

Upper Columbia Academy *Alumni Echoes*

Summer 2016

UCA Welcomes New Alumni & Development Director

We are excited to announce that Eric Johnson was hired as the new Upper Columbia Academy Alumni and Development Director starting in July.

He was previously the principal of Fresno Adventist Academy; a position he's held since 2012.

He has also been the principal of Palau Mission Academy, Director of Development for Atlanta Adventist Academy and owner of a real estate development company in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

He graduated from Southern Adventist University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health and Physical Education in 1997.

In 2015, he earned his Master's degree in Educational Leadership from La Sierra University.

Johnson and his wife, Trish, have two children: Brianna (18) who is headed to Walla Walla University and Blake (15) who will be a sophomore at UCA.

Johnson enjoys most sports, but considers golf a favorite.

His family enjoys camping and hiking in the outdoors, whenever possible.

"My passion is seeing students enter into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ," Johnson shared.

Please join us alumni weekend to personally welcome the Johnson family to our UCA family.



We are pleased to welcome our new UCA Alumni & Development Director Eric Johnson, above, and his wife, Trish.

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Welcome to our newest alumni...



the Class of 2016

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UCA Class of 1995 Alumni Homecoming 2015 Attendees

Alumni Homecoming 2015

Nearly 1,000 people filled the gym to overflowing for Alumni Homecoming 2015 this past October. Honored alumni were former students from the years ending in 5 and 0 along with former staff members and their families.

Tying the weekend theme of “Lest We Forget” to the 70th anniversary of UCA’s opening in 1945, the Sabbath morning service featured a time of reflection on God’s leading in finding property for our campus.

The early history of Spokane’s Old County Poor Farm (which became Upper Columbia Academy) was presented by our good friend, neighbor

and well-known Palouse historian, artist and author, Dr. Nona Hengen.

As a girl, she lived across the road from the poor farm and experienced being a patient in their infirmary as a small child.

Campus pastor, Jon Weigley, followed with a dramatic monologue portraying Elder F.A. Mote who bought the farm and acreage at auction for what was to be the conference boarding school. (See the story on page 5.)

Sidney Hardy ’95, current UCA Bible/History teacher, shared his personal testimony, recounting his fight with cancer while a student at UCA, and the healing that God provided. It is something he and many of us will not forget.

Retiring Alumni & Development Director, Linnea Torkelsen, was honored for her 23 years on the staff at UCA. In his remarks, Principal John Winslow thanked Torkelsen for the \$12 million she raised during her tenure to benefit the school and its students and presented her with an original Nona Hengen painting.



Linnea Torkelsen, left, and Laura Grinnell were honored for their years of service with UCA’s Alumni & Development.

Celebrating 70 Years of Adventist Education at UCA



UCA Class of 1955 Alumni Homecoming 2015 Attendees

Also recognized was the service of Laura Grinnell ’03, who began working in the Alumni office as a freshman in 1999 and continued to support the department’s technical needs either in person or remotely while earning two college degrees.

Alumni Homecoming 2015 services, concerts and other UCA events from this school year may be viewed on our website at www.ucaa.org/live.

If you are not able to join us in person, view the Alumni Homecoming 2016 services via livestream at www.ucaa.org/live.

UCA Burns Wallace Dining Commons Mortgage

Alumni and friends were able to witness a miracle during Upper Columbia Academy’s 70th Alumni Homecoming on Sabbath, October 3, 2015. The Wallace Dining Commons Dedication was scheduled on the program, but as of print time the remaining balance had not been raised to pay the debt.

“I knew we couldn’t have the dedication unless we finished paying the conference,” Linnea Torkelsen, Alumni & Development director, stated, “\$56,000 still had to be raised.” So she went to her knees and then to Facebook. By Sabbath morning, \$26,588 remained.

“I did the offering appeal with great peace,” Torkelsen added, “because of the potato harvest the previous week!”

