

FoundationONE

CONNECTION

ONE MISSION. UCA STUDENTS.



A NEW LOOK

FOR UCA'S
FARM PROGRAM

*It's All God...
He Somehow Just
Made It Work!*

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VP's Message

My time with FoundationONE has been a very rewarding partnering with Upper Columbia Academy to make Adventist education attainable for as many as possible. But, to be honest, sometimes the mission seems overwhelming and unattainable. Each year there is more need for students and the campus than there are resources.

Recent events have caused me to examine the idea of legacy in our family. I was surprised at what I learned and its application to FoundationONE's mission. Let me tell you about a couple of visionaries for Adventist education.

James M. Willoughby served as the second President of the Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventist's in 1909, <https://www.adventistarchives.org/idaho-conf>, while simultaneously serving as state representative from Washington County to the Idaho Legislature. He lived in Washington county because he and his son-in-law, Frank Featherston, started a community that became known as Advent Gulch in the mountains near Cambridge, Idaho. In so doing, they started a school that grew to over 60 students and was the largest in the conference.

Elder Willoughby was my great-great Grandfather and Frank Featherston, my great grandfather. What must it have been like to start an Adventist school while World War I raged?

Some decades later, C. M. Munsey was an Adventist farmer in Canyon County, Idaho, while serving in in the Idaho Legislature from 1939-1941. He decided that some land on Payette Lake near McCall, Idaho would be the perfect spot for an Adventist youth camp that became Camp Ida-Haven. He did the same when it was time to move Gem State Adventist Academy out of Caldwell, Idaho. He located farm land not far from his farm that is still the academy campus today.



My great-grandpa Munsey was always described as a visionary. What courage it must have taken to decide that the church needed a youth camp during World War II and the Academy needed a new home years later?

About 15 years ago, I came across a working file of my father's from his time helping the Upper Columbia Conference acquire land next to Camp MiVoden. The file reflects the church's sacrifice and faith to purchase the 480 acres. It also reflects a generous, God-inspired neighbor who was not an Adventist, but saw the importance of the camp for youth. The neighbor was determined the camp should have his land, to advance the mission, at a dramatic discount.

For me, when the financial needs at UCA are greatest, I recall the amazing legacy left by many faithful visionaries before us. There are always "impossible" hurdles, but how daunting it must have been to start an Adventist school in the mountains of Idaho in 1914? What an impossible task to acquire property for a youth camp or new academy campus? How intimidating it was to leadership wanting to expand MiVoden's mission? Each era faces challenges to the mission of Adventist education, but the legacy of those before us is a reminder that our challenges are attainable. Most importantly, I am reminded that none of this is impossible for He who owns it all (Ps. 50:10).

I hope you enjoy this issue of Connections.





By Cheri Atwood

**“It’s All God...
He Somehow Just
Made It Work!”**

Eden Wiltison has a rather long history with Upper Columbia Academy. Her grandfather, Jack Chambers, graduated in 1957, along with an uncle, Jeffrey Chambers, in 1985, and an aunt, Valerie, in 1986.

Eden's parents were determined to send her to UCA, because they wanted her to be in a Christian environment. With her dad, a stay-at-home dad, and mom recently retired from being a pharmacist, there was the concern of being able to financially afford UCA's tuition. Eden is now a four-year senior, and she looks back on it all, and simply says, "It's all God; He somehow just made it work", and He's still making it work for she and her family.

After 10 years at Palisade Christian Academy, Eden's friends talked her into checking out UCA. So, she decided to tour the school and thought, "this is a cool high school!" She sensed a difference and was impressed that God was leading her there. Eden sees herself as a generally shy, quiet, and reserved person. She does love to challenge herself and is taking advantage of many of the opportunities at UCA.

Eden is a day student, but that did not stop her from becoming involved beginning her freshman year. She was her class representative to Student-Faculty Council. This helped her not only get involved, but she was able to begin building close relationships with her classmates. She remembers the freshman retreat providing an opportunity for lasting friendships. She chuckled as she admitted to being a bit homesick that first week, despite going home each evening. She was on campus all day and sometimes into the evening. One of the things she loves about her school is how UCA goes out of its way to help day students feel welcome. Now, as a

senior, she really feels UCA has become like a second home; she loves to be on campus!

