MAY 2016 VOLUME 64 NUMBER 6



Seniors. it's almost over! In just a few days, we will all be receiving our high school diplomas. Whether college a full-time job, we are all about to experience the biggest transition of our lives.

The future is coming towards us fast, and that can be a little frightening. But, as we look to our futures away from this campus, we should let our experiences here shape us into people that we are going to be.

I find it interesting what things have changed over my time here, and what is here to stay. For example, we now have a different cafeteria, but the food is still the same. There were a lot of new guys in our dorm, but each room is still safe from nuclear fall-out. My classmates are very much the same people they were when I first met them, yet they have grown tremendously physically, mentally, and spiritually. We can't keep our life experiences from affecting the people that we are, and there is no way to determine what the effects of our decisions will be, so we need to put our lives in the hands of God. It is the only way to ensure that we become the best versions of ourselves.

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, this can be an important transition time for you as well. Use this next school year as an opportunity to look closely at yourself and try to find a place that suits your strengths. Don't be afraid to get involved. Responsibilities now will help prepare you for success in the future. Try new things. Music, sports, yearbook, ASB, class office, new jobs, and more advanced classes are all great ways to get involved and put yourself to the test. You are the only one who can make your time at UCA worthwhile.

Nate Cheney, President Class of 2016



Providence

Some 4-year seniors enjoy their May trip

by Charles Buursma

I love going camping. It's so nice to sit back and relax in nature, especially when you have good friends with you. It's so much fun just to go and explore the woods and enjoy the creation of God together.

If you feel stressed, take time in nature and remember that God will provide for all your needs if you but let Him. Look at the wonderful things He's created for you and don't push away the joy that He wants to give you. I find myself getting into a negative and miserable mindset so many times, but that's when I just have to say, "No! God is too amazing for me to start complaining." How true it really is, though.

I look back at my life and see how He's always been there for me and always will be. I promise that He's going to be there for you too—always. Just remember that.

CLASS TEXT Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14 CLASS MOTTO The past is our legacy, the present--our responsibility, the future--our challenge. COMMENCEMENT SUNDAY, JUNE 5

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4 years pays off

by Morgan Stanyer

On Sunday, May 15, the 4-year seniors trickled into the cafeteria for breakfast. Everyone knows it will be good when the Kravigs put in on. With rain jackets on their backs, Silverwood tickets in one hand and a sense of adventure in the other, these seniors boarded the bus to Idaho.

Empty of rain, a cloudy sky covered the sun all day. This was the first 4-year senior trip that Aftershock was open (and properly working) the entire time we were there. In addition, the Spin Cycle was a new experience for many other students. After a big dinner at Olive Garden, the whole crew went to Coeur d'Alene. This is where administration thanked us for our many years at UCA by buying everyone giant ice cream sundaes at Gooey's in the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

The second day of the trip was all about Triple Play. Go karts, bumper boats, mini golf, bowling, laser tag, climbing wall, water slides, and a ropes course were only topped by the all you can eat pizza and sodas. After a group picture at St. John's, the trip was capped off by a meal at La Fiesta Mexicana.

The 4-year seniors had a great time and hope that every new freshman will have the opportunity to be a 4-year senior.

Junior officers retreat to Dworshak

by Emma Tucker

The weekend of May 13-15, the junior class officers embarked on a retreat to Freeman Creek, Dworshak Reservoir, in northern Idaho.

The group departed almost immediately following the dismissal of final Friday classes, and after a three-hour drive through highly scenic wheat fields, they piled out of the vehicle and relished the fresh air.

The retreat started off strong with a delicious evening meal and inspirational worship along with a brief spiritual message given by Charlie Buursma.

The following morning, the officers enjoyed breakfast and a short worship before heading out to hike, cliff jump, paddle board, canoe, and watch a fast-paced volleyball tournament between middle school students visiting the area.

Like during all good camping trips, the evening was spent around the fire, telling jokes and laughing until the neighbors moved camp, having apparently decided the other side of the lake was perhaps more picturesque.

The officers woke up to drizzle on Sunday morning but refused to let it dampen their spirits. They arrived back at campus Sunday evening, refreshed, enlightened, and lacking motivation even more than before . . . but ready to finish the year on a great note.