“UCA volunteers had planted 800 pounds of seed potatoes hoping for a crop of 5,000 pounds—enough to feed the whole campus for the school year. Instead, they harvested more than 15,000 pounds! If God can do that for a potato crop, He could certainly supply the final amount we needed to go ahead with the dedication.”

With great anticipation, the congregation waited as the offering was counted. At the end of the service, it

was announced the Lord had provided all that was needed to pay off the final bill with \$120.00 to spare.

A simple, joyous service was held to dedicate the Wallace Dining Commons named after former faculty member Clarence “Pop” Wallace. His family joined alumni, staff and students in watching Randy Terry, Upper Columbia Conference vice president for finance, light the fire that consumed the mortgage.

Weston Davis, UCA Building



Randy Terry, Upper Columbia Conference vice president for finance, burns the Wallace Dining Commons mortgage with Weston Davis, right, UCA building committee chair, assisting, and Larry Marsh, UCC superintendent of schools, middle, watching.

Area Alumni Dinners Provide A Great Way to Connect With Former Students & Staff

Those who joined the “test” dinners held in various locations during the past 12 months, enjoyed a delicious dinner, reconnected with old friends, made some new friends and learned about things currently happening on the UCA campus.

“Our meetings in Denver, Loma Linda, Portland/Vancouver and Sacramento provided a great opportunity for fans of UCA to catch up on what’s happening at our school,” said John Winslow, principal.

“I get to report on all the good things happening at UCA while getting better acquainted with a lot of our former students and staff.”

We hope to have more area alumni dinners during the coming school year. Please update your address on the UCA website [www.ucaa.org/alumni] so you will receive your invitation if an area alumni dinner is scheduled in your vicinity.



Alumni on Social Media

Pave the Way for Students to Attend UCA



An urgent Facebook post, ***"Upper Columbia Academy registration opens tomorrow morning at 8 am. There are TWENTY kids who are on the "Waiting For a Miracle" list. Total financial miracle needed is \$65,000 that must be committed before they can move into the dorm. Two families are waiting by the phone to see if we get the funds... several are coming on faith and waiting outside the business office to be told if they can register..."***

UCA Alumni & Development Director, Linnea Torkelsen, created that post knowing we have a God who is able to do more than we could ask or think, AND generous alumni and friends who believe in UCA. For the next two days, she was glued to her phone and computer, updating the total giving as alumni challenged each other, made matching pledges and invited friends to get involved with them.

On August 24 Linnea posted, ***"As of 5 pm this evening - 44 hours after we began, we have reached our goal of \$65,000 . . . I stand in awe of our big God and the partners He has. THANK YOU for your prayers, for encouraging others to give, for giving sacrificially yourselves... and for caring about making it possible for God's kids to have a superb Adventist education at Upper Columbia Academy!"***

"It was exciting to see the energy this Facebook blitz generated! I loved the comments that people posted. My favorite was from a young alumna who said she was going to donate on a monthly basis to help a student because