The opportunities Eden has embraced she sees as steppingstones to where God is leading her. The leadership roles have contributed to Eden's growth. She has been a class officer all four years. She was asked to plan the junior/senior banquet her junior year, an opportunity where she really got to demonstrate her leadership abilities. She also played basketball and took several honors classes. She went on her first backpacking trip, and while she admits that trip really challenged her, she loved it! It prepared her for senior survival which she also loved and would do again hands down. This year, in addition to several offices, she is on the yearbook staff. When Eden sees an opportunity, she takes it, and because UCA offers dual-credit classes, she is enrolled in four of them this year – Calculus, College Writing, Anatomy & Physiology, and Psychology. Her favorite is A&P. In fact, she doesn't even feel like it's a class. The way Mrs. Castrejon (Mrs. C) teaches it and the things she gets to do, "it's so fun!" Eden knows pushing herself academically will be worth it in the future.

She really feels like all the teachers at UCA love their jobs and what they teach; they love kids, but she is especially connected with Mrs. C, and Mr. Gladding, who teaches math. Mrs. C is passionate about science and teaches from the standpoint that God created everything so intricately and with a

purpose. She loves her job! She's so willing to help her students understand and succeed. Mr. Gladding realizes not everyone can or will connect with math. However, he is so willing to help his students understand. He creates an environment for growth and helps you realize math is something you can learn and have fun with.

Does Eden feel prepared for college? "Yes", she says. When I graduate from UCA, I know I will have been given what I need academically to succeed in college, but more importantly, I have been prepared for life here and for eternity. She looks back on the many spiritual events she got to be a part of and is so grateful for each one. She was baptized during her freshman year and has spoken for three vesper programs. Through it all, "I have really learned to lean on God," Eden says.

So, what does the future hold for Eden? She feels God is opening doors for her to go to Southern Adventist University where she will enroll in the Dental Hygiene program. Eden loves kids and because she was in and out of the dentist's office a lot as a child, she is drawn to work in a pediatric dental office.

One of the provisions God made for Eden was through FoundationONE's grant and scholarship opportunities. She is forever grateful to FoundationONE and the many donors who make this assistance possible. The financial stress and worry for Eden and her family has been relieved and that has

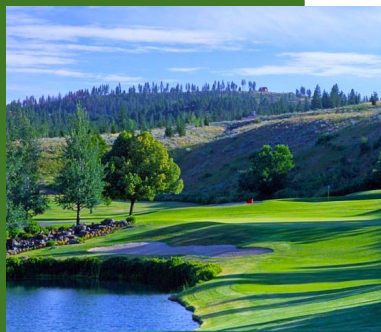
made such a profound difference. Eden wants to thank the donors, alumni, and Named Scholarship Family Agents who are making it possible for students to continue to grow in God and participate in the opportunities that await each student who comes to UCA. To students considering UCA, Eden says, "a definite yes", because of all the opportunities both academically and spiritually that are provided to you.

Christian education has been and is important to Eden. "At UCA they emphasize all aspects of a student's life – physical, mental, social, and most of all spiritual. UCA really does prepare you for eternal life."



SAVE THE DATE

2026 BOB LARRABEE GOLF TOURNAMENT



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026
9:30 A.M. SHOTGUN START



Latah Creek Golf Course

Field will be limited to the first 128 players.

REMINDER:

There are trophies for the Winning Women's Teams
(Ladies, sign up and invite your friends!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 22, 7:30 P.M.

**UCA MUSIC DEPT. SACRED CONCERT,
SPOKANE VALLEY SDA CHURCH**

MAY 23, 8:00 P.M.

**UCA MUSIC ENSEMBLE VESPERS,
UCA CHURCH**

MAY 23, 9:15 P.M.

**UCA ACRO SOUL HOME SHOW,
UCA GYMNASIUM**

JUNE 5-7 UCA GRADUATION WEEKEND

**AUGUST 23 UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY
REGISTRATION DAY**

SEPTEMBER 25-6 UCA ALUMNI WEEKEND



A NEW LOOK

FOR UCA'S FARM PROGRAM

After the UCA farm program took a planned pause at the end of last school year, parents and constituents wondered what the next chapter would hold.

The pause has provided a valuable opportunity to step back and thoughtfully redesign the program so it could serve students while being a sustainable part of the educational program. It has also allowed UCA to begin building a model that will strengthen hands-on learning, expand student leadership, and deepen the connection between the farm, the café, and the local community. All while helping the farm become financially sustainable.

