



April's Week of Prayer speaker, Benjie Maxson, speaks with students before starting an evening service. Benjie is the chaplain and Bible teacher at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Maryland. He is also a graduate of UCA and a former staff member here.

Seniors show spirit at College Days

by Sarah Hudson

Something has gotten into the seniors. It's a Sunday, but they're awake before noon. They're scampering from room to room, borrowing sleeping bags and shoving clothes into suitcases. College Days is upon us again.

College Days happens once a year in the spring. Eager yet nervous seniors file into UCA's gleaming new buses and are whisked away to the magical, daunting land of Walla Walla College. After exiting the buses, the seniors are handed booklets detailing the event's program. From there it is up to them to decide what to do. Aside from a few required assemblies the students are free to explore the campus as they please.

The seniors, however, are not without direction. Their booklets are brimming with suggestions. They are encouraged to sit in on classes, tour departments, and participate in scholarship opportunities.

At the end of College Days there is the annual Award Ceremony. Here the scholarships are handed out, accompanied by deafening cheers for the winners and, more importantly, their respective schools. UCA inevitably takes the largest haul—especially in music. School spirit mounts as awards ranging from \$2,000 technology scholarships to one gallon tins of sauerkraut are bestowed on lucky students.

Beaming with school pride, the seniors are herded back to the buses. Exhausted but still excited, they will spread their tales of glory to curious underclassmen. Another College Days has come and gone.

Week of prayer

by Dayln Martin

During the inspiring weeks of prayer at UCA, students and faculty can dismiss stresses, tasks, and duties for more than an hour each day and worship God. It's an opportunity for students to enjoy time with their Savior, reminding students and faculty what the focus of life should be: Jesus.

In addition to the faith-inspiring meetings, weeks of prayer also provide a time to make an extra effort to encourage peers. For example, students can uplift each other through the "Warm Fuzzy" board. This board allows students to give their friends, or someone they want to reach out to, an uplifting note. This board makes weeks of prayer extra special for those who need encouragement in their stressful lives.

Although there are other perks to weeks of prayer, such as shorter classes and the excuse to dress up, don't let these be your reasons for enjoying the week. No matter what opportunities are provided, it's up to each individual to make the most of the week.



New UCA t-shirt designed by Kyle McCluskey

Another way to reach out

by *Steven Williams*

On April 5, Upper Columbia Academy hosted its semiannual blood drive. For many years, UCA has partnered with the Inland Northwest Blood Bank to provide an opportunity for students and staff here to give blood at an easily accessible location. This year it was right behind the Power House.

“It was a lot harder to get people to sign up this time because of mission trips, but the results were a lot better than last time for the number of people we got,” commented UCA program coordinator Carmen Slavens. Of the 27 donors registered, five were faculty and fourteen were first-timers. A total of 22 units of blood were given this April, compared to the 29 units donated by 48 registered people in December. One reason there were fewer donors this time is because of the number of people who went on mission trips over spring break. Those who have travelled to high-risk foreign countries are required to wait one year after their return before giving blood. This lessens the risk of transmitting diseases.

Before giving blood, participants are encouraged to eat a healthy meal to minimise the effects of losing a unit of blood. Afterward, free doughnuts and t-shirts are given to those who donated.

Says Mrs. Slavens, “It’s a really neat opportunity to give back to your community, and people should really consider doing it.” All are encouraged to participate in this life-changing and life-saving event, which is another of UCA’s many outreach opportunities which make an impact for Christ on those around us.

Mission

by *Bethany Andrews*

This year, as we anticipated the coming mission trips, what was it that we were really thinking about? Was it the piles of homework that we were going to have when we returned? The endless hours filled with boredom on those long flights? Was it the excitement of getting to see another country for the first time? Maybe some had never done anything like it before. Maybe they were just excited to have a break from school and the stress that goes with it.

What about those who went home? Were we thinking about crashing for a week-and-a-half, and just watching TV, playing video games, or sleeping the whole time?

While all of these sound like wonderful thoughts and plans, let’s stop and think for a minute. If Jesus says, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,” why isn’t that our focus? Some of us went overseas to do mission work over spring break. Some of us didn’t. Did that change the mission we’ve been given?