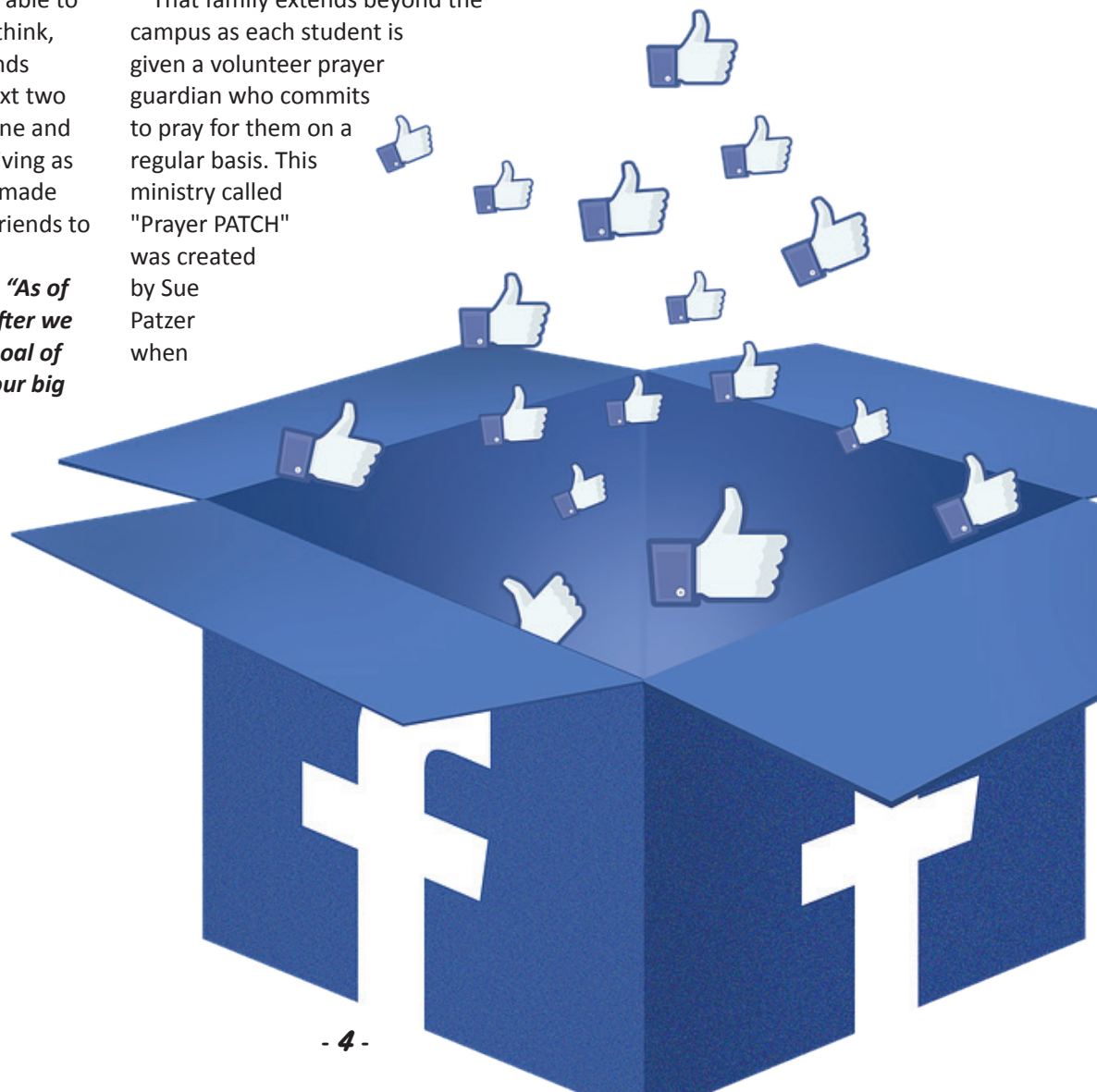
she had once been on that 'Waiting For A Miracle' list a few years before," Torkelsen added.

UCA had 239 students with the majority living in the dormitory residences this year. "We know our parents willingly sacrifice to have their child attend UCA and we take that responsibility seriously," John Winslow, principal, stated. "We have a wonderful staff totally dedicated to enriching each student physically, mentally and spiritually and we consider each one family."

That family extends beyond the campus as each student is given a volunteer prayer guardian who commits to pray for them on a regular basis. This ministry called "Prayer PATCH" was created by Sue Patzer when

her husband, Jere, was president of the Upper Columbia Conference, and has continued for more than 20 years. Some prayer warriors choose to remain anonymous. Others reach out and make connections that last a lifetime. Either way, the power of prayer is at work on the UCA campus.

If you would like more information about UCA, how you can help students in need or the Prayer PATCH program, please email info@ucaa.org, call (509) 245-3600 or visit our website www.ucaa.org.



