

## ASB springs a party

by *Katrina Santiago*

Green jackets, camouflage pants, medical scrubs, army boots, and fake blood. All of this and more could be seen on Sunday. UCA's Spring Party (also known as Spring Banquet) was on Sunday, April 9. ASB planned and set up the whole thing. The theme was MASH. MASH was an old TV show centered on the Korean War. The acronym stood for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. Therefore, for the theme, people dressed in camouflage and scrubs.

The party began at 3:30 PM in the gym. We were all sorted into platoons, which were then sorted into companies. Each company went to a different activity first. Overall, there were five different activities. One activity was dodgeball. For 18 minutes, platoons battled against each other to win. Another activity was the shooting range. The shooting range was located in the workout room above the gym. In the workout room, cardboard targets were scattered around. The point of the shooting range was for a company to knock down as many targets as possible. Each person only had two bullets and a nerf gun, and he could only knock down one target. Then, there was another activity in the ad building. The platoon had to build a stretcher out of wood, rags, and a sheet. Then, they had to carry a person on the stretcher through the entire ad building. This all had to happen in under four minutes and thirty seconds. The next activity was a short movie in the cafeteria. We had to participate in order to earn points, so no one could be on their phones. The last activity was an obstacle course in the gym. The entire platoon had to get across rolled up gymnastic mats that were standing straight up. The mats were spaced apart so it was difficult to get from one to the other. Once the entire platoon was across, some split off to finish the obstacle course that included jumping rope, pushups, a log roll, and carrying a backpack. After everyone was finished with activities, we headed down to the old cafeteria.

The old cafeteria was decorated like a mess hall. Old posters hung on the wall, and the color green was everywhere. Everyone sat in their platoons and soon began eating. The menu included green apple punch, burritos, shamburgers, and an ice cream bar. There was also a corner with props that was set up for pictures. Overall, the party was a success, and everyone seemed to really enjoy it.



## Academy Day

by *Kaitlyn Seeley*

On April 6, UCA had over 80 visitors in the form of 7-10th graders. It was Academy Day, a big recruitment tool for the school, so all hands were on deck to woo the potential students.

UCA students first took groups of visitors on tours around the school, showing the different classes offered. After that, Octet, strings, band, and gymnastics treated the visitors to performances. Visitors also had their knowledge tested at the Knowledge Bowl, kindly hosted by Mr. Spano. A hearty meal of haystacks was provided in the overflowing cafeteria, and once everyone was full, the party was taken back to the gym, for the class fair.

At the class fair, kids were able to take quizzes to earn candy, scholarships, and other prizes, and to find out information about different classes. The choir and Choraliers performed once the class fair was done, and then the final battles for the title of Knowledge Bowl Champions commenced. When the title was won and the scholarships were all handed out, the visitors were left with an inspirational thought, given by Pastor Fred. Overall, it was a successful day for UCA, and a helpful one, we hope, for all the visitors.



## Seniors test careers

by Grady Dietrich

On Friday, April 7, the members of the senior class had a chance to shadow jobs of their interest. This opportunity let them check out jobs they may want to do for their careers. I had the privilege of visiting Ecova. Ecova is a company that handles other company's taxes and bills. It works for big name companies such as Verizon, Starbucks, and H & R Block. It works for over 300 different companies.

I visited Ecova with Jose Montes and Andy Ruud. We arrived at 9 o'clock in the morning in our business attire. Our day began with a tour of the building and a few meetings with team managers. The meetings told more of what the company did and gave us a good understanding of how the company was run.

After the meetings, two of the managers took us out to lunch. They gave us more information about the company and how businesses tend to work.

After lunch, we returned and continued the tour. We met more managers and discussed what their different teams did. We met the managers of marketing, recruiting, and IT departments.

Career day was very successful. It answered many questions I had about business. We were treated as clients would be treated, and we saw how true businesses were run. It was a good learning experience for my fellow classmates and me. I now look forward to any other chances at job shadowing.



## U-days spread virus

by Emma Tucker

The high school years are often either the best or the worst of one's life. The journey from freshman to senior year is paved with memories of laughter, drama, adventures, and countless cringe-worthy endeavors. At the end of it all, senior year is one of the best. The high status students of this class are at the top of the food chain, admired by all, and usually run the school. But from the second to the fourth of April, seniors all across the Pacific Northwest sacrificed their supremacy to visit college as potential freshmen. Walla Walla University hosted over 400 eager students, allowing them to experience three days of university life.