Those who went to Africa, Borneo, or Ecuador needed to remember why they were there—to touch lives and lead more souls to the everlasting kingdom of Christ.

Those who went home could have had the same goal. God has people that need to be touched around our homes too. God has someone in mind that He needs YOU to minister to.

Always make an effort to touch someone for Him. He’s coming soon, and the more people we can share the excitement with, the sooner He will be here. Let’s not wait.

Choir clinic

by *Gracie Volyn*

The biannual choir clinic at UCA took place this year from February 22 to 24. This is the event when 7th to 10th graders from other Christian schools flock to UCA to sing with our choir. The clinic was lead by Mr. Anderson, our fearless leader and choral director. Our UCA choir enthusiastically participated, adding to the great numbers.

As could be expected, both dorms were suddenly flooded with visiting students. It was near chaos Thursday afternoon as everyone rushed to find rooms and, of course, friends to stay with. It was strange walking the halls of the girls’ dorm and seeing many young and unfamiliar faces. It was not surprising, given all the excitement, when things took longer than usual to quiet down on Thursday night.

The first rehearsal began at 1:00 on Thursday afternoon, and from there it was nothing but practice, practice, practice! Our UCA choir had already learned most of the songs, but some were even hard for us with their difficult harmonies and foreign lyrics.

The days of hard work paid off on Saturday night at the performance. The amazing performance made all the practicing worthwhile.

All in all, choir clinic was thoroughly enjoyable. There was a good variety of music, and singing for a few days was a nice break from the occasional monotony of high school classes. I can only hope the participants in two years will have an equally rewarding and enjoyable experience.

**MAY 4&5
ALUMNI WEEKEND
MAY 20-23
SENIOR TRIP
JUNE 1-3
GRADUATION!**

Future lions check out campus

by Nolan Kinne

There is a certain feeling of energy that goes around campus at the beginning of spring and along with it comes Academy Day. By nine o'clock on the fateful day, the school is filled with prospective students, most of which are walking around campus in groups with their tour guides leading them.

After tours, all the future students gather in the girls' dorm chapel for an assembly, and after that it's lunchtime! The cafeteria is packed; there's not one empty seat.

After lunch everyone heads up to the gym for a short music program. Mr. North gives the welcome by throwing Frisbees into the crowd; then, the band, choir and chorals perform before the visitors tour the department booths. Each department has a booth set up in the gym where there are quizzes or other activities to win small prizes or scholarships.

After a couple of hours visiting booths, the visitors watch a performance by the gymnastics team. Although UCA students aren't required to attend, most come to cheer on the troops.

After the gymnastics show, prizes and awards are given out before supper in the cafeteria.

Although it seems Academy Day doesn't change much from year to year, it is always a hit.

Heart day

by Hillary Madden

The day before Valentines was when the battles began, when harassing and attacking became acceptable. Yes, it was the day students received that little paper heart. It was the day of silence.

The first day, the girls got their hearts, the goal being to keep them by not talking to any boys. Of course, girls always do better than boys at keeping their little paper hearts, even when challenged by specific male animals who annoy and torture them to get them to speak. Some gave in to male immaturity because they just couldn't take it anymore. But most stayed strong in silence.

The second day began with girls prepared to dish back everything the boys gave them. They did very well in getting the boys' hearts because the boys eventually realized they could not go a day without talking to the loves of their lives.

Yes, it is obvious that ladies are better at the silent treatment.

Relationships begin SPRING

by Amanda Macumber

It's that time of year—you know what time I'm referring to—the time when flowers start to bloom, and the warmth of sunshine fills the air. But more than just nature is changing, As spring begins flourishing, so do relationships on campus.

Take a stroll to the cafe, to class, or even to the gym, to experience this phenomenon for yourself. A couple of friends sit on the benches discussing their favorite books and movies. Another pair walk barefoot together while reading Shakespearean poetry. You trot up to the gym to play some good ol' 4 square volleyball. All the nets are up, but for some reason no one is playing. You look around the gym and notice the couples in every corner.

Spring is a bountiful, brilliant, beautiful time of year. It's a time full of love and joy. Spring has sprung—it's up to you to do the rest.

Try a tour

by Anthony James

UCA tours are a thing not to be missed. As a student at UCA you are given many, many opportunities to participate in the classes that go on tour. In four years at UCA, you can go on over 15 tours in various and sundry classes.