Seniors experience the next step

by Allison Albritton

The last quarter of the year is a very busy time for UCA students, especially the seniors. It's that time of year where we have to make the tough decision on what we are doing next year. Will it be college or work? Visiting colleges can be very helpful in the decision making process, and on April 3, the UCA seniors packed their bags for a three-day trip to Walla Walla University, where many of them will go to next year.

From April 3 to 5, we seniors visited the campus, went to classes, and experienced campus activities. On Sunday, the first day, we were introduced, attended a few meetings, and got to tour the campus. We had free time to participate in the Knowledge Bowl or a variety of other activities that included glow-in-the-dark dodgeball, a lip sync battle, and open mic. After that, the University students treated us to a music concert.

The next few days included meetings and classroom visitations, where we went to classes and learned more about majors. On the last night, we had the privilege of watching a talent show, filled with dancing, singing, and even funny videos made by students.

Visiting Walla Walla swayed students' opinions on college, and has definitely helped with the decision making process.

ASB church

by Isabella Warren

After a delayed departure and a delightful bus ride, students arrived at Spokane's Finch Arboretum for ASB church. The weather did not really cooperate with the careful planning of ASB, but in spite of the weather, Breanna Daley gave a really thoughtful sermon about trusting in God.

After the sermon the students were given approximately 30 minutes to wander the park. Some wandered a little more enthusiastically: They were looking for the bathroom. One student said, "I really wish the bathrooms were easier to find." After the 30 minutes, a delicious lunch was served and then, at two o'clock, the satisfied students were taken back to campus.

If He is for us, who can be against us?

Students head to San Juan Islands

by Ashley Samuel

Immediately after the last home leave of the year, the Marine Biology class headed out to Rosario Beach for a couple days of learning and adventure on the Washington coast.

The second day of the trip, the students woke up bright and early at 7:00 a.m. to eat breakfast and pack lunches before heading out to Friday Harbor for an action-packed day. In order to reach the islands, the group boarded a ferry and traveled for about an hour. Upon arrival, the students were divided into 2 groups: the first group went to the Whale Museum and the second group was able to wander around the island and shop; subsequently, after an hour the groups switched.

Next, the students got back on the bus and traveled out to Lime Kiln State Park to attend a class about whale communication. The view was spectacular, but as the day went on it heated up rapidly. After this stop, the group headed out to go tide-pooling. This was by far the most exciting part of the trip because the students were able to see what they studied in the classroom come to life. While tide pooling in Eagle Cove, students saw amazing creatures such as giant purple starfish, moon jellies, and diverse kinds of algae. Many students even braved the frigid Pacific Ocean to get a closer look at these unique beings.

After enjoying the diverse organisms in the tide pools, the group headed to the harbor to enjoy dinner. Once the group finished their meal on the water, they headed back on to the bus and then the ferry. On the ferry, the students enjoyed a beautiful sunset, and this was the perfect way to end such a fun day at the San Juan Islands.



photo by Ashley Samuel

Rosario Beach

If you have every wondered what heaven looks like, take three days off and go to Rosario Beach. As soon as you are there, you will want to spend the rest of your life in the magnificent place.

It is nearly impossible to describe the beauty of the landscape, uncontaminated by human construction or technology. The crystalline water reflects the light of the sun, the entire surface looking like it is coverd by thousands of diamonds. When the sun goes down, the little diamonds turn into pieces of gold—pure 24k gold—so that the entire ocean seems a table made of gold. If you are amazed by that, let me tell you about the sky. At sunset, the sky becomes a painting by a skilled artist. It starts with a bright yellow followed by a light orange, a vivid pink, and, finally, an intense, fiery red. Blue gradually replaces the red and itself changes from violet to a really dark blue and then to the black of night.

The night is lit by millions (maybe trillions) of stars that form a map only angels can read. The sound of the waves is a beautiful symphony no orchestra in the world can play. It cradles you and lulls you to sleep.

The fresh air of the morning wakes you and the sun's rays make you feel alive as never before. The experience will be one of the best memories you will have your entire life.







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The ASB Spring Banquet had a 50's theme this year





Juniors struggle with schedule

by Jadzeah Hall

Adults and seniors alike say junior year is the most academically challenging during all of high school. Being a junior, I adamantly agree, but there is something else besides the hard classes that makes junior year terrible—having a 7:15 class. I slowly begin to nod off no matter how much I try to stay awake.

