



*judges' choice*



*audience choice*

## Amateur Hour

*by Kristi Rose*

Amateur Hour + Parent weekend = crazy busy! Amateur hour consists of a lot of practicing for some, lots of cooking for others, and brainstorming for those creative people who help with decorations. It's a huge night where many of us students get to share our talent with others.

Amateur Hour also happens during Parent Weekend, which means our parents get to hear us. I was excited to see my parents and to share with them how much my musical ability has improved since coming to UCA. From Friday night vespers to Saturday night, music is a part of everything. It's a big focus here at UCA, and with all this musical talent, it makes the music real.

A lot of work goes into making these weekends possible and enjoyable for the guests. Many of those working behind the scenes never truly get thanked for their effort in making it happen. So thank you all for the part you played in this big weekend! It couldn't have happened without you!

## Week of Prayer

*by Brandon Rich*

November 3-7 was a special time on the UCA campus. It was an opportunity for students to grow closer to God and each other. Throughout the week you could see the difference in the students, not just in the way they were dressed, but in the way they treated others and themselves. It was one of three weeks of prayer throughout the year, with two daily meetings in the church across the road.

Our speaker was Buell Fogg, who inspired us to live in the moment and not take anything for granted. He also came to our Bible classes throughout the day

to have a more personal experience with different groups of students. As student Jake Carlson says, "Weeks of prayer are some of my favorite times at

UCA." He is not alone in this sentiment. Many students love weeks of prayer: some love the meetings, others the fellowship, but all love coming together and worshipping our wonderful God.





## The asking

by Polly Nicole Officer

Girls nervously make their way to their classes with bated breath. Guys dust off the creative nooks and crannies of their under-used brains. The Ad building is a hive, buzzing with anticipation. Will it be today?

In dorm rooms, no matter the gender, the topic is always the same. Who's asking whom? This question brings in its wake both delight and heart wrenching fear. Those who can answer smile with a mischievous sparkle in their eyes. Those who can't pretend to go on with their lives as if it doesn't affect them, the whole while contemplating the haunting question: If I do ask, what will she say?

The question is asked. Sounds ranging from the gleeful dolphin to sobs of the humpback whale fill the girls' dorm halls. We count down the days till the fateful day. Some girls treat it like their wedding while others view it as their funeral. Either way, it's a big deal.

One after another the names of single people are wiped off the hypothetical list of possibilities. The procrastinator now hangs his head in shame as the girl of his dreams waltzes away with another bloke. Happiness was just a question away. With hormones raging and emotions blazing, welcome to Winter Banquet 2014!

## Thunderstorm

by Meghan Spracklen

The sky was many shades of blue and grey and seemed to change with every direction you faced. The sun was setting orange in the west, blue sky was flashing in the south, grey cloud was covering the east and darkness shattered by lightning was hovering in the north. Within five minutes rain was plummeting down and only the dark clouds were seen. Soon lightning was sprinting across the sky. The lightning was chased by thunder and the thunder was chased by girls screaming. Many girls were heading to the cafeteria and found the sudden violent display of weather extremely frightening.

The sun courageously showed its face under the layer of clouds and everything together was very dramatic. Madeleine Everett asked, "Did it hit the water tower? It sure looked like it hit the water tower!" Since the water tower is one of the highest things around and is made of metal, it is possible that it could have been hit by an errant bolt of lightning. The electrical part of the storm passed over as quickly as it came, but it left a dark evening soaked with rain.

## A view of the past

by *Morgan Stanyer*

After spending a weekend with my grandma and her 60-year reunion class of 1954, I have a whole new perspective on Alumni Weekend. A lot more goes into it than I have seen in previous years from my seat in the band. My grandma showed me her yearbook from her senior year here at UCA. I got all the news about what buildings are different and who married whom and her endless stories about her high school experience. Before the weekend began she was nominated to find a location and host a dinner for Saturday night. You could tell that she was not the most excited to do this, but we Stanyer women are not known to turn down a social event such as this.

So there I was, sitting across the table from an alumnus who was probably feeling my same stress 61 years ago. Everyone who attended from her class was very interested about campus life now—60 years after they had walked the same sidewalks. Back in their day, there was no such thing as a “village student.” Everyone lived in the dorm. It blew their minds when I told them that I drive to school every day. “Even in the snow?” many of them asked. “Yes, even in the snow,” I would reply with a smirk.

As the evening progressed I realized that they aren’t too different from my class today. The school life they participated in then was very similar to ours. So, after having the opportunity to interact and spend time with the honorary 60-year class, I had some hope that someday my class would have a reunion as special as theirs. Whether that be our 60th reunion on Earth or in heaven, I have hope that it will be something special.

## Time change

by *Jake Carlson*

Sundays are a struggle for most students at U.C.A. Many teachers usually mercilessly assign homework on Fridays and expect it to be done by Monday. However, Saturday is a day of rest, so the thought of homework does not even come to mind until Saturday night at the earliest. This would be perfectly fine if students actually received extra rest Saturday night, but as it always happens, students get less sleep on the weekend than during the school week. As a result, they want to sleep in late on Sunday. Thus, the conflict is created. Often, students must choose between comfort and grades. Then the unimaginable happens.

The prayers of every student on campus are answered in the form of one event: a time change. The clock is set back one hour. Students who had resigned themselves to receiving poor grades wake up to find themselves subject to an alternate reality. There is a chance to attain sleep as well as finish homework! Suddenly, everything seems a little bit brighter. Senior Tyler Warren exclaimed, “I woke up in a cold sweat thinking that I had doomed myself to failure by giving in to sleep deprivation, but upon looking at the time on my cellphone, I breathed a sigh of relief. Not only did I satisfy my tired body, but I could conquer Calculus homework with this extra hour!”

Not all students took the same route Tyler did. In fact, some took advantage of the extra time by sleeping even *more*. However, the feelings of general happiness were shared by all of the students on campus.

## Sweet kindness

by *Lili Mackin*

The hubbub of the kitchen is soft but slowly the energy picks up. Again and again students ask “Now how many cups of flour?” and “Where is the yeast?” as they scurry from one sink to another. The stirring, mixing sounds soon start and the students start to smell the yeast. More flour is added and up and down go their hands as they knead the dough, pushing out the little pockets of air and blending all the sticky pieces in with the flour. Soon these ingredients are mixed and mashed and left to sit as the students start on their next job of making apple and pumpkin pies.

The peeling of the apples and the smell of pumpkin puree make a sweet holiday smell in the kitchen. Soon the pies are prepared. The dough that has risen is flattened to a big oval shape, lathered with butter, sprinkled ever so carefully to the outermost edges with cinnamon and brown sugar, and then neatly rolled up and sliced into the now unbaked cinnamon rolls. As they are put into the oven to cook, people walk into the kitchen to investigate, and smiling children’s faces peek in to see if the cinnamon rolls and pies are done.

After an hour of baking, all the cinnamon rolls are finished and quickly disappear. Gleeful ladies walk into the kitchen claiming they know they shouldn’t but they just can’t resist the smell of the hot handmade cinnamon rolls. One lady even commented on the Ronald McDonald House of Charities Facebook page: “There was a youth group making scratch cinnamon rolls at Ronald McDonald House today and the entire House smelled HEAVENLY!!!”

This was one of our school’s HOPE Community Service projects making an impact in our community. Making the cinnamon rolls was very fun and everybody enjoyed a cinnamon roll afterwards with a smile on their faces as they helped brighten and cheer the community with sweet kindness.



## Musical gifts

by *Kristen Wagner*

A child stands close. With someone watching so closely, it is important to play well. The conductor's hands go up; instruments are ready as children's eyes glance in every direction. Some kids are brave and stand within the instrument groups as the band plays. Others have only come to listen because they heard the words "children's story."

For children's story time on the Sabbath of Parent Weekend, the band played a piece based on "Jesus Loves Me." Often for a children's story, someone tells a story with words. But that day, we told a story with notes. We all knew the tune, humming it during a break in the music while each child stood there looking from instrument to instrument. Some were so close you thought they might start playing the instrument for you.

To feel you are interacting with the audience is very exciting when playing in a band. This interaction with youngsters standing in the midst of the band was extra special. Maybe the kids were imagining they were old enough to play an instrument or maybe this experience sparked a musical interest that was not present before.

From high school students in the band to the young children who surrounded us, the blessing of the moment seemed to flow both ways. It is always great to be able to honor God through music and to be up close with his young children.



### UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

## ECHOES

is a regular student publication of  
Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington 99031  
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Jake Carlson, Brandon Rich, Kristi Rose, and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

## HOPE sign-ups

by *Nathaniel Srikureja*

HOPE sign-ups have changed. Before, signups were completed by hand—using stickers and paper. Now, computers are used. An online survey displays available activities and records your selection. Students are voicing frustration in response, but I believe the new method is better; consider the following.

The original system was more comfortable and simpler. Information such as size, availability, location, load time, and the other members of each group was attainable, allowing students to make informed decisions. However, there were negatives. Sign-ups were more expensive, messy, and conducive to exclusion. Limitations in space often caused hurtful, unwanted rearranging and pressure to sign up before one's allotted time. Sign-ups also required supervision and much work: rosters and signup sheets had to be typed and printed beforehand and post-signup information reentered afterwards.

The new method fixes the old problems. The online survey is neat, organized, easy to set up, less expensive, and not subject to cheating or rearranging. Additionally, it does not require supervision and is time-efficient: use your phone to sign up! The main negative is information loss: time, size, and location aren't available at a glance; names of others in a given group are not disclosed. Also, survey availability is linked with internet functionality, and few students check their emails regularly.

Is, then, the new change positive? After considering the facts, I believe it is. I would encourage contentious parties to reconsider their position on the subject after consideration.

## Global not-so-warming

by *Meghan Spracklen*

I had high hopes for that evening's shower. It was supposed to warm me up and get me nice and toasty before I had to go into my cold room. But as I stuck my hand into the stream, I recoiled at the attack of frigid water with bits of iceberg flowing through it. This problem was found throughout the whole girls' dorm.

Earlier in the day the heating had gone out and girls were found huddled in their rooms in blankets and coats. The showers were supposed to be a reprieve from the arctic chill, but they too had succumbed to the cold.

Junior Elena Harris told me the story of her troubles with the lack of heat. "I went to take a shower in the morning and was already in it before I realized it wasn't going to get warm. I had to take a 15-minute cold shower. It was miserable."

It took 2 ½ days before maintenance could get everything fully functioning again. Those days were spent huddled next to each other to stay warm or hunched over warm cups of tea. Now that we are warm again, we can fully appreciate how wonderful heating is especially as the temperature continues to drop. So, on behalf of all the girls' dorm, thank you, maintenance, for bringing warmth back into our lives.

## One after another

by *Madalynn Kack*

As home leave draws closer and closer, it seems as though more deadlines keep approaching. Finishing one project just to start another, the students are exhausted. As deadlines draw near, the procrastinators begin to see that they should now start their long-delayed assignments. There's no longer time to put them off for another day. The hammer is coming down and the stress is building. One student waits impatiently for the printer to work. Others anxiously chews their nails, vigorously thinking about the test ahead.

The loud ring of the bell breaks through the silence of the classrooms. Some people scurry from class to class, turning in the papers that were due weeks ago. Whole classes go crazy when one of the quizzes for the day is canceled. Some people think to themselves, "More time to waste." Others say, "More time to use."

As the teachers lecture on and on, each person's eyes are on the clock. The constant ticking and the anticipation of getting out of class is making their minds go blank. They block out every word that the teacher is saying. The only thing going through their minds is, "Lunch is almost here."

To their disappointment, the bell doesn't ring at the expected time. They realize they have been following the wrong schedule and that class will last longer. The students sit back in their chairs and take out their books again. Getting comfortable, they close their eyes for some much needed sleep.

## Gymnastics clinic

by *Joshua Lamberton*

On the cold Thursday morning of October 30, the entire gymnastics team was up and ready for kids to come. We set up the gym, practiced our routines, and waited for the kids to come through that door.

Then it happened. Groups started to come—kids from all over and of all different ages. They were assigned to groups, and Kisa McClosky gave a nice worship talk. Then, the fun began. The groups of kids moved around to our different stations, and we tried to teach them the skills they would need to perform. They had a great time as we showed them how to do pyramids, elevators, tumbling, and lots of other gymnastics moves.

After lunch, we started helping them so they could perform their own routines at the end of the day. They all practiced hard and when we got to the time to perform, we gathered around the mats and watched a great show.





*female great-horned owls screech rather than hoot*

## Owls

*by Whitney Johnson*

Have you ever been so tired that as soon as your head hits the pillow you are pretty much out? Well, that sounds like the majority of us every day until we hear the eerie screech of the mad bird outside.

Every night for weeks, a screeching owl alarmed everyone on campus and scared countless girls. If you are like me, night sounds, combined with the scariness of the dark, can be just too much. They are terrifying. At first the owl sounded like a helpless, lost kitten. So, in a girl's dorm, something just had to be done about that. The deans were notified immediately of the poor kitten's pathetic calling and were asked repeatedly to go get it. But when they went out to retrieve the poor baby cat, it was nowhere to be found! But its cry for help was still heard across the campus. It was an owl. To the disappointment of many girls, the poor little kitten was several great-horned owls.

## Dresses for all

*by Madeleine Everett*

Not long ago, a change came to UCA's music department: uniform, floor length black performance dresses were ordered for all band and orchestra girls. Formerly the Choraliers dress, the uniform was a symbol of that exclusive group, a heap of black fabric dreaded by some and loved by others.

The dresses came ready to be hemmed and altered. Usually a whole foot too long, they were made long enough for someone 6'2" tall. They make walking up stairs a challenge, especially in heels, but the new uniform appearance of our school band and orchestra has been widely appreciated. Parents and staff appreciate that it has solved the problem of immodest front-row dress, and students enjoy not having the hassle of trying to shop for black concert dress.

The arrival of the dresses was met with mixed emotions. Some Choraliers members are upset that they no longer have a dress special to their group, but many band members are excited to wear the new dress. There are a few that hate the dress, but I am glad this change has come to UCA and wish that I had that dress in orchestra last year.

## Success

*by Mason Parks*

Famous opera singer Beverly Sills once said, "There are no shortcuts to anywhere worth going." Sills is right, and her statement especially applies to students here at UCA. Students who work hard now will reap rewards later.

Having to work hard is not fun for most people. Many people if given two paths will always take the easier one. However, taking the harder path will be worth it in the end and often leads to success. At UCA there are many hard paths such as making schoolwork a priority, practicing an instrument, or working hard at a job. At times these activities are not enjoyable, and it would way more fun to slack off. Nevertheless, hard work in these area has massive benefits. For example, if students work hard at a job this year, then they will often get a better job next year; likewise, if students faithfully practice they will eventually master their instruments.

In the future students will look back and be glad they persevered and gave UCA activities their all.





## Running on a crisp Sunday morning

by *Lili Mackin*

Bright and early on the Sunday morning of Alumni Weekend, a few people stirred from their slumber in the dorm. It was not a day to sleep in. It was going to be an eventful day. Pulling on their running gear and lacing up their sneakers, they fearlessly walked outside into the crisp, clean morning with the dew still on the ground.

They walked into the welcome warmth of the assembly hall where they were directed to get in line for their numbers. Then, after a little wait, the moment all the runners had been eagerly anticipating arrived. They were off, leaving the starting line behind them. The strong, experienced runners disappeared into the distance within minutes, while determined joggers and walkers paced themselves with great enthusiasm.

All the participants in the Olin Peach Fun Run enjoyed the exciting event and were given a goodie bag and a new t-shirt as a gift at the finish line. In the end, students, staff, alumni, and visitors who participated in this Fun Run had good exercise and supported the Olin Peach Scholarship.

## New protein substitute

by *Thalia Tomarere*

They were everywhere. They were pesky. They came in swarms—early in the morning and late at night. No I'm not talking about the students of UCA, I'm talking about clouds of gnats, spelled G-N-A-T-S, not N-A-T-S.

They got stuck in pretty much anything they came in contact with: hair, clothes, books, and shoes. When they landed on you, they didn't even crawl around, they just DIED. Sometimes if you breathed in at the wrong moment, you accidentally got a little extra protein. If you tried to swat them away, you got an armful of gnats and from a distance looked like a lunatic.

Some suggestions to help with the gnat problem were:

- Carry a leaf-blower, bear spray, or vacuum around
- Walk backwards
- Eat them (walk with your mouth open)
- Put your hair in front of your face
- Carry an umbrella in front of you

Many of these solutions were temporary and burdensome, but now the best solution has arrived: subfreezing temperatures day and night. The gnats are history . . . until next year.

## Mooses? Meeses?

by *Katelind Miller*

A small group of dedicated seniors perched around a waste-heaped cafeteria table, preparing to return to the dorms and become equipped for the day's proceedings. Ronnie Sue Parks arose from the table, peered out the window, and announced, "Hey guys, there's a moose." Those at the table thought it was a joke. A moose? Here? At UCA? Slowly, one-by-one, the multitude rose from their spots and ran over to the window. Sure enough, there was not just one moose, there were two!

The seniors stood shell shocked, staring at the enormous creatures munching on Mr. Gladding's lawn. It was irrefutable. There were moose on campus. Not a dog, a deer, or even a lone coyote—a massive brown moose.

A small cluster of boys, including Jake Carlson, Brandon Rich, Tyler Warren, and a few others, cruised after the moose, chasing them away. The giant beasts turned on their heels and departed back to the railroad tracks. Safe from the wild animals, the crowd dispersed, and returned to their preparations for the day.

## Happy birthday

by *Kaelyn Plata*

Haaaappppy Biiirrrthhhddaaaayy to Youuuuuuuuuu . . . The last note is held out as long as humanly possible. Low bases intermingle with the high sopranos who trying to hit the highest note possible, their voice wavering as they stretch them to their utmost limit. Some are on key while others could make a dog howl in protest. All the voices mix to create a chaotic noise that no one should have to bear. If you are lucky, you might hear a few feeble voices harmonizing as the song comes to a magnificent end. But no matter how off key the notes soar or how badly our ears ring, the students of UCA would never give up the blessing of being sung to on their birthday.

# CLASS OFFICERS

	seniors	juniors	sophomores	freshmen
<b>president</b>	Aleece Cazan	Kaelyn Plata	Eva Wiggins	Thomas Warren
<b>vice president</b>	Madaleine Everett	Kristen Wagner	Savannah Walker	Svea Smith
<b>chaplain</b>	Madalynn Kack	Cassie Gonsalves	KateLyn Ruud	Madison Clark
<b>treasurer</b>	Stephanie Ing	Geoffrey Urbin	Grady Dietrich	Tony Yoo
<b>secretary</b>	Sabrina Beckner	Chloe Johnson	Emma Tucker	Alex Paago
<b>sgt-at-arms</b>	Jake Carlson	Asher Siapco	Katriana Santiago	Hailee Huenergardt
<b>historian</b>	Tyler Warren	Ronnie Anderson	Katriana Santiago	Hailee Huenergardt
<b>musician</b>	Sarah Lehman	Elliott Fulbright	Summer Davis	Elizabeth Maden
<b>sports coordinator</b>	Brian Paredes	Zach Tataryn	Thomas Ewert	Karson Peach
<b>student council</b>	Jairo Lopez Marina Pilipchuk	Catalina Rodriguez Jordan Barnett	Isabella Warren	Stephen Wilkinson

## First year at Fall Classic

by Amber Lee

Pass! Set! Spike! This was the first year Upper Columbia Academy attended the annual Fall Classic Tournament in Walla Walla. The atmosphere was full of excitement and anxiety. Playing over ten games in three days, the players were stoked to be in Walla Walla. Fans were cheering while the players were playing their hearts out.

With soccer games outside on the field and volleyball games in the University gym, there was never a dull moment on the WWU campus. Once volleyball players finished a game, they would hustle to cheer on the soccer guys and vice versa.

The soccer team finished fourth place out of 14 teams. They played hard and stayed in it until the final whistle blew. The volleyball team finished first place in the challenger's bracket, which is equivalent to 9th place out of 18 teams.

The teams showed great team spirit and teamwork. Both teams worked together, encouraged each other, and never gave up. The tournament was a great experience for everyone and the teams are excited to play again next year.



## 1st SEMESTER ASB OFFICERS

<b>president</b>	Roni Sue Parks
<b>vice president</b>	Jesus Montes
<b>chaplain</b>	Elliott Wickward
<b>treasurer</b>	Jacob Enjati
<b>secretary</b>	Bethany Stafford
<b>sgt-at-arms</b>	Brennson Wirtz
<b>historian</b>	Ronnie Anderson
<b>musician</b>	Polly Officer

BE THE CHANGE!