Most of the classes that tour are music classes. But before those of you who are not musically inclined despair, think of this this: choir goes on tour as well! As you are probably aware, choir does not require you to try out, and as long as you are willing to participate to the best of your ability, Mr. Anderson is quite willing to let even the worst of voices into choir.

"Why should I go on tour?" you ask. Because tours are a fantastic time to socialize and meet and get to know new people. Between good-hearted games of "psychology" to the intrigue and deceit of "mafia," you have plenty of time to talk and laugh with other students.

Tours are a time when we can share God's love with others and with ourselves. From the poignant words of "Amor de Mi Alma" to the awe-inspiring "Light Eternal," we as UCA students share our talent and love for God with the world. And the world . . . is not enough!

Into the middle of the world

by Jinhee Choi

On March 11, 2007, at 3:00 a.m., one UCA mission trip team headed to the middle of the world, Ecuador. The team consisted of approximately 25 students and 15 adults. They flew from Spokane to Seattle to Houston and, finally, to Quito, Ecuador.

In Ecuador, the team was surprised by Ecuadorian style. Everything seemed cheap, and travel was easy even without a car.

The team built an SDA church at San Pedro, and on the first Sabbath there, at the request of the pastor, they provided the church service, held in the local high school. They gave the special music, the prayer, and the sermon.

On the seventh work day, they had completed building the church, despite some hard times which included capricious weather, unexpected injuries, bug bites, and sickness. The team found happiness in building the church for others.

On the second Sabbath, Sabbath School and church were held in the new church. In the sanctuary ten people, including two students: Logan Carter and Dakota Purvis, were baptized. Everybody had a silent moment with tears during the baptism. At the end of church, the Ecuadorian people gave each member of the mission trip team a heart to show their appreciation. Even though a language barrier existed between them, they were one in Jesus Christ.



Brady Weijohn fits right in with the stylish crowd on this year's Borneo adventure. Photo by Steven Williams

Return to Borneo

by Brendan Hay

Mission trips this year have been a spiritual highlight for many of the faculty and students here at UCA. With three major mission trips taking place on three different continents, it is inspiring to imagine our school spread out all over the globe helping others less fortunate.

This is the 9th consecutive year that UCA has participated in a mission trip to the island of Borneo. Similar to last year, the goal was to build two churches, provide medical and dental outreach, provide a VBS program for the children, and conduct evangelistic meetings in the evenings.

This year we were based outside the small town of Julau in the Sibu District. When we arrived, our team transferred on to wobbly canoes that motored us upstream into the dense jungle where our longhouse was located.

Once at the longhouse, we split into two work groups. One stayed near the longhouse where the first church was located, and the other traveled each day through the heart of the jungle over mountain roads to get to the construction site of the second church.

It was an unforgettable experience over the next week and a half as we mingled with the Iban people and their simple ways of life. We were all blessed by their generosity and hospitality towards total strangers.

The work in Borneo stays unfinished. It is one of the fastest growing areas for Seventh-day Adventism in Southeastern Asia. Churches cannot be built fast enough. The residents of the Julau longhouses would like to show their appreciation for our help, "Terema kasih!"



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

ECHOES

Is a regular student publication of
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and Stephen Lacey, sponsor



The Borneo mission team inside one of the churches they built.

Photo by Brendan Hay

Africa

by Brittni Bryan

Over this spring break a group of 41 students and adults from UCA traveled to Mzuzu, Malawi, Africa, on a two-week mission trip. While there, the team started foundation work for a hospital, conducted a medical/dental clinic, and held VBS for the children and evangelistic meetings for the adults.

All aspects of the trip were very successful and obviously guided by God. In the clinic, we were able to help over 400 people with their pain and we also provided nutritious food for several families. At VBS we sang songs, played games, gave health talks, and told Bible stories every afternoon for anywhere from 700 to 1200 kids! We had so much fun with this, but the hardest part about it was getting the kids to leave the stadium after the VBS program was over so we could set up for the evening evangelistic meetings. Every night at the meetings we sang together, gave health lectures, and prayed together. Then a student spoke on a topic such as the Sabbath, the second-coming, the state of the dead, and baptism. About 1,200 people came to the first meeting, and by the last Sabbath approximately 4,000 people turned up.

We were also able to do some sight-seeing on our trip. We spent one day at Lake Malawi and realized that Africa really is a beautiful place. Then on our trip back we were able to take a boat ride through the canals of Amsterdam, where we saw buildings from the 1600's and a lot of very picturesque European architecture.

Overall, the mission trip to Africa was definitely an amazing experience. We were able to meet and help many wonderful people. We learned that when we genuinely worked to show these people the love of Jesus, we too were truly blessed and have come home blessed.

Acceptance

by Svetlana Beary

Forgetting we are all different, we judge many individuals unjustly when we shouldn't be judging them at all. Two such areas of judgment are language and dress.

English is not an easy second language to learn. I was born in Russia and spoke Russian for many years. While I've been trying to learn English well, I have got a lot of funny looks. Imagine being in a foreign country trying to communicate with people who do not speak English. Understanding, not judgment is needed.

We also judge people by how they dress. Does anyone like others making fun of their appearance? We all have a different style and taste when it comes to clothes . . . and we're all a different size and shape. The same clothes will fit different people differently, and some people can't afford the clothes we prefer. We shouldn't make fun of people or try to force them to change their look just because it is different from ours but should allow them to have their own style.

Instead of judging people for how they look and talk, let's be thankful for the variety in the world and remember Matthew 7:1.



Spring banquet

by *Christie Ringer*

The Spring Banquet was on Sunday night, March 4. Its theme was *Time Machine*, and so everyone showed up in unique and funny costumes representing different eras. Some costumes were from classic movies.

One of the costumed couples was “Adam and Eve” portrayed by Cindy Rearrick and Alex Wickward. Another was “Fred and Wilma Flintstone” portrayed by Amanda Macumber and Tyler Quiring.

The night started off with the guys coming to the girls’ dorm to pick up their dates and to exchange flowers. The guys then offered their arms to their dates and made their way to the cafeteria. Once in the café, everyone noticed what a good decorating job the ASB had done.

After the meal there was a fashion show, and, of course, people were constantly taking pictures, which is always fun.

Some ask certain people to banquets just because they are good friends, but others ask because they’d like a chance to get to know someone better. Whatever the reason, banquets are always a good time to just relax and have fun.

No matter what the intentions were for asking someone to the banquet (and the girls did the asking this time), the night was a great success.



Banquet photos by Elliot LaPlante



Traveling in Borneo in a long boat

photo by Steven Williams

Reflections of a four-year senior

by Nolan Kinne

Well would you look at that! Four years of time done and gone at this lovely establishment. With some class periods taking what seemed like days, I thought the last quarter of my senior year would never come.

I started life here as a freshman with no responsibilities or cares. The fact that we could actually choose whether we went to class was still sinking through my thick skull. Being a freshman, however, was made more enjoyable because of the love and care shown by the senior class of 04. Although we were just freshmen, that class really did try to make a connection with us. This, of course, was helped by the fact that many of us had siblings in that senior class.

Now that I have clawed my way to the top of the totem pole, I can't help but wonder if I have passed along what I once received. I sure hope so and wish all the best for class of 2010. Maybe when the class of 2013 arrives, 2010 can again pass on the love to them.



Haley Hamilton, Lily Ngariuya, Jessica Alvarez and Lizette Arizmendi show they knew how to choose a project for March's HOPE Task Force day

NHS

Membership in the National Honor Society at Upper Columbia Academy is based on scholarship, leadership, character, and service. These are the criteria established by the National Honor Society.

Each spring a committee evaluates all junior and senior students who attain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5. Scholarship is the most important criterion and includes not only gpa but also the number and difficulty of classes taken beyond the basic graduation requirements.

Unusually negative or positive demonstrations of leadership, character, and service also effect a student's selection to the UCA chapter of the National Honor Society.

Membership in the Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities by which they were selected.



Senior Recognition Weekend did happen this year on February 16 and 17, and was followed by the customary Senior Talent Show. Here Mike Stratte, Armand Rabanal, John Lubke, Andrew Vizcarra, and Kevin Riffel perform a musical number.

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Grades?

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Cutting, Esther Wolfkill and Hanna
Hochhalter look at their quarter grades
with varying levels of interest and
disbelief*