where did you go to school before coming to Upper Columbia Academy (UCA)?

Alia: Because I was in and out of the hospital so much, school was always difficult. By the time I was in 5th grade, my grandparents realized that I was

BUT THE BEST PART OF UCA IS THE WEEK OF PRAYER!



◆ Alia with her grandparents and brother.

not thriving in public school, and they began talking about sending me to a private school. I started at Palisades Christian Academy when I was in 6th grade. That was a good move for me! Then, when I finished there last year (10th grade), all my friends were coming to UCA, so I applied to come here too!

CONNECTION: Tell us about what you have experienced so far at UCA.

Alia: I am an introvert. Because UCA has so many students, I still feel a little

▼ Alia with Bible Teacher, "Pastor Fred"



I'M ALSO ENJOYING PASTOR FRED'S BIBLE CLASS. WE ARE STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION AND TALKING ABOUT END-TIMES. intimidated, but I'm getting used to it. One of the things I enjoy most is spending time with my Faculty Advisor. Every Wednesday I meet one-on-one with PJ Deming, the principal. He goes over my grades with me, asks if there's anything he can do to make my experience here at UCA better, and prays with me.

I'm also enjoying Pastor Fred's Bible class. We are studying the book of Revelation and talking about end-times. Even though I gave my heart to Jesus when I was ten, I've never studied Bible prophecy and I'm finding it fascinating. But the best part of UCA is the Week of Prayer! During that week there is so much energy. I love the music, the

talks, and just spending time worshipping God!

CONNECTION: Do you have any clear idea of what God may be calling you to do in the future?

Alia: I feel very close to my dad. He has had a terrific struggle with drug addiction. Over and over again, he has gotten cleaned up and then he relapses. At this point in his life, he has no one. Everyone has given up on him—including his family. But Dad and I can communicate at a deep level. When he is clean and sober, he is a good man—memorizing scripture and praying, etc.

After I graduate, I hope to move to Illinois where his family lives. From there, it will be an eight-hour drive to visit Dad. I hope that God will use me to help Dad find victory and reconnect with his family. Beyond that, I'm not certain, but I do love music. I could see myself owning a music store.

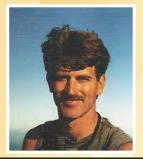
connection: We are delighted, Alia, that we can assist you on your journey into adulthood! May God bless you as you continue to grow in Him at UCA. We at FoundationONE pray for "our" students every day, and that includes you! Your journey has not been an easy one so far. God must have a very special work for you to accomplish here on this earth. We can't wait to see what it is! Please stay in touch and let us know how God leads you in your life.

I HOPE THAT GOD WILL USE ME TO HELP DAD FIND VICTORY AND RECONNECT WITH HIS FAMILY.



▲ Alia with her dad

FALL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS





Honoring the life of Eric Molstead

The 2022-2023 Eric Molstead Scholarship winners: Hailey Fischer, Kiersten Barker, Paola Gomez, Gabrielle Townsend, Sadie Bowen, Gisselle Perez, Noelle Haeger, and Mia Pierce and Lauren Davidson who were not present. The awards were presented by Dick and Anita Molstead (Eric's parents) and Michele Molstead, '84 (Eric's sister).





Honoring the life of Wayne Hooper

The 2022-2023 Wayne Hooper Brass Scholarship winners: Lily Dietrich, Brendan Wicklund, Emma Dietrich, Matthew Roth, Alissa Stafford. Pictured with the winners are Dick and Jan Lind (Wayne Hooper's daughter)





Honoring the life of Faye R. (Prewitt) Kwapien

The 2022-2023 Faye R. Kwapien Memorial Scholarship winners: Collin Scott, Jordan Johns, Sam Asaki, Ginger Purcell, Micah Holm. Ambrea (Llewellyn) George, '02, Faye's granddaughter, and Valerie (Llewellyn) Bright, '72, Faye's daughter, presented the awards.



Honoring the Grandview, WA Pioneeering Families

The 2022-2023 Grandview Pioneer Memorial Scholarship winners: Gracey Robins, Sam Lores, Chantel Jones, Ava Herzberg (not pictured). John and Beccie Mohr presented the awards.