The farm program is certainly a gift from God. And we are living in times when it becomes even more important for students to learn the various skills it takes to run a farm. In this new era, the goal is to have it be a student-led program that is overseen by UCA staff.

UCA has been incredibly blessed to have Dhamu Gopal, a task force farm manager, who has been the real backbone for keeping the farm in operation. His knowledge and hard work have enabled UCA to develop and build this new program in small steps.

Roxanne Wickward, history teacher at UCA, has been heading up the initiative to incorporate the farm program into the school schedule, and make it more economically sustainable.

Student leaders have come forward and committed to leading in areas of their interest, and the teams now address each area necessary to run the farm. Student-led teams are as follows:

Farm Manager and assistant; Executive Secretary and assistant; Greenhouse and container garden team; Field team in charge of garden beds, berry patches, orchard and irrigation; Poultry team; Composting team; Marketing team; Building and Maintenance team; Information Technology; Grant writing, Public Relations, and Design teams; Education team, who will create field trips for younger students in area schools and host educational tours in the future. The Rosalia Gardening Club has reached out and asked for a tour in May, and will be led by UCA students.

We interviewed three seniors, and one freshman, all student leaders in the farm program: Caleb Crawford, Building & Maintenance Lead; Jacque Wilson, Administrative Secretary, and Leilani Montes, Jacque's Intern.; River Keys, Building & Maintenance Lead. All three seniors are Named Scholarship and/or FoundationONE grant recipients. We asked these the four several questions about their farm experience this school year. They graciously shared with us their heart-felt answers. Due to limited space, their responses have been summarized.



“

IN THIS NEW ERA OF THE UCA FARM, THE GOAL IS TO HAVE IT BE A STUDENT-LED PROGRAM THAT IS OVERSEEN BY UCA STAFF.

”



“

I WANT STUDENTS TO REALIZE THE ‘POT OF GOLD’ THEY HAVE HERE – A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN COME AND CONNECT IN A MEANINGFUL WAY WITH GOD’S NATURE.

”

Why did you get involved with the UCA farm?

There was a need and they felt they could help. They all felt the experience would be beneficial to them later in life, and the idea of leading out in this new program was intriguing.

How do you see the farm project helping UCA and the students?

It was unanimous, the experience the farm program will offer students will not only benefit them now, but in the future. “Working on the farm teaches resourcefulness, problem-solving, and teamwork”. It adds another facet to the UCA educational program that many other schools may not offer.

How has this project helped you grow?

Each student said they have grown to be better leaders, especially with peers. “It’s important to lead by example.” Their knowledge of being a leader specifically in a business has grown. Growing in their time management skills has been important.

How are you mentoring younger students so that growth will continue?

“By setting a good example and demonstrating a good work-ethic.” Now that I am a senior, “it is important to let my intern start leading.” Giving them the experience they can use in the years to come. Giving them responsibility to problem-solve now and offer guidance to them during the process.

What moment or experience has had the greatest impact on you?

“After the greenhouse was destroyed in a windstorm, rebuilding it was huge for my team.” Within a few hours the team was able to rebuild it even better. “The storm devastated us all, but it showed that if we pull together as a team and work in unity, we can accomplish anything.”

For me, “it is the times I’ve really worked hard to finish things on the business side of the farm.”

What is your hope for the future of the UCA farm program?

We want the farm to continue to grow and flourish, and we hope more students will be willing to get involved. “It would be great if eventually the cafeteria primarily uses produce grown on the farm.” “I want students to realize the ‘pot of gold’ they have here – a place where they can come and connect in a meaningful way with God’s nature.”

What would you say to UCA students who are considering joining this project?

The farm is an opportunity to build skills you can take with you past UCA. You can give back to the community and potentially impact others years from now. “This project teaches you so much! It’s worth joining.” “The growth opportunities that are available working on the farm are timeless.”

As the redesigned farm program moves into its second year, our prayer is the UCA farm/cafe program will continue to grow into a student-centered learning experience that reflects the values the UCA community holds dear. The progress made during the initial pilot phase has demonstrated the meaningful impact of hands-on learning using real-world skills on the students who are in the program. It has and will continue to provide opportunities for UCA students to nurture responsibility, curiosity, and confidence while gaining valuable skills to navigate the world beyond graduation. None of this would be possible without the encouragement and generosity of parents, constituents, and donors. Your support is helping shape a program that not only enriches student learning today, but will serve as a lasting investment in UCA’s mission for years to come. Please keep this program in your prayers.

