



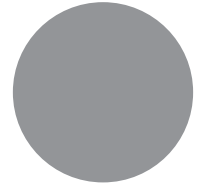
# ECHOES

UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

NOVEMBER 2013

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## Amateur Hour



## Parent Weekend

by Mason Parks

All students at UCA have fears. Some are terrified of spiders while others are petrified by death. But for some students, spiders and death are not nearly as alarming as the thought of having their parents come for Parent Weekend.

Having friends and family so close together makes a number of students shake in their socks. Even the name *Parent Weekend* inspires thoughts of awkward introductions and embarrassing conversations. Some parents (mine included) don't help the problem and see the weekend as a chance for discipline. My mom and dad have repeatedly threatened me with everything from wearing matching Hawaiian shirts to yelling my name across campus at the top of their lungs. It is no wonder that some kids dread November 8.

Of course, this is not true for everyone. Parents usually don't follow through on their threats and are friendly to their children's peers. Really, it's not so bad having your parents meet your friends and their parents. Parent Weekend doesn't have to be a social disaster. In fact, as long as parents behave, it will continue to be a positive event at UCA.



*Pastor Deon Chapman from Pasco was the speaker for October Week of Prayer*



## A problem with Vespers

*by Jenelle Hilde*

Vespers at UCA is a fun time when all the guys and girls get together to worship as the Sabbath comes in. Because it's only once a week, it's considered a special occasion, so everyone has to get all dressed up. The problem isn't dressing up; the problem is the location.

Ever since the beginning of the year, vespers has regularly been in the girls' chapel. Girls have to go there every day, so it's a place that's not particularly special for them. And then there is the hassle of dressing up. A lot of the girls stopped wearing shoes because they only had to go downstairs and shoes didn't seem part of the dress requirement. And what is the point of shoes if you're going to be heading back upstairs without going outside?

We should go somewhere special for vespers. That's why vespers should be in the church.

## PSAT mix-up

*by Tyler Warren*

It was just another normal Tuesday. Juniors were groggily trudging to their 7:15 classes. A third of them, give or take, go to Mr. Lacey's 7:15 American Literature class. As those privileged students entered the classroom on this morning, however, they weren't so privileged after all. Written in large, red letters, was an unfortunate new truth: PSATs had been rescheduled. The PSAT standardized tests were, according to the calendar, to be taken on Wednesday, October 9. However, due to a terrible mistake, this was incorrect. The actual testing date was Wednesday, October 16.

Immediately, Juniors were in a panic. What about all the cramming I did last night? Does that mean we will have class on Wednesday? Wait, isn't HOPE next Wednesday? The truth spread quickly. Pastor Sid had to leave his 7:15 US History class to confirm the rumor. Pastor Fred began sharing the details of the mistake, too. Soon, all of the Juniors knew what was happening. Some felt relieved like Matthew Torretta, who said, "I didn't study so I was happy!" Some were distraught. Niqolas Ruud said he felt like all of the hope he had for success was squeezed out of him as juice from a lemon. However, the news could only get worse.

The PSAT was now coinciding with HOPE Taskforce, the community service day the school takes every quarter. How were Juniors supposed to take the PSAT as well as fulfill their community service quota? Pastor Fred suggested to his 8:05 class that, most likely, Juniors would be rescheduled to a new HOPE in the afternoon. This would leave them with an 8 hour block of tests and a HOPE they didn't necessarily choose. Most Juniors felt as Megan Rasmussen put it, "I felt pretty stressed out at the thought of possibly having to do PSATs and HOPE on the same day."

The mumbling quickly began. Juniors felt hosed with the PSAT and hosed with HOPE. Teachers scrambled to prepare lesson plans for the now PSAT-free Wednesday. Those coordinating HOPE Taskforce began to worry about filling the holes in the morning left by test-taking Juniors.

But that Wednesday during assembly, Dean Chelle Hess, the HOPE coordinator, announced that Juniors would be excused from HOPE. A unanimous sigh rose from the class. "I was relieved," said Jake Carlson about the event. Others felt the same way. Brandon Rich said, "I was sad because I could no longer post an irate Facebook post about it." Juniors were calmed and reassured by the announcement and slept much better that night, thankful and satisfied about the new future that would enable them to focus on the PSATs and the evening Week of Prayer meeting.