Academy scholars rejoiced in their newfound freedom, quite literally scrambling all across campus—visiting university classes, attending informative interest sessions, participating in scholarship competitions, applying for jobs or dorm rooms, trying out for sports teams, and making their charming presence known to all of Walla Walla.

Returning to high school was a disappointment, as underclassmen turned out to be much less exciting than brilliant university students, classes no longer garnered any attention, and academy rules once again restricted every movement. It appears that all seniors returned with an incurable case of a springtime virus—incurable senioritis.

## Grandparents visit campus

by Eva Wiggins

When crediting a family member for something a child has done or accomplished, who automatically receives the praise? No, it's not the family dog, the child's amazing brain power, or even the much-acclaimed institute where they were educated. Most often, the praise is automatically directed towards "those who have given us everything"—parents.

Our parents are amazing and very important in our lives, but what about grandparents? Where do they come in to play? It seems to me our grandparents play a large role. Without our grandparents, we would have no parents! So, without them we would not exist.

To some students, myself included, Grandparents' Weekend seems to be a hassle. It's timing is awful. The weather is bad, everybody is tired and just getting back into the swing of schoolwork when all of our grandparents descend on to campus. . . at once. But instead of looking at the weekend as a nuisance, we should see it as an opportunity. Maybe it is an opportunity to show grandparents what we have accomplished, thanks to them. Maybe it is simply just a chance to spend time with them and let them know how much we love them and how much they mean to us.

However you view your grandparents, never forget how much they have done for you.

## UCA travels to Kenya

by Ashley Samuel

Many students had the opportunity to go to Kenya during spring break to provide medical and dental care to the Maasai people. Parents of UCA students also journeyed to Kenya in order to help provide the medical and dental aid. With the help of an orthopedic surgeon, an anesthesiologist, a dentist, an orthodontist, and two nurses, hundreds of lives were changed.

Although most UCA students do not have health care experience, students were able to help in triaging, diagnosing patients, assisting dentists, and filling prescriptions. Not many students get to experience firsthand what happens in the medical field, as UCA students did in Kenya. Every student had the opportunity to work in all four areas, and the doctors and nurses were happily satisfied with how quickly they learned on their feet.

When working in the medical area, students were assigned to a doctor and observed and assisted in diagnosing patients and prescribing the appropriate medicines. Several women suffered from neck and back pain because of the immense weight they carry on their backs for long periods of time. Many also suffered from scabies, a contagious skin disease, but, fortunately, our group was able to provide medicine to help cure the disease. Another interesting part of the work was dentistry. Students assisted the dentists by handing them necessary tools during procedures, cleaning tools, and educating the Maasai people about the importance of dental care.

UCA students are a fortunate group of young people partly because of the incredible medical experience they gained over this mission trip.

## African hearts

by Adreana Ward

Forty-eight hours of sitting in planes. Seventy-one hours of being jostled and tossed on wobbly buses. Several days of handing out food, counting out medicine, and holding the hands of countless people. Two and a half weeks of life changing experiences over and over again, and of making memories that will last for eternity.

The Africa mission trip was an adventure and a challenge for every student and staff that went. We all faced situations that pulled us farther from our comfort zone and closer to understanding selflessness. We were drawn away from the distractions of our daily lives and learned how to exist in an entirely different world—a world that revealed to us endless love and acceptance.

Everyone on that trip brought home a lesson to keep close to their hearts, while leaving behind shallow views and selfish actions. The memories will always stay with us as we move on in our lives.



*UCA also distributed 200 pairs of shoes-that-grow and 100 pairs of gently-used shoes while in Kenya.*



*photo by Ashley Samuel*

## High-school lumberjacks

by Jonathan Terry

Towards the end of the year, senioritis starts to kick in whether you are a senior or not. So, in the Men's Dorm, in order to combat this deadly disease, they decide to hold a week long contest to decide who is the manliest of men in the dorm.

The contest events include pancake eating, a caber toss, arm wrestling, hatchet throwing, and dressing like a lumberjack. Every night there are mob-like shouts coming from the dorm, most likely causing alarm in the girls' dorm and in staff housing.