Upper Columbia Academy

The History



Elder F.A. Mote who purchased Broadacres—Spokane's Old County Poor Farm at auction. The property became UCA.

In 1945, Upper Columbia Conference needed a place to put a new boarding school for the young people of their rural constituency. An old railroad hotel had been purchased 24 years before, becoming Yakima Valley Academy. But the already vintage building could hardly hold the exuberance of the growing family of teenagers that inhabited it. Metal cables literally held the walls in place.

The war was over, and the number of students wanting to have an Adventist academy education was exploding. The conference leadership empowered one of their most trusted visionaries, Elder F.A. Mote, to head the search committee.

It came to his attention that Broadacres Farm—Spokane's Old

County Poor Farm out in Spangle—was planning to close its doors. The property was to be sold at auction and the few remaining residents were sent to alternate housing. It had pretty much all they needed.

After much discussion and prayer, the leadership authorized Elder Mote to spend \$100,000, and not a penny more, to buy them a school. When he got to the auction, he discovered that the opening bid had been set above his limit. Though he had registered to participate, he told the auctioneer he would have to withdraw. Since he was already there, he stayed to see what would happen.

It was almost like the miracle at the Red Sea. The auctioneer stood up and announced that the opening bid would

be \$100,000. Mote waited. No one said a word. The auctioneer looked around. He looked at Mote, who said "\$100,000." No one else spoke. His was the only bid. He went home that night with property and buildings, but no money to transform it into a school.

Again the Lord provided. Among the animals that came with the farm was a herd of big, BIG hogs. They were immediately sold for \$1500 which provided the working capital for that first year!

God had a plan for this property. Over the past seven decades, more than 7,800 young people have come through these doors.

The alumni from this school currently live in 19 different countries from Romania to Australia and from Barrow, Alaska to Antarctica.

They are missionaries, ADRA workers, doctors, nurses, authors, scientists, stay-at-home-moms, inventors, CEO's, pastors, students and teachers.

From this little school out in the wheat fields of the Palouse, UCA Alumni have gone out to circle the globe making a difference to the people the Lord allows to cross their paths. Praise God for Upper Columbia Academy!

This original historical photo taken in 1936 is from the THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW at Broadacres, the 240-acre Old County Poor Farm in Spangle, Washington.



Shucking peas

These men are shucking peas in 1936 at Broadacres, a 240-acre poor farm in Spangle, Wash. Residents of the infirmary, established in 1888, grew and

If you have an original historical photo you would like to see published, mail to Historical Photos, 999 W. Riverside Ave., Spokane, WA 99201. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope for

Did You Know?

... that the girls' dorm has new vacuums for the first time in ten years?

... that in the wind storm in Eastern Washington last November, UCA suffered the loss of our greenhouse, six large trees and parts of roofs on several buildings? Insurance estimates about \$41,000 in damage.

... that the UCA Girls' Club has initiated a Big Sister/Lil Sister program to build a network of mentorship and encouragement in the dorm?

... that UCA's "Farm to Table" experiment this year was very successful? Our one acre plot and greenhouse provided all the fresh potatoes, carrots, beets, tomatoes and kale that we could eat!

... UCA hosts a Technology Fair every other year and invites students in grades 7-12 from across the conference? Attendance doubled this time with more than 200 attending. Each participant chose four out of 15 classes offered. A video report can be viewed on the UCA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/uppercolumbiaacademy/videos

... that this year's 77-member senior class will be the 70th graduating class from Upper Columbia Academy?

... that brothers, Charles Buursma (Junior) and Benjamin Buursma (Freshman) were both elected as chaplains for their respective classes last school year?

... that according to Principal John Winslow, the final Student Week of Prayer was the finest, "Top shelf" speaking he has ever heard anywhere.