FALL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS





Honoring the lives of Harvey & Verna Mohr

The 2022-2023 Harvey & Verna Mohr Family Scholarship winners: Sharmi Jones & Claira Robins. John and Beccie Mohr presented the awards (John is Harvey & Verna's son).





Honoring the Leadbetter Family

The 2022-2023 Leadbetter Family Scholarship Winners: William Heyden-Seaton and Sofia Pinell. Mindy Weber, FoundationONE President, presented the awards.

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Honoring the life of Sheila Lynn Larson

The 2022-2023 Sheila Lynn Larson Scholarship winners: Irina Muzychko and Dmitry Kozakov. Allen Larson, Sheila's husband, presented the awards.





Honoring the Roberts Family

The 2022-2023 Roberts Family Scholarship winners: Joel Van Doozer, Emely Guerrero, Tanner Lowe, Tyler Holm, Alana Nash (not pictured), Pavel Rudoi (not pictured). Verna (Roberts) Canaday, '67, and Bev Roberts presented the awards.

A UCA World Changer Story U C A



▲ Young Stan Orser at print sh

▲ Stan & Jodi Orse

▲ Stan in India

▲ Action Printers Team

Stan Learns to Live an Others-Centered Life

CONNECTION: When you were at UCA, what were your aspirations for the future?

STAN: I have a sanguine personality, and all I wanted to do was meet new people and have fun and do what felt good. God's plan for my life was not the ruling authority at this time, my wants were. I thought life should be one party after another, the future can take care of itself.

CONNECTION: So, how did UCA work out for you?

STAN: My first year at UCA—my junior year—I did okay. I came from a good home. My dad saw to it that I had a good work ethic. My parents owned a printing business, and I used to go to the print shop after school and make scratch pads from the scraps and off cut paper and then sell them to the local businesses. My parents started me off on a good path.

But during the summer between my junior and senior years, I developed a friendship with one of the other pressmen who introduced me to drinking and drugs. I took those bad habits with me when I went back to UCA for my senior year. I barely made it through the school year. I was suspended twice, and I should have been kicked out permanently. But the faculty were very forgiving, very gracious.

CONNECTION: So, what did you do after Academy?

STAN: I continued living life focused on myself, and it was a disaster! I went to La Sierra University, smoked marijuana there, and got myself kicked out. Then I went to Walla Walla College (now University) where I met a gal. We got married

and had a couple of kids. And I just kept on looking for fun, but never finding it. Twelve years later, my wife left me to marry my best friend.

CONNECTION: I've known you, Stan, for almost a decade now. You are one of the most giving, others- centered individuals I know. How and when did that change occur?

STAN: When you live to please yourself, you get a lot of misery . . . you hurt a lot of people. I've given my parents untold grief. My children have suffered.

But God never gives up on us! The things my parents taught me and the things I learned in church school and at UCA kept coming back to me. Slowly my heart began to soften. Then I met Jodi. She was not raised Adventist, but she was careful to maintain a relationship with Jesus. We started studying the Bible with Pastor Willard Santee. I learned to let God be in control of my life. She learned about the Sabbath and some of our

other Adventist teachings. Eventually we were baptized, married and blended our families. It's been a lot of work! But God has blessed us every step of the way.

CONNECTION: So, what are your priorities now? Before, you were all about pleasing yourself. . .

STAN: I'm scared of myself! I absolutely must choose every day to let God be in control. Every morning I go into my closet, and I ask for the fruits of the Spirit and the armor of God. I ask God to keep me from lust, pride, and appetite. Then I go through my prayer list—I pray for my employees, family and friends. This gets me started off on the right foot for the day.

CONNECTION: Tell us about your work life.

STAN: As you know, my parents ran a print shop. I started working there when I was 12 years old, and that is where I've worked most of my adult life. Several years ago, my parents were ready to

A UCA World Changer Story U C A



▲ Orser Family

sell the business, but at the time, my personal life was not stable, and I was not in a position to run the business. So, my parents sold the shop to someone else. Then, for various reasons (we think providentially), the new owners could not make a go of it. By the time the case was settled, Jodi and I were in a position to purchase Action Printers. We have been the owners/managers of the Action Printers in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho since 2013.