“ THE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE WORKING ON THE FARM ARE TIMELESS. ”





NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

The Lois Coleman-Hall Memorial Scholarship



The Lois Coleman-Hall Memorial Scholarship was established by Eleanor (Buswell) Kaler, '52, in honor of her beloved music teacher while at Upper Columbia Academy. As two of Eleanor's classmates recall:

"She was a wonderful Christian lady, who cared about me as a student, and my well-being as a person. Her faith in me encouraged me to pursue a career in piano teaching." - Shirley Rudy, '52

"She was known for her sweet kindness to every student. She was patient and encouraging of everyone, no matter their ability or talent. She always saw the best in us, which inspired us to do our very best." - Marjorie Molstead, '52

The Lois Coleman-Hall Memorial scholarship is for music students who are involved in the areas of piano and voice, and are known for encouraging others.

Leroy & Rose Jacobus Scholarship Fund



Leroy and Rose Jacobus retired near Spangle, WA, and attended the UCA Church for many years. During this time they were always willing to help UCA students or staff who were in need, and volunteered for many UCA programs such as Senior Survival, HOPE Taskforce, and others. Leroy and Rose had a lifelong passion for Adventist education, and their family set up a scholarship fund in their honor.

The Leroy & Rose Jacobus Family Scholarship is specifically for helping students from single-income families, and those where one parent is unwilling to help with the cost of private education.

\$1,000,000

MATCHING CHALLENGE UPDATE

We praise God that as of the printing of this Connection, \$610,000 has been given towards the \$1,000,000 matching Challenge. We thank you, our donors, for your generosity towards our UCA students through FoundationONE. With \$390,000 left to match, we invite you to take advantage of the challenge, and double the blessing for our UCA students and their families!

Here are just a few highlights of how God has blessed during this challenge:

- ➔ More than \$90,000 has been given to the endowment by donors between the ages of 20-45.
- ➔ 35 First-time donors have given \$126,700.00.
- ➔ 78 “Reconnected” donors have given \$155,483.25
- ➔ Over \$540,000 has been given to Named Scholarships.
- ➔ More than \$30,000 was given to the endowment in response to our Giving Tuesday appeal on December 2.
- ➔ Three new named scholarships have been established so far in this matching challenge.
- ➔ The challenge **will continue until all \$1 million has been matched.**

DOUBLE YOUR INVESTMENT IN OUR UCA STUDENTS!



WHY I GIVE TO FOUNDATIONONE

“I give to FoundationONE because of how my time at UCA impacted me. I met some of my best friends and made some of my best memories there. Most importantly, UCA helped me grow closer to God through friends, mentors, and a Christ-centered atmosphere. I hope and believe that students who attend UCA through FoundationONE assistance will have equally beneficial experiences, and to be a part of that is a tremendous blessing.” *'21 Alumnus*

“Why I choose to give back to UCA? High school is a formative time in the life of a young person. The two years I spent at UCA were a time of personal growth and discovery for me. Being surrounded by like-minded friends and having spiritual mentors on the faculty helped set the trajectory for the rest of my life. **I loved my time at UCA, and I want other young people to have the opportunity to experience the benefits of Adventist education at UCA.**” *'99 Alumnus*

“I give because...I believe UCA provides a supportive community and strives to prepare students to impact the world with competence and character. I want every child who desires spiritual growth integrated with academic excellence to have that opportunity.” *Mom of three UCA Alumni*

“We chose to give to FoundationOne because we value the mission of UCA and appreciate the long-range focus and sustainability of FoundationOne’s mission and management. The difference that is being made can last many lifetimes beyond the donation itself.” *UCA Staff couple*

THANK YOU FROM A PARENT

To witness a community like FoundationONE that believes so fiercely in Christian education that they commit their personal dollars so your child's life might benefit — is a beautiful and humbling blessing that is hard to put into words. Thank you, and God bless you!



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FoundationONE's Mission

One Dream
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UCA Students

One School
Upper Columbia Academy

One Method
Endowment

One Process
Grants/Scholarships

One Goal
Future Leaders

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