

Class photo project finished



The project has taken three years, but now pictures of the graduating classes from 1924 (Yakima Valley Academy) to 2015 are hanging in the hallways of the administration building. Students, staff, and many others have been involved in the complex project. Current students are finding pictures of grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers and sisters . . . and considerable laughter usually accompanies the discoveries. All the pictures also can be found on the UCA website.

Something new

by Emily Stephens

If you missed the first few weeks of school, let me fill you in on what happened on the sunlit campus of Upper Columbia Academy.

It has been a hectic beginning, from new students scampering around trying to be on time to class, to returning students getting used to new teachers and adjusting to the loads of homework so kindly given. The first week of school consisted of getting to know class schedules, trying out for extracurricular activities, and, of course, the most fun of all, handshake!

The most important thing you might have observed is the difference in spiritual atmosphere this year. The students, teachers, deans, and other staff have all recognized the positive difference between the start of this year and last year. That's good. After all, the reason we are here on this campus is to show God's love and get to know Him better.

Autumn greetings

by Summer Davis

The morning greets your first appearance outside with crisp, frigid air, and the crackling of rustling, dry leaves barely gripping the branches on trees fills your ears. Some of us are longing for the colder festive seasons to arrive while others desperately try to hang on to summer by stubbornly wearing shorts and flop flops as if willing the hot weather to return.

Soon it will become undoubtedly evident that the autumn season has settled in. Hoodies are being thrown on, socks in sandals are appearing under stall doors in the bathroom, fireplaces are being lit (hopefully not in the dorms), cider and tea are being smuggled into the ad building, and the dreaded, freezing trek to the ad building from the dorm begins. We aren't looking forward to sitting in icy classroom desks or making the journey around campus in the cold to meet our different appointments. Nonetheless, the fall festivities and events are an excitement, and far off in the distance, we can faintly smell the scent of foturky and stuffing.



Let's Move! day



A shortened class schedule was run on September 18, the Sunday before the first home-leave, so students could enjoy a little physical activity.

Then and now

by Eva Wiggins

Very rarely, people are given the opportunity to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity more than once. This year, that opportunity happened to be Freshman Campout, and Aaron Alfaro and I were both chosen to go as 4-year seniors. When you are able to experience something like that more than once, it blesses you in more ways than you originally thought possible.

Freshmen sometimes find it difficult to see positives. Crowding on a little tarp closer than you would like, holding hands and being smashed in a cramped circle for the human knot, or being led blindfolded by a partner who cannot use words are just a few of the many things that can produce frustrations for freshmen on the campout. But, in the end, more often than not, more friendships are formed, and irreplaceable bonds are created. An obvious change in atmosphere occurs by the end of the weekend. Many freshmen began talking to those whom they normally wouldn't and new skills were created.

As a returning senior reliving my campout experience from a different perspective, I realized how grateful I was for what I learned from Freshman Campout and how blessed I was to develop friendships there that I still have to this day. I hope that the freshman class this year will be able to see these things more clearly than I first did so that they too can be grateful.

Freshman campout

by Kiara Welch

After school on September 2, all the freshmen and eight seniors loaded up onto the bus and headed out for a packed weekend.

After driving for a while through the middle of nowhere, we arrived at Union Mission Gospel Camp. After unpacking, a couple of icebreakers, and supper, it was time for the human knot challenge. The girls and the guys separately had to untangle themselves. The girls were able to disentangle fairly quickly; and after a bit of coaching, the boys were able to figure it out as well. After a short worship by Danny Barreto and Kiara Welch, everyone hit the sack.

After breakfast the next morning, Eva Wiggins and Andrew Robinson had worship with the group. Afterwards, the freshmen had to navigate a long and intense obstacle course. With a lot of teamwork and even more patience, everyone succeeded. Following lunch, Taylor Kelso and Andy Ruud spoke for church.