CONNECTION: How many employees do you have?

STAN: We currently have seven employees. We try to take good care of our employees. Jodi is an amazing partner. Our print shop is a happy place!

CONNECTION: So, is Bible study and prayer all there is to living a Christian life?

STAN: No, there's one more element it's something all of us know in theory (at least if we went to Adventist schools), but not all of us practice—we must share our faith. A mission trip would throw me right into this missing element.

For 25 years my parents have been involved with Gospel Outreach in India.

Mom kept telling me, "You've got to go on a mission trip!" But I didn't think I had time to go. Eventually I relented and went. What I saw broke my heart—those hard-working Bible Workers were living in utter poverty! Then, Jim Reynolds came up with a solution—why not hire the Bible Workers' wives to teach health in the communities where they live. Thus, Ultimate Mission Healthy Heart was born. Ultimate Mission Healthy Heart is the organization I work with when I go to India.

When I went to India my faith suddenly became alive! I felt, for the first time, that I was being used by the Lord! After a day of serving the people, I was up all night in tears—at last it wasn't about me! God had a hold of me!!!

CONNECTION: So, what are some of the things you do the other 11 months of the year to keep your faith alive?

STAN: I ask God every morning to help me live in a self-forgetful way, and He does it! He gives me many, many opportunities to share my faith. I'm an elder in my local church, and I am responsible for staying in touch with certain church members. I make phone calls and visit members in their homes.

Jodi and I also share our faith at work. When we see God working in our lives, we talk about it. For example, one of our digital printers was unfixable after many costly attempts. One day I located a similar model, I cleaned out my wood truck at home and borrowed a trailer and

went and picked it up. It was a smooth trip and when we got it unloaded and plugged in, it worked perfectly! That to us was a miracle, and we shared that "miracle story" with our employees.

Twice a week I give plasma. Sure, it takes some time, but I'm glad to do it. While I'm lying there on the bed with the needle in my arm, I listen to a sermon or read something inspirational. Giving plasma provides me with an additional \$140 per week that I can use to support my friends

in India, and it feels good to know that my blood is saving lives here locally!

CONNECTION: Wow! God certainly has given you a new heart, Stan! Thank you for sharing your story. You truly are a World Changer!

And there, dear reader, is one more example of how God uses UCA to help instill values into our children—values that will always be with them, ever drawing them back to Jesus.

How Stan Blessed My Mother

By Linda Klinger

In January of 2016, my 92-year-old mother, Edith Peterson, from Edmore, Michigan, was visiting us at our home in Post Falls, Idaho, when she had a stroke. She had a good recovery, but her doctors said it was no longer safe for mom to live alone. Suddenly, my siblings and I had some big decisions to make.

Mom was very independent, and she was determined that she could manage life alone just fine! So, transitioning her

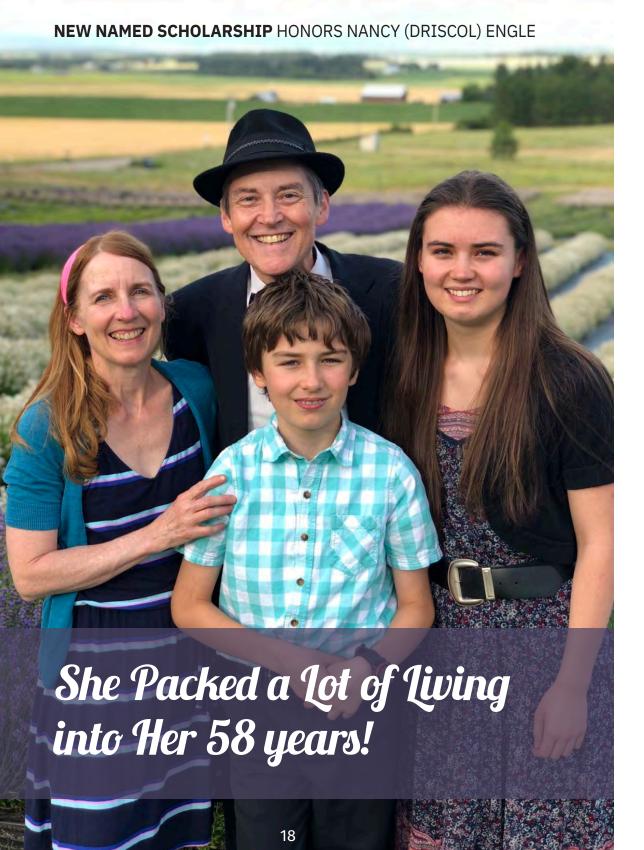
to an assisted living facility was very traumatic. Mom was a lifelong Adventist and had always been active in small, family-like churches. Don and I were involved at the 600+ member Coeur d'Alene Church. I reached