... that UCA's faculty is a remarkably dedicated team? Stephen and Florence Lacey hold the record for the longest tenure at 23 years followed by Fred Riffel 21, Joy Turner 19 (just retired!), Curtis Anderson 17, Grant and Cindy Williams 15 and Charles Hartman 13.

... that UCA's womens' varsity basketball team received the most important award given at the Friendship Tournament in Walla Walla in February—The Sportsmanship Award for the second year in a row?

... former UCA varsity players returned to campus to play the current varsity players on Saturday night, February 6, 2016? Students and staff alike enjoyed watching the friendly games and agreed it should be an annual event.

... that Choraliers lost 20 of their 27 members when the seniors graduated this June? Curtis Anderson, vocal director, isn't worried. He says "The Lord sends lots of talented kids to this amazing school every year! He always provides!"



A Nathan Greene painting, "The Blessed Hope," was dedicated during the Grandparent Weekend Worship Hour. It was generously donated to the school by a family desiring students and staff to have a constant reminder that there is a better day ahead.



Sierra Shupe, junior, with her Grandma.

The annual Grandparent Weekend/Spring Arts Festival was held this past spring. Students presented a play ("This I Know" written by sophomore Kaitlyn Kramer), shared personal messages, displayed their artwork and performed lots and lots of music. The weekend concluded with a gymnastics show.

Another special item of the weekend was the dedication of the Nathan Greene painting, "The Blessed Hope," during the Worship Hour. It was generously donated by a family desiring students and staff to have a constant reminder that there is a better day ahead. "Generous families like these help instill the reality that we are all working together," shared John Winslow, principal. "We want to help young people develop a relationship with Jesus so we can be in Heaven together one day."

"When I came 17 years ago, this weekend was called 'Music-A-Rama,'" Curtis Anderson, vocal director stated. "It has been going on since at least the 70's. It was historically a fundraising concert for the music department."

The format changed about seven years ago to include every creative outlet on our campus. The art teacher displays student projects including paintings, pottery and quilting. The industrial arts teacher shows his student's wood-working, welding or automotive projects. The stained glass teacher shares beautiful glass projects from her students and the yearbook class display their best photography.

"Since our music department is so well-supported by our constituency and these other departments have very few opportunities to earn extra money," Anderson added, "the offering is split evenly between the departments participating."

"We are blessed with such wonderful students," Dean Kravig, band/orchestra director, shared. "The Spring Arts Festival portion is like a prism to me. Just as a prism splits up all the different colors of light, you can see so many different aspects of the talent on this campus in one evening. And it's just such a bonus to have it be for the student's grandparents!"

Bob Lenz, ITS director, works with a team of student volunteers to live stream many of UCA's events for family and friends who are not able to attend in person. The majority of the performances for Grandparent Weekend/Spring Arts Festival are available to view on the UCA website at:

www.ucaa.org/live

Spring Arts Festival

Conference-Wide UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY *Band Clinic*

www.ucaa.org



Evan Pierce, from Palisades Christian Academy, joined the French horn section at the UCA Band Clinic.



Natasha Rogers, middle, a seventh-grader from Upper Columbia Academy Elementary School in Spangle, Washington.

Ah, the sounds of instruments tuning. You know something great is coming shortly thereafter, and great it was as the Upper Columbia Academy Band Clinic participants joined to form a large band on Sabbath, January 23, 2016, treating attendees to the finale of the participants' time together.

For the first time, the Festival Concert was streamed live so family and friends could watch online if they were not able to join in person.

Designed for students in grades 7-12, this biannual event gives students the opportunity to develop their technique and musicianship while performing with a much larger group than they have at home.

Band/Orchestra Director, Dean Kravig, coordinates the three-day event which also features Instrument Clinics presented by local professionals. Learning from professionals in these clinics helps students see what is possible on their specific instrument and learn new techniques and skills that will help them progress as musicians.

Kravig has been coordinating the UCA Band Clinic for 10 years and greatly appreciates the hard work and support from the attending schools in the Upper Columbia Conference.

