



## Outreach projects blossom

by *Brianna Woodruff*

This year at UCA there have been quite a few opportunities for students and staff to step out of their selfish bubbles and do something to help somebody else and possibly someone they will never even meet on this earth. The true difference made will not be fully seen until Eternity.

Mrs. Wickward was in charge of a book drive to collect children's books for a school in India. Over two thousand books were contributed.

Another outreach opportunity was the shoebox project organized by Samaritan's Purse. This project involves filling a shoebox with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for a boy or girl of a certain age. For instance, someone could assemble a box for a boy between the ages of five and nine. November 16 through 23 was the delivery week when the boxes had to be taken to a drop-off location where they were examined and prepped for shipping to other countries. These boxes may act as a gateway to help children learn about their Saviour, Jesus Christ. For some of them, this gift may be the only act of love they have experienced in a long time.

Another project is a blanket and clothing drive for an emergency women's shelter in Spokane called the Hope House. Students were asked to bring items such as blankets, towels, backpacks, warm socks, and sweatshirts back with them from Thanksgiving break.

Anyone can make a difference wherever they are, no matter who they are or what they've done. God only wants a willing heart and will use it to change lives for His kingdom.

## Days of HOPE

by *Elliott Berger*

When you hear the phrase "hope day" tossed around or see the sign-up posters attached to doors, do you think about the chilling wind and bitter cold that you are about to endure? Or do you think about the many people you are going to influence by doing seemingly simple tasks? In Matthew 7:12 the Bible says, "So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you. For this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Jesus lived his life helping others and wants us to do the same.

On this last Hope Taskforce day, I was part of a group that went to one of Habitat for Humanity's construction sites to help put up the frame for a house. Habitat for Humanity is an organization that builds homes for families that could otherwise not afford a place to live. Tired, wet and very cold, we slowly make progress framing the walls for the house. No matter where you looked on the site, there were shivering, tired, and cold people. But the work was not to be left undone. When the walls were completed and standing on the foundation, we packed up and headed back to the school.

Jesus himself put his own comforts aside in order to help others. We did a little of the same that day, yet we all enjoyed the thought that we truly helped people who were in need and who, perhaps, needed to be lifted up in some way unknown to us.

Strive to be more like Christ in all you do, and you will have true happiness all the time.





## Amateur hour

by Heidi Spady

On the night of November 14, excitement swept over the UCA campus. Girls put on their dresses and guys put on their suits in preparation for Amateur Hour 2009. The gym was set for the many people coming for the showing of talent. The stage showed a train coming into Grand Central Station and the tables were decked with candles, rose petals, and delicacies for people to eat. The lights dimmed, a hush came over the crowd, and Amateur Hour began.

Two Southerners came out on stage with a yee-haw while wearing their overalls. Obviously they needed to become sophisticated. First there came a piano piece followed by a vocal and then there were skits and instrumentals with more singing and playing. Every single performance made you laugh, cry, or hold your breath in awe. As this was happening, the misbehaving Southerners started transforming into well-dressed gentlemen.

As the last stunning performance came to an end, the judges started tallying up the scores of the participants. There were four different categories for prizes: instrumental, skit, vocal, and piano. Brianna Woodruff won the instrumental prize, Erika Graves and Chad Aufderhar won the skit prize, Amanda Bauer won the vocal prize, and Lindsey Nelson won the piano prize. All in all, it was an amazing evening of musical and acting talent and UCA fans could go home with a feeling of pride.

## Unmasked creativity

by Rachel Jorgensen

As of Wednesday, November 11, banquet season officially started. During our normal weekly assembly, girls' club announced the theme for this year's banquet: A Black and White Masquerade. Much nervousness for girls vanished as the rumors of who was asking whom were laid to rest as guys started asking girls.

Almost instantly, it seemed, girls all over campus could be heard interrogating the guys about whom and how they would be asking, and one of the best things about banquet season is seeing creativity come out. Most girls want to be asked in fun and creative ways. According to Matt Cokenour, "It's stressful to muse over every conceivable and miniscule scenario possible when asking certain individuals of the female race to the banquet."