out to the Post Falls pastor to ask if, by chance, there was anyone who attended the Post Falls Church who might be willing to pick up mom and take her to church each week.

Stan and Jodi Orser to the rescue! For the next four years, until Mom was no longer able to attend, Stan and Jodi joyfully picked up Mom each Sabbath morning, stayed for the potluck so mom could make friends, helped her get her food (she used a walker), and

> then tenderly dropped her off back at her apartment for her Sabbath afternoon nap.

I can't thank you enough, Stan and Jodi, for bringing so much sunshine into my mother's life!







ancy (Driscol) Engle, Ph.D., grew up in Columbus, Indiana, with her mother, dad and three sisters. The Driscol family loved water sports, and each summer they would attend multiple camps and spend much time on the water. Nancy became proficient at slalom skiing. When she got old enough to work at camp, she became the water ski instructor.

Nancy was outgoing and friendly and her senior year at Indiana Academy she served as the Student Association President. Unknown to her at the time, her Science teacher, Mr. Shull, noticed Nancy and told his very shy nephew, Daniel Engle, about her.

At the time, Daniel, who was a year older, was engrossed in his studies at Andrews University. He didn't think much about it. But the following year, when the Cast (the student picture book) came out, Daniel looked up Nancy's picture. All school year he watched Nancy. She was dynamic and social. "She's beyond my social class," he told himself.

The following year Nancy spent the year in Japan as a student missionary.

When she came back for her sophomore year (he was now a senior), she lived off campus. With Daniel taking classes in the School of Technology and Nancy taking classes in the Arts and Sciences, the connection just never happened. Daniel graduated, got a job in the IT department at Florida Hospital, and assumed that Nancy would never be a part of his life.

Daniel got involved with a young adult group at Orlando, Florida church. One weekend, Nancy showed up at one of the group functions. She had come for an interview and within a few weeks Nancy was employed at Florida Hospital. Now Nancy and Daniel were both in the youth group! Daniel decided it was time to start building a relationship with Nancy.

But how? He was so shy! She was so charming!

Nancy had a 1981 Mustang that usually worked fine. But, whenever she would drive it through a puddle, the car would stall out, and it would not start! Nancy began calling Daniel for help whenever that would happen. Chivalrously, Daniel would come running. But, usually by the time he got there, the car had dried out

enough that it would start. Feverously Daniel researched the car's problem, but he never did solve it before they were married. However, the car problem did solve the relationship difficulty!

Before long Daniel and Nancy were taking trips with the Pathfinder Club, sitting

together in church, etc. One thing led to another, and next thing they knew, Daniel and Nancy were saying their "I dos" in front of a preacher.

Nancy began her professional career working in the field of Fund Development: first for Florida Hospital, next for the Girl Scouts, and then for the University of Central Florida. It was while she was at the University of Central Florida that she decided to go back to school. First, she completed a master's degree in history. Then she began working on a doctoral degree on the role of women in society. She wanted to influence society,

to raise the level of respect and appreciation for women.

About the time Nancy finished her doctoral exams, Daniel was being recruited for a leadership role in a new health care company in Spokane, Washington. The couple made a trip to the Northwest and decided to make the big cross-country move.