His desire is that the Band Clinic will give students and directors a new passion for instrumental music and some new concepts that will help them develop their talents for God's glory.

Natasha Rogers, a seventh-grader from Upper Columbia Academy Elementary School in Spangle, Washington, practiced her clarinet on her own time so she could participate in the Band Clinic since her school doesn't currently have a band.

The Choral Clinic will be held during the 2016-2017 school year. If you know of students who would like to attend, have them contact the school at (509) 245-3600 or info@uccaa.org.

The UCA Band Clinic Festival Concert is available to view online at www.ucaa.org/live.



Carly Haeger, a percussion player from Brewster Adventist Christian School in Brewster, Washington, shared at the UCA Band Clinic, "There are a lot of kids, and I get to make friends with them. Plus I get to play an instrument!"



Alumni and their families can be among the most valuable tools in recruiting new students for UCA! Feel free to quote one or more of the assessments shared with administration during the 2015-2016 school year.

The UCA Experience

"I have never been to a place where the students are so kind to one another . . . just watching them take time to help each other and to see how they are rooting for each other is inspiring."

"We weren't planning on WWU as a possibility for next year, but when we see how much UCA has positively affected our student we know we need to find a way to make Adventist education continue."

"We sent our son here so that he would have one more opportunity to choose a relationship with Jesus. Guess what? It happened during Student Week of Prayer. He called to tell us he had a total conversion and wants to serve Jesus! It makes our sacrifices so worth it!"

"When you see how much these students love their teachers and each other, it seems like the perfect place for our kids . . ."

"It's great to see how well the staff and students work together. I hope you know how much we appreciate each of you and your influence on our kids."

"After visiting several schools initially, we quickly settled on UCA. We think it was a brilliant decision!"

"Adventist Education is expensive, but UCA has given us our money's worth many times over."

"UCA is THE best choice out there — it was when I was here as a student, and it still is! We are so glad our kids are here!"

"Every time we visit UCA, we come away inspired! We're so glad our daughter is here to experience that on a regular basis!"

A Dream *Fulfilled*



Taking the helm of the new agricultural program at UCA is Richie Brower—long known in Upper Columbia for his camp, radio and Marriage Conversion University ministries.

“When I was in the 7th and 8th grade in Colville, Washington, a dream was born in me that has never gone away,” Brower shares. His library includes a huge number of books on gardening and sustainable living.

“Several years ago, my wife and I started a market garden growing and selling produce,” Brower recounts. “That was my first foray into the world of organic produce production.”

Fast forward to UCA’s organic farm. This summer we’ll start repairing the damaged hoop house. Brower is exploring some possible upgrades to that structure that may extend it’s growing season beyond what it has already done. In late July, we hope to start planting salad greens—lot’s of them. The cafeteria, as well as a farmer’s co-op in Spokane, have told Brower that they can use a lot of salad mix. So he plans to plant the large hoop house almost entirely in salad greens. These tend to be cold hardy so with the shelter of the hoop house, he hopes to be harvesting late into this fall. He

is also planting some trial crops of pumpkins, melons and herbs to see how they grow here and how the market in Spokane responds to them.

A significant portion of the produce grown goes to the cafeteria. The school has extra cold storage space in the old cafeteria that allows us to harvest root crops in the fall and store them for use all through the school year. (Last year 15,000 pounds of potatoes went in the cooler!) We are working to help the cafeteria acquire some equipment that will allow them to efficiently process the farm potatoes and use even more of what we grow.

This means local, organically grown, produce is being served by our cafeteria for the same price they would pay for wholesale, non-organic produce.

The kitchen can’t use everything harvested on the farm so we have begun selling produce to restaurants and institutional kitchens in Spokane through a farmers co-op. The farm gets wholesale, organic prices for our produce which creates a needed source



of income.