Being a village student is especially devastating to the amount of sleep a student gets each night. Students who are in band, choir, orchestra, or sports, do not get home until 6:00 p.m. or later. After they eat dinner, they have to do hours of homework and studying. Most students I know do not get to bed until 10:30 or 11:00 p.m.; then, they have to turn right back around and get up at 5:30 a.m. to be at their first class. The students either drive themselves or make their parents get up early and groggily drive to school, which is extremely dangerous. Once the students somehow safely arrive at school, they have to try and pay attention in class. If there were no 7:15 class and instead the first class was at 8:05, students would not have to get up at a crazy early time of the morning and risk life and limb driving to school half-asleep. Students would get around an extra hour of sleep and would not have to rely on coffee or energy drinks to wake them up in the morning and keep them going all day.

All in all, everyone agrees juniors have the worst schedule of all grades at Upper Columbia Academy, and if students were to get just a little more sleep and not have early morning classes, not only would they be able to stay awake and focus in class more, but they also would be able to pay attention and have better academic success and learning.



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY **ECHOES**

is a regular student publication of Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington 99031 This issue's contributors included:

Nate Cheney, Charles Buursma, Morgan Stanyer, Emma Tucker, Allison Albritton, Isabella Warren, Ashley Samuel, Albert Manta, Jadzeah Hall, Katrina Santiago, Melissa Conradt, Daniel Arlt, Elizabeth Neacsu, Madison Bartell, Grady Dietrich, Shasta Sequeira Geoffrey Urbin, Danny Barreto, Niko Pintos, Ellie Springer, Cassie Gonsalves and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

Mothers' Day tribute

by Katrina Santiago

We sometimes forget how important our moms are. We often underestimate their abilities. We often take them for granted. But moms are the most amazing people in the world. From the moment they saw us, they have loved and treasured us. They took care of us since we were young, they helped us learn to speak and walk, and they sacrificed their own time to teach us life lessons we still remember today. They took care of us when we were sick, they cooked for us, and they comforted us when we were sad. No matter what, our mothers will always love us. No matter how far we drift away, our mothers will always be there for us when we return.

So, maybe, every once in a while, give back to your mother for everything she has done for you. Remind her that she is special and loved.

Monday tests

by Melissa Conradt

Monday is already hands down the worst day of the week, and to add something else stressful to Monday makes the whole day seem longer and worse than normal.

Monday tests are not so fun, but some teachers seem to think they're wonderful. They must be designed just to put an extra load of stress on to a student over the two days of the week that are supposed to be "stressfree." They are never studied for as much as they could be; after all, not every time you sit down to relax over the weekend does the thought race through your mind that you should *study*. If it does, it quickly exits as you find anything better to do.

So, Sunday nights come rolling around and you cram, hoping short term memory will come in handy. Soon enough, giving up is the only option left, and the only thing that suffers more than you is your grade.

A day to ACT

by Daniel Arlt

On April 19, all the juniors and seniors were involved in taking a standardized test. All the students who were going to take the test were forced to be in their designated testing rooms at 7:55 in the morning. This meant that juniors were able to sleep in past their regular 7:15 class time, while seniors, on the other hand, were forced to be awake way earlier than they generally would be.

This mix of grumpy students, armed with their trusty #2 pencils and their favorite calculators (if they're allowed on the test of course), crowded around the doors of the ad building at the required time and complained about having to be awake at that hour and being forced to take the test. When the doors finally opened, students rushed in to get to their testing rooms. The students then spent the next three and a half to four hours taking their test

The test itself was split into four separate parts based on subject. Students were then asked to answer a ridiculous number of questions in an extremely short amount of time. After taking two of the tests, students were allowed a generous ten-minute break. They then took the last two tests and were rushed off to the Week of Prayer meeting. It was a busy morning for all of them, but after lunch, they were all free of classes and able to mock the lower classmen heading off to theirs.

Another view of ACT

by Elizabeth Neacsu

Yes, we recently had to take the ACT's. ACT stands for "American College Testing." At least, that's what some people call it, but we all know that ACT stands for "Abuse from Crazy Teachers."