After Nancy and Daniel moved to Spokane, they decided it was time to start a family. They had been married for 12 years. They had satisfying careers. . . but something was missing. Amber was born in 2000 and 6 years later, Zach joined the family. The children were now Nancy's highest priority. Nevertheless, she still managed to eke out some time to continue

her research, writing, and publishing work. Her best-known work is *Influential Women of Spokane: Building a Fair City.*

Nancy loved to sing in choirs and, as an adult, Nancy learned to play the cello. She would fill the Engle home with cello music every school night for an hour after the kids went to bed. When the children were in elementary school, she played with the grade school orchestra. When Amber went to Upper Columbia Academy, Nancy joined the orchestra there.

Nancy loved the Lord and desired to share Jesus with the Spokane com-

munity. For 20 years she organized a singing group once a month for a Senior Living center about two blocks from the church. For thirteen years she led Journey to Bethlehem—a live action, walk-through experience—presented each Christmas season by the South Hill SDA Church.

Nancy was deeply grateful for her Adventist education, and she freely shared her time, talents, and treasure with Palisades Christian Academy, FoundationONE, and Upper Columbia Academy. Nancy was a FoundationONE founding board member "I will ever be grateful," says Linda Klinger, FoundationONE's executive director, "for Nancy. She was an extraordinary volunteer. Whenever there was an opportunity to promote the cause, you could count on Nancy being there!"

In 2019, just as Daniel was completing his third round of cancer treatment, the family began noticing some changes in Nancy. She wasn't the independent, confident, adventuresome person she had always been. Nancy couldn't multitask anymore. She had a hard time staying oriented. Navigation began to be a challenge. The doctor said Nancy had a fast-progressing dementia.

They tried various drugs, but nothing would stop the deterioration. Daniel lovingly took care of Nancy until on May 10, 2021, she breathed her last. Following her death, Daniel, Amber, and Zach wanted to do something special to honor Nancy. They decided to start an

endowed Scholarship in her memory. The new Nancy (Driscol) Engle Memorial Scholarship is for 1) women students with financial needs; 2) Who are active in their local church; 3) Who enjoy music; and 4) Who have a heart for giving and serving others.

Family and friends who wish to honor Nancy's life may do so by making a contribution to the Nancy (Driscol) Engle Memorial Scholarship Fund. "Adventist education changes lives," says Daniel, "what better way to honor Nancy than to inspire future generations to live open, honest, generous lives, like she did!"

By Daniel Engle, Amber Engle & Zach Engle, as told to Linda Klinger





"Igniting the World" CAMPAIGN

pper Columbia Academy has a passionate, determined alum who has worked alongside UCA administrators for more than three decades, articulating a vision for excellence and giving strong financial support. At the recent alumni weekend—October 15, 2022—this long-time friend offered an \$800,000 challenge. If alumni and friends would give \$800,000 to the "Igniting the World" campaign by January 31st, she promised to match their gifts, dollar for dollar.

The news of the matching challenge filled the "Igniting the World" fundraising team with both excitement and terror. How would they ever raise \$800,000 in just three months? The previous nine months they had worked their "fingers to the bone" and only raised \$400,000. This was clearly a God-sized challenge, and the team

dropped to their knees begging God to show them the right moves to make.

They began promoting the matching challenge via email and Facebook. Then, in December the "Igniting the World" staff sent out a direct mail appeal about the matching challenge. God used those simple communications to touch hearts.

Alumni, parents, grandparents, and church members began pulling out their checkbooks and credit cards. Post Office box 744 was stuffed almost every day. There was one young lady who had no connection whatsoever to UCA, who felt impressed to give. When asked why she donated, she said, "Because a friend of mine told me that God is on the move in the Upper Columbia

Conference, and I just want to be part of His work!"

For three months the fundraising team was super busy entering data, printing receipts, and signing thank you letters. They receipted hundreds of \$10 to \$100 gifts; many, many \$100 to \$500 gifts; dozens of \$1,000 to \$5,000 gifts; a few 5-digit gifts; and one 6-digit gift. As they worked, they often sent up praises to God, for they realized that this activity was not of their making. By mid-January, even before the end of the matching period, the full \$800,000 was raised.