## Who spilled the beans?

by Cameron Smith

Wednesday, October 16, was HOPE Taskforce day. HOPE, Helping Other People Everywhere, is a day when all students go out into the community en masse to help people. Some people did food drives, others raked lawns, and still others helped out at a retirement center. I and about 30 of my compatriots decided to volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Before we got there, all we knew was that we were going to help out at a food bank. Not many of us had been there before, and none of us knew specifically what they would have us do. Upon arrival, we were given our task: repackage dried pinto beans from 50-pound sacks to two-pound bags. Each bag was then to be put into a box with eleven others just like it and sent down the line.

We split into six groups, each having four or five people. Pastor Jon's group ran into trouble early when they realized their bathroom-style scale was not accurate enough to weigh bags of only two pounds. My group consisted of four people: Monique Parker labeled the bags. Pastor Deon Chapman (our Week of Prayer speaker) held the bags open on the scale while Austin McGill filled them with dried beans. I sealed the bags after they had been filled.

We got into a rhythm, and pretty soon we were filling bags at a quick pace. *Everybody* (or, if you are Pastor Deon, "Err-body") spilled the beans. By the time we got done, they were all over the floor. I think my group—mostly Austin—spilled at least a couple of pounds. In another group, Jordan Hinton tried to lift a 50-pound sack only to see the contents steadily pouring out of a hole in the corner.

All of us had a good time, and it was a good lesson in teamwork. In the end, we repackaged over 2,000 pounds of dried pinto beans.

## Note night

by Matthew Torretta

Aw yes, the controversial subject of note night. As you dorm students have noticed, note night was canceled for some time for reasons that should be kept discreet. Apparently, inappropriate messages were being sent between the two dorms which made note night come to a screeching halt. Many complained, but the punishment had to be endured. As this hardship tyrannized our lives, we somehow continued with daily school life. Texting isn't enough: there is just something about writing on a piece of paper that is just so thrilling that the loss of it is tremendous.

People have different reasons for writing notes. Some believe they are lovelorn poets. For others, it may be just a silly game. And then there are friends, just having an honest conversation through old-school means.

Without note night, we had to squander our time on something else on Sunday nights. We had to forget the suspense of opening that piece of paper to see who sent us a message. We had to make do with a text message.

The moral of the story is that we must treat our privileges like privileges and not like rights that cannot be taken away. Note night could vanish again.

## No rest for the weekend

by Braden Stanyer

On Friday, October 4, former UCA and YVA students started to pour into campus. Alumni Weekend had just begun. As the alumni settled into their various accommodations, students were busy finishing preparations for their guests. Seniors had already been cleaning, arranging, and generally sprucing up campus for days by then, but the weekend was just beginning and for many students Sabbath would hold little rest.

Musicians rose on Saturday morning and trudged to the music building to warm up their instruments and voices. Soon, they were before a large crowd of alumni. Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kravig and Mr. Parady waved their arms and the students performed their music. Once the special church service had concluded, seniors helped to serve a meal. Then, most of the students were done for the day. However, some students had a long way to go.

At five o'clock, the members of Octet, String Quartet, and the new Low Brass Choir boarded vans and headed off to the Double Tree Hotel in Spokane. Once there, they introduced themselves to the class of '63 who were celebrating their 50-year reunion. The three groups performed and Shawn Stratte played a piano solo. After this, the students returned to UCA, but the day was still not over. There was a football game that night against Gem State. Even after the Lions had won, there was still more football to be played.

The next morning at 9:30 a.m., the football team was back on the field for a tournament. The visiting teams included alumni teams from UCA, Skagit, and WWVA, as well as the Gem State team that UCA had beaten the previous evening. UCA's current players defeated Skagit and WWVA, but lost to UCA's alumni. At 4:30 pm, when the games had finally finished, students returned to their dorms and homes.

As the weekend came to a close, there was still homework to be done. Such is the way with UCA. There is always something to do. There isn't a lot of time between activities for rest; therefore, one should take advantage of every minute. After all, life is about making each moment count.

## The ‘oh no’ moment

by *Amanda McCarter*

There’s that one moment every night that everyone knows all too well—the moment when you are left blind. The moment when you are left in the dark. It’s the moment when 10:29 turns into 10:30.

If you are anything like me, the time catches you off guard and you find yourself sitting on your bed, pencil in hand, and a half-finished math problem still on your lap. The current challenge of the night is no longer to find “x” but to find your phone for a flashlight. But where did you last put it? Your mind is torn between just going to bed or traveling across the dangerous minefield that is your messy room. In an instant, you are on your feet, taking the risk to search for your phone—your life.

The search seems fruitless as you feel around your table, dresser, and even the sink area for it. You stumble along taking small steps before you find yourself back at your bedside. As you put your hand down, it unexpectedly wraps around the familiar object.

If you find yourself in this situation most nights, rest assured that you are not alone. The “Lights Out Panic” is almost normal for me. *One* night, though, I tried getting ready for bed a half hour ahead of time. I was able to get ready calmly and even prepare my backpack for the next day. It made things much easier.

So when you are tempted to wait until the last moment, remind yourself of the panic and ask yourself, “Is it really worth it?”

## Life at UCA

by *Lillia Nava*

Many people talk about how life at a private school must be so boring: You never get to do anything and they’re always so strict on you. You have no life once you enter a private school. Some wonder if you think you are too cool for public school. Well, they just have it all wrong.

This is my first year attending UCA, and so far I love it—not only because it’s a great school but because the people here are so kind and accepting. I have never been around a crowd of people that has been this generous. This school has so many things to offer.

UCA isn’t like most schools because, well, you live here. My day starts by getting up at 6:00 to get ready for my 7:15 class. That’s probably the earliest class I have ever had. But the classes are great, especially Bible class. Bible class helps you learn more about the Bible each day and helps you build a closer and stronger relationship with God. My favorite part of the day, though, is worship, when everyone comes together and unites their voices in worship to our almighty God.

That’s life at UCA.

## Summertime sadness


by *Gabe Heater*

I believe we have all noticed the “subtle” difference in the weather around campus. The leaves are almost gone, the windows are closed, fans have been put into storage, and the heat is on.

Some of us aren’t terribly excited for the change in weather. Not being able to sport that tan scares some people to death. But then there are the snowboarders and skiers who are super excited because they know the fallen leaves and bone chilling wind means that soon they will be hitting up Schweitzer every weekend and having a great time.

But there are also those of us who know the colder weather means that one of UCA’s most popular sports, basketball, will soon begin. They know that soon they will have to run till they drop and prove their worth to Coach Meager. Last but not least, the cold weather also means that soon, very soon, we will be moved into our new cafeteria. This may not excite every student, but it’s a change, something new, which will be nice for the students who are stuck in the routine of doing the same thing over and over again.

All in all, the cold will mean fewer activities outside with friends, but it will also mean a change in routine activities. Your tan may disperse for a few months, but it will be back with next year’s warm weather and those days out on the lake with friends that will signal the end of high school for 90 UCA students.



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## The trust fall

by *Caleb Carter*

Falling.

I don't like this word very much. I would much rather be on the ground. Falling is so unpredictable. Will I be caught? Will I get hurt? Will I hurt someone else? There are so many variables.

I stand and watch all the others fall from the 7-foot platform. Some are scared and take 5 or more minutes to muster up the courage to fall backwards into the arms of their classmates. Others act as if nothing can go wrong and they don't understand why it would take anymore than 5 seconds to let go.

As I'm watching, I tell myself that I want to be the last to fall. Someone has to go last. Why can't it be me? I want the group to have as much practice as possible.

And then it happened. For the first time in Pastor Fred's many years of experience, the unthinkable happened.

Someone was dropped.

Jordan Hinton was dropped

I stood back amazed, the group silent. What had just happened?

"We got you," they had just been shouting moments before. "We won't let you fall."

Jordan, slightly stunned, paused for a minute, trying to comprehend what had just happened. He had been dropped. This wasn't supposed to happen.

The catching team needed to step up their game. A new requirement for catching was put in place: no slippery sleeves were to be worn while catching to prevent hands slipping off and letting go.

I felt a little better. And, apparently, Jordan did too. He went again, and this time was caught.

Eventually, everyone else had gone and it was my turn. As the catching group was lining up and preparing, I was praying.

The trust fall can be more than just falling from a platform. You can see it as falling into the arms of your classmates, or you can choose to see it as falling into the arms of Jesus and letting go of whatever you're holding on to that keeps you away from Him.

That's how I chose to view it. I fell . . . and I was caught.

## Distraction . . .

by *Aleece Cazan*

Go, go, go . . . Life at UCA is always so busy. There's always something in the back of the minds of students that needs to be done but keeps getting put off because of the other needs that must be met. "So much to do, so little time." This statement echoes in the dorm on a regular basis. It may be true, but one of the main reasons for our apparent lack of time is the constant distractions.

Whether it's the distraction of the newest iPhone 5C, your friends running up and down your hall, or that exciting game that occurs every other night at the gym or field—there's always something that keeps us from doing what we need to get done. Of course it's not anyone else's fault but our own that we allow these distractions to get to us, but it can definitely make the night before a big test difficult. Either way, all of these distractions are part of the excitement of going to UCA. Life wouldn't be the same without the people and events that make our lives **unpredictable and enjoyable (as well as hectic)**. Somehow amongst the madness, we'll just have to learn to find a balance between taking it all in, and finishing our long list of important duties.

## A winning season

by *Omar Alfaro*

You probably already know about the new soccer team this year. When we entered the season with our first win, the team and school were very pleased, but every game was very exciting, especially with our energetic supporters on the sidelines. All the players practiced really hard so they wouldn't let the team down, but it was not that easy to go to soccer practice since it was during football intermurals and most of the players were just not used to the scheduling. The team only lost two of the six games, and one of the losses was really close. The players praised God when they won and praised Him when they lost.

Because most of our soccer varsity team was new to soccer or not well experienced, our first soccer game was really close. The first game was away against the Spokane Valley Panthers. We won with a score of 2-1 with Daniel scoring the first goal and Jesus scoring the winning one in the last minute of the game. The crowd went crazy! The team was so happy that we had won our first game! The second game was during home leave against Walla Walla. The first half was horrible but we did have a great comeback in the second half. Unfortunately, we lost 2-3. But every loss gives more motivation to do your best on the next game so that you don't lose again. We also won our very first home game against Saint George Christian School. With many friends and staff on the sidelines cheering us on, we had a triumphant score of 3-0!

It was not that easy to start a soccer team, but I'm sure that all the hard work of Coach Meager and other staff who helped was worth it. It is great to see that there are more activities on campus. It seems like the soccer players sure had a great time. The student body are pleased that we were able to have our very first soccer team this year . . . and our first winning season.

## Indoor ice-rink

by *Brandon Rich*

Since Alumni Weekend 2012, UCA students have been watching our new cafeteria grow slowly through the diligent work of the building crew and the many volunteers who have donated their time. As the opening day draws closer, the excitement is building on campus. The students walk to the old cafeteria every day and look over with longing at what will soon be a daily meeting place on our campus.

The old cafeteria has been around a long time, and while they might miss it eventually, students are very excited for a change of place in the daily routine. As we know, the old cafeteria sits on a flood plain. It has flooded in the past, and now we are ecstatic to have a new, more habitable dining commons.

One of the questions that has come up many times is what will happen to the old building. Will it just be torn down? There have been rumors that it will become just another storage area, but why not use it for something more useful? Some have suggested it become an ice rink or a paintball arena. Although these suggestions are not likely to be approved, they are food for thought. There are many ways to repurpose an old building even if it is on a flood plain.

Whatever happens to the old cafeteria, students are ready for the new one and are excited about this new addition on campus.

## Sunday school

by *Andrew Fisher*

Before attending UCA, most people thought that Sunday school was just a children's class in church, but it doesn't take long for them to realize its second meaning. Since we get the joys of having home-leaves and missing days of school, it is necessary to go to school on the Sunday before home-leave to make up for it. Most, if not all, of the students will complain about classes on the weekend, but is it really that bad after all? Sure there are many disadvantages to school on Sunday, but sometimes we can overlook the positives.

On a regular Sunday, students will get up just in time for breakfast and spend the next several hours relaxing in their dorms, practically wasting the day away. School may be annoying, but it does make our day more productive overall. Another advantage of Sunday school is that you get three meals and don't have to dip into your dorm room stash. And maybe the biggest benefit of Sunday school for me is that football games are on all day. You can check the scores in between (or during) class and maybe even during your practice period in the music building.

I doubt we will ever get to the point of enjoying Sunday school, but it does help to remember that there are some silver linings embedded in the drudgery. Don't spend the day talking about how much sleep you missed out on; instead, look for ways to stay positive. Sunday school is only as bad as we make it.



## Homework in the dorm

by *Keyara Williams*

Doing homework in the dorm is difficult because friends are distracting, sleeping is appealing and there are no parents around to tell you what to do. Friends in the dorm distract me from doing my homework because they want to hang out, go to rec, and do the general rather useless things that distract me from being productive.

It is harder for people in the dorm than for those who live at home because here in the dorm, I live with my friends, so I always have the option of putting off homework and doing something fun and social instead. It is also hard because there are so many girls screaming and bouncing around in the hallway, disturbing the quiet I need for productive study time. Since I stay up late most nights doing my homework due to my distracting friends, I don't get very much sleep. Hence, during study hall and free periods, taking a nap is much more appealing than doing chemistry homework. Sometimes when I know that I need to stay up and study for that English test, my eyes droop and my head bobs, unconsciously sending me to my bed.

When I lived at home, my parents and grandparents would come into my room and take my phone, computer and anything else that might distract me. Since I couldn't get the things back until I finished my homework, I would finish it immediately.

Since we don't have that parent hovering over us, we have the opportunity to gain more self-discipline. For some this is great. For others (like me) that lack focus, it is a disadvantage. What has to be done to overcome the difficulties of studying in the dorm is to procrastinate as little as possible, get as much sleep as possible, and find a healthy balance between social life and academics.



## Water towers

by *Mason Parks*

The water towers always attract attention as you drive by UCA, but they also attract wanna-be daredevils. Ever since I came to school at UCA, I have continuously heard my peers brag about how they will sneak out of the dorm and climb one of the water towers. Other students worried about getting expelled vow they will do it right after they graduate.

But why does the idea of risking life and limb appeal to so many students? I believe some people are just talking: they have no intention of actually breaking the rules. Other kids think that climbing the water towers will give them the ultimate bragging rights. Still others think it will be the perfect venue for testing their wits against the staff.

Yes, it seems the water towers do have an irresistible pull on some students, but despite this attraction I have yet to meet someone who has successfully scaled either of the steel behemoths. This may be mostly due to the punishment that comes if a student is caught: Dismissal is how the handbook puts it. This pretty much means that you get kicked out of school and sent home to your furious parents (not a pleasant thought). But as long as students attend UCA, they will fantasize about standing on top the iron turrets. Thankfully, good old-fashioned discipline will keep most of them in check.



## Open weekends

by *Brian Paredes*

The world of UCA is a different place on shallow weekends when close to no one is on campus. For those who are not away on tour or who didn't get a chance to escape, the campus can seem rather desolate. Yet it is also so much more relaxed than during the usual hectic school week.

For some it is heart wrenching and discouraging. They sit in their rooms depressed and bored, not even wondering who else might be around. These are the people who might think of campus as their enemy or prison. Then there are the people who take advantage of the opportunities that come during an open weekend. They involve themselves in making campus something to be proud of, rather than something to stay away from. They use weekends like these to meet new people and socialize with someone whom they wouldn't even be notice if their friends were around. They might even catch up with some old friends they have drifted away from over the years. These wonderful people might even take the opportunity to catch up on some rest or homework instead of feeling the need to party outside the walls of UCA.

The staff, bless their hearts, try to make the dorms a more homey and friendly place during open weekends. One Friday night in the guys' dorm, Joe Hess brought quesadilla makings for whoever wanted to make one. Before long the whole dorm of less than 40 guys had their bellies full of melted cheese, crispy tortilla, and about three different kinds of salsa.

Though open weekends might be pretty relaxed and empty, a good attitude can make them great experiences. You can choose to make them a lonely and dark time or a fun, cheerful time to spend with your classmates and staff.

## Leaving a lasting legacy

by *Megan Rasmussen*

There is one day that creeps up on students every year. At UCA it seems to creep up even more silently and without much warning. With everything else a student has to worry about, many are unaware until the day comes, or, if they are lucky, the day before. What is this day that seems to spring up out of nowhere? It's none other than picture day!

This day is essential for those who want to leave a lasting impression. How are they going to look when years from now people glance through their yearbooks? Are they going to see the girl with the pretty hair? The one with the dashing smile? Maybe the guy with the most gorgeous eyes? One can only hope to be put into one of those positive categories rather than being the one who didn't know it was picture day until they found themselves in the Power House, sitting on a stool with a camera pointed at them.

Some get the hint when they walk into the girls' bathroom and see girls crowding the mirror trying to make themselves look extra nice—brushing their hair, checking their teeth, applying that extra touch of makeup. In the end, all we really want is to walk away with a good picture. And for those who don't believe they did, there is always the possibility of going through the chaos all over again on picture retake day!

# Lights, ballots, action!

by *Stephanie Ing*

“And the President of the Senior Class of 2014 is . . .” Everyone waits for the booming voice to make the announcement as we sit on the floor of the gym for class elections. Wednesday, October 9, was the day filled the frantic planning and voting.

In just a short few hours the classes vote in their officers and come up with a creative, exciting way to announce them to the rest of the school. Amongst all this craziness it must be remembered that there is an importance to the actual jobs of the officers. When you circle someone’s name on the ballot, you are saying, “This is someone that I want leading this school and the students in it.” The President, Vice president, Chaplain, Secretary, and all the rest can affect the whole campus in a positive or negative way. With an office comes responsibility, and the decisions made by the officers and class sponsors will shape the whole year for the classes.

I asked some of the newly elected officers what their goals were for their class and for the campus this year.

“I want to see the senior class come together and be spiritual leaders on our campus and shine for Jesus.” – Ashley Lee; Senior Class Secretary

“As Class officers, we should help our class grow spiritually. When newcomers arrive we should welcome them in and make them a part of the team.” – Katelyn Ruud; Freshman Class Musician

So what are your goals for this year and how can you make this year better in your own way?

## CLASS OFFICERS

### SENIORS

**President:** Alex Moseanko

**Vice President:** Daniel Wilkinson

**Chaplain:** Suzanna Officer

**Treasurer:** Cameron McConnachie

**Secretary:** Ashley Lee

**Sgt-at-Arms:** Braden Stanyer

**Musician:** Shawn Stratte

**Historian:** Abe Baik

**Sports Coordinator:** Andrew Fisher

**Student Council Rep:** Jessica Cardenas

### JUNIORS

**Josh Enjati**

**Alece Cazan**

**Giovanna Girotto**

**Madeline Everett**

**Ronni Sue Parks**

**Mike Evans**

**Madalynn Kack**

**Matt Palsgrove**

**Niqolas Ruud**

**Nathaniel Srikureja**

### SOPHOMORES

**Kaelyn Plata**

**Kristen Wagner**

**Elliott Wickward**

**Geoffrey Urbin**

**Amber Lee**

**Brennson Wirtz**

**Elliott Fulbright**

**Ronnie Anderson**

**Cassie Gonsalves**

### FRESHMEN

**Olivia Medavarapu**

**Danny Nesteruk**

**Summer Davis**

**Katrina Santiago**

**Kayla Kime**

**Eva Wiggins**

**Katelyn Ruud**

**Luke Freedle**

**Rachel Park**