You sit in a chair for four hours and have about 45 minutes for every test that has around 70 problems. As soon as the timer goes off, you stare at your paper intently (at least that's what the teachers think). All the students know you're really staring at a rip in the paper thinking about ripping your test even more and throwing it away. Every once in a while you fill in a bubble and turn the page just to make sure you don't look suspicious. When the five minute mark comes you think to yourself, "I have enough time . . . five minutes, that's like 300 seconds, I got this." You're sweating profusely. You have a cramp in your hand. Your nose starts running. You try to focus so hard that you just lose concentration and start looking at a crack in the wall. You fill in a few more bubbles when all of the sudden the timer goes off. You look at your testing sheet: you have three bubbles filled in. You think to yourself, "Wow, I have no future. I probably even got one of those wrong; I think I have like a 2 out of 70 chance that I'm going to college. Wait . . . where did the crack in the wall go?"

Were you hacked?

by Nate Cheney

We at UCA are fortunate to have as strong of an IT department as we do. They are responsible for our 1 to 1 laptop program, school website, school email, and campus-wide internet among many other things. The department consists of Bob Lenz, taskforce worker Douglas Robinson, and the multiple students employed by the department. This spring the security of the school's website was compromised, moving the page's new design up on the priority list—another big job for the IT department. Despite the hard work of the department, students don't always use the school's systems in the intended way.

One good example of this is our school emails. The complete campus address book is very helpful when a student needs to contact a teacher, or administration needs to contact the student body. However, not everyone uses their emails to share relevant information. For example, on May 4, all campus emails were greeted with the traditional Jedi phrase, "May the 4th be with you."

On another occasion, a select number of students and staff received an email containing "a sample of prose" from the Vice Principal, Joe Hess. It started off with the lines "Hi. I am Hess. I am man." From there it went on to sketch a rough outline of his life, identify the origin of the document, and relate his wishes for anyone who reads it. It is unknown who wrote this document. Some have suspected that he was hacked by an anonymous individual, but Mr. Hess claims that he knew of the document's origin, and the text implies that it was written by a men's dorm RA.

Our IT department has worked tirelessly to supply us with a secure network, working computers, and a fantastic email system. But even with the practicality and safety of our system, it is comforting that there is still room for a joke or two.



After 19 years, Mrs. Turner is retiring.
On Tuesday, May 17, a Hawaiianthemed retirement party was held
for her in the cafeteria. Her husband, Ron, also taught at UCA
for many years.

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Students head to lunch from the morning Week of Prayer meeting

Week of Prayer

by Madison Bartell

Everyone has a different view on life. Each individual has a different reaction and thought process that separate them from everyone else. I suppose this is why everyone has a unique response to Week of Prayer.

Week of Prayer is a time where the true colors of students begin to show. Some of the students, those focusing on their own mundane lives, don't absorb any of the information from the meetings, and they gain nothing from them. Others, however, soak up every little detail and decide to apply them to their own lives. And although Week of Prayer requires us to attend the meetings, it is our choice to make it either a good experience or a bad one.

Ubiquitous emptiness

by Grady Dietrich

Emptiness. Emptiness everywhere. It seems that every time there is a tour, half the school disappears. It was especially obvious when both band and gymnastics were gone. The empty halls made it appear as if the school had been abandoned. All of the classes were missing the students that usually fill the school with activity.

As I drifted around the campus, I felt an even deeper emptiness, one that was in my heart. The lonely feeling of campus was hard to handle. Cafeteria tables were shut down for there were so few kids on site. They even morphed the junior class schedules for there wasn't anyone to fill the classrooms. All of the smiling faces that you would usually see floating around campus were gone.

Not being part of tours is truly a sad tale.

Shouldn't there be an "and"?

bv Nate Chenev

To the untrained ear, an AP course sounds like a poorly pronounced anatomy class. But the sixteen seniors and one junior currently enrolled in one know better. UCA currently offers two advanced placement courses, Calculus AB and English Language and Composition. Although UCA is most known for its music program, its AP program opens doors for students aiming to excel academically.

Advanced placement courses are high school classes that are designed to transfer into college credit. While the class itself is taught and graded like any other high school course, an amount of college credit is given depending on the results of a standardized test near the end of the school year.