In addition to the farming program, the school is exploring opportunities for a class in agriculture as well as other creative

ways to integrate the program into the overall program of student life.

This season, Brower is working hard to have crops ready to harvest when school starts up again in the fall.

He is looking ahead and talking about ways to give students more exposure to the earth.

How can people partner with the academy to make this agriculture program succeed? **First**, please pray for the farm, for safety, for productive harvests and for personal application of the eternal lessons to be found in the garden for students who work here.

Second, come volunteer! Much of what is done is labor-intensive, especially during planting season and harvest.

Finally, your financial gifts or gifts of equipment would be considered an answer to prayer.

“Developing the farm program at UCA is about so much more than growing food . . . it’s another tool in the academy’s tool belt to more effectively grow their character and equip young people for lives of productive Christian service,” says Brower.

“I’m thrilled to be partnering with the Master gardener and what He is doing here at UCA.”

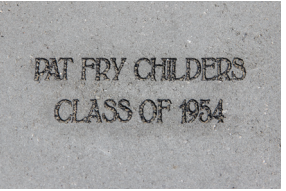
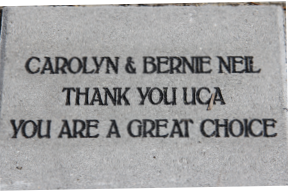


SUPPORT UCA & *Leave Your Legacy*

The Water Tower Plaza, a favorite campus gathering place, is located between the iconic Water Tower and the new Wallace Dining Commons. Paved and landscaped, it is used for Agape Feasts & Communion, lunch dates, student rallies, a place for a peaceful moment or a spot to reflect on those who have made a difference to you or to UCA. A number of alumni and UCA friends have purchased a 12” X 12” cement paver that has been installed on the plaza, engraved with a message seen by those who gather there.

If you have not taken the opportunity to leave your “signature,” we invite you to do so! Funds generated by the purchase of a paver will be used for additional back pack cubicles and sound-proofing materials to lesson the sound of so many happy conversations going on at once! The cost is \$450 per paver, unless you are a family member paying on tuition of a current UCA student or a recent graduate. In that case, a \$100 discount is applied to make your cost \$350.

- Suggested Messages Include:**
- *Honoring a Teacher who invested in you
 - *Sponsor a paver for your class
 - *Share an encouraging Bible verse
 - *Your name and class year/or make it a family paver
 - *Honor a classmate who died
 - *Order one for your child or grandchild as a graduation gift!



✂ — — — — —

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Amt Enclosed: \$ _____

Complete your paver message below. One letter per box. Include one box for the space between words.

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Tear off and mail to UCA with your tax-deductible contribution OR use our secure giving site: [www.ucaa.org/life-at-uca/finance office/give a gift](http://www.ucaa.org/life-at-uca/finance%20office/give%20a%20gift).

Upper Columbia Academy Alumni Office
3025 E Spangle-Waverly Rd; Spangle, WA 99031

Help Us **\$ave** Money!



Upper Columbia Academy
3025 E Spangle-Waverly Road
Spangle, WA 99031

Return Service Requested

We do our best to keep our database up-to-date, but with almost 8,000 people in it, each mailing brings as many as 350-400 address changes or bad address notifications. Each of those cost the school \$1.00 or more. Please help us save money by telling us:

- If your name or address changes
- If you and your spouse are both getting copies of the newsletter
- If your children who are UCA alumni move away, email us their new addresses
- If you prefer to get UCA newsletters and invitations via email
- OR if you want to be removed from our mailing list altogether

You may update your contact info on the UCA web site at www.ucaa.org/alumni or swipe your smart phone over the QR code to the right. You may also email us at alumni@uccaa.org

THANK YOU!



Join us for YVA/UCA
Alumni Homecoming 2016
September 30 and October 1, 2016

For more information, please email the alumni office
at alumni@uccaa.org or call (509) 245-3692

Honor classes end in 6 and 1