Next was the most daunting activity: the tarp challenge. The whole class had to stand on a tarp and without touching the ground or anything else, flip the tarp over. Though it took a little while, the kids worked together and got the tarp flipped. They then had just one more obstacle to tackle: a rope course. But, again, with teamwork, they overcame it.

That evening, Ellie Springer and Aaron Alfaro had worship. Subsequently, everyone gathered up on the main field and went star tripping. Once everyone had had a turn, the group split up and played different sports including volleyball, basketball and soccer. A while later, there was a small snack then bedtime.

In the morning, the group woke up early, packed, cleaned, and headed out to make it back in time for breakfast at school. Overall, the weekend was tiring but successful.

Juniors prove their mettle

by Hailee Huenergardt

For the past two years I've looked forward with great anticipation to the Junior Backpacking Trip. I'd heard all the crazy stories and great adventures you embark upon, so I was eager to sign up and be accepted into a group. Once you are assigned a group, you meet with group leaders and they go over all the things you'll need in order to make your trip comfortable. Wait. Did I just say that backpacking is comfortable? Lets take the journey and you decide.

The two Tuesdays prior to the chosen weekend we met together and discussed food preparation, clothing and gear. It is important that you layer your clothing because having just the right amount of warmth is appreciated for a weekend in the woods. The right kind of shoes is also very valuable. Cold, wet feet is far from a dream. The goal is to be carefree and comfortable! A water purifier, small stove, ultra light tent, sleeping pad, warm sleeping bag and personal items make the trip enjoyable. The Tuesday meetings are a great way to make sure you have all the necessary items.

Packing your backpack is important. Your goal is to load the heavy things toward the bottom and the lighter ones on top. This allows better control when you might have to cross a river or wade through a pond. Flip-flops are a total hazard, but those awesome water shoes work like a charm. I find using walking poles to be the best for uneven surfaces, slick rocks and heavy packs.

We had all the packs packed up and were ready to load and leave by 8:00 a.m. that Friday morning. The bus was loaded and great excitement filled the air as we made our way down rainy Interstate 90 to destination, HIKE!

The rain was still pouring down when we got there and hiked a mile down the main road to the beginning of the 7.5 mile trail. Two miles down the trail, we started to wish we were back on the stuffy and lively bus, but finally at the end of the day, we made it to camp. After crossing freezing rivers seven times, and discovering the 7.5 miles was actually 11, my friends and I were ready to make camp, get warm and cook dinner.

Sabbath came and the day started cold and overcast, but soon the sun appeared through the clouds and warmed the earth. Part of the group went on different day hikes and others stay behind. Those that stayed behind relaxed or lay in their hammocks and took naps. Night came all too quickly, a beautifully clear night with twinkling stars high in the heavens.

Sunday morning brought excitement to get back home. The long 11 miles were upon the juniors again as they hiked through the same cold rivers but under a now sunny sky. A glimpse of hope came in the form of the bus and a superhero classmate who came and rescued me from my heavy pack.



Handshake

by Grady Dietrich

Grab those bottles of hand sanitizer because handshake is here!

Handshake is the annual meet-and-greet UCA has on registration day. It is quite the ice-breaker and is certainly a grueling event for many who have attended for the past few years. For others who are germaphobes it can be a complete nightmare. They constantly wonder where those hands have been, and why they forgot their gloves. They try to think of a way out, but there is no escape. Their life for the next two hours is pretending to remember the names of the passing faces and trying to forget about all the dirty hands they have been shaking. It's an impossible feat.

The only thing to do is try to be better prepared next year.

Do I have to compromise?

by *Isabella Warren*

Yes, when rooming with someone, one must find compromise to deal with the little annoyances and the giant grievances.

Most students meet their roommates on registration day, and for most of them it is one of the more awkward moments in their lives. After the greeting, either greediness or compromise happens. The pair must figure out how to fit all of their belongings into their fourteen by fifteen-foot room. After hurriedly snatching a closet and stuffing their clothes into their spaces, both soon realize that they might have too many belongings, and they begin to look over at the other, expecting to be given more space.