"Whether you can bench press 350 lbs, or if you've never touched a weight in your life, lumberjack week will most certainly bring out the man in you," stated Stephen Wilkinson, renowned lumberjackologist.

Participating in ridiculous competitions or watching others make fools of themselves during Lumberjack Week is a fun way to connect with your fellow men in the dorm.





# A night to remember

by *Rachelle Santee*

Once a year in the middle of February, all the classes come together to raise money for their class by selling food and providing other activities. This event, called 4-year Senior Benefit, takes place in the gym on a Saturday night when everyone is hyper and eager for spring to come. Many families, church members, and kids enjoy the entertainment and delicious food this night brings.

What happens at 4-year Senior Benefit? One thing people enjoy is trying all the different food options from around the world. This year the juniors had scrumptious Thai food plus Italian sodas. (I’m not sure those two go together.) The 4-year seniors offered Indian rice and curry, while the rest of the senior class was selling Mr. C’s excellent Mexican food. The elementary school eighth graders were busy selling good old American food such as doughnuts, chips, and soda. There were plenty of food options to please everyone’s taste buds.

Other activities and entertainment included rope climbing, jousting, and balloon popping. There were bleachers set up for those who wanted to rest while digesting all that food while watching the students joust and compete in rope-climbing races, a free-throw competition, and a balloon pop. The sophomore balloon pop included prizes of extra credit for specific classes. Whether you enjoy playing or watching, the activities brought smiles for all ages.

Besides showing off their strength and skill, students enjoyed showing their affection or lack thereof. The seniors had a kissing booth where red kisses could be bought, and, for a fee, the kissed could discover the identity of their secret admirers. There was also the opportunity to send people to jail and to have any two people tied together. It was a great laugh for everyone.

Next year it will be exciting to experience the new sights, smells and laughs that only 4-year Senior Benefit can bring. It never disappoints those who are looking for a night of fun. If the winter blues ever get to you remember to join us next year in the middle of February for a night you will never forget.

## Seniors serve brunch

by *Olivia Medavarapu*

For four Sundays, the seniors drag themselves out of bed and to the cafeteria to help make breakfast for the students of UCA. The senior class is trying to make ends meet so we can all enjoy a lovely class trip, so in an effort to make more money, the officers came up with this grand idea. However, the thought of getting up two hours earlier than normal and making breakfast can actually be enjoyable. Not only do we get to help feed the students, but we get the money! Seniors are starting to step up their game. The end of the year is near, and we can’t wait to go on our trip!



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## Seasons

by *Shine Alvarado*

There they are. Students and teachers alike wake up in the morning to see white drifts of snow coming down or lying peacefully on the lawns of campus. Snow covers the ground and leaves ice on sidewalks and roads. “We’re so done with this,” so many people say as they look at the scenery. Tired of seeing white and grey, they ask for the snow to go away, which is like asking if the sun will rise the next day.

The snow will go away. It will be spring. Brown grass will give way to luscious green and rich flowers will grace the landscape. The sun will shine but slight breezes and short rains will have people saying, “I’m so done with this.” They ask for the rain to go away and for summer to show up, which is just like asking if the sun will rise the next day.

Summer does come. Students and teachers celebrate that a hard school year is over. Vacations and summer plans are finalized and ready to start. Sunlight fills every room and warms every face. This continues every day, the heat getting warmer and warmer. As the months pass, summer becomes dry and hot and long, and people start saying, “I’m so done with this.” They long for cooler days, the fresh scent of rain, and gray skies. They ask for the heat to go away, which is like asking if the sun will rise the next day.

Autumn comes and brings blushing colors of fiery red, rich orange and a deep brown. Cool days call for cozy fires and calming tea. People take books on rainy afternoons and soup is made for the long evenings. Soon, however, people call for snow and Christmas to come. They long for ice skating and snowboarding on white mountains. “We’re so done with this,” they say. They pray, pray, and pray for snow to come. Which is like asking for the sun to come up the next day.

Winter comes and so does spring and summer and autumn.