The matching challenge donor was ecstatic! "God has been my business partner for the last 40 years. I love partnering with Him!" she says. "This experience affirms not only that there is tremendous community support for our academies, but it tells us how God feels about our academies—they are an essential part of His work here on earth."

The "Igniting the World" campaign, which will continue until December 31, 2024, is all about sustainability for Upper Columbia Academy. For more information or to join the joyful givers who have already given in support of this \$15 million campaign, go to www.ignitingtheworlduca.org.







DONOR HONORS MOTHER BY SUPPORTING THE MATCHING CHALLENGE

When Joy (Smith) Robinson, '70, heard about the matching challenge, she sent in a donation to the Olin Peach Scholarship Fund in memory of her mother, June Smith, saying "This is money I received at the time of my mother's memorial." Then she shared this heartwarming story:

While my parents were employed as staff at UCA (fall of 1966 to summer of 1972), June served as the school van driver, transporting students to music lessons, medical appointments, shopping trips, and to/from the airport, bus station, or train station in Spokane.

June was also known at UCA, and later at Walla Walla College (now University), as "The Costume Lady". She had done some costuming in the early 1960's for Dr. Donnie Rigby at WWC prior to moving to UCA, but it was through the

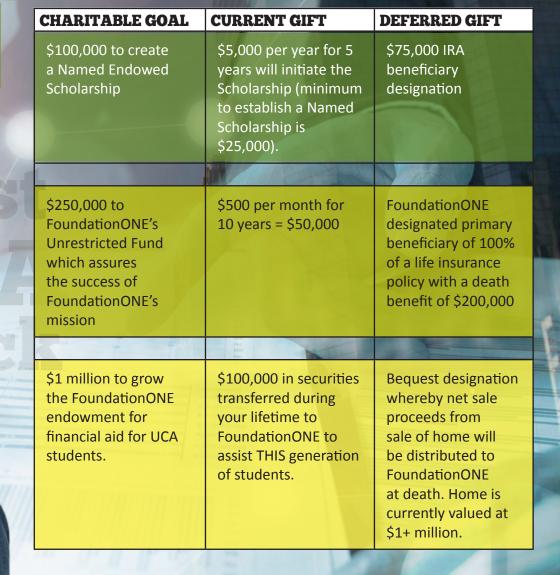
encouragement (pleading) of UCA choral director, Lynn Wickham, that her real costume "career" was launched.

In the fall of 1966, she, with a little assistance from my dad (Maintenance man, Clifton C. Smith) created costumes for excerpts from both "Oklahoma" and "Babes in Toyland" performed by the Choraliers. During her time at UCA, June would go on to create costumes for many more musical performances including "My Fair Lady" and "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!"

Blended Gifts

Make Your Giving Go Farther

A "blended gift" occurs when you combine two or more gift types to increase your philanthropic impact, maximize your personal tax benefits, preserve wealth for you and your family and further the Academy's mission. By blending multiple gift types, you can make an impact far greater than you ever imagined!



Charital Giving



NEW NAMED SCHOLARSHIP HONORS BILL & JUDY PUTNAM

A "Melting Pot" Family Story

BY TODD PRICE

t took around 4 decades for Bill and Judy to say "I do" to each other. Previous to that time they were both in marriages that produced for Bill, two daughters and for Judy, two sons.

The Putnam family doesn't do "stepfamily", you're just family. It's a good thing because this family is a true melting pot, be it last names, political views, race or religion. Bill was raised in a Catholic family as the oldest son in a family of 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls. The house was a typical 900 square ft., 3-bed 1-bath home in a Wichita, Kansas working class neighborhood. The church school and church were just two blocks away. The Putnam kids attended them both. Bill spent a little time in college but when marriage (as it will do) produced a little girl, it was time to make a living and thus ended Bill's formal education and began the challenging education of life. Finances for the young couple were always difficult and they worked hard to make ends meet. The birth of their second daughter with

life altering medical conditions added another layer of complexity to the finances and the challenging aspect of relationship communication. If it hadn't been before, they certainly learned and embraced a strenuous work ethic. working extra jobs and fixing homes for resale. A move from the comfortable surroundings of hometown and family to Dallas, Texas provided Bill with employment at Abbott Labs and the base for future financial success. Unfortunately, the passing of time, pressures of medical debt and mounting unresolved personal issues, eventually led to dissolution of the marriage.