Unfortunately, some roommates have no concept of compromise. They litter the room with their belongings and take the best for themselves, but roommates, to make it through the year, must compromise to make one another happy. No matter what happens, compromise must be reached.

And that's the way it is

by *Emma Tucker*

The first week of school is an exhilarating time for new and returning students: longtime friends rejoice in their reunions while new students wander about campus, slightly stunned, in absolute awe of the majesty of UCA. From the very start, our grand school does an excellent job of providing the student with a starter package of activities and classes, enough to occupy a 30+ hour day, and activities and obligations pile up from there on.

In order to help students become acquainted with the campus, the week begins with daily orientation meetings in the church or assembly hall. The hurried walks to meetings, in addition to the impromptu race to lunch line afterwards, have been scientifically proven to help fend off the dreaded freshman-fifteen. UCA doesn't stop its introductory program there though. The school focuses on delighting its students with our variety of daily class schedules, and these were proudly displayed the first week. It seemed as if each day had its own unique program. If one happened to be unaware of the differences, he may have missed one or several classes and then suffered the acute embarrassment of dashing confidently into the wrong room.

Returning students knew enough to navigate the treacherous waters of the shifting schedules. New students could be distinguished from the others by glazed eyes, schedule sheet clutched in trembling hands, and bedhead left untamed by mad rushes to class. New senior Shantae Gallegos put it this way: "It was a hard time in my life, and I still don't know what's happening."

Despite the significant struggles new students faced, all have prevailed. And once you conquer the schedules, you can take on anything.

Homesickness

by *Adreana Ward*

The start of the school-year is here again, and tis the season for disease. A virus has begun to spread in the dorm the past few weeks, and the symptoms are obvious: heavy hearts, teary eyes, and an insatiable desire to be in your mother's kitchen again. Is this your common cold? No, it's homesickness.

With homework piling up, sleep being lost, and the chilly weather knocking on the door, some students are struck with the feeling of wanting nothing more than to be bundled up at home with their family. It can be hampering to be away from home in a dorm full of other people, especially for the new students.

When you're feeling down, it's helpful to know that UCA is your home away from home, and everyone here is a part of your boarding school family. Though it may feel like the longest weeks of your life, time flies here once you become accustomed, and it's easy to completely miss what could be memorable moments if you're focused on ticking off the days until home leaves. So while it's always important to call your mother, be careful not to lose the time that you have here. Enjoy it! The sooner you stop staring at the calendar, the sooner your homesickness will be cured.



A colorful night

by *Elianna Srikureja*

Class Night, for both returning and new students, provides a new dimension of experiences. The ear-splitting cheering, the intense running workout, the crazy costumes and colors, and the organized chaos dazzle the senses and all add up to a night worth remembering.

The four colors of students—green, blue, red, and white—were clumped in their respective corners surrounded by a plethora of random objects and accessories. These objects ranged from the smallest of devices such as a paper clip to bigger items such as pillows, textbooks and even food. The students prepared for anything. After each victory, loud cheering would start and the winning class would run a lap around the gym high-fiving those along the way. Sudden air raids would hit too, causing them to plunge to the ground, not caring if they landed on another poor student.

After the activities in the gym, the classes headed to the field. This was the time for selfies! More activities had them running, tugging, and spinning. As 11:00 p.m. loomed ahead, many students started drifting back to the dorms, reluctant to end the evening. None of them would forget this wild night, especially when their voices were gone the next morning!



Consider earplugs

by *Rachelle Santee*

Once a year in the first week of September, the school takes a trip up to Camp MiVoden. This time off is supposed to be a great bonding time for the students and a break from teaching for the teachers. Something many people probably don't think about during fall picnic is the bus ride there and back, but before you get the privilege of being at the lake, you have to survive being crammed with everyone and anyone on the bus for two hours with people singing, shouting, and flirting. There is enough noise and craziness to make anyone go insane.

This time can be a very good opportunity to get to know someone you normally wouldn't get to know while you're at school, but anyone planning to catch up on sleep during this ride probably should have thought otherwise. People who are noise sensitive should probably use ear plugs and looking out the windows at the changing scenery can be a good way to escape the zoo you are in.

Sarah Palacios's favorite part about this particular bus ride was the amazing sunset on the way back. She said, "The sky was beautiful it looked like it was on fire."

Bus rides are common events for many at UCA. The next time you ride a bus, think of the best way you can make the trip more enjoyable whether it be by sitting with someone new, flirting with a crush, or bringing ear plugs to sleep. Enjoy the ride.

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Fall picnic

by Samuel Aufderhar

The sounds of shrieks and laughter permeated the air around Camp MiVoden. The morning sun, already high in its arcing path, stretched shadows along the mesh of the volleyball net. Around it people dived into the sand, hoping to suspend the ball in the air for just a little longer. A heated game brought about shouting and running. Often heard over the constant murmur and laughter was the clap of a high-five or the embarrassed cry produced by a missed shot. People would cheer for the players or just take a moment to lie down in the warm grass while enjoying the feeling of having nothing to do but relax.

Some people wandered away from the exciting hub of activity and took a walk down to the water's edge. Stretching out along the sandbar lay a number of canoes with students eagerly pushing them off into the cool waters of Hayden Lake. A few would drift along lazily going wherever the wind might take them, and some others would race around the lily pads, flinging water with their desperate paddle strokes.

Out in Mokins Bay the ski boats bounced upon the rippling surface, cutting through it like scissors through paper. The driver expertly carved a path only he could see, pulling behind him a skier or an inner-tube full of kids. Other boats had someone strung aft, attempting to jump across the wake left by the boat. A few were successful; the others just created a spectacle of water, splashing down hard into the bay. After some time, the boats all returned dropping off their passengers, most soaked and cold. Thankfully, the food arrived quickly, and the students formed themselves into some semblance of a line. Pizza in hand, they congregated on the grass talking to old friends and getting to know new ones better.

As the fervor and buzz of the day died down, everyone shifted their gazes towards the now empty volleyball pit. The night's song team stepped forwards and started off the evening worship. Mr. Johnson followed after them with his message, which closed off the Fall Picnic. He was just in time, too: as soon as he finished, the winds were unleashed from their captivity. In a swirling torrent everyone grabbed their things and ran to the busses just as the first raindrops began to fall. Shortly thereafter, the sun faded and people relaxed in their seats, some nodding off to sleep, others chatting to their seatmates. The day at Mivoden had officially ended, bringing us back to Upper Columbia Academy for another year of school.



Carpet stains

by Ellie Springer

If you had walked through the Ad Building before this year, you would likely have been greeted by a lovely assortment of carpet stains, ranging from coffee to juice to goodness-knows-what. But over this last summer, UCA decided it was time to do something about this optical offense, so they got all the carpet deep-cleaned while the students were away. Once we returned to our now spotless floors, we were welcomed with signs and grave warnings telling us by no means to bring any spillable substances that were not water into this sanctuary of cleanliness.

Now if you pull a late night for a test, there is no quick grabbing of coffee on the way to class because it could make a particularly unpleasant stain. You will be nicely but firmly asked to remove the drink from the premises. However, with all the time and money that went into making the building as nice as constraints allow, we should do our best as students not to let those efforts go to waste. This is our school and if we gripe about what doesn't get done but thrash the place when they do go out of their way to try and make things better, then we really don't deserve this place. So, please, let's do our best to keep water as our sole beverage in the Ad Building.

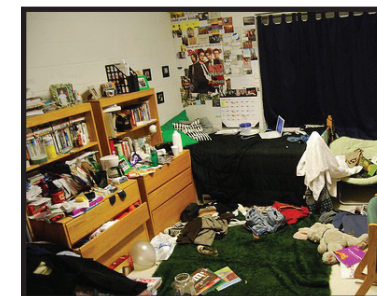
Room checks

by Cedric Merrills

There are many traditions at UCA. There's handshake, freshman campout, junior backpacking trip, and senior survival. However, one of the most ominous traditions here at UCA is room check.

One of the things that makes room checks so disliked is the uncertainty: One week they will have room check Monday, Wednesday and Friday while on other weeks they won't have room check at all. The deans time rooms check perfectly so they strike when you are busy or have 3 tests and 2 quizzes. This is not coincidence. There are spies all around UCA—teachers, maintenance workers, and even the deans themselves. They know when you are going to be busy so they can give you that dreaded failing score. You could be spying for them without even knowing it. Whenever you complain about having a test in chemistry or mention the English quiz, they take note. They know when all seniors will have a physics test, and that's when they strike!

Which room looks more like yours?



YOU MAKE ME BRAVE

My grace is
sufficient for you, for
My strength is made
perfect in weakness.
2 Corinthians 12:9



Senior life or strife

Kate Ruud

Have you ever wondered what it would be like not to have the ability to get fresh veggies, school supplies, and laundry soap? Well, not everyone at UCA has this advantage. Only UCA's senior citizens have the privilege to drive themselves into town to get those necessary items. But seniors who don't have their own cars can't take advantage of this honor. So, there are three classes of seniors.

Class 1: These seniors are village students who own cars and can drive themselves anywhere at any time (except during the school day). They also drive home daily.

Class 2: These are dorm students who have a car but can only drive themselves into town on Sunday and one other day of the school week.

Class 3: These seniors don't have a car and can't leave campus unless a fellow senior citizen has pity on their poor souls and takes them into town.

Here at UCA we like to give the seniors a chance to feel that they have independence; unfortunately, like everywhere else in the world, not everyone is equal and can take advantage of privileges.

Registration day

by *Katrina Santiago*

Long lines seeming to take hours to get through, frightened freshman huddle close to their families, screaming friends see each other after months, and boxes upon boxes of personal possessions clutter the landscape. Obviously, it's Registration Day. Registration Day is the day before school starts and the day in which everyone arrives on campus.

Registration Day was full of mixed emotions. Freshmen and other new students were most likely sad to leave their families and terrified to be on their own for the first time. Others, of course, were overjoyed to finally get out of the house and begin a new journey in their lives. The day was also quite hot, reaching into the 90s. This didn't benefit the families moving boxes up to third floor although we were helped by a few kind church members and workers.

Registration Day was also a cheerful day. Many returning students had the chance to reunite with their closest friends after the long months of summer.

Many factors made Registration Day a mix of sadness and happiness, but it was a fun experience for most.



Advice for the start of school

by *Kaitlyn Seeley*

Attending a new school can be terrifying: new teachers, new classmates, new campus. Some new students even have new living arrangements. The first few days are a learning curve, one that some aren't ready for. At UCA, though, we want to make sure that your transition stage into the school is as seamless as possible, so here is some advice from your fellow students.

"Get out of your comfort zone and explore new things." - Kate Ruud

"Try to get involved." - Taylor Kelso

"Don't date within the first month." - Madi Clark

"Don't be a recluse, socialize and make friends." - Eva Wiggins

"Do your laundry." - Joanne Kack

"Make sure to find your daily time with God." - Olivia Medavarapu

I can't begin to express, especially from personal experience, how much you need to put yourself out there, so you can make friends. If no one knows that you exist, how are they supposed to be your friend? Even if it makes you uncomfortable, put yourself out there. The five minutes of discomfort will be worth it when you make friends. Join a sports team, go to rec, or even just go to intramurals.

Also, dorm students, make sure to call your parents. Contrary to some people's beliefs, your parents actually do miss you. All it takes is ten minutes of your time to use your phone, or borrow one, and to let your parents know that you are thinking of them and still care about them.

Most of all, though, set aside time to spend with God. You might think that in a Christian school you'd get lots of time with Him in Bible class, at vespers, and at church, but that isn't your personal time with Him. Get a devotional, pray, sing, do whatever helps you get close to God but make sure that you spend time with Him, and He will bless you. Have a stupendous time at UCA!