AP Calculus is taught by Mr. Gladding. The class is mostly comprised of seniors that are a year ahead in math. First, three quarters are spent learning the necessary concepts: limits, derivatives, Riemann sums, integrals, etc. Then, the last quarter is spent preparing for the final AP test.

AP Language is taught by Mr. Lacey. Students in this class are seniors chosen on the basis of their previous English grades, standardized test scores, and interest or skill in writing. Students in this course learn basic rhetoric while reading, writing, and analyzing many different types of essays. Like AP Calculus, the weeks before the test are spent reviewing for it.

Those interested in harder courses and potential college credit should seriously consider an AP class. By focusing on their classes now, underclassmen can and should start setting themselves up for this fantastic academic opportunity.

Pens & Pencils

by Shasta Sequeira

At the beginning of the year, when we are readying for the long journey ahead, we try and buy enough pens and pencils for the whole year. There are very few who accomplish this; in fact, some need to buy pens and pencils every home leave. Pens and pencils are just important enough to have, but not important enough to keep track of 24/7. We often leave our writing utensils in the classrooms we are leaving because we might have fallen asleep or just weren't paying attention when leaving as quickly as possible.

Of course, there are different theories as to what happens to our pens and pencils. A common one is that they grow legs and walk away, but that is unlikely. Whatever happens, now that we are at the end of the year, we are all looking under our beds and in others' backpacks, searching for more pens and pencils.

We can only guess what happens to our pens and pencils and why they disappear so often. The true mystery may never be solved.

Spokane Scholars

by Geoffrey Urbin

The 24th Annual Awards Banquet by the Spokane Scholars Foundation for Excellence took place on Monday, April 18, 2016. The purpose of the banquet was to honor academic excellence in Spokane County. Spokane Scholars Foundation for Excellence focuses on six subjects. Six students, one for each subject, from each high school in the Spokane area were chosen as Spokane Scholars of 2016. All 143 Spokane Scholars were honored at the banquet.

The banquet started out with a welcome, presentation of the colors, National Anthem, an invocation, and introductions. Dinner came and both UCA tables ate their vegetarian meals. After dinner, the students got to listen to the story of Bob Herschkowitz, a Holocaust survivor. Once the story was done, there was the presentation of the scholars.

For the presentation of the scholars, one subject would be called and the scholars from that subject would walk on to the stage. There, the students were given a medal, certificate, and a letter from a member of Congress.

Six students from UCA were awarded as Spokane Scholars for 2016: Karianna Aufderhar for English, Roylan Messinger for Fine Arts, Geoffrey Urbin for Mathematics, Kristen Wagner for Science, Ryan Dieter for History, and Parker Bailey for World Languages.

At the end of the banquet after loads of pictures, everyone headed to their beds to get a good night's sleep before taking the ACT the next morning.

Moving out

by Madison Bartell

As the weather becomes hotter and the days grow longer, it's not difficult to see that summer is just around the corner. However, if you didn't pick up on those clues, there are some other signs of the sunny season's arrival.

Everyone's eyes plastered to the windows overlooking the outside, partially filled out assignments stuffed under Mr. Gladding's door, boxes piling up in the café, and numerous groups of people flocking outside are all sure signs of summer's soon return.

The returning sun seems to melt away all of the school year's math equations, formulas, and other information from our minds, but our minds aren't the only things emptying. Dorm rooms are following this emptying trend. Walking into dorm rooms can leave you with a sense of bewilderment as you notice that the belongings that were once scattered so messily throughout the room seem to have disappeared almost instantaneously. Cardboard boxes of miscellaneous shapes and sizes pile up towards the ceiling. You might ask why students are so eager to pack up. Perhaps it's because each packaged box means one step closer to summer.



This year's UCA Spokane Scholars

Left behind

by Danny Barreto

The Marine Biology trip had yet to have an accident until someone was left behind.

In order to make sure everyone was on the bus, we had a number system with which we would shout out our numbers from 1 through 35. The system had worked to perfection, so you would expect that by the time we were coming back to UCA, nothing would go wrong. Then it all changed.

The bus stopped at a truck stop in Ellensburg so we could stretch our legs and buy food or drink. The numbering system was said again by everyone—twice. For sure everyone was aboard—or so it seemed.

The bus resumed going east on I-90 until Lukas Schroetlin asked, "Where's Daniel Lehman?" Everyone looked around the bus and even knocked on the bathroom door. There was no sign of Daniel so that left Mr. Kramer with one option: turn back and pick up Daniel. Sure enough, back at Ellensburg, Daniel was waiting patiently for the bus. As he got back on, everyone applauded. How did Daniel feel being left behind? "I felt as if I was the one they didn't care about," he said. But in reality everyone on that bus cared.

Quarter of firsts

by Niko Pintos

We are nearing the end of school, and for most of the seniors we are nearing the end of our high school careers.

This final quarter has been one of many "firsts." It was the first time that all the seniors started a new quarter knowing that it was their last one. It was the first time that all the seniors were able to go to Week of Prayer knowing it would be our last here at UCA. It was the first time that all seniors were able to say that this would be their last banquet. It was the first time that seniors didn't have to worry about room scores because they don't need to try to get a nice room for next year. It was the first time seniors could say that this was their last HOPE.

You could say that this has been a quarter of many "lasts," but that would be depressing and boring. So just make it a quarter full of "firsts."

The end is nigh

by Daniel Arlt

Unless you currently reside under a rock, you know that the end of the school year is quickly approaching, and if you've experienced the last few weeks like I have, then you know they've felt like days. For some, this rapid approaching escape is a blessing, but for what I think is a smaller group, it's a curse. Nobody wants to leave their friends at the end of the year, but for the most part they can be comforted by the fact that they'll see each other again in three short months—unless, of course, you've made the foolish mistake of befriending members of the senior class. There are other factors that could cause someone to not want to leave at the end of the year, but I think this is one of the hardest and most common causes. I really can't blame anyone for making friends with the senior class because I've made the mistake myself and am not looking forward to graduation weekend that's right around the corner.

The best thing I think anyone can do in this situation is just to keep in touch with their friends throughout this next school year and then, hopefully, join up with the majority of them the year after in college. It certainly won't be easy, but it's far better than the alternative of just dropping those friendships for this next year . . . or longer.

So if anyone reading this is in my situation, try and make the most of the time you have left with your friends this year and don't focus on the shortness of time left.

64 hours completed

by Cassie Gonsalves

On April 20, 2016, the four-year seniors of Upper Columbia Academy completed 16 days of HOPE projects. I'm sure I'm speaking for the class of 2016 when I say it's been great fun. We've reached out to the Spokane Community and affected others' lives in a positive way. On every HOPE project I've done, the people have been so grateful for the help they've received.

My final HOPE project was called Helping Hands. Our project was to help the elderly clean their homes. When we arrived at the first home, Mrs. Meager, our project leader, greeted the elderly man and told him we were ready to work. He put us to work sweeping, dusting, mopping and cleaning the windows. When we were done he said, "You guys did in a half hour what I could have done in an entire day." He was very appreciative of the work we did. Our next stop was Mrs. Bunny's trailer park home. Bunny is 92 years old and a kind old lady. She asked us to vacuum, mop, and dust. When we finished, Bunny prayed with us and gave us Oreos.

When you go on a HOPE project, you expect to give a blessing to others, but when you're done and leaving, the people you have helped end up blessing you. Helping hands was a good HOPE to end on.

Broken band bus

by Ellie Springer

On our last band tour of the year, we came across some mechanical troubles as we were trying to get to North Cascade Church for our final performance of the trip. One of the buses blew a tire and we had to take it to Les Schwab to get it taken care of. Knowing that this would take longer than we could afford, Mr. Kravig and Mr. Anderson packed the choraliers and orchestra into the still-functioning bus so that we would at least have someone at the church to perform for the people who showed up. The band members who were left over waited on the other vehicle while it was worked on.

There was much playing of phones, eating of BelVita, and overall chatter. After an undetermined amount of time, we were ready and peeled out, hurrying to make it to the concert. However, it was too late, and we all sat in the balcony and listened instead. After days of performing and early mornings, I can't say we were overly disappointed as a whole. We got to experience the program as listeners rather than participants, which is an entirely different feel.

The program went as smoothly as can be expected, and we enjoyed a generous potluck provided by some of the ladies of the church. It was a roller-coaster of a time, but we made it through the twists and turns and back to smooth sailing.