Though his personal relationship suffered, Bill had grown in knowledge of his primary employment with Abbott Labs in their shipping/receiving department. Together with fellow associates a business partnership was forged in the field of transportation logistics and specialty delivery. A nationwide business was built with hard work and sacrifice. This was also the time period that brought Bill and Judy together as she too was employed at Abbott Labs.

Judy Smith was raised in Oklahoma with her twin brother, Hubert (Lee). They learned about grief at an early age when they lost their older sister to undiagnosed type 1 diabetes. Shortly after, their father left their mother to raise Lee and Judy on her own. Their mother took them to the First Christian Church as they were growing. Though Judy and Lee were twins, Judy took the role of big sister/protector seriously. There were a few conflicts she had to settle, and she did. Judy had a very close, loving relationship with her mother. Judy learned by watching her mom how hard life is as a single parent. When she found herself raising two boys on her own, the fortitude she witnessed in her mother was revealed in Judy.



BILL WAS KNOWN FOR HIS ENORMOUS HEART AND GENEROSITY. HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP ANYONE IN NEED.

So, how does Upper Columbia Academy come into the picture? I'm glad you asked. One day, a smoking hot redhead walked into the life of an erstwhile Adventist whose name is Todd. This vixen was none other than Bill's firstborn daughter, Lori Ann. Dating and stuff led to marriage. Lori eventually began to ask questions about the subject matter she would read in the Signs of The Times magazines that the "backslider" Todd's mother had given as a monthly subscription. Lori's questions led to sporadic church attendance,

double dunk! Eventually marriage, as it will do, produced two kids. Joshua and Nicole attended the Adventist preschool and elementary in Round Rock, TX until Joshua was in the 7th grade. There was no local option for Adventist brick and mortar education beyond 8th grade, so Lori and Todd found a charter school that they felt would meet their kids' needs. Once Joshua graduated in 2019, the family moved to Spokane at Nicole's request so she could attend Upper Columbia Academy beginning her sophomore year. Joshua enrolled in WWU and served as a task force dean during Nicole's junior year. Nicole was Vice President of her senior class and graduated with honors in 2022.

Unfortunately, on November 22, 2019, in Nicole's first year, Bill died unexpectedly in his sleep. He never got to see the beautiful grounds and buildings or experience the wonderful caring community that has had such a large influence in the life of his daughter, son and grandkids. Bill was known for

his enormous heart and generosity. He was always willing to help anyone in need. He had a vast knowledge of countless subjects. He loved his home in the country and being outdoors. He enjoyed his fishing excursions as well as throwing out a line in his own beautiful ponds. You could often find him in his workshop either tinkering around or making a personal gift for others. He was always quick for a kind word of other's accomplishments and achievements.

Judy loves to give. Whether hosting family, cooking meals for everyone, washing and folding visitors' clothes or taking someone shopping to meet their needs, there is not a branch in this family tree that hasn't been blessed by her thoughtful and caring generosity.

A Catholic, a First Christian and an Adventist walk into a bar....this is usu-

ally followed by a punchline. The thing is, this time, you get a truth instead. The truth is this. When people love each other, their differences are not obstacles to stumble over. They are what make a rich and beautiful story, filled with patience, grace, kindness, peace.....stop me if you've heard of these things before. When we as a people, as HIS people submit and embrace this truth of love, our lives will be as generous as those we honor at FoundationONE and will change the lives of those we meet on a daily basis. A Catholic, a First Christian and an Adventist walked into each other's life..... and love ensued.

–Editor's note: At the storywriter's request, this story was published unedited."



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