Once asked, girls still have a lot of fretting and planning to do. It is necessary to find that perfect dress and the best shoes, and many times this requires looking through each other's closets to find exactly what is envisioned. And you can be sure the boys know what their dates are wearing so they can match them perfectly. "I find it funny how for each banquet I buy a new dress just to eat dinner in," said Alanna Augustin.

Then the big day comes, the time to finally put everything together and have a good time. Walking into the girls' dorm lobby, you're enveloped in nervous chit-chat as the boys come to pick up their dates for an evening of dining and entertainment.

"Banquets are a great way to socialize and meet new people," says Dean Chelle, and there will always be much to talk about for days to come.

Banquets may be a lot of work and may be very terrifying to some, but all in all they give students something to do and something to liven up campus life.

## Class elections

by *Jessica Redberg*

What could possibly happen on a Tuesday night that would involve not only the Seniors, but the Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors too? Well, class elections were on October 27 along with the famous coming-out presentations.

Electing class presidents and their cabinets is a tedious task that might take several hours. The classes met in different locations and voted on who they wanted to represent them. The Seniors met in the girls dorm chapel, the Juniors in the cafe, the Sophomores in the choir room, and the Freshmen in the Power House.

After the long election process was over, all the classes went to the gym while the new officers from each class worked on getting their presentations ready. The Freshmen were first and each officer, wearing nice clothes, ran up the aisle to music. The Sophomores had a table around which faculty were sitting. Each new officer took out a staff member—ninja-like—and replaced them at the table. The officers had signs around their necks which revealed which office they held. Juniors took a crime scene approach and investigated objects that represented each office. The faces of the new officers were projected on slides. The Seniors had a ‘conflict through the ages’ presentation in which each officer dressed up as coming from different ages ranging from cave men with clubs to a Jedi from Star Wars with a light saber.

It was a great night and lasted a long time. Heidi Spady said that it was “funny and well done.” Senior Andrew Woodruff said, “The Seniors probably pulled off one of the best presentations ever seen at this school.” Suzie Sellards said that she really enjoyed it and that it was about as good as last year’s presentations.

## Difficult auditions

by *Taylor M. Noy*

On October 20 while most people were either at home, in their rooms, or at rec., there were some dedicated ones that had the inclination to audition for Amateur Hour so they could perform for us all.

This year the number of students that had auditions was startling. According to Mr. Anderson, 55 talented students showed up that night with their various acts. Twenty-two were vocal numbers, four were plays, and 29 acts were instrumental/piano. Out of these 55 only 16 could make it to perform at Amateur Hour on November 14 because there would only be time for four acts in each of the four different categories: vocal, instrumental, piano, and drama.

Because there were so many auditions, most students could not be chosen, but many students thought it was unfair that the same people made it into the program in multiple acts. In fact, according to a survey, 9 out of 10 people felt that the audition process could be improved.

## Progressive parties

by *Mellisa Still*

On October 31, UCA students had a progressive party at staff homes.

Each house provided a different food and activity. The food included salads, root-beer floats, and hot dogs. After eating, students could just hang out and talk or could play games or watch a movie. On average, the groups of students were at each home for about half an hour.

“It was interesting going to the staff’s houses and seeing what they are like at home,” said Bianca Lopez. Roseanna Page added that it was good to spend time with friends and to get more acquainted with the staff and Kim Reed appreciated getting candy and food and being able to spend time with people and hear stories.

Overall, the students enjoyed the progressive party and are hoping to have one again.

## The first snow

by *Bianca Lopez*

Walking out of the ad building on November 13, I felt tiny drops of some sort of precipitation. “Snow,” I thought. “No, it’s too early for that.” Ignoring the thought, I went about my day, doing my normal activities. Then, when I heard howling winds outside my window, I rushed to look and to my surprise saw a blizzard of tiny snowflakes.

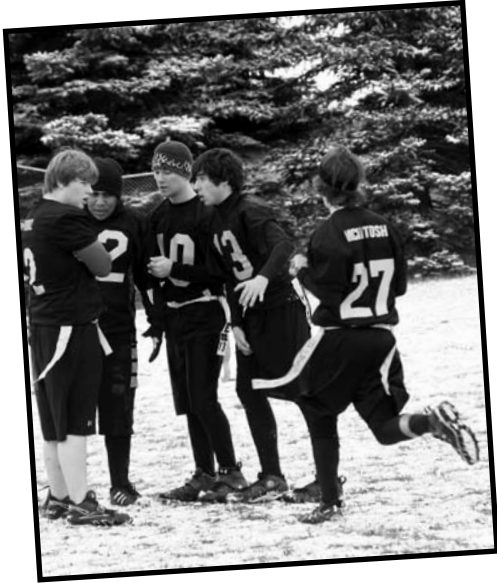
The first snow brought mixed emotions to campus. Some were excited while others were disappointed. Snowballs flew through the air, hitting some poor souls as other students stomped through the snow hurriedly on their way to class.

Senior Jayci Morgan really enjoyed that first snow and thought it was great that winter was finally here. However, Re’jean Coons, a junior, said she would enjoy the snow more if it were fluffier.

Whatever the emotions towards this first snow were, all must agree that it was truly a surprise . . . and that there’ll be more to come.







## Band travels to Montana

by Tyler Shupe

The Upper Columbia Academy band members went on their first tour of the year over the weekend of October 30 and 31.

For some of the new people, this was their first band tour, a step into the unknown. For those who have gone on band tours before, it was just another fun time to just get off campus.

The tour kicked off with a performance at Lake City Junior Academy in Coeur d'Alene, and then the band left for the four hour drive to Missoula, Montana.

After unloading, practicing, and eating, the band members had some free time to play around in a hay maze. The local church was having a neighborhood party during Halloween which included a mini petting zoo, little hay bales set in a circle maze for little ones, and a huge hay bale maze.

The ladies were sent off to different houses for the night and the guys stayed in the school. In the morning, the different ensembles played for church and, later in the afternoon, the band gave a concert for the community.

After the concert, dinner, and goodbyes, the band headed back for UCA and arrived around 11:00 pm. The band members had a good time, and according to Michael Wilkinson, "It was a weekend full of fun activities and great memories were surely made."



### UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

## ECHOES

is a regular student publication of Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington 99031  
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## Fall classic

by Michael Bumgardner

With teams converging on UCA Sunday, November 15, the annual Fall Classic Football Tournament started.

For the UCA football team, all the hard work through the season led to these final games that they would play together. They had been practicing every Monday through Thursday since the second week of school. Running different drills during the cold nights of October and November improved both the offense and defense for whatever they would come up against in future games. Also playing junior varsity and a pick up game against some alumni and students helped fine tune the team.

It all got started at 11:00 a.m. against a team from Boise. It was a well-played game by both sides, but the UCA boys came out on the losing end.

The second game was against WWVA and started off slowly with each team trying to figure out what the other was doing. Then, in the final two minutes of the game, and only down by two points, UCA went on a drive, needing just a field goal to win. With seven seconds left on the clock, Juan Mendoza kicked a field goal to put UCA ahead. But with only three seconds left, WWVA, with some laterals and missed flags, miraculously scored to win the game.

The third game was against Peter Vercio's team. Team Vercio quickly scored three touchdowns in the first half, making it look like the game might be over. In the second half UCA scored two touchdowns to make it a one touchdown game. But Team Vercio managed to score again and put the game just out of reach.

Even though the season ended with three losses, all the players had fun during the season. The juniors and sophomores on the team are looking forward to next year, while the seniors are sad that it had to end.

# Choraliers cruise to Colville

by *Brianna Woodruff*

The Choraliers went on tour to Kettle Falls and Colville, Washington. Not only did they perform at vespers and church, but they also took part in a Sabbath afternoon program at the Bacon's house to help out with a fundraiser for children in Africa.

On Friday evening the group sang for Vespers at the Kettle Falls church. Before the performance, some of the girls tried on their new dresses that had just arrived that day. Mrs. Carter assisted the girls by pinning some of the dresses to ensure that they looked nice and were modest. A group of church ladies prepared a deluxe meal of three kinds of soup, bread, crackers, and fruit for the hungry singers and staff members.

After the Choraliers enjoyed the wonderful meal they began their vespers program. They sang six songs and the Octet performed three. Re'Jean Coons and her sister sang a beautiful duet, Sara Rinaldi performed a song that she wrote called "Lifeguard", Ian Tsai sang a solo in Chinese, Sara Rose and Elise Kinne each played a piano solo, and Brianna Woodruff played a violin piece while Sara Rose accompanied her.

After vespers, Mr. Wade drove the bus to the Bacon's house where the group was going to stay and everyone unloaded their belongings and went in to see the house. It had a big open area with a new grand piano. There were many round tables in the room for the special occasion to be hosted there the next day. The evening was relaxing for the singers. Some people played the piano and others sat around and talked.

Sabbath morning arrived and the Choraliers practiced their music and were able to experience the fantastic acoustics in the house before loading up to go to the Colville church. They performed most of their numbers once again before partaking of a delicious pot-luck prepared by the church members. Then they returned to the Bacon's house to relax for a while before the three o'clock event that afternoon.

This special event was hosted by the Bacons in order to raise money to buy pediatric beds for children in Africa. All of the music that the Choraliers and the smaller groups had prepared was on a 'menu' and whenever a table or an individual paid one hundred dollars, enough money for one bed, they were allowed to select a song from the 'menu' to be performed. All of the music was requested and the total amount of money raised was around twenty-two hundred dollars. That is enough for about twenty-two beds.

When asked about what she liked best about the tour, Rachel Blake said, "The best part of it was knowing that our singing made a difference in the lives of other people."

# All-nighters

by *Felicia Hughes*

Staying up late is easier for some than it is for others. Pulling all-nighters, on the other hand, is especially difficult: you have to stay awake all night long and the whole next day.

What do girls do all night long? We mostly sit in our rooms and talk because, well, we can talk and talk and talk. But it turns out that boys have their emotional and serious moments as well . . . although those moments eventually become wrestling matches.

Quite a few boys in the dorm have shower parties. They also eat the classics: Ramen, mac-n-cheese, chips and popcorn. Sometimes they go down to the rec room and watch football and movies that keep them entertained for a short time until they come up with a different fun activity.

For the girls in the dorm, music and dancing is an important part of an all-nighter. At least that's what happens until people get tired and start to eat . . . and play UNO. Late at night (or early in the morning) the hazards of an all-nighter become obvious. Minds don't fully function and people start doing extraordinary things. Even boredom can set in if there isn't a good (and not too intelligent) friend nearby who has sacrificed a good night's sleep to keep you company.

Unbelievably, some students stay up all night studying for classes the next day, which can be necessary but isn't a great deal of fun.

So just remember, children, when you want to pull an all-nighter make sure you've planned ahead and have plenty of food and a few foolish friends nearby.

# Class parties come to town

by *Michael Wilkinson*

Yes! Indeed it is true. The class parties were a hit! Each class gathered in different locations to spend a fun evening with each other. They all did different activities, but the juniors, led by class sponsors Mr. Hartman, Mr. Willis, Mrs. Randal, and Mrs. Wickward loaded up the buses and hit the road, heading for Cheney and the new skating rink at Eastern Washington University.

We checked out our skates, suited up and struck the ice. Within minutes everyone was on the rink. Some people whizzed by at uncontrollable speeds, while others preferred to stick to the edge. The scene from an onlooker could be described as . . . busy. Everyone was moving at different speeds and with different motions, but because they were all heading in the same direction, they gave the illusion of a vortex.

Before long, the ice needed to be resurfaced, and the skaters took advantage of the twenty-minute delay by eating cookies and drinking warm drinks in the lobby. Soon they were back enjoying the ice and playing various games. It was a blast.

Daniel Gross commented, "I had the time of my life tonight!" and arriving back at the school, everyone had stories that would last for days.