# Pregnancy project gone too far

by *Ashley Samuel*

The senior girls were not actually pregnant. Pastor Fred, Bible 4 teacher, requires all seniors to complete a third quarter project that relates to real life. There are four choices of projects: the wedding project, the baby project, the simulated pregnancy project, and the retirement project. Although there are four options, most students choose to do the simulated pregnancy project thinking it will be fun; however, they are deceived. For this project, a senior girl and guy partner up and “have a child” which is simulated through a 10-pound sack of rice. The girl must wear the rice baby for two days straight with breaks only for showers and PE. At face value, this project does not seem that challenging, but senior girls realized true pain about an hour into the project.

Back pain, neck pain, nausea, and intensified emotions are real pregnancy symptoms that senior girls were not ready to take on. Although the neck and back pain were rational (Rice is heavier than you think.), the heightened emotions and nausea were not expected. Many of the men who were taking care of their “pregnant” partners could attest that girls acted as if they were actually pregnant. And this was on the first day. On the second day, every girl was an irritated and distressed mother-to-be. The true pain of the rice sack began to set in, and the stress of school caused real pregnant-like symptoms in these teen girls.

The project also required that the boys sleep with the rice baby for two nights; consequently, they also experienced the pain and suffering of their female partners. Overall, almost every senior girl has been scared by the pregnancy project and will try to avoid pregnancy for as long as possible.



## Music tour

by *Katrina Santiago*

On March 3 and 4, Band, Choraliers, and Orchestra went on a music tour. Friday morning, we had to load the buses at seven, whichs was earlier than most of us wanted to wake up. Music tours always leave later than planned, but this time we left seven minutes early!

Our first stop was Tri-Cities. We arrived at Tri-Cities Junior Academy and set up for our performance. The performance went very well, and the kids seemed to enjoy it. We played and sang songs such as “Narnia,” “Train to Glory,” “Joy in All Things,” and “The Conversion of Saul.” Music tours are always a rush, so after we finished playing, we hurried to clean, load, and put things away.

After our first performance, we stopped at Road 68 to eat. For meals, everyone is given five dollars to spend on food. Then, we stopped at the Kennewick Church to set up for our next performance. This didn’t take long, so at three we were dropped off at a mall, where we were allowed to hang out until 5:30 when we returned to the Kennewick church for our vespers concert. The vespers concert that night was amazing, and when it was over, everyone was sent to different homes in Tri-Cities and Walla Walla to spend the night. All of the hosts were very kind to open their homes to us.

The next morning, everyone met at the Milton-Freewater church. After a busy morning, we finally settled into our church performance, which like the other performances, seemed to go beautifully. After we performed, the church put on a tasty potluck. Finally, after potluck, people had the choice to go back to UCA or stay for WWU’s I Cantori and Orchestra Performance.

Overall, the music tour was exciting, and the performances went wonderfully.







*When will we have fire drills now the snow is gone?*

## Reflective movie night

by Belicia Jiao

In March, we had a movie/discussion night in the girls' dorm. At first, I thought this was a waste of my time; I could have done so much in those 2 hours. However, in the end, I did get a lot out of the experience.

The movie led us to discuss the way we talk and how our words can hurt people. We say things we think are funny at the time, but we actually hurt people. They may not show the hurt, but the words have done their damage. Whatever you fill your mind with affects what you say. Proverbs 16:24 says, "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Ephesians 4:29 says "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Let's fill our minds with positive thoughts, speak kind words to others, and try to make a positive influence on this campus.

*I was Dying  
First I was dying to finish high school and start college.  
And then I was dying to finish college and start working.  
And then I was dying to marry and have children.  
And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school so I could return to work.  
And then I was dying to retire.  
And now, I am dying . . . and suddenly I realize I forgot to live.  
-Anonymous*

## Friendship

by Caleb Nelson

Have you ever felt alone in a crowd? Maybe you have been a little down on life and felt as if you had nowhere to run, nowhere to hide, or no one to go to. These feelings are all very real and understandable. We need friends. God created us in His image for love and friendships. Proverbs 17:17 tells us, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born to help in time of need." God knew we would have struggles in life and He knew that we would need help to make it through rough times. He continues to tell us the importance of having friends in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, which says, "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble." Proverbs 18:24 says, "There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."

Friends improve our lives in so many ways. Friends give us sense of belonging, a purpose in life, and they improve our self-confidence and self-worth. They make us happier and are there to help us through the hard times. They keep us company and encourage us; and they listen to us, understand us, and empathize with us. We all need friends; people we can be ourselves around and share our deepest thoughts and feelings with, without any fear of judgment.

Science has shown that there are also many physical health benefits to having friends. People with a close network of friends live longer, have healthier brains, have increased immunity, and can recover much faster from injuries. Spending time with friends can also help reduce stress and can help you cope with traumas like the loss of a loved one. So, this next week, why don't you make some time to be a friend?

## Enjoying the present

by Maddy Clark

We've rolled around to the time in the year when we all just want to be done: done with the winter, done with high school, done with overcrowded weekends and loads of homework. We want to leave the nasty snow and chilly air behind us and the sun to come out and the grass to spring up. We want to be in college where we can make our own decisions and control our lives. But does the feeling of wanting to be in a different place or time ever leave?

Dean Danae managed to put a small note on her computer that helped me to realize that we should not envy the feeling of spring or freedom. Because if we always focus on the future and what it has to offer, we will never focus on today. We should have fun in the moment. Enjoy the moment. If you always wish you were further along in life than you actually are, soon you will find that you never truly enjoyed the moments you were in.

## Fishers of men

by Summer Davis

As mission trip season arrives, students become excited to travel to different countries to share Jesus. They prepare by packing and raising money, and excitement takes over their minds. It is a true honor to be a part of a mission group and be able to witness to people across the world. The most important actions taken towards preparation of mission trips is to ask God to prepare our hearts to be "fishers of men" for Him.

Of course, we must realize there is mission work to be done wherever we are. Although traveling to another country seems exhilarating, one can experience the same joy of bringing a group, or even a single person, to Christ by being a fisher of men. It isn't where we go that gives us the satisfaction of being a missionary, it is what we do wherever we are that gives us the joy of being a missionary for Jesus.



## The female of the species

by Emma Tucker

It's that time of the year again. The girls' dormitory resonates with a symphony of squealing, wailing, or joyous shrieking, all of which are unique to the female species and reserved for this very event. It's time for the spring banquet, or as ASB has dubbed it – "Spring Party."

Previously this winter, the females basked in attention of the gentlemen who asked them to the winter formal. Now it's the ladies turn to agonize over our choices of dates for the party. The process is apparently quite dramatic, as one can easily observe by taking note of the noises emanating from girls' rooms and from the constant buzz of banquet chatter on the halls. It's likely that UCA won't make it through this banquet season without at least one shattered heart; but in the end, it's all worth it in the name of sweet high-school romance.



## The focus

by Charles Buursma

Money is a useful tool. When you need something, you usually use money to get it. Whenever you are hungry, money is used to get you food. Whenever you are tired, money is used to get you something more comfortable to sleep on. Money doesn't bring happiness, but it most certainly helps to provide the necessities for living a fuller life.

I've noticed, though, that when faith is put into money, I become unsatisfied with my life. Allow me to elaborate. When I put my focus on obtaining money and becoming rich, my relationship with others tends to be fake. When I'm focused on the dollar sign rather than the people around me, I tend to be more about using them than just simply loving them. I become all about me and, therefore, my only friend becomes me. I don't realize is the friendship with myself is actually destroying me. Death by loneliness takes place in my soul. My desire to live only for obtaining the riches of the world brings about the opposite of an abundant life. Jesus designed us in such a way that a true, abundant life only comes about when we put Him and then others above ourselves. He wants us to experience true love in our relationships. He wants us to live the abundant life.

## Spring is here

by Jordan J. Judge

As you look around, it is evident that spring is here. The temperature has begun to rise, the snow has disappeared, and the sun is out more. But with these good things, come some bad things. Students are more likely to be depressed because of the changing seasons. Allergies are going to be rampant, and sickness will be here—as always. However, this does not mean we should lose heart.

For seniors, this is a pretty exciting time as they are about to graduate from high school, and the promise that summer and the end of school is around the corner is another reason to be happy. Of course, there will be tests and quizzes and assignments until that time, and you might be tempted not to study and may do horribly on tests and things, but keep studying. Don't give up. Finally, remember that God is always watching you, waiting for you to call on Him. He is your greatest friend and comfort. Call out to Him for help to pass your classes, and keep Him foremost in your heart and in your thoughts. Let nothing distract you from Him. Call out to him now spring is here, and He will be there to help carry you through this time. Cheer up! Less than two months remain until the end of school.



## Remember Senior Rec Weekend?