## Seating charts

by Tyler Redberg

There is a time when you finally like—or, at least, get used to—your place in a seating chart. Then, it changes.

At UCA there are two types of teachers: the ones that let you sit wherever you want and the ones that have a seating chart and tell you where to sit.

Although they seem to take away considerable freedom, there are positives to seating charts. One positive is that you sit next to different people so you can make new friends. Another positive is that a seating chart may keep you away from people you talk to a lot, the people who stop you from paying attention and keep you from getting your work done.

But Derek Riffel said, “I hate seating charts.” Isaac Crandall, on the other hand, agreed that they weren’t very fun but admitted they sometimes did make it more possible for him to get his work done.

So the next time you’re assigned a seat far from your friends and beside the person you’d rather die than sit next to, remember it could be a positive experience.

## UCA sleeps in

by Jayci Morgan

On November 1, many students were surprised to find themselves waking up an hour earlier than they had planned. They also found themselves getting hungry for breakfast an hour before the café opened. This was because of the end of daylight saving time.

Some students found it really nice to be able to sleep in an extra hour, and others found it hard to stay up an extra hour before going to bed.

Senior Mellisa Still said that the time change made a bigger impact her junior year but fellow senior Brianna Woodruff said that the time change was more beneficial to her this year. All that sophomore Rachelle Lebold had to say was that the time change throws you off and then you get used to it. Another senior, Andrea Anderson, said that she prefers to walk to the café in the morning now when it’s light outside rather than dark.

There are a lot of different opinions about the time change. Those who don’t like to set their clocks back can simply wait for spring when they can set them ahead again.



## Spirit week

by Shannon Gaskill

Many schools participate in a school Spirit Week sometime during the school year. The event consists of special dress-up days for each day of the entire week. The goal is to have fun through creative expression and to embrace the school as an important part of life. There can be an on-going competition among students, or they may participate just for the fun of it. Some schools have fun activities and games to go along with the themes.

Some of the more popular themes are twin day, pajama day, hippie day, crazy hair day, fashion disaster day, hillbilly day, tourist day, sports day and career day. This year, UCA’s Spirit Week was November 16-20 with the themes chosen by the first semester ASB officers. The ASB chose crazy hat/hair day, culture day, famous person day, HOPE day, and twin day.

Everyone who participated had a great time planning and getting involved, and those who didn’t participate enjoyed seeing those who did.

## Think twice before you do it

by Robert Gatchalian

Do you ever wonder about those cameras in the ad building ceiling? They’re not there to scare students; in fact, nobody checks them daily. But when Mrs Haeger loses a chinchilla or some other emergency happens, the cameras can be very helpful.

If someone in the computer lab decides to break a mouse into nine different pieces and steal the ball from inside, the cameras record who did it. Then that person can pay for repairs instead of us all footing the bill.

Careless vandalism on campus affects all of our lives. The school obviously has to spend money to fix the problems, and where do you suppose that money comes from? It comes from us. There are better things to spend money on. If the school has to keep fixing and replacing things, sooner or later tuition will have to be raised which could mean some students won’t be able to afford to come to this school.

The cameras are here to try to keep this school a better place. And if Mrs. Haeger’s chinchilla disappears someone can review the video and see where it disappeared to.

So, think twice before you do something that will hurt everyone. If you don’t get caught now, you will get caught later!



## Distractions help students

by *Derek Riffel*

No matter what you do, no matter what class you are in and no matter how smart you are, distractions will always be there.

People will be talking and you won't be able to hear the teacher, or they could be talking to you so you're not trying to listen to the teacher anyway. Then there could be that cute person you are trying to impress, the one you focus on instead of your studies.

You could have some sort of obsessive-compulsive disorder and the teacher might have missed a mark on the white board that is driving you crazy and you can't think of anything else no matter how hard you try.

The key is to try to use distractions to your advantage and not let them bother you so much that you don't do anything in class. For instance, if you are in a science class and you find taking notes rather boring, you can draw pictures instead and add a few words describing what the pictures mean. This gives your mind something to do so you stay interested and don't lose focus.

Another thing that might help you is to associate a distraction with what you are studying in the class. An example would be associating those two trees outside with a tricky spelling word that has two t's in it.

And finally, if you find yourself falling asleep in class, find something to do that will keep you awake so at least you won't be marked absent or tardy.

## Make it yourself

by *Felicia Hughes*

Caramel apples and trash bags . . . Do they seem to go together? No, but the girls' dorm is able to do amazing things.

On one particular day each R.A. on each hall was given a box of trash bags, black and white, and a roll of duct-tape. The specific instructions were to make an outfit from the tape and bags that would stand out. So every girl put on her thinking cap and created something in less than 45 minutes. It is said that women have creative minds . . .

When we were finished it was time to head to the girls' dorm chapel to present our creations. The girls' club were the judges, and one girl from each hall would win a *secret surprise*.

Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors paraded to the middle of the isle to show off their new clothing. Many outfits were spiffy, some were way out there, and others were exotic. When the judges called out the winners, everyone was in an uproar of excitement, disappointment and joy. The secret surprises were certificates to Cold Stone.

After the excitement, caramel apples with assorted toppings finished off the eventful evening.

So now you know that it really isn't so strange to have caramel apples and trash bags combined to make a party.

## Open weekends

by *Amanda Johnson*

Open weekends at Upper Columbia Academy can be boring, exciting or just relaxing. There are many things that can be done on the weekends: you can stay at school, go to a friend's house or go to your own house.

Going to a friend's house, meeting their family and seeing where they live can be a great experience. Yuji Shin likes to go to other people's houses because it helps her learn about American culture. And there are a lot of fun things to do at a friend's house, including studying together.

Staying at school for the weekend can also be a good experience. Ryan Thorpe said for open weekends he goes to church and participates in the afternoon and evening activities. Often on open weekends the deans or administration plan an activity for the kids that stay on campus, and because there are fewer students these activities can include ice skating, a trip to the park, a mall trip, or on-campus games.

Students that live close enough to make the trip home for the weekend often take advantage on this opportunity. It is always nice to go home to see family and friends, and also just to sleep in your own bed.

No matter where you go or what you do, it is always nice to have the weekend to take a break from the normal school schedule.



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## CLASS OFFICERS

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President	Chad Aufderhar	River Davis	Vanessa Voelker	David Jacobus
Vice President	Cayla Lively	Elise Kinne	Brandon Forry	Sierra Davis
Chaplain	Zach Weijohn	Cassie Stenquist	Spencer Weijohn	Taylor Hollenbeck
Secretary	Sidney Krall	Whitney Madden	Perla Suarez	Bethany Bradshaw
Treasurer	Jackie Soberanis	Lianne Pak	Heather Minett	Xandroea Ecklor
Sgt-at-Arms	Daniel Jenks	Jon Spracklen	John Hochhalter	James Humbert
Historian	Austin Short	Seon Woo Lee		Nathaniel Palmer
Music Coordinator	Grant Perdew	Karalee Rhuman		Jayden Darrough
Sports Coordinator	Josh Martinez	Seth White		Micah Houston
Student Council	Eric Weber	Howard Heaton	Rachel Rogers	Courtney Kiefer
	Breanna Johnson	Jon Mack	Shaleena Bonjour	

## Christmas break

by Justine Johnson

Snowflakes cover the ground. Houses are decorated with colored lights in all different designs. "Jingle Bells" is playing on the radio. Families are out shopping for presents. These are signs that the Christmas spirit is in the air!

This holiday is the one families look forward to the most every year because everyone is always so happy and full of Christmas cheer. Celebrating Jesus' birth, putting up the tree and filling it with decorations, and wrapping presents are all a parts of what Christmas is. Christmas also brings families together, taking them away from their average days of work, school and stress.

UCA students love this break more than any of the others simply because it is the longest break of the year and it is so nice to go home and just relax.

Sipping hot chocolate, singing Christmas carols, making snowmen, throwing snowballs, and getting stuffed from Christmas dinner is just more of all the fun you have on Christmas break!

So let's all remember what's important and make this Christmas amazing